

Dear Friends,

I went for a walk down Limeburners Creek Wetlands on Monday. It's an interesting place and is good to see the way in which it is being regenerated into a wilderness area, right in the middle of a busy industrial zone of the city. As I walked along it felt rather void of bird life. I usually spend Mondays walking and looking for birds to photograph. There was a pair of paradise ducks that sat on a bridge over one of the manmade channels, they seemed quite at home despite the many dogs barking from the RSPCA across the road. Sparrows hopped round the car park and picnic tables. I did wonder if it wasn't just a wasteland; but I decided to change the lens of my camera from a telephoto to a macro lens and look for signs of life and beauty in the small things. I saw Clematis flowers in bloom, the scrubby Manuka bushes also bursting with tiny white flowers and I watched bees and other insects going about the work of pollinating them - signs of health and new life. I started to think about Church, even though it was my day off, and just the little things that have been happening recently: new people turning up, a baptism, someone asking to become a Christian after a service, our young people involved in leadership and creative ministries like the play on at central tonight. Good stories of making connections from the central city chaplain, and relationships with new groups in the community growing, people offering to be involved and take on various roles and tasks. These I believe are signs of regeneration, growing tips, just starting to sprout, signs of God moving in our midst.

Here are the notices:

COVID Level 1

We are in COVID Alert Level 1 and we need to follow basic health and safety guidelines. Regularly wash hands, avoid touching your face, and sign in using the QR code and COVID tracer app or on paper. We still have a few COVID tracer diaries in the church foyer if you don't have a smart phone. Please stay home if you are unwell. Get in touch with health professionals and get tested if you have any of the COVID symptom. Respect people's desire to socially distance and avoid contact. Bumping elbows is as much a greeting as shaking hands. Some of our folk work in positions where they have to take extra care to avoid COVID.

Sunday worship

This Sunday we continue our series leading into Pentecost, looking at the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga – Lorne Campbell (Romans 12:3-8, many Gifts one humble service)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Enosa Auva'a (1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Many gifts, One spirit)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi – Howard Carter (1 Corinthians 12:12-31 One Body many gifts)

Zoom service

We will be having a Zoom component to our services on Sunday. If you are unable to come to church in person this is a great way to worship with us and stay connected.

The **9:30am** service at HOPECENTRAL will be streamed on zoom.

The link to the service is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89285364673>

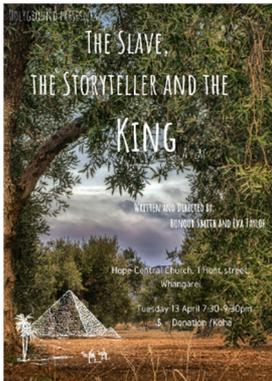
If you are using the zoom app on your mobile device then the meeting ID is: 89285364673

If you are going to dial in using a landline the phone number is 09 884 6780

And when prompted put in the **meeting ID: 89285364673**

The Slave, The Storyteller and the KING A Play

TONIGHT Tuesday 13th 7:30pm-9:30pm HopeCentral

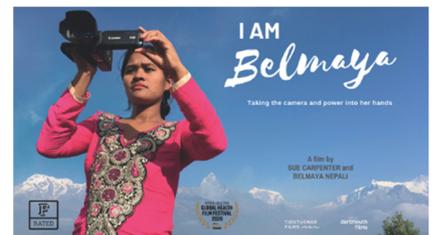


The crew from Holy Ground Easter Camp will be performing their play 'The Slave, the Storyteller and the King' at Hope Central on Tuesday April 13th. It was the key teaching input at this year's Easter Camp and this is the first time it will be performed from beginning to end as a whole play. It has been written and directed by two local young women Honour Smith and Eva Taylor and it features Hannah and Amalie Jansen and Isaac Carter from our church. It was designed for 7-12 year olds so why not bring some of your children and grandchildren along.

HopeWhangarei has supported this production by providing space and time for its production as well as personnel. So come and be blessed and hear again the Easter Story told through drama. Gold coin donation...

Movie night - Tuesday April 20th. 2021.

- Tuesday April 20th: 7pm – 8: 30pm at Hope Central,
- 1 Hunt Street.
- \$20.00 per head. This is an Educational fundraiser event to assist supporting women to have their own voice in patriarchal societies around the world. All money given will go to the charity "Global Girl Media UK"
- View the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/436754688>



The movie is the story 14 years in the making, "I Am Belmaya" is an 82 minute feature documentary set in Nepal, following an uneducated young Dalit woman's transformational journey from subjugated wife to documentary filmmaker. Taking the camera and power into her hands, Belmaya stands up to her abusive husband and makes a film about the importance of education for girls. Her film goes on to win hearts and awards, taking her to places she never dreamed she would go. Shining a light on issues such as girls' education, domestic violence, gender inequality and discrimination, poverty, young marriage and childbirth, and women's empowerment, this is an inspirational story of one woman's determination to overcome her past and create a better life for her beloved young daughter.

NOTE: To assist us in showing this, please can you register for this event by emailing us at: karen@hopewhangarei.nz or ringing 094381667

Musicians and singers gathering Saturday April 24th 9:00-10:30am

Just a reminder to all musicians and singers who wish to be involved in the worship ministry here at HopeWhangarei that we have a gathering here to discuss involvement, repertoire and leading sung worship on Saturday April 24th.

Hope Tikipunga Challenge 2021

Over the past two years we have had a challenge to support Family Works (Presbyterian Support)

2019 –pyjamas, 2020 - beanies, scarves and booties. Well in 2021 it is knee rugs, throws, cuddlies. We will have a morning tea on 6th July at Hope Tikipunga and invite a representative from Family Works to come along a receive the projects. There are several ways you can contribute; crochet a small rug, knit peggy squares and sew together, polar fleece is a good option, patchwork throws are popular. Or, you might like to donate some wool for someone to use. For more details, please

contact Kaye, Rae or Helen McGregor 0274373016.

Thy Kingdom Come May 13th -23rd

This year we will be joining with Christians from all over the world in a season of prayer between Ascension Sunday and Pentecost. Joining together to pray for people to come to know Christ and for the renewal of the church. We will be asking people to again have five people to pray for over that period to come to Christ and we will be establishing a prayer room at Central and inviting you all to come and spend an hour during that ten day period praying for the church and for our ministry.

HopeWhangarei Council

Since its foundation on 1 July 2019 HOPEWHANGAREI has been governed by an Interim Church Council comprised of members appointed by the three constituent churches. As outlined in the founding document the Interim Council will cease to function on 30th June this year and be replaced by a Church Council which “will consist of seven to nine members, comprising the Senior Minister and up to eight elected members, including at least one member from each of the three sites. At least four of the elected members will need to be elders [Book of Order 7.11a]

Church Council terms for elected members are for no more than three years, notwithstanding and with importance placed on succession planning.” [Proposal to Join together ... pg.4]

“The purpose of the Church Council is to be the governing body of the new one Church. The Church Council will take a strong leadership role, be strategic, inspire mission, and encourage and support the ministry team, staff and volunteers.”

[Proposal pg.3]

The Church Council’s functions are conveyed in the Book of Order 7.2.

The Interim Church Council therefore invites the membership to bring forward, by April 21st, the names of suitable candidates as members of the Church Council, for consideration by the Interim Church Council.

Blessing

We started talking about growth and new life so I want to finish with a blessing from 2 Peter 3:18 which talks of growing in Christ. A church's growth starts in our growing more and more in our knowing of Christ in our lives and allowing that to be the centre of all we say and do.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.

Engari kia neke ake i runga i te aroha noa, i te mātauranga o tō tātou Ariki, arā o te Kaiwhakaora, o Īhu Karaiti. Waiho atu i a ia te kororia, āiane, a ake tonu atu. Āmine.

Howard Carter

**SENIOR MINISTER
HOPEWHANGAREI**

13th April 2021