

Dear friends,

Yesterday was the shortest day of the year. I was driving back from Auckland where I had been for supervision, so it didn't seem a short day for me. I felt to stop at the Ruakaka estuary. Almost as a gift in the late afternoon sun I came across some Tūturiwhatu (New Zealand Dotterel) and as I took some photos and followed them about I felt a reassurance from God of his presence with me... So I'll simply share one of the images with you. The Dotterel was sheltering out of the wind behind a post. A picture, in my mind anyway, of how we can find shelter in Christ who was crucified for us.



In the Northern Hemisphere of course the shortest day, mid-winter, is when we would normally celebrate new year, and we are starting to acknowledge the same here in our Southern Hemisphere home with the celebration of Matariki (June 24<sup>th</sup>), the Maori New year. Historically the winter solstice is a time when people look forward to new life, the coming of light as the days start to lengthen again. It is why Christmas has been placed in that time of year as a Christian celebration. We celebrate the coming of the light of the world to the people who dwell in darkness.

Matariki is also a time of harvest when we can fest on the crops from the previous year and also marks the time for preparing the soil for the coming year's crop. It is time to look back and remember those who have worked and put in the toil for what we have now, acknowledging those who have gone before us, and also as a church where we are looking forward with our Alpha dinner and other missional projects where we are preparing the ground for the coming years harvest.

We will be celebrating our second year as a church on July 4<sup>th</sup> and our ongoing mission of connecting people to God and one another, as we hold the Alpha dinner on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Please pray and become involved in these new life celebrations and events.

Here are the notices...

### [Results of the Congregational meeting June 20<sup>th</sup>](#)

The results of the congregational meeting held on Sunday was that it was carried (108/1) that the HopeWhangarei council be Lorna Child, Neil Croucher, Glenys Currie, Cristina da Silva, Helen McGregor, John Sefton, Dennis Thorne. It was also carried that Cristina da Silva (Hugo) would be ordained as an Elder of HopeWhangarei (106/1). The new council will be commissioned and Cristina be ordained as an elder at the combined service on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### [The Alpha Dinner is only 17 days away!](#)

William Temple once wrote that the greatest service any person can do for a friend, is to bring them to Jesus, as Andrew did with his brother Peter who became the leader of the first century Church. (see John 1:42)

- Is there someone you could invite to come with you and see if the Alpha Course is for them?
- The Dinner is in the Hatea Room at the Whangarei Theatre Company in Reyburn House Lane.
- Good food; Good stories; Good atmosphere ... and an informative talk!
- Friday July 9th at 6pm.

Please contact the Church administration to book your seats (\$10- per seat ... please do pay for your friend(s) as your guest)

Karen@hopewhangarei.nz or phone 09 438 1667

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration Service 10am Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> HopeCentral

On June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 the three Presbyterian Parishes in Whangarei took the courageous step of coming together to form one church worshipping at three sites. On July 4<sup>th</sup> we are going to have a combined service to celebrate our two-year anniversary. We will thank those who have served on our Interim Church Council, commission our new Church Council and ordain the first new elder for HopeWhangarei. So we are going to celebrate that and look at how we are planning to continue the missional journey of being a flourishing Christian community, connecting people to God and to one another.



## Hope Tikipunga Challenge 2021

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

2019 – Pajamas, 2020 - beanies, scarves and booties. Well in 2021 it is knee rugs, throws, and cuddlies. We will have a morning tea on 6th July at Hope Tikipunga and invite a representative from Family Works to come along and 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, and 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 027 437 3016.

## Great news-Church receptionist Position-great news

We are pleased to announce that Colleen Poyner (van Zyl) has been appointed to the position of Church receptionist and administrative assistant. Colleen brings many years of experience as a receptionist and involvement in Church life to this role. Colleen will be starting the first week in July and will be working mornings for four days a week.

We also wish to thank Isaac Carter for filling in in this role for a morning a week in a paid position and also Lorna Child and Helen McGregor and a few others who have come and served in a volunteer capacity.

## Essential Health and Safety notice: COVID-19 Level 1

At present 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. We would also encourage people to get the COVID vaccine when you are able.

## Sunday Worship:

We are back to our regular routine for worship at each of our sites.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga: Preacher: Lorne Campbell (Mary Magdalene)

9:30am @ HopeCentral: Howard carter (1 Tim 2:8-15)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi: Preacher: Cath Bremner

### Zoom service

We will be having a Zoom component to our service 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 (featuring our Girls' Brigade) 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**

### Blessing

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

*Ko te hunga i hāereere i te pōuri,  
kua kite i te mārama nui:  
ko ngā tāngata e noho ana i te whenua o te ātārangi o te mate,  
kua whiti te mārama ki a rātou.*

*-Isaiah/Ihāia 9:2*

*Howard Carter*  
**SENIOR MINISTER**  
**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

