

Dear friends,

I am back at work after a week off. With Kris teaching at Te Kamo High School, we tend to try and get some time off together during the school holidays. We had planned on going away for the week



down to the Bay of Plenty, however plans were changed when my car was involved in an accident the week before. I'm Ok, no one was injured, I wasn't at fault however, my Renault is rather battered. Kris and I however had a wonderful time together, with Isaac as well with a staycation (staying at home). I spent a couple of hours each day hanging out with the various birds that make their home around the harbour and coast. On Monday Kris and I went for a wander with Caspian terns and Dotterels at Ruakaka, I stood in one spot on the Onerahi foreshore on Tuesday and was blessed to have spoonbills,

shags (both pied and little black) white faced heron, various Gulls and a reef heron come wandering past. On Thursday we went out to Matapouri and it was amazing to see the Tui in the flame trees and bottle brush trees there. On Friday I hung out with four Kotare (Kingfishers) at Onerahi and on Saturday I got the best photos I've ever taken of a Kōtare. Yesterday I once again had a close encounter with a Tāra Nui (Caspian tern). It felt very much like God was blessing me through his wonderful creation. It was also good to have our daughters Naomi and Bethany up for the weekend. They came to support Kris who was preaching at Onerahi, and they lead the singing out there.

Thank you for all the care and concern folk have had for us this last few weeks and for your prayers for us as we've been on holiday.

In September we are joining with many churches around the world in what is called the Season of Creation, acknowledging God's good creation and also the challenges of ecology and creation care. In our services we will be following the 2021 themes of Earth Sunday, Humanity Sunday, Sky Sunday and Mountain Sunday, and the preaching will be looking at various creation Psalms (Psalm 8, 19, 95, 104) and what they have to say to us today in the face of ecological issues like climate change.

Here are the notices...

Essential Health and Safety notice: COVID-19 Level 1

We are at COVID level 1. So regularly wash hands, avoid touching your face, and sign in using the QR code and COVID tracer app or on paper. **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.

Services this week

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - Kris Middendorf-Carter (Acts 9:36-42 - Love and Miracles)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Howard Carter (1 Corinthians 14:26-40)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi – Chris Garland (Huldah 2 kings 22:14-20, 2 Chronicles 34:22-28)

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 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 Tikipunga challenge

A great big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Tikipunga challenge this year; providing warm knitted blankets and snuggly rugs for families through Familyworks (the family care agency of Presbyterian Support Northern). The representative from Familyworks was blown away by the amount of warm bedding that the church and community donated. It's hard to grasp just how much was donated so Helen McGregor took a couple of photos to give us a good idea.

This is a significant way in which we can show our care and concern for the community and also help the social services arm of our denomination. Who connect with the community by offering counselling and care to families, providing Social Workers in Schools and so many other services in Whangarei.



Alpha course starts Tuesday July 27th

Please keep the Alpha course and team in your prayers as it kicks off this week. Pray for people to engage with the videos and for good conversation in the small groups.

Saturday September 18th 9:00am - 3pm CTN gathering at HopeCentral

We are hosting the September Churches Together Northland gather here at HopeWhangarei in September. The Rev Dr Stuart Lange will be the key note speaker (looking at essential elements to a growing church). There will also be workshops featuring Rev Nick McLennan (Being a Missional church: congregational vitality and compassion toward the community), Rod Watts (results based accounting as a way of assessing missional effect) and Dr Emily Colgan, new testament lecturer at St John's College (reading the bible through the eyes of ecology).

Mark it in your calendar as it will be a great event.

Blessing

Just a simple blessing this week and a personal note about how much I (like Paul) appreciate the care and concern of the church family from 1 Corinthians 16:23, 24

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.
My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Kia tau te aroha noa o te Ariki, o Īhu Karaiti, ki a koutou.
Hei a koutou katoa tōku aroha i roto i a Karaiti Īhu. Āmine.

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER

HOPEWHANGĀREI

27th July 2021