

Dear friends,

The pastoral email is a bit late this week as we've been dealing with internet issues here at the office. While as followers of Christ and people of faith we are called to be dependent on God, in our 21st century weird world we have also become quite dependant on technology. Can I say I know which one has proved to be more reliable... Our loving and faithful God wins again. Anyway the team here and Karen Cullen in particular have been working really hard to try and sort this issue out, and have been working really hard in the midst of the difficulties as well.

I want to thank Lorraine Greenwood for a wonderful gift on a book she bought many years ago... John Stott's *The Birds as our teacher: Biblical lessons from a life-long bird watcher*. It was very thoughtful. It's interesting to see someone else who made connections with his passion for Bird's and Bird photography and his calling to expound the scripture. As I've been saying to people it gives me to areas in my life to aspire too.



On that note, on Monday I observed a very interesting phenomenon in the waters between Onerahi and Limestone Island around thirty Kāhurihuri (pied shags) gathered together and as I watched glided down the channel. Normally they are more solitary birds, but apparently when there is abundant food they will join together like this. I did think about passages in scripture that encourage us to come together as Christians for worship and encouragement like in Hebrews 10:25, which says 'Do not stop meeting together as some are in the habit of doing (I'm

naturally an introvert so I am quite happy being on my own) So we can encourage one another... of course Psalm 133 which talks of the blessing when God's people dwell together in peace. Let us continue to pray for the unity and growth of our church. A group of Shags by the way is known as an eatery or a hang out. Both relevant as we gather together, for fellowship but also to feed together on God's word.

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 - Howard Carter (1 Corinthians 11:4, 5... 14:26-40)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Chris Garland (Huldah - 2 Kings 22:14-20, 2 Chronicles 34:22-28)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi – 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 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**

Evening worship August 15th 6pm

Please note that this month the Evening worship will be on August 15th and at the **new time of 6pm**. The service will be the usual inspirational candle light blend of sung worship prayer and reflection on scripture. The theme this month is The Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness...

Celebratory Dinner and AGM Saturday September 26th 5:30pm HopeCentral

The HopeWhangarei AGM this year will be held on Saturday September 26th at HopeCentral like the previous two AGM's it will part of a celebratory dinner, a chance to get together and remember and celebrate together what God has been doing in our midst.

Welcome back Enosa

Enosa Auva'a our intern is back from his sojourn at St John's Papatoetoe this week and he has hit the ground running taking Mission focus groups with folk at Tikipunga, Central and Onerahi. Keep Enosa in your prayers as he completes his time with us and all the assignments he has to do for KCML. Also make a point of marking December 5th in your diary as we will be having a combined service to farewell and thank Enosa and Felicity and pray for God's blessing on their lives and Enosa's ministry. The service will be followed by a bring and share lunch, Rev Dr Geoff New, the acting principle of KCML will be at the service to give Enosa his graduation certificate and will be preaching in the service.

Blessing

Psalm/ Ngā Waiata 133

*How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
² It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.
³ It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.*

*For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore*

*Nā, āno te pai, anā te āhuareka
o te nohoanga o ngā tēina, o nga tuākana
i runga i te whakaaro kotahi!
Tōna rite kei te hinu utu nui i runga i te ūpoko,
i heke iho nei ki te pāhau,
āe ki te pāhau o Arona;
i heke iho nei ki te remu o ōna kākahu:*

*Kei te tōmairangi anō o Heremona,
kei tērā i heke iho ki ngā maunga o Hiona:*

*i whakahaua iho hoki e Ihowā te manaaki mō
reira,
te ora mō ake tonu atu.*

Howard Carter
SENIOR MINISTER
HOPEWHANGĀREI

3rd August 2021