

Dear friends,

It was exciting to have a baptism service for HopeWhangarei on Sunday evening. We baptised and reaffirmed the baptisms of four people who had done the Alpha course. It is exciting because it links us back to the beginning of the church and to the risen Jesus Christ himself, who commanded his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey all I have commanded you. Baptism reminds us of that direct link and affirms Jesus life, death, and resurrection. It was also exciting because it is good to see the gospel at work in the lives of people today. Hearing the testimonies of those being Baptised and reaffirming their baptism, the power of the good news of Jesus Christ is shown, I found myself fighting back tears as I listened to the stories of peoples journey to faith. Lastly I'm excited about the future of HopeWhangarei, it is good to see this new growth start to happen, as we go about our mission of connecting people with God and with one another, as we work at our mission plan of connecting with people, nurturing relationships of care with them, inviting them to make commitment to Christ (for which Alpha is a great tool) and helping them grow in Christ. Two things that also point to this future for us is a new connect group that is doing the Bible course from people who have done the Alpha course, and the fact that the Alpha team was made up of people from all three of our sites, and that there were many younger folk doing the course this time.

If you want to hear the testimonies of people getting baptised and see the baptisms we have a recording of the zoom on line here is the link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z0MOWCWebyEXZbityE2n-0jj5z-PJWNx/view?usp=sharing>

Also please continue to Pray for our church to grow and for people to come to know Jesus through our community and its ministry.

Here are the notices...

### COVID Alert level 2

If you are anything like me you are sick of COVID however, as the country moves from an elimination strategy to a suppression strategy it is more important than ever that we work at preventing the virus from getting loose in our church community.

Therefore we ask that you adhere to all the government regulations round COVID alert level 2.

Hygiene: washing and sanitising hands.

Mask wearing: Mask wearing at gatherings like worship is "strongly" encouraged

Scan or sign in using the COVID tracing ap: this is mandatory for gathering such as worship. Connect groups should also keep a record of who is attending for sake of contact tracing.

Respect physical distancing: we are aware that some people are still very conscious of physical distancing and ask people to respect this.

Stay at home if you are unwell: The best way we can protect one another is to stay home and join worship via zoom if we are unwell.

COVID symptoms are as follows:

New or worsening cough, sneezing and runny nose, fever, temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste, sore throat, shortness of breath. Less common symptoms of COVID-19 may include diarrhoea, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, malaise, chest pain, abdominal pain, joint pain or confusion/irritability.

Close contacts and places of interest: If you have been at a place of interest or in close contact with people who have COVID please follow Department of health guidelines on testing and self-isolation.

If you have symptoms or have been in a place of interest or in contact with people with COVID please get tested.

The government says the best health advice is to get vaccinated.

Please contact the church office in that situation for pastoral support and to give us a heads up. We have fact sheets from the government website to help people know what they should do in those situations. We can help arrange grocery drop offs etc.

### Sunday Worship

There will be worship at all three sites this week. We will be continuing our series on the book of Revelation, focusing on the letters to the seven churches.

### Worship Sunday November 14th

There will be worship at all three of our sites this Sunday as we continue our series looking at the book of Revelation.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - Howard Carter (Smyrna Revelation 2:8-11)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Enosa Auva'a (Thyatira: Revelation 2:18-29) Enosa will be preaching live via zoom at the service.

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Lorne Campbell (Pergamum Revelation 2:12-17)

Please note that under COVID alert level 2 we are limited to 100 people at our services. If we reach that at HopeCentral we will be re-directing people to the 10am service at Tikipunga. If you live in the Tikipunga area why not sleep in for an extra 30 minutes and worship with the congregation at HopeTikipunga.

### Zoom service 9:30am Sunday November 14th

There will be a zoom service on Sunday. It will be a **streaming of our 9:30am service** from HopeCentral.

The link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89285364673>

If you are using an app on a mobile device the **meeting ID number is: 89285364673**

You can join via landline the phone number is 09 884 6780 you will need to input the meeting number when Meeting ID prompted: 89285364673

We will be inviting people to stay and catch up in break out rooms after the service.

*If we find ourselves in COVID alert level 3 lockdown. The zoom service will be the only service and will be at 10am.*

### Evening Worship 6pm November 14<sup>th</sup>

It seems that COVID has meant that we have not been able to gather for evening worship for the past few months. However I'd like to invite you to come along this week to our anything but regular time of Sung worship, prayer and reflection on the word.

### Parish Clerk

We are in the unusual position of looking for someone to serve as our Parish Clerk. We are very much indebted to Dennis Thorne who has served in this capacity for the past two years, but is wanting to dial back his commitment. The church council has the power to co-opt people (or at least come to the congregation and ask them to add a member to the council. We are looking for a person who is willing to serve on our Church Council as our parish clerk. There is a job description available. It really requires someone with a good administrative mind and working knowledge of things Presbyterian. If there are expressions of interest please contact Howard Carter 027 7508602 or by email [howard@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:howard@hopewhangarei.nz)

### Community Christmas Morning Tea – Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10am – Hope Tikipunga

Come along and relax over a coffee/tea and a cookie

Kathryn Watson & Margaret Trigg will come with some great Christmas ideas for you to make

For catering and craft numbers **RSVP to Helen by 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Helen ph. 437 3656 or 027 4373 016

[heljo@themcgregors.net](mailto:heljo@themcgregors.net)



### Girls Brigade Garage Sale 7am November 13<sup>th</sup>

Delayed because of COVID the Girls Brigade garage sale is now on Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup>. If you have good quality good that you would like to donate to the Girls Brigade please drop them down to the church **before November 12<sup>th</sup> during office hours (9:00am-2pm Monday to Friday)**. Tell your friends and neighbours about this great opportunity

### Blessing

At the Baptism service on Sunday night I did the blessing and have to admit that I had one of those moments where your mind goes blank and I forgot the last line of the blessing... I forgot the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you... It is quite easy to forget the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that

we have been shown that grace and to offer it to others... so let me finish the pastoral email this week with the blessing from 2 Corinthians 13:14

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

*Howard Carter*

**SENIOR MINISTER**  
**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> 2021

*PS: The bird photo this week is a Poaka (Pied stilt) taken on Monday at the old cement works on Port Road.*

