

Dear Hope friends,

Sue and I have just returned from a wonderful 10 days visiting family that we haven't seen for months. My mother celebrated her 90th in Taupo where almost all her family were able to gather. We had a memorable celebration with a "this is your life" theme. It was so much fun. Then on to Auckland where we celebrated Christmas with our immediate family in Red Beach. It was such a happy time.

On Christmas day, we attended St Stephens Anglican Church, Stanmore Bay, for their service (NB ... the Presbyterian Church was closed due to covid). At the door we were greeted by an old friend, Rev Dr Don Batley. Long story short, he gave us a book that he had written about the history of the charismatic renewal in the Anglican Church that he had been a significant leader in. It is a fascinating account. In it, I was especially struck by a prayer that the Bishop of Auckland, Rev Gowing, prayed for himself, and also asked all members of the Auckland Diocese to consider praying: "**Renew Thy Church, O Lord, beginning with me**". Of this prayer he said *"This is an extremely important prayer, for if the Church ... is to be renewed, there must be renewal on the individual level – I must be renewed. There must be renewed love for our Lord, a new understanding of Him and His Mission, a new devotion to Him. I must be honest before God and myself. In what ways is my Christianity a formal, lifeless thing? How are my priorities – where do they depart from those of our Lord? What part has mission in my life?"* He then went on to say *"I ask that these questions be pondered not only in private but they be considered in groups"*. I am not sure that Bishop Gowing had a charismatic renewal in mind ... but this did break out in the 1970s right across all denominations in NZ bringing renewal to the Church. !

As we begin a New Year, maybe we can take our eyes off the many challenges that covid has presented and turn to the Lord and pray "**Renew Thy Church, O Lord, beginning with me**". Let's keep our eyes on Jesus and ask Him to fill us afresh daily with His Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Renewal. Let's ask Him to lead us to become the Church He would have us be – a church that has a new love for God, a new understanding of Him, a new devotion to Him ... and His Mission.

*Will You not revive us again,
That Your people may rejoice in You?
Psalm 85:6*

Lorne Campbell

The notices...

Our Service this Sunday, January 2nd

- 9:30am at Hope Central: A Combined Hope Whangarei service with Communion.
- We will also be admitting 5 people into membership: Vic and Justine Freestone; Armand Sinclair; Dale and Christine Hanson. Do come and welcome them!

Zoom service details

- All services will have the same zoom link and meeting ID for December and January.
- The zoom 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.
- Please note that the process has changed:
 - The phone number is 09 884 6780 you will need to input for the meeting
 - The number when Meeting ID prompted: 89285364673 followed by the # key.
 - Then you will be asked for a further ID number or to press the # key again. Press the # hash key again.

Pastoral Contact during summer

Howard Carter our Senior Minister is on leave from December 26th through to January 18th. Lorne Campbell will be available for pastoral matters (021 1356275). Even though the office is officially closed there will be someone checking the phones.

COVID health and safety

- We have moved into the new government COVID suppression plan (AKA traffic light system) Northland is under Red at the moment.
- Our services will require the vaccine pass and numbers at each service are limited to 100. A non-differentiated service will be held in the lounge at HopeCentral, under Red it is limited to 25 people.
- Basic health and safety measures for COVID will remain constant under the new COVID Protection Plan. Hygiene: washing and sanitising hands.
- Mask wearing: Mask wearing at gatherings like worship is “strongly” encouraged... it is one of the ways we can show our care for each other... Please make sure that you bring and wear a mask.
- Scan or sign in using the COVID tracing app: This is mandatory for gatherings such as worship.
- Connect groups can continue to gather under the Red setting, with a maximum of 25 people, leaders should also keep a record of who is attending for sake of contact tracing.
- Please respect physical distancing: we are aware that some people are still very conscious of physical Distancing and we 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.

- The government says the best health advice is to get vaccinated. It is a way in which we can show our care and love for one another.

Blessing

As we close 2021, and look ahead into the New Year, I want to leave you with this encouragement from Isaiah c43: v 16-19 for 2022:

*Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea
And a path through the mighty waters,
17 Who brings forth the chariot and horse,
The army and the power
(They shall lie down together, they shall not rise;
They are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick):
18 "Do not remember the former things,
Nor consider the things of old.
19 Behold, I will do a new thing,
Now it shall spring forth;
Shall you not know it?
I will even make a road in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert.*

Rev Lorne Campbell
ASSOCIATE MINISTER
HOPEWHANGĀREI