

Dear friends,

With Pentecost our ThyKingdomCome season of prayer came to an end, I hope that people found it an encouragement to continue to pray for the renewal of the church and for people to come to Christ. I couldn't help but remember the testimonies in the first of the daily devotional videos of people stopped in the street who talked about the fact that people were praying for them made them feel special and cared for. Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury said "We should keep praying for people for every aspect of their lives, and in particular that the Holy Spirit would open their eyes to the reality of who Jesus is." That is the only way they will come to know the great love of Christ for them. So can I encourage you to keep on praying for the five people you chose for ThyKingdomCome. As the season of prayer came to an end I was reminded of the story of Queen Bertha of Paris, who was married to King Ethelbert of England. She was a Christian and in her marriage agreement it was stated that she could practise her religion and her husband, a pagan king, would grant her access to a priest for communion. Her husband rebuilt St Martin's church in Canterbury for her and she faithfully walked from the palace each day to the chapel to pray for England to become Christian, and her husband. By the end of her life Rome had Sent St Patrick to 'Christianise' England (he was more known for his work in Ireland). Her husband did become a Christian (strange reason was he saw how hard his Christian Soldiers fought... not something you'd encourage these days) but the Christian faith being reintroduced to England and having a great impact can be traced back to faithful prayer. Keep praying.

Pentecost Sunday was a great time together and people left the service having been uplifted by God's presence. We still miss those who because of differences over COVID choose to be apart from us, they are loved and missed. It bought up a great issue to have, what to do when we have children in our services again. It also showed how blessed we are with musicians who can lead both traditional church music and worship with a more contemporary feel. May God continue to encourage us by his presence by the Holy Spirit, energizing us and enabling us to witness to Jesus, risen from the dead.

Here are the notices...

Sunday Worship June 12th

We are back into our three sites again this week. We also re-engage with the book of Revelation and the eternal hope in the face of present suffering series. It's been good to take a break over the Church's festival time from Easter to Pentecost but from now until August we are going to get back to exploring, unpacking and applying this most difficult of biblical books (We will be finishing the series with a combined service of celebration on August 24th) A book which has offered hope and encouragement to the church as they have faced persecution, difficulties and suffering down through the ages. A book that more than any other points to the sovereignty and power of God, and the hope we have in Christ.

HopeTikipunga @ 10:00am - Revelation 15 (Billie Portch)

HopeCentral @ 9:30am - Revelation 13 (Howard Carter)

HopeOnerahi @ 9:30am - Revelation 14 (Lorne Campbell)

Zoom service June 12th

The zoom service is a streaming of the 9:30am HopeCentral service.

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.

The host will ask for your name so we can put it on the computer screen so after the service people will know who you are.

After the service we will break into small groups so people can catch up, pray with each other. If you are on a landline you can unmute yourself by pressing *6. If you have someone on a landline in your group please introduce yourselves to them.

Sulis Birch June 19th

Sulis Burch, one of our mission partners, working with Navigators in Indonesia will be joining us at the service at HOPECENTRAL on Sunday 19th June and will share a little of her work.

Inspire Leadership Conference



If you would like to come along to this Leadership conference in June please let the office know. We can take the van down and make a day of it.

The Keynote speaker is Craig Greenfield. On his blog he writes 'My name is Craig Greenfield. During two decades of living in slums and inner cities (in both Asia and North America), I founded a grassroots youth discipleship movement called *Alongsiders International*, now reaching thousands of vulnerable children across 21 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe'.

To register go online to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFMR-tvofHMiuQtFVltkwEbKOZ1PfrHtUkHpNXuQklaKJv_w/viewform and let the Hope office know so we can book a seat on the van.

Good Ol' hymn Sing Sunday June 12th HopeCentral lounge

Another chance to get together after Sunday worship and a cuppa tea and sing together some good old gospel hymns. This Sunday after the service at HopeCentral and a quick cuppa. This month will focus on some of the Alexander hymns.

Tikipunga Challenge July 2022



Knitted beanies, scarves, booties, slippers, blankets or whatever takes your fancy. All items will be delivered to "Family Works" (part of Presbyterian Support), based in Mair Street. Morning Tea in July, exact date and time yet to be confirmed.

Enquires to Helen McGregor

TV wanted

Does anyone have a reasonable size TV that has a USB port access that Hein and Colleen and could buy or borrow to run an alpha course from their home mid-June. If so please contact Colleen on 0276052897 or the office.

Blessing

On Sunday we used the song “the Blessing” as we prayed for each other to be filled afresh by the Holy Spirit. Here is a link to a very Pentecost celebration using the Blessing song...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d48-qbcovVY>

If you get the email as a letter simply google ‘the world blessing 2022’ on any digital device you have.

In our staff devotions we are working through that most revolutionary of Paul’s letter, the letter to the Romans, with its wonderful clear explanation of the gospel. It’s the book that Martin Luther spent three years expounding and which resulted in his posting of the ninety-five thesis on the church door in Wittenberg and the start of the Reformation. Today we read the most revolutionary and most hope filled of verses Romans 3: 24 and I want to leave that with you this morning as a reminder of the great love and power of the gospel, for us and for whom we pray and witness to.

‘and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus’.

He mea whakatika utukore nā tōna aroha noa, i runga i tā Karaiti Īhu hokonga:

Blessings

Howard Carter

SENIORMINISTER
HOPEWHANGĀREI

June 7th 2022



PS: - Poaka (pied stilts) are amazing birds, they are creatures of grace and beauty. On Saturday I was out at McLeod’s Bay domain, where at high tide the Poaka and Torea (oystercatchers) and other birds line the roadside. This one looks longingly out over the bay. Maybe simply taking in the beauty of its

surroundings or simply waiting for the tide to go out so it can feed. Perhaps in quiet

contemplation amidst all those other thoughts (if birds think) it is in contemplation and adoration of the creator who provides for its needs.