

Dear friends,

Spring is definitely here and summer is on the way...This Sunday (September 25<sup>th</sup>) day light saving starts and we put our clocks forward an hour (spring forward). Essential to remember if you want to get to church on time this week.

I've been trying to get a walk in before work at least three times a week. It's part of working on my physical and spiritual wellbeing. I take my camera and go for a wander along the Hatea River loop track. I consider walking a spiritual discipline as I use the time to pray, and thank God for the beauty of what he has made: The trees and the river, the play of light off the water, fish that jump, and of course the wonderful bird life along the river bank... and yes I take photos. I then spend some time doing my daily bible reading and devotions... back in my office where it's warm.

On one of my walks last week I was reminded of the study at the Music Connect group on Wednesday night, which put this into context for me. We are working through the Psalms. The week before we had looked at Psalm 19, which is a creation Psalm.

Psalm 19 is cut into two parts, the first gives thanks for the wonder of the night sky (I'm not up early enough to do that on my walk) and says that without words the sky is constantly telling us of the greatness and wonder of God. The second half of the Psalm give thanks for God's word, for the Jewish writer of this psalm it is the Law (Torah), the way in which God has revealed God's goodness and character to us.

So as I walked I reflected on the idea of general revelation, the knowledge we can have of God through the created world and also what is called special revelation, the fact that God has chosen to reveal God's self to us through the scriptures of the Old and New Testament. Ultimately of course God's self-revelation is through Jesus Christ, in Jesus the word became flesh, God came and dwelt amongst us. We know this because of the gospels and the letters which make up the rest of the New Testament to people who had come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. In October we are starting a series on Colossians, and in this letter Paul does not just talk of God or Father God, but is very clear in acknowledging that the God we worship is *the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*.

I find as I walk along the River the Holy Spirit uses what I see to bring to mind scripture. It was good this week that God used three spiritual disciplines, walking and enjoying creation, scripture reading and being part of a small group to study scripture to speak to me. Can I encourage you to try some different spiritual disciplines over this spring season, as a way of promoting new growth... I've even started writing a journal to reflect on where I encounter God during the day. It's too soon to talk about how helpful that will be.

Here are the notices...

### [Worship Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup>](#)

*Please remember day light saving starts this week, put your clock forward 1 hour when you go to bed on Saturday night. We will be finishing off our Season of Creation this week in our services. I want to thank the people who have been prepared this month to share on their passion for something in creation, how it connects them with God and also about creation*

care as part of our Christian faith and life. Thanks to Shane Jansen, Dennis Thorne and Lorne Campbell.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - Water (Lorne Campbell)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - A family's commitment to creation care (Shane Jansen)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Consider the Birds (Howard Carter)

### Sunday Zoom Service September 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30am Sunday

The zoom service is a streaming from 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.



**Operation Christmas child pack a shoebox.**

**Thank you to all who took away shoe boxes to pack.**

**Could you please have into the office by Friday 21st October for**

***national collection***

### Zoom technician and camera operator urgently needed

Isaac Carter our wonderful zoom tech and camera operator has moved to Auckland. We are blessed to have one person willing to be trained to run the 'front of house part of zoom. We are looking for a few other people who will be able to step up and take on this important roll to see us through to the end of the year. Training is available. Please let Howard Carter know if you are keen to give it a go. 027 7508602 or [howard@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:howard@hopewhangarei.nz)



**Sorry NO morning tea this Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September at Hope Central.**

**We have had no response with the request for more volunteers needed.**

### Church AGM 2:30pm Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> afternoon tea and AGM

The Annual General meeting is on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> at HopeCentral. Come and join us for afternoon tea and hear what God has been doing in our midst over the past twelve months.

### Mould on the ceiling at HopeCentral

Many people have commented on the mould which is growing on the ceiling of the worship area at HopeCentral. The Board of managers and our church administrator have been working on a solution. Due to the height of the ceiling we will have to have scaffolding in the Church and are currently seeking quotes from companies able and willing to do the cleaning.

Please bear with us as we work through this process.

### Morning tea shout for Court Staff Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>

As part of our Central City Chaplaincy we are reconnecting with the Court after COVID. To facilitate that we are going to give a morning tea shout for the staff at the court. There has been a high turnover, over the past eighteen months and it is a great way of re-establishing a relationship with the court... So we would ask folk to bake, or cook for us and help out. We are going to need morning tea for about forty people on September 30<sup>th</sup>. If you could let Elaine Holwell (0220812784) know if you able to help, that would be very helpful.

### A request

Margaret Scrivens is looking to buy a second hand CD of the Old Testament for her to listen to. Please if anyone has a spare one or one that they are no longer using which they are willing to sell please could they ring Colleen at the office or Margaret ph. 4300568.

### Alpha in a Café survey. Thanks!

Many thanks to those who responded to the recent survey about running the *Alpha* Course next year off site in a local café.

The response was most encouraging for this new venture next year, with generous offerings of finance to help cover the costs of guests coming.

*Alpha* NZ report that other churches in NZ have been running courses in the community – which seems to suit a younger generation of people.

So – watch this space for April 2023 ... and please be praying as we seek to share the good news of Jesus with those who don't yet know His love.

*Rev Lorne Campbell*

### Blessing:

Psalm 19 finishes with a prayer. One I often use at the beginning of a sermon. While the Psalmist is referring to his words and thoughts written in the Psalm it does invite us to look at our words and thoughts and pray that they all may be pleasing to God every day.

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart

be pleasing in your sight,

Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Kia manakohia ngā kupu a tōku māngai:  
me ngā whakaaro o tōku ngākau i tou aroaro,  
e Īhowā, e tōku kāmaka, e tōku kaihoko.

Psalm/Ngā Waiata 19:14

Blessings

*Howard Carter*

**SENIOR MINISTER**  
**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

September 20<sup>th</sup> 2022

Ps:- PS: - I went for a walk along the Hatea river loop after men's prayer breakfast on Friday and was blessed to have a Kotare (Kingfisher) Pose for me on the Tauihu (figurehead) at the prow of the Waka'n'Wave sculpture. A great spot to sit and scan the mudflats below.

