

Dear friends,

It seems the world has changed since I wrote my last pastoral email. In several areas...

On Friday we heard of the death of Queen Elizabeth the second, as my son James said in a family chat... 'wow it's the end of an era', even for him as a twenty something this was significant as the Queen had been a constant presence, like me as a fifty-late person. At our men's prayer breakfast it was noted by our oldest member that he was born the year the queen started her reign. I have always appreciated the way in which the queen shared her deep and personal faith in Jesus Christ with the world, as well as the way in which she gave a great example of service and duty. On Sunday up at Paihia it seemed even more poignant as I shared as an illustration for my sermon on Psalm 113 how the royal family had changed the way in which they communicated with the public. Being prepared to stop and even kneel down to talk with children, and to use their position and prestige for charity and caring for the least in society. This was echoed in the way in which King Charles the third, spoke of now having to lay aside the many hours he spent on the various causes as he becomes the monarch.

On Monday we have moved out of the COVID traffic light response system, all together. Noticeable changes are that mask wearing is no longer mandatory in shops or gatherings, it is required in health care and elder care settings. If you have COVID you are still required to isolate for seven days, but if you are a close household contact you are no longer required to isolate (you will need to RAT test daily). I hope that this means that we are over the worst of the pandemic, although as a church we do seem to be affected by the tail end of things.

However, we still need to be loving and kind to one another. One of the things from COVID is the awareness that if we are sick we need to be mindful of others and stay home. I'm pretty sure that RAT testing will be a part of our lives for some time. Also for some people they will still want to be careful and wear masks and observe social distancing, particularly those who work in the health sector and other fields affected by absenteeism, or with pre-existing health conditions. Please show love and kindness by respecting that decision.

I also want to say thank you to the people who shared their language and culture with us during Maori language week, *Te Wiki o te Reo Māori*. I asked Dennis Thorne, to write something for the pastoral email this week about his journey with Te Reo the importance of the language in his life and its use in Church. I have valued Dennis as Kaumatua and as a mentor in his time as parish Clerk. Dennis writes..

*"I have been heartened by your encouragement of the use of te reo in church and every day life, and felt I should respond. I am aware that It is a complex issue and in many ways, I reflect that complexity.*

*As a child, whose grandmother was Maori, raised in a family, which while reflecting many Maori practices, used a few Maori words I was confronted with what seemed an irrelevant language. As I began a career in teaching, and te reo Maori became more widespread, I recognised the richness of the culture which I had sampled as a child and*

*began learning the language. Learning another language later in life is not easy and I have been challenged on the marae, where such confrontation is accepted, and afterwards warmly embraced in the dining room for my stumbling efforts. Much later too, as an alien in Cambodia I sensed the disempowerment my grandmother must have experienced. Language is the key to understanding a culture and increasingly I have come to appreciate the uniqueness of both official languages [te reo and English] and the enrichment both provide in understanding the country in which we live and the people within it*

*More than anything though I am grateful for the impact of te reo Maori on the church in New Zealand. I am aware that many Maori came to know Christ through te reo, as captives from the North, freed by their captors who became believers, spread the Good News, including to my great great grandfather, whose life, and that of the community in his care, was changed for the better forever.”*

### **Here are the notices...**

#### **Sunday Worship September 18<sup>th</sup>**

We continue our journey through the season of creation this week. At central we have a special Girls Brigade service.

HopeTikipunga @ 10:00am - Consider the Birds (Howard Carter)

HopeCentral @ 9:30am - Girls Brigade parade and service

HopeOnerahi @ 9:30am - Oceans (Dennis Thorne)

#### **Sunday Zoom Service September 18<sup>th</sup> 9:30am Sunday**

With Isaac going we are hoping to have a zoom technician for the service at Central this week. It maybe that we simply have a camera on wide angle at the back of the church and a mic at the front.

However, there will be a zoom service this week.

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.

### Zoom technician and camera operator urgently needed

Isaac Carter our wonderful zoom tech and camera operator is moving to Auckland on Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> for work for the summer (at least). Isaac has been a real God send over COVID and will be sorely missed. We are looking for 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)

### Project Manager for exploration of City Mission re development of Business block

**Job Title: Project Lead: Hope Whangarei City Mission Project: Investigative and Viability Stage.**

**Fixed Term Part Time: Up to 16 hours a week from October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023**

We are looking for a person to be responsible for helping Hope Whangarei Presbyterian Church develop and create a conceptual purpose and plan for a City Mission within Whangarei. You will need to have excellent relationship building, communication and report writing skill sets with a good understanding of what a City Mission is and could offer to our community. A job description is available on request. If you are interested in applying for this role please send your CV and a covering letter via email to: [karen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:karen@hopewhangarei.nz) by 5pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022.

### CTN Spring gathering September 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-2pm HopeCentral



We will be hosting the CTN spring gathering here at HopeWhangarei on Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup>. It is open to all who would like to come along. Opening at 9:30am with worship and communion. Then a key note address from Rev Dr Stuart Lange on the essentials of a Growing Church. As well as Stuart being one of New Zealand's foremost church historians he has also pastored a thriving Presbyterian Church in West Auckland for well over twenty years. A church that is involved

in planting and replanting churches in growing areas and that has embraced the challenge of the very multicultural environment of Massey and its surrounding areas. In the afternoon there will be Churches Together Northland business to attend to. Lunch is \$10 and **you'll need to register at the office by September 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### 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 know if you able to help, that would be very helpful.

### Blessing

I went for a walk at Ruakaka on Monday. When I started it was a fine blue sky, as I got to the furthest point on my walk I turned round and was being followed up the beach by a cloud front and rain. It is the uncertainty of spring weather, but for the people in the Middle East spring rain is important to make the crops grow in a usually arid landscape, it is seem as a sign of God's blessing. So let me conclude this week with a verse from Hosea, Hosea 6:3 calling us to acknowledge the LORD and he will respond to us again... like the spring rain (and some of you will remember the song of praise chorus 'o that we might know the Lord' that made this verse well known).

Let us acknowledge the Lord;

let us press on to acknowledge him.

As surely as the sun rises,

he will appear;

he will come to us like the winter rains,

like the spring rains that water the earth."

Nā kia mōhio tātou, kia whai atu tātou kia mōhio ai ki a Īhowā;

ko tōna putanga tūturu tonu,

koia anō kei tō te ata,

ko tōna taenga mai ki a tātou rite tonu ki tō te ua,

ka rite ki tō muri ua e mākūkū ai te whenua.

Blessings

*Howard Carter*

**SENIOR MINISTER**

**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

September 13<sup>th</sup> 2022

*PS:* - As I was out and about on Monday with my camera there was a sure feel of spring in the air. The Torea (Oystercatchers) are in pairs round the coast and very territorial. I came across a pair of Tūturiwhatu (New Zealand Dotterels) standing together on the beach, obviously a pair and I was surprised to see a pair of Pūtangitangi (Paradise Ducks) who already had a brood of chicks... This photo is of the Chicks and just shows how hard it is to get kids to all line up for a family photo... Smile... I hope it makes your day.

