

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Kris and I are on holiday after this Sunday, so we won't be around over Christmas. We are going to go down to Tauranga to spend Christmas with Kris' mother and family. The Carter clan will be staying in an Airbnb and there will be about 30 of us for dinner on Christmas day. My daughter Bethany is up with us at the moment and she made the comment it will be the first Christmas in living memory when 'Dad' hasn't taken a Christmas Eve service and Christmas morning service, sat through Christmas lunch and then fallen asleep for the rest of the day.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas time and a really Good start to the New Year. I pray you know the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that comes from Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection over Christmas. At Christmas we remember Jesus incarnation that the word became flesh and dwelt amongst us, and we beheld his grace and truth. I pray you might be aware amidst the joys and sorrows of this season the presence of Christ, by the Holy Spirit, with in you.

Blessings

Howard and Kris

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

Congratulation to Abby Armstrong-Green, a young woman at HopeCentral. Abby was awarded the national prize for volunteering by GirlBoss NZ, this year. GirlBoss is an organisation that encourages young women to be positive change makers in their chosen fields. In the press release from the organization it said *'Abby volunteers her time at our local hospice, Trade aid, and her church and He Kakano plant nursery. She helps with rubbish clean ups, at a food co-op, and waterway planting with whitebait connections.'* As well as over 500 hours with the student volunteer army and caring for a sick neighbour. In her acceptance speech she talked of how she had found hope for the future in her Christian faith. Well Done Abby. God bless you, you are an inspiration.

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

We continue our Advent series 'Christmas It's worth singing about' looking at the songs in Luke's nativity narrative and what they tell us about how Christmas connects to us today.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - the Angels song | Luke 2:8-20 | Dennis Thorne

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Zechariah's song | Luke 1:57-80 | Howard Carter communion

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Mary's Song | Luke 1:39-56 | Lorne Campbell

## Zoom service Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>

The zoom service will be the 9:30 am service from HopeCentral. The link for the service is.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83111922245>

If you are using an app on a mobile device the meeting ID number is: 83111922245

You can join via landline.

Please note that the process has changed. The phone number is 09 884 6780

The Meeting ID you need when 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.

***Please Note: Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> will be the last Sunday for 2022 when we will have a zoom service. Zoom services will resume in February 2023.***

We are wanting to give as many of our wonderful volunteers as possible a rest over the summer holiday period.

## Christmas and Holiday Service Times

Over Christmas and the first half of January there will be combined services at HopeCentral on January 1st, 8th and 15th which will be led by each of our sites, allowing us to start 2023 with a celebration of who we are and our different ways of doing things as well as our oneness in Christ.

December 24th @ 9:30pm - A Candlelight Christmas Eve service *(It will be a real cracker)*

December 25th @ 9:30am - A 45 minute Christmas celebration

January 1st, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15th @ 9:30am HopeCentral - Special Holiday Services combined

January 22<sup>nd</sup> - Hope Whangarei meets back at our three sites at our normal times.

## Carols on the Grass, HopeTikipunga 5pm-7pm Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>

Come join the folk from HopeTikipunga and the wonderful young people from Holy Ground camp for a free BBQ and a time of singing carols on the grass at HopeTikipunga. Invite your neighbour, your friends, your family even that person you find it hard to get along with, to join us in this community celebration of Jesus birth. Oh, and a bouncy castle... for the kids.



*Can you bake shortbread or other Christmas cookies for the Chaplaincy team ...and bring them for Tuesday 20th December at 9-30 am. These are going to be distributed to the community groups, businesses and retailers we have visited and connected with over the year as a way of blessing them this Christmas. If so it would be greatly appreciated.*

*Contact Elaine Holwell for more details. Thankyou*

### Anybody willing to pick up Stanley Sheehan on Sundays???

Stanley Sheehan now lives at Parahaki Court Rest Home 45/47 Kamo Rd Regent. Colleen and Hein would love to see him continue to fellowship here and would really appreciate sharing picking him up and dropping him off. Please phone Colleen at the office 438 1667.



### Help needed for Christmas Eve

If you are able to help out with serving tea/coffee on Christmas Eve please contact Karen at the office or email [karen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:karen@hopewhangarei.nz)

### Giving to others this Christmas?

There are some people in our fellowship and beyond who could need a helping hand this Christmas.

We are not doing Christmas boxes this year ... BUT ... a voucher could be a great help to some ...

If you would like to buy a voucher and bring into the office at Central ... we can make sure they get to those we know who need it.

Many thanks for those who have given thus far!



### Church Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed from 2pm Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup> through to 9:00am Monday January 16<sup>th</sup>. Phones will be monitored over that time and our staff will be on leave at various times during that period.

If you have pastoral matters please contact Lorne Campbell 021 1356275 (December 23<sup>rd</sup>- January 10<sup>th</sup>) Howard Carter 027 7508602 after January 10<sup>th</sup> (Lorne is on holiday January 11<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>)

## Blessing

Romans 15:13 is the bible verse I've had by my desk for the past four weeks, and I'm trying to memorise it (not doing that well).

May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope, by power the Holy Spirit.

*Nā, mā te Atua, nāna nei te tūmanako, e whakakī koutou ki te hari katoa, ki te rangimārie, i runga i te whakapono, kia hua ai tō koutou tūmanako, i runga i te kaha o te Wairua Tapu.*

Blessings

Howard Carter

**SENIOR MINISTER**  
**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

December 6<sup>th</sup> 2022

Ps:- One last bird photo for the year. A Warou or Welcome Swallow sitting on a strand of barbed wire. For me it is a picture of hope, as we see something that is so beautiful and delicate poised on a most unwelcoming piece of wire, something that has come to symbolise our own inhumanity.

