

Hi, and Happy New Year to you all,

I'm back in the office this morning after a good long break. Kris and I spent Christmas down in Auckland with the kids ( as they only had the stat's off work) and then went down to Tauranga for ten days. We stayed with Kris' brother and his wife and caught up with Kris' family and some old friends. While we were there, we celebrated Kris' 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was great to be able to do it with her mum, sister, brothers, nieces, nephews and some friends from various stages in her life and of course our kids came down as well. Then we've spent the last two weeks simply at home



up here in Whangarei. I do want to thank the women in our connect group who put together an afternoon tea to celebrate Kris' birthday up here as well. Kris really enjoyed it, and in particular the chance to get her China cups, saucers and plates out of the China cabinet. Needless to say, as a bloke I beat a hasty retreat.

I was still rather jolted to have the alarm clock go off at 6am this morning and have to get up, get ready and get down to the office. But as I came in the door of the church it was great to see a group of people working with Elaine Holwell putting together a morning tea shout for the court staff across the road

(thank you to the wonderful people who have baked/cooked and provided all the wonderful food). The court staff really appreciated it and it was good to have church folk along just to start conversations with the staff... Glenys Currie took a photo of some of the spread before it went over the road ( see left). Then as I walked into my office I was greeted by a wonderful blue balloon and welcome back sign on my desk (see right). I don't think I've been so welcomed back before. Thank you staff (Colleen) for the kind gesture.



I want to say thank you to all the people from our three sites who contributed to the combined services over the holiday period. While I know for some having the combined service over this period is a bit difficult it is great to have the chance for us all to

experience the different flavours of worship our three sites provide and get together as the one congregation that we are. Thanks to Lorne for providing the preaching and for all our tech folk here at central who continued the roster over the summer.

This week in our services we are still going to be looking at Psalms, (Psalms for summer). Next week (February 4<sup>th</sup>) we will be continuing our yearlong...slow moving journey through the fast paced narrative of Mark's gospel. I'll be preaching on Mark 4:35-41, Jesus calming the sea and stilling the wind. I thought this was a strange place to jump back into the story. However, as I have been thinking, praying about and studying this passage I feel it is of great significance for us as a Church. It is the story of mission, of Jesus going across the lake to the far side. A side that wasn't the familiar but rather a more gentile area. Being willing to take the good news beyond the barriers of Jesus community. It is the story of the disciples going with Jesus on that mission. A journey where they faced storms, but a journey made possible because of the presence and the person of Jesus... It seems like the right way to start 2024. A year, of I believe change and revitalisation and a stepping out more and more into mission on 'the other side'... As

I have reflected on the passage I've felt myself wrestling with questions like "Are we prepared to follow Jesus in to the mission he has for us? Even if it means going out into uncertain waters? Into uncertain territory? Are we willing to trust Jesus to be with us and bring us through the storms that we may face along the way?"

This is not a full-on pastoral email we'll get back to that in February, it is just the notices that need to be shared (although I've put a bird picture at the end of the notices).

## Worship Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - Preacher: Billy Portch

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Psalm 117: Howard Carter (Communion)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Preacher: Dennis Thorne

Please note we will be re-zooming (pun) our zoom services on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Space: A time of relaxed worship and prayer

7pm -8pm Sunday evening February 4<sup>th</sup> Church Lounge

Come join us for a time of worship, prayer, reflection, sharing and listening for the Spirit's voice.

The church office is now open from 9am-2pm Monday to Friday.

## City to City seminar ,Greenlane Presbyterian Church, Friday February 16<sup>th</sup>

### REJUVENATION OF CHURCHES WORKSHOP

Exploring revitalisation of churches within different contexts, e.g. rural, city, multi ethnicity

16 FEBRUARY, 10AM TO 3PM.

LED BY JAMIE BESTER  
DIRECTOR, LEAD CONSULTANT  
AND DENOMINATIONAL CONSULTANT  
CITY TO CITY AUSTRALIA



Register by emailing:  
administrator@northpres.org.nz



'City to City' is an organization started by Tim Keller at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York city. It is a worldwide network designed to help the church through promoting church planting and help revitalizing existing churches. The Northern Presbytery have formed a partnership with City to City to work with our presbyterian churches in the Auckland Northland region. The Church Council have agreed to apply for HopeWhangarei to be one of the first cohort to go through this consultation process. We are inviting people to come and join us at a

seminar in Auckland looking at how City to City work with churches. If you are interested in going please let Colleen at the office know by Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> and we can arrange transport for the day.

## Conversations about the Treaty of Waitangi

Joy Jansen has let us know about a series of seminars/ informal discussions around the Treaty of Waitangi happening at the Whangarei central library next week...

### **What's all the fuss about?**

Everything you really wanted to know about the Treaty of Waitangi (but were afraid to ask) Have a friendly informal discussion with experienced local Pakeha educators (Network Waitangi Whangarei)

Bring your lunch, 12.30 to 1.30pm, ground floor Whangarei Central Library  
January 30, 31, Feb 1 and 2.

## Blessing

“Heoi mā te Atua o te manawanui, o te whakamārie, e hoatu ki a koutou kia kotahi te whakaaro o tētahi ki tētahi, kia rite ki tā Karaiti Īhu: Kia kotahi ai te whakaaro, kia kotahi ai te māngai, e whakakorōria ai koutou i te Atua, arā i te Matua o tō tātou Ariki, o Īhu Karaiti.”

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” -Romans 15:5-6

## Howard Carter

SENIORMINISTER  
HOPEWHANGAREI

*Ps:-* We went for a walk along the river track at Katikati and a lone Tūi kept pace with us. Flying from flax flower to flax flower. For about 15 minutes and 500m I had the real joy of taking its photo in a whole different range of flowers. Some a distance away and some (like this one) up close.

