

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For my daily devotions I am using the 'journey through series, published by 'our daily bread'. While you can get a printed copy of these books I prefer to use the online versions which you can access from this website. <https://journeythrough.org/>

At present I'm working through 1 & 2 Thessalonians, in my reading today Paul talked of the way in which the report from Timothy on the faith and love of the church at Thessalonica was an encouragement to him...their faith and love had brought great joy and relief to him, Paul writes "we are greatly encouraged in the midst of our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained strong in your faith" ( 1 Thessalonians 3:7 NLT).

The devotion finished by asking and answering the question 'who needs encouragement? ... Everyone. And a quote from Hebrews 3;13 "encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today".

Here are the notices...

## Worship Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>

Come join us for worship at one of our three sites round the city. In all three sites we will be continuing our journey on 'the way of the Cross', exploring Marks gospel.

10:00am HopeTikipunga Mark 7:24-30 (Pauline Hampshire)

9:30am HopeCentral Mark 6: 45-56 (Howard Carter)

9:30am HopeOnerahi Mark 7:1-23 (Lorne Campbell)

## Zoom service Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>

The zoom service this week will be a streaming of the HopeCentral 9:30am service.

Here is the link for the service <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429062440>

If you are using the zoom app on a mobile device or smart phone the **Meeting ID is 83429062440**

If you are joining by landline, dial 09 8846780 and follow the Instructions, again the meeting ID is **83429062440**.

There is a waiting room and then our host will let you into the live stream.

Please feel free to stay after the service and spend time chatting with other folk attending via zoom. The ability to have this contact with each other is one of the reasons we use zoom as a platform, rather than just live streaming.

### Easter services

Easter is early this year. Good Friday is March 29<sup>th</sup> easter Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>.

This year at HopeWhangarei we will be celebrating Holy week and easter with services at our three sites but also with special combined services as well.

March 24<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday at all our three sites (Mark 11:1-11)

Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> 7pm Service of the shadows (Tenebrae service) HopeCentral

Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> 9:30am (or meet outside Church unlimited for a walk down to HopeCentral)

For the combined churches Good Friday service in the HopeCentral greenspace.

Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday (At all three sites) Mark 16:1-8

## Alpha Course invitations – The Dickens Inn – May 1st -July 3rd



Following the launch of our Alpha Course at Dickens Inn, please take the opportunity to pray for and invite as you are able people to come to the launch night on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

It is easier to say “ would you like to come with me to this Alpha Course introduction evening at Dickens Inn?” ... rather than “ would you like to

come to church with me?”

If your friends say yes ... please ensure they register with Colleen at the Office ... or use the QR Code on the back of the invite.

Let's have “Great Expectations” for the Dickens Inn outreach!



## Prayer Care Refresher. Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:30-11am at Central.

If you are like me, it is great to have others pray for you in person. Sometimes there can be real breakthroughs.

Other times we are simply strengthened to carry on in the midst of difficulties.

Many people in our three churches are involved in praying for others at the end of our services.

This meeting is a chance for those who pray for others to be refreshed with the vision and practice of prayer care.

Looking forward to being and sharing together at Central on Sat. March 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:30-11am.  
Lorne



### Tikipunga Challenge

We invite you to use your craft skills and support our annual challenge for Presbyterian Support (Family Works) Beanies, blankies, slippers, socks, pyjamas in fact anything to keep folk warm .

We will have a morning tea late June for you to bring your goods.  
Contact- Helen McGregor 437 3656 or 027 437 3016

## Weekly prayer meeting. Tuesdays 1pm-2pm – for community outreach

Come along and join in praying for our outreaches into the community each week on Tuesdays from 1pm-2pm **THIS WEEK (today) IT IS AT HOPETIKIPUNGA** next week Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> it will be at HOPECENTRAL.

Jesus said: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field; Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.”

We will be praying for various ministries where we have community contact e.g. The Court Chaplaincy; The Inner-city Chaplaincy; Alpha 2024 ...

Everyone welcome ...



## Journeying Together - The Churches Together Northland Autumn gathering - Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> @ HopeCentral

HopeWhangarei will be hosting the Autumn gathering of Churches together Northland on Saturday March 16th at HopeCentral. We are blessed to have the principal of KCML (Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership), Rev Dr Geoff New with us for the day Geoff will be running two half day seminars; one on pastoral care and the other on

conflict resolution. These are good for people involved in ministry and leadership in the church.

Please register with Colleen at the church office (094381667 or [colleen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:colleen@hopewhangarei.nz)) by **Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> TODAY!!!** if you are interested in attending ( \$10 to cover lunch).

### The Hope Project 2024

Hope Project 2024 is a wonderful opportunity for all believers, churches, and pastors in Whangarei to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ – The Hope Project has published a booklet with testimonies and reflections on the gospel to be distributed to all households in New Zealand around easter time. If you would like to help distribute these booklets in your neighbourhood here is how you can do it.

**Step 1 - Register** - Click [here](#) to select more of the Whangarei Zones (117 in total) where you want to deliver the Hope Booklets. Fill out the online sheet and please make sure everyone watches the safety briefing video as indicated with a link on the sheet. You can also register [here](#) as a volunteer, but please make sure you select the zones as indicated in previous sentence.

**Step 2 Collect** - ...your Hope Booklets from Church Unlimited during office hours. The back doors by the pellet of booklets will be open 8:30am – 4:30pm Mon – Thursday and all Sunday afternoons. Please take note of the following when collecting booklets

- 130 booklets per Zone (**multiply number of Zones by 130 and collect only the correct nr. of booklets for your distribution**)

- 640 booklets in a box

**Step 3 Distribute** - The aim is to finish distribution by 31 March (Easter Weekend). Where the boundary line is located along a street, please only deliver your own side of the street inside your zone. (The other side of the street will be delivered by someone else). More info, click on these links: [30 second What is Hope Project?](#)

[View Hope Booklet 2024 here.](#)

## Blessing

At our staff meeting this morning we read Psalm 31 which finishes with an exhortation (encouragement ) for God's people to love the LORD and put their trust in the LORD. So let me finish the pastoral email today by sharing that encouragement with you.

Love the LORD, all his faithful people!

The LORD preserves those who are true to him,  
but the proud he pays back in full.

Be strong and take heart,  
all you who hope in the LORD.

Arohaina a Ihowā, e tāna hunga tapu katoa:

e tiakina ana e Ihowā te hunga pono,  
ā, he nui tāna utu ki te kaimahi whakapehapeha.  
Kia māia, kia kaha ō koutou ngākau,  
e te hunga katoa e tūmanako ana ki a Ihowā.

*Howard Carter*

**SENIOR MINISTER**  
**HOPEWHANGAREI**

February 27<sup>th</sup> 2024

PS:- On Monday I was out at McLeod's Bay and it was great to see a Matuku Moana or a Pacific Reef Heron. There are between 300-500 Reef Heron's in New Zealand so they are quite rear (although the population has been quite stable for the past 40 years).

They are smaller and stockier than the more common White Faced Herons. Their bills are shorter and thicker and their legs are green. Their eyes are yellow/orange colour.

They don't normally have a crest, this heron is simply standing with its back to the wind, which is blowing its feathers up... could be why it looks so upset.

