



A special welcome to visitors to West, a place of shelter, faith and laughter. We are an all-age, all-stage community where everyone is included.

We especially love having kids involved in the whole service on Sundays, in all their wriggling, noisy glory, so please don't worry if you or anyone with you makes a bit of a racket - we're glad to have you with us!

Morning tea is part of our time together, so you're warmly invited to stick around for a cuppa and a chat after the sitting-down part of the service.

## A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

6 SEPT	THE STORY WE FIND OURSELVES IN 7	13 SEPT	SAINTS AND HEROES 1
	Church		Jeanne Jugan
	Liane Lovegrove curating		Jacob and Kathy Manning curating
	Thalia Rowden preaching		Thalia Rowden preaching
20 SEPT	SAINTS AND HEROES 2	27 SEPT	SAINTS AND HEROES 3
	Solomon		CS Lewis
	Gary Bedford curating		Lyn Broderick curating
	Tim Hodge from TSCF preaching		Matt C & Rachael McK preaching

**SEPTEMBER 2009**



## west:pastor

Don't you love rediscovering old technology? I've had heaps of fun with new look flannelgraph with this year's Biblemania: *The Story We Find Ourselves In*.

I've been really impressed at how the kids have engaged with the Story - we might have to have more flannel pictures in the future!

Through August we've been looking at the Story So Far, but in September we find out where we fit in to the Story. Not to get carried away about our own importance, but it's worth reminding ourselves that the Church-with-a-capital-C, the global body of people following Jesus, is God's plan for fixing our world of cracked

The Church is  
God's Plan A for  
our planet. There  
is no Plan B.

eikons and cracked relationships.

We're not just a bunch of people who happen to find ourselves together. We are people who God is strategically uniting to make a difference to this world.

So be excited! It's a huge privilege to be part of this body. We are a key part of God's Story - the Story we find ourselves in.

☺ Thalia

*Thalia is away on annual leave 15 Sept-29 Oct (including several days in lieu). While she's away, please contact a Board member if you need anything.*

## west:groups

Anyone is welcome to come to the **movie and discussion group** meeting at Grant and Megan C's place, 7pm on Tuesday nights; recent movies include *Slumdog Millionaire* and *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*; Carol and James M host a **study group** on the first and third Thursdays of the month; Thalia is running a **baptism+** group following the material from the Sunday morning Story series at the Watsons' place. The **Rainbow Ladies** have recommenced at Heather B's home on Tuesdays. This week they meet at 1.30pm, and are studying the prayer of Jabez.

Everyone in the church is in one of four **family groups**, who meet for social activities throughout the year and help out in practical ways in tricky times. This month the groups are combining to throw a pre-wedding bash for Thalia and Matt.

**Get Real** is for all young people from year 7 up, their friends, families and mentors. Get Real meets 6.30-8.30pm each Sunday of the school term at the church. A Mentor/Mentee event is being organised for Sunday 20 September. This will be the final Get Real session for the Term.

## west:making a difference

The basics: **Meryl Ashworth** works in education in Ethiopia with SIM; **Graeme and Christine T** work in business and medicine in South Asia; **Juam** is a student whose education and board we sponsor in Feni Baptist Hostel in Bangladesh; the New Plymouth **Street Vans** provide friendly and safe hospitality downtown on weekend nights; **Kingdom Resources West** provides budgeting help and interest-free loans to people in New Plymouth; we have a special

relationship with **Spotswood School** over the road.

**Graeme and Christine T** have arrived at their new area of work and look forward to getting their own home in a month when one becomes available for them. **Jessica and Matthew** have both started at their new schools and seem to be happy. Pray for **Graeme** beginning work and for **Christine** starting up a medical clinic in the area.

## west:people

Congratulations to **Tiffany and Jason Rice**, who were married on 22 August. They'll be living at **Mark and Kirstyn F's** old house, 153 Veale Rd. **Mark and Kirstyn** will then be at 70C Karamea St.

Our love and sympathy go to **Allan and Val W** and their family as they miss **Allan's Mum** who passed away on 6 August. Our sympathy and love also go to **Sue F** whose grandmother died on 3 August.

**Marilyn V** has recently had an operation on her shoulder and is making a good recovery, but will be off work for 6 weeks. **Lynette A** and **Gary R** have been having a few health problems lately, and would value your prayers.

**Maureen and Jim C** are house-sitting for **Syd and Cela** and can be contacted at 753 3459. They have sold their house and will be building a new one shortly. They are hoping to find another house-sitting position from

mid Oct-mid Dec. They have 5 years' experience with an agency in the UK, and have excellent references. If you hear of someone wanting house/pet sitters, **Maureen and Jim** would love to be considered.

A warm welcome to **Amber Magele** and her sons **Gabriel and Moses**, who have joined us recently. You can reach them at 027 825 2226, 34 Belair Ave.

Congratulations to **Gary and Heather B** who became grandparents for the first time on 5 August with the birth of a son to **Kylie and Andrew** in Melbourne.

We had to say farewell to **Petro and Chane Fourie** recently who have returned to live in South Africa.

**Thalia Rowden and Matt Kehoe** will be married in Auckland on 19 September, and we wish them every happiness in their future together. Hope you have a very special day.

## west:events

In September we round off *The Story We Find Ourselves In* and start celebrating *Saints and Heroes*, getting ourselves inspired by people who have followed God before us.

### COMBINED FAMILY GROUP EVENT: Pre-wedding party for Matt and Thalia

A Stag Do (men only) for **Matt**, and a Kitchen Tea for **Thalia** (ladies & children) will be held on **Saturday 12 September** in the early-mid afternoon. This will be followed by a combined 'pre-wedding breakfast and party' (for everyone) at church at 4.30pm. Children can wear fancy dress or party dress. These will all be great fun, so please RSVP to your family group leader or **James or Carol M** (751 1025) by Wednesday 9 September if you would like to come to either or

both of these events.

Men, **meet at the New Plymouth Club**, 55 Gill Street at 1pm (bring some dosh); ladies, the Kitchen Tea will be held at Liane L's place on Frankley Road. **Meet at the church by 2.30pm** where we will car pool to Lovegroves'. Please bring a small plate for afternoon tea. Back to church at 4.30pm for the rest of the party! Please bring **\$5 per person** to cover the dinner at church.

12 Sept Pre-wedding party at West for Thalia and Matt  
*Engage* seminar with Carey's Myk Habets at Northpoint, 2-8.30pm  
13 Sept Bed-pushing at Base Hospital  
19 Sept Thalia and Matt's wedding in Auckland  
20 Sept Afternoon tea at West, 2-3.30pm, for Year 13s from around NP with Tim  
Hodge from TSCF, chatting about moving away from Taranaki, 3pm, venue tbc  
21 Sept Music Group practice

## west:pitching in

Heather B is collecting photos to put in our next **church phone book** - very helpful for those of us who are newish. She has old ones of most of us, which she'll use if she doesn't get a new one from you! So please send a single photo of the people in your household to gary-heather@clear.net.nz or give one to her on disk.

On 13 Sept it is our turn to do **bed-pushing at the hospital**. Please let Grant C know if you can help; 3-4 people would be perfect. Meet at the chapel at 10.30am for an 11am service and stay to return the patients to their wards again at the end.

Thanks very much for all your contributions to our **food cupboard**. We would love more food support for two particular families we're working with, and supermarket vouchers are great for nappies and formula - these can go to Ruth M.

Like all good things, **Winter Soup Lunches** have come to an end. How about having your own pot-luck after-church lunches with a few people? Maybe get to know someone new?

Cela and Syd B (753 3459) coordinate the **prayer chain**, so call them with any needs we can pray about (or Cath and Eric P on 758 3546 while Syd & Cela are away in the UK from 9 August to mid-October).

Alan and Gwen B take care of **church bookings and hireage**. Please remember to check with them (751 2095) whenever you want to use the building.

If you'd like to set up an automatic payment or coded envelopes to **contribute financially** to the church, please see Erin R, our treasurer. You can get a whole third of your giving back as a donations rebate at the end of the tax year, now.

We are currently looking for people to help with free **babysitting** occasionally and someone who likes **interior design** to take charge of how the inside of the church looks.

Margaret S collects information for this **newsletter**, which comes out on the last Sunday of the month. Please contact her (753 6621, mjsewell@actrix.co.nz) with any info by the previous Wednesday.

	5 Sept	12 Sept	19 Sept	26 Sept
Cleaning & Morning Tea	Val W Allan W	Tania A Daryl A	Ricky M Ruth M	Brian M Kathy M
Lawn Mowing	Roi M	Alison D	Wayne L	Allan W