



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 fairtrade tea or coffee after the sitting-down part of the service.

We are in an exciting period in our relationship with the Spotswood community. Read more inside...

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

MAY 2010

25 APRIL **BAPTISMAL SERVICE FOR ALLAN WEST**
 Celebrate his public commitment to Christ
 Thalia Kehoe Rowden curating
 Allan West & Thalia Kehoe Rowden speaking

2 MAY **EASIER SAID THAN DONE 3: 'Do Justice'**
 Micah 6:6-8; Fairtrade Fortnight
 Brian Manning curating
 Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching

9 MAY **HIGH AND HOLY DAYS 1: Mothers' Day**
Mothers' Day Brunch at the School Hall
 All of West making it a success
 Thalia Kehoe Rowden speaking

16 MAY **HIGH AND HOLY DAYS 2: Ascension**
Acts 1
 Liane Lovegrove curating
 Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching

23 MAY **HIGH AND HOLY DAYS 3: Pentecost**
Acts 2
 Gary Bedford curating
 James McKillop preaching

30 MAY **HIGH AND HOLY DAYS 4: Trinity Sunday**
Hebrews 10:19-25
 Simon Cannell curating
 Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching



west:pastor

You know, I hated school. I still have nightmares occasionally where I'm forced to go back, as my 32-year-old self, to do seventh form. Luckily, lots of people love their time at school, and some probably have lovely dreams about going back. Good or bad, the turnout at school reunions like Spotswood College's at Easter is proof that our 10-13 years at school are enormously significant, even decades later.

That's why it's so cool that we have a special relationship with Spotswood Primary across the road. We can make a positive contribution to God's children at an extremely significant, formative time in their lives.

Term 2 of the school year is upon us and it's a big one for our relationship with Spotswood Primary. We need your prayers over several events and issues that will come up this term, so I'd like to highlight them here.

Already this term the Cannell Family Group has done a gardening bee at the school and we have all met to pray around the school.

On 9 May two major events happen. We swap churches with the Samoan church who meet in the school hall, and host our annual Mothers' Day Brunch there on Sunday morning.

Then we're back there in the evening for the first night of the Marriage and Relationship Course we're hosting with Northpoint. Please pray that several couples from around Spotswood will be brave enough to invest in their relationship this way.

I've discovered that *this* is what it feels like to trust God and take on something that would be overwhelming if we were taking it on alone. Join me this term in jumping out of your comfort zone and into the trust zone.

And in the background, all this time, the West Community Trust will be quietly applying for funding to employ a Family Mentor to work with struggling families from the school. Please pray for this process, too.

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Thalia (pastor@westbaptist.org.nz)

west:making a difference

We have a portfolio of people and communities we support around New Plymouth and the world. 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.

Closer to home, **Kingdom Resources West** provides budgeting help and interest-free loans to people in New Plymouth, and we have a special relationship with **Spotswood Primary School** across

the road and are working on providing a full-time Family Mentor for the school community.

This month's updates: **Meryl** reports that there is still a need for medical staff to work in the clinic at Mursi, and also English teachers for the school. Pray crops can be planted and peace between neighbouring tribes continues. Continue to pray for safe travel for Meryl.

Graeme and Christine are settling in to their work at Shelano which makes bags, aprons, and blankets from old saris. It has been a steep learning curve for them. Christine still manages to do some medical work. The children are doing well at school.

See Thalia's contribution above for this month's news of Spotswood Primary School.

west:groups

Liane L is interested in hosting a 16-week discipleship group on Thursday mornings; please contact her (753 9770) if you are keen.

The national **E100 Bible Reading Challenge** begins at West on 23 May, and it's especially suitable to do in pairs or groups. The teenagers and their mentors are setting up a competition, and there's a special edition for kids and families – what might take your fancy? Check out www.e100.org.nz to see what you think and sign up at church over the next few weeks.

Get Real is for all young people from year 7 up, their friends, families and mentors. In 2010, Get Real will meet three times per term; speak to Alison D (751 1005) to get on the contact list.

In Term 2 Get Real will be held on Sunday 30 May from 6.30pm at West. Brent G and Michael M will be

organising the next Mentor/Mentee event and will be in touch with those concerned. Friends welcome!

Anyone is welcome at the **movie discussion group** meeting at Grant and Megan C's place, 7pm on Tuesday nights, resuming with movies after the school holidays; **Carol and James McK** host a fortnightly Bible study group on Thursday nights; the **Rainbow group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at Heather H's place.

Everyone in the church is in one of four **family groups**, who meet for social and service activities throughout the year and help out in practical ways in tricky times.

This month we are holding a **combined family group** activity, with the Mother's Day Brunch on 9 May, 10am at Spotswood Primary School.

west:people

Syd B has had a spell in hospital, and is making slow progress. Little **Emma W** is having further treatment. Pray there are no side effects and that Emma and the family can cope.

Maureen and Jim C are now at 34 Magnolia Drive, ph 753 9258.

Please continue to pray for and support those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties,

especially those unable to meet on Sundays, **Lyn S, Grace and Lloyd D.**

To keep in touch with church people 7 days a week, check out the church blog at www.westbaptist.org.nz which has new stuff every few days, and join the **West facebook group** to help keep up with each other socially. So far we have 44 West people on Facebook – not bad!

west:events

1 May	Fair Trade and Fish n Chips at West, 5-7pm. Mission event with Central and Northpoint
9 May	Mother's Day Brunch at Spotswood Primary School, 10am in the School hall
	West/Northpoint Relationship Course begins at Spotswood Primary School hall, 7.15pm
13 May	Music Practice, 7pm

16 May Church Quarterly meeting and first Soup lunch
 21 May SoulFood 2: Myk Habets Seminar in the afternoon at Northpoint
 23 May Bed pushing at Taranaki Base Hospital
 E100 Bible reading challenge begins: check out www.e100nz.org.nz
 Combined NP churches Pentecost Service, 7pm at CityWest Church
 25 May Book in the Jar conversation: *The Shack*, 7pm at Cannells'
 27 May Music Practice, 7pm

west:pitching in

We said at the AGM that our church is not functioning as well as it might in the absence of a church **Administrator** and a **Nurture ministry leader**. If you could help with either of these crucial roles, or to find out what's involved, please speak to Thalia or a Board member.

Soup Lunches start again with the Church Quarterly meeting on 16 May. If you would like to volunteer to host a Soup Lunch, please talk to Heather B.

Last year's collaboration with Northpoint to run an Alpha Marriage Course was such a success we're doing it again, this time over our way. We'll be hosting a **Relationships course** at Spotswood Primary from 9 May, aimed at school families. Please think about who you could invite to invest in their relationship in this way. Register with Alison D.

More help is needed for our next turn at **Bed-pushing** at the hospital, which is on 23 May. Please let Grant C know if you can help.

Our **lawnmowing** roster has got a bit lean lately with people moving away. If you could help out with mowing the church lawns every so often, please contact Margaret S on 753 6621.

Syd and Cela B coordinate the confidential **Prayer Chain**. Call them on 753 3459 if you'd like the chain to pray about anything.

Gwen and Alan B manage the **hireage** of the church building during the week, so please check with them (751 2095) if you'd like to use it. We'd also like to have a few more groups using the building, so feel free to let people know about us.

Please keep bringing a few staple grocery items on Sundays to build up the stocks in our **food cupboard**.

If you'd like to set up an automatic payment or coded envelopes to contribute financially to the work of the church, please see **Tania S-A** (758 3829), our brand new treasurer. The government will rebate a full third of what you give, so you can arrange your affairs accordingly.

Margaret S collects information for this **newsletter**, which comes out on the last Sunday of the month, so please contact her (7536621, mjsewell@actrix.co.nz) with any info by the previous Wednesday.

	1 MAY	8 MAY	15 MAY	22 MAY	29 MAY
Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	Val W Allan W Wayne L	Tania SA Erin R Allan W	Ricky M Ruth M Grant C	Brian M Kathy M Simon C	Liane L Wayne L Alan B

New Plymouth West Baptist Church, 144 South Rd, 06 751 2089, www.westbaptist.org.nz