



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.

2011 is the year we at West will *Step out of the Boat*. See inside for more....

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

MARCH 2011

27 FEB
WATERWINGS: WHAT HELPS US FLOAT
#4 Hospitality: Luke 14
 Will Mills curating
 Dean Clarkson preaching

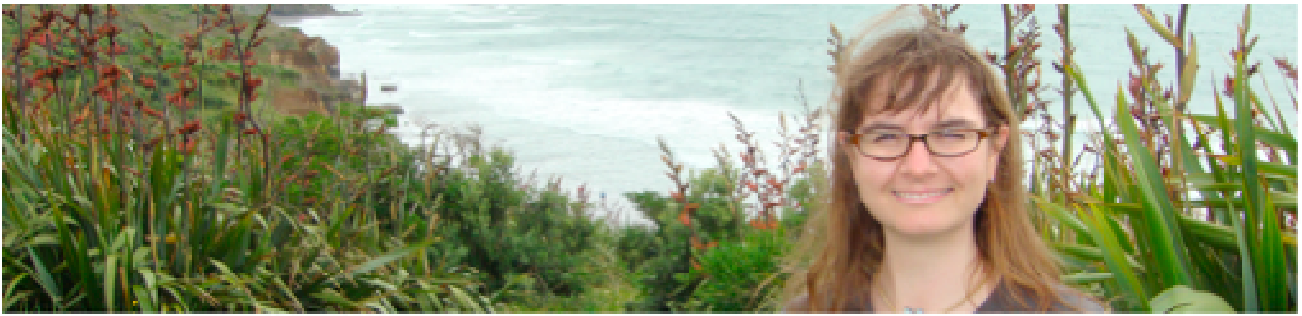
6 MARCH
WATERWINGS: WHAT HELPS US FLOAT
#5 Storytelling: Acts 21:27-22:29
 Gary Bedford curating
 Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching

13 MARCH
STEP OUT OF THE BOAT #1
Matthew 8: 1-4
 Murray Lowe curating
 Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching

20 MARCH
STEP OUT OF THE BOAT #2
Matthew 10: 1-23
 Brian Manning curating
 Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching

27 MARCH
STEP OUT OF THE BOAT #3
John 4
 Allan and Val West curating
 Will Mills preaching

3 APRIL
STEP OUT OF THE BOAT #4
John 3: 1-21
 Alan and Gwen Berryman curating
 Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching



west:pastor

Oh, Christchurch. Brooke Fraser sings in her new song 'Flags':

*I don't know why the innocents fall
While the monsters still stand
And our lives blow about
Like flags on the land*

And we don't know either. Why has a five-month-old baby with his life before him been crushed by a falling ceiling? Why are our screens and newspapers filled with pictures of sand and rubble?

In January at West we spent some time with Habakkuk, who lived in similarly desperate times, and in June this year we're going to spend a month with Job, an innocent man who lost everything, and whose friends were worse than useless in helping him make sense of tragedy. So I hope that there will be room for all of our questions this year at West, and we can help each other make sense of being human in this fragile world.

In the meantime, there are things we do know. We know that God in Jesus lived, suffered and died alongside us

and understands our tears and confusion. And we know that God in Jesus Christ has opened up hope for us and for Christchurch, that this tragedy is not the last word.

Brooke ends her song of lament with these words:

You who mourn
Will be comforted
You who hunger
Will hunger no more
All the last shall be first
Of this I am sure

*You who mourn will be comforted
You who hunger will hunger no more
All the last shall be first
Of this I am sure*

*You who weep now will laugh again
All you lonely be lonely no more
Yes, the last will be first
Of this I'm sure*

*I don't know why the innocents fall
While the monsters stand
I don't know why the little ones thirst
But I know the last shall be first*

May it be so for Christchurch.

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. **Paul and Sarah B** have begun a year's language study in Bangladesh to prepare for running a fairtrade business in South Asia. **Tipan** 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.

The School would appreciate volunteers to **read with children** during the week. For more information or to volunteer please see Mark F. There is also a **Working Bee** on 26 March to plant trees, 9am–2pm with lunch and morning tea provided.

Great news on the **Family Mentor Pilot!** The John Mitchell Trust has given us \$8,000 which means we can begin to look for a person to start part time in the role. We have also begun putting on a special morning tea for the school staff each term; thanks to Robyn R for her beautiful baking this month.

Peter and Leonora are visiting from South Asia where they work with Graeme and Christine T; come and hear about their work on 9 March.

So far six New Plymouth churches have decided to partner with us to expand **Kingdom Resources** across the region. Please pray for Ricky and the team as we prepare for this exciting expansion.

west:groups

All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation every second Monday at **Blokes and Cokes**, 7.30pm at Westbar, see Brian M or Will M for more details.

Our new **Knitting Group** meets every second Wednesday, 9.30am–12pm at Church. Bring your knitting or come and learn to knit.

Our newest member Cathy G is starting a new small group, **Te Ahuru**, for women to explore questions of faith and encourage each other. We are looking for someone to host this group; if you are interested in joining or hosting please see Cathy or Thalia.

There will be no music practice in March; if anyone is interested in joining the music team please see **Gary Bedford**, or phone 751-3113. New musicians and especially singers most welcome.

Seedpods is a weekly themed play and friendship group for parents with young children. **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.

The **Movie Group** meets weekly at Grant and Megan C's place on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss movies on the themes of our sermon series.

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

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. If you are new to West and would like to join a Family Group please speak to Thalia or Alison.

It is great to see **Will and Hester M** begin leading the **Cannell Family Group**, and **Erin R** joining with **Lynda C** to lead the **Sewell Family Group**. Both groups have been renamed – Cannells are now **The Coasters** and the Sewell group **The Connectables**.

west:people

Congratulations to **Erin and Nick** on their engagement. We wish you every happiness. Congratulations too, to **Toni and Marcel S** on their recent wedding.

Please pray for **George and Elizabeth L** who have moved to live in Chalmers Rest Home and are struggling with health problems.

A year into her experience of cancer little **Emma W** has been chosen as the face of the Child Cancer Foundation for 2011. Let's keep praying that this is a year of good health for her.

Our thoughts are with **Tania S-A** and **Lyn B** with health issues at present. Please remember them in your prayers along with those who are struggling with

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

Several folk have recently joined us in membership and we are so pleased to have you join us. They

are: **Amy W, Joey and Lamie L and family, Lisa A, Marlinka R and Cathy G.** Welcome! Anyone who would like to join us as a committed member of the church would be most welcome; please speak to Thalia or a board member.

west:events

There will be a short meeting after the service on Sunday 27 February to complete AGM business.

West is supporting the **Children's Day Trolley Derby** in Marfell by holding a trolley building workshop on 5 March. We'd love to invite all people handy with tools or decorating to come and support the community in this way. Speak to Kathy M.

There is a combined **Family Groups BBQ tea** at Oakura Beach on 13 March. Go out and join the campers at any time in the afternoon for a swim or relax etc. Tea will be at 6pm. BYO everything! To find the campsite continue up the hill past the shop and turn left into the second driveway.

27 Feb	Newcomers and Visitors Lunch at Gary and Heather's, 69 Barrett Road
5 Mar	Poverty Cycle fundraiser for Tear Fund
5 Mar	Trolley Derby workshop, 1-4pm
6 Mar	West New Plymouth Children's Day Festival, Trolley Derby
8 Mar	Shrove Tuesday
9 Mar	Ash Wednesday
9 Mar	Evening with Peter and Leonora from South Asia, details to be advised
12-14 Mar	Anniversary Weekend Camp at Oakura
13 Mar	Combined Family Groups BBQ at Oakura with the campers
26 Mar	Myk Habets Engage Seminar at Northpoint
26 Mar	Working Bee at Spotswood Primary School

west:pitching in

The **Church Telephone Directory** is getting updated and Heather B would like new photos of everyone. Could she please have updated photos in digital form, especially family photos.

Lynda C has stepped up as our new **Treasurer**; many thanks to her and to Tania for her excellent service. Murray L is now coordinating the lawn roster – thanks!

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

Gwen and Alan B manage the **use 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.

Donations for our **food cupboard**, particularly of canned vegetables and food suitable for dinners, are much appreciated.

If you'd like to set up an automatic payment or coded envelopes to contribute financially to the work of the church, please see our treasurer, Lynda C (ph. 753 3641). 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 (753 6621, mjsewell@actrix.co.nz) with any info by the previous Wednesday.

	6 MAR	13 MAR	20 MAR	27 MAR
Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	Tracey W Stuart W Alison D	Carol McK James McK Wayne L	Alison D Margaret O Will M	Will M Hester M Alan W