



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.

Look out for people wearing blue **"Prayer Team"** tags – they will be happy to pray with you after the service.

See inside for more....

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

JULY 2013

7 JULY **WEST: A Place of Shelter, Faith and Laughter**
Topic: Faith
Will Mills curating
Cathy Gordon preaching

14 JULY **WEST: A Place of Shelter, Faith and Laughter**
Topic: Laughter
Cathy Gordon curating
Will Mills preaching

21 JULY **"One Off Wonder"**
Topic: The Battle Zone
Liane Lovegrove curating
Roi Monod preaching

28 JULY **Hebrews #1**
Topic: Supreme Spirituality – Jesus Christ
Jacob Manning curating
Andrew Sangster preaching



Last week I received some mail from Baptist Churches Leader Craig Vernal. He shared with us something of his current life that I'm keen to pass on to us,

as I think this experience of his captures some of the heart-beat of who we are, and who I hope we are becoming at West.

Craig is also a Pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Tauranga. He writes;

"It has been an interesting month with a number of firsts for me and my wife. We had our first visit to a parole hearing at a prison and also a first dealing with the New Zealand legal aid system, very interesting.

Both visits were in relation to a family which our church has been working with. My wife and I have become friends with this family over the past couple of years. Their lives are poles apart from ours. The partner of this lady has been in prison for the past two and a half years. We attended his parole hearing to offer support and to assure the prison that we will continue to work with this family both on a personal basis and as the wider church family when this chap is released. I am told that it takes about twelve support people to work with one person when they are released from prison. As we were

driving back home after a good result we said to this lady "life was boring until we met you".

Andrew Picard from Carey Baptist College spoke at our church a few weeks back and read Proverbs 14:4 which says: "**Without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest**".

I look around in our church and there are our oxen. Those that we struggle to associate with due to their past. Those that are different to who we would normally mix with or those that we cannot relate to. Proverbs says that if we want to keep the stable or the church "clean" don't have any oxen in there. In the life we are called to, oxen are not always as we would like or expect, they are not always smooth running, and sometimes take us out of our comfort zone - but without them wouldn't "life be boring"? "

May we continue to grow in love and respect for each other, especially those different from us. We are a place of **shelter** (for all), a place of **faith** (to explore and be disciplined to know Jesus), and a place of **laughter** (sharing life together). May something of the life of God be made known to all who are a part of West and to all who are becoming a part of West – that's definitely not boring!

west: making a difference

We have a portfolio of people & communities we support around New Plymouth & the world. The basics:

Meryl A has just enjoyed a holiday away but is back now preparing for the new intake of students. There are more students than last term but they could take a few more. It is a shorter term so they will try to teach as much as they can in the time they have. She is very grateful for all the prayers, interest and support.

Paul and Sarah B are celebrating their 10th Wedding Anniversary. Pray that arrangements for Buildings and Resources all fall into place soon so their business can get started.

Tipan is a student whose education and board we sponsor in Feni Baptist Hostel in Bangladesh.

Peter R is on a break between Semesters, pray he gets opportunities to practise what he has learnt so far and can contribute well to the Community Centre during this time.

Closer to home:

Kingdom Resources West provides budgeting to people in New Plymouth.

We love & partner with **Spotswood Primary School**, across the road. We're involved with

Reading, Breakfast, Pastoral Care, Mother's Day Brunch, Citizenship Award, & Sports Coaching.

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, and the events section over the page for dates.

Hester and Will are leading a new **Bible Study Group**. They meet fortnightly on Mondays, alternating with Blokes and Cokes, at Dan & Sarah's home.

Seedpods is a weekly themed play and friendship group for parents with young children, held at 10am on Monday mornings at the Church.

The **Rainbow group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H's home.

The **Knitting and Craft Group** meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 9.30-12pm at Jocelyn D's home.

Carol and James McK host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study group on the first and third Thursday of the month.

Get Real is for all young people from year 9 students and upwards. We meet on the first

Sunday of each month to hang out, study bible and eat. See 'events' section. Speak to Kathy M (753 2604) for more information.

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.

The **Music Group** meet at 7pm at the church on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month to learn new songs and practice old songs. If you would like to come along and be part of the music group please see Gary B. (751 3113.)

Family Groups

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 Alison.

Connectables – Val & Allan W are planning an event, and will contact members soon.

west: people

Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Brendan D** and family after the recent loss of his father.

Tim and Isobel Bedford recently celebrated their Wedding in style. Congratulations to you both.

A big thank you to all who made the **Baby Shower** such a big success, especially to **Kath**.

Welcome back home to Taradise all our Uni students! **Nil, John, Daniel, Rebekah, Kimberley!** In this mid-semester break we hope you have a great time catching up with family and friends, working, resting and playing.

Bicycle: The **Cannell** family have a bike in tidy condition to give away to someone that needs one. It would suit a boy or girl 8-9 years or older. It can be delivered. Please contact Megan or Grant Ph 751 2155 for further details.

Regular '**West Weekly**' communication happens online & by e-mail. If you're not receiving this, please contact Alison, Brent or Andrew.

Please continue to pray for and support those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays, **Les M, Lyn S, Lloyd D, and George and Elizabeth L.**

west: events

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| 1,15,29 Jul. | Blokes & Cokes, 7.30pm WestBar | 8,22 July | Will & Hester's Bible Study Group |
| 2,9,16 July | Movies night at Cannell's | 9 July | Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm |
| 3,17 July | Knitting and Craft Group, 9.30am-12pm at Jocelyn D's. | 23,30 July | Movies night at Cannell's |
| 4,18 July | Chocolate Fish Group, James & Carol's | | |

There is no Music Practice in July.

Warm Linen and Clothes give away. Great success. The Spotswood Primary Home and School committee (PTA) were blown away by our huge contribution and very thankful. We identified some ways to improve for the future, particularly how we can develop friendships more through this type of service. A big **THANK YOU** to all who donated items.

GREAT NEWS !!



Libby May Sangster was born on Thursday July 4th at 5:18am. Mum and Dad caught her as she entered the birthing pool at home. **Libby** is stunning and thriving! All three boys are very excited! **Naomi** was quite outstanding and is doing exceptionally well. **Libby** weighed in at 7lb 9½oz or 3.45kg's. Thank God she's a girl with all her wonderful pink accessories 😊

west: pitching in

SOUP SUNDAYS

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| 7 July | Lynda C |
| 14 July | Liane & Wayne L |
| 21 July | No Soup Sunday - School holidays |
| 28 July | Megan C & Sue W |
| 4 August | Margaret S |

If you have to change your date please try to swap with someone or let Margaret S know at least a week in advance. Thanks.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$8,375 per month in offerings; in May our offerings were \$10,501.19.

Lisa A manages the **use of the church building** during the week, so please check with her (751 1834) 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.

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, Brent G. (751 0010) 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@xtra.co.nz) with any info by the previous Tuesday.

**Cleaning &
Morning Tea
Lawnmowing**

7 JULY
Sue F
Kevin F

14 JULY
Brian M
Kathy M

21 JULY
Lyn B
Kath S
Stuart W

28 JULY
Roi M
Jude S-M

4 AUG
Tracey W
Stuart W