



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

OCTOBER 2013

6 OCT TOPIC: Jesus said "I AM the good shepherd"

Bible Passage: John 10:11

13 OCT TOPIC: Jesus said "I AM the resurrection and the life"

Bible Passage: John 11:25

20 OCT TOPIC: Jesus said "I AM the way, the truth, the life"

Bible Passage: John 14:6

27 OCT TOPIC: Jesus said "I AM the vine"

Bible Passage: John 15:5



When you enter a room full of people you don't know, how long does it take for you to feel like you belong?

If you meet weekly, it might take a month? Or a year? Two years?

The same goes for new people that come to our church services.

For them to feel like they belong to the family we talk about being, (the family God calls us to be) it will most likely take them a long time.

Belonging is a crucial need we all have as human beings – because we are wired for it. God made us relational beings because at the core of who God is, we see that God is relational. We are wired for connecting with other people. (sure, this looks different for different people and personalities.) We were made to belong, and when we don't feel like we belong – something's not working right.

What can we do to help people feel like they belong sooner rather than later?

Here's two challenges I'd like us to seriously consider implementing into our practice both corporately, and individually.

Challenge # 1: On Sunday mornings, before talking with friends and people we are comfortable with – talk to somebody new or somebody you don't know very well.

Challenge # 2: Include new people and/or people you don't know well in social things. A coffee, a meal, a rugby game, a trip to the beach etc, etc. Spontaneous inclusion of others speaks volumes and really aids the sense of belonging.

May we grow in being God's people – people with hearts, hands, homes outstretched to those new amongst us.

Andrew 😊

west: making a difference

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

Meryl A is busy teaching a new intake of Students. Continue to pray for her in these busy weeks for good health and energy levels.

local culture as only a local can. His language studies recommence shortly.

Paul and Sarah B Continue to pray for complete recovery for Sarah and for strength and protection for Paul and the children.

Closer to home:

Kingdom Resources West provides budgeting to people in New Plymouth.

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

We love & partner with **Spotswood Primary School**, across the road. We're involved with HPP Reading, KickStart Breakfast Club, , Pastoral Care, Mother's Day Brunch, Morning Tea for staff at the start of each term, Citizenship Award, and other areas individuals volunteer in. There are many ways you can serve our school community if you're interested.

Peter has had a break from language study and is finding interactions with locals have helped both his language and listening. He has met up with a old friend who grew up in the city they are now residing in, who has introduced Peter to the

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 **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. First meeting after the holidays was on 29 July .

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 7 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.

Get Real is meeting **TODAY**, 6 October at the Church at 5.30pm. All young people from year 7 upwards are welcome, as well as parents and mentors.

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 – Tracey will be arranging an event this month.

Coasters – We'll let you know soon about new leaders/co-ordinators.

west: people

Andrew's health has improved a lot over the last 3 weeks. He's now up to 7 hours a day – and with some energy left for being a dad at the end of the day!

Music Practice is on October 10 and 24.

Cathy G has shifted in to her new home.

Lisa and Eric and family (Judy Eliot's daughter) have left for London and will be running a Guest

House for missionaries with Operation Mobilisation.

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.**

Holiness is not to love Jesus and do whatever you want.

Holiness is to love Jesus and do what He wants.

west: events

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| <p>1,8,15 Oct Movies night at Cannell's</p> <p>2, 16 Oct Knitting and Craft Group, 9.30am-12pm at Jocelyn D's</p> <p>3,17 Oct Chocolate Fish Group, James & Carol's</p> <p>6 Oct Get Real, meet at Church 5.30pm</p> | <p>7,21 Oct Blokes & Cokes, 7.30pm WestBar</p> <p>10,24 Oct Music Practice, 7pm at Church</p> <p>14,28 Oct Will & Hester's Bible Study Group</p> <p>15,29 Oct Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm</p> <p>22,29 Oct Movies night at Cannell's</p> |
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west: pitching in

The Christmas shoe boxes need to be handed in at Central Baptist Church as soon as possible. Thank you.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$8,375 per month in offerings; in August our offerings were \$8,615.22.

Alison D is now co-ordinating our building bookings. **However Alison does a lot, and we'd like somebody else to step up to this role please.** It's not a big role, and Alison can talk you through it.

If you'd like to set up an automatic payment or use 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.

Maureen now collects information for the **Newsletter**, which comes out on the last Sunday of the month, so please contact her (753 9258, coopers_nz@hotmail.com) with any info by the previous Tuesday.

	6 OCT	13 OCT	20 OCT	27 OCT	2 NOV	9 NOV
Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	Kevin F Sue F	Liane L Wayne L Wayne L	Brian M Kathy M	Lyn B Kath S Will M	Roi M Jude S-M	Tracey W Stuart W Syd Beale

A Sunday school teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.

"Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked.

"You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."