



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

APRIL 2014

6 APR **SELF DENIAL #3/4**
Luke 4:18
Topic: Freedom for Prisoners

13 APR **SELF DENIAL #4/4**
Luke 4:18 & 19
Topic: The year the Lord has chosen

17 APR **Service of the Shadows**
THURSDAY 7.30pm

18 APR **Good Friday**
9.30am

19 APR **Brian McLaren**
8.30am – 5.15pm
Register at www.smallalternative.org

20 APR **EASTER SUNDAY**
10.00 am
Light finger food lunch after service

27 APRIL Surprise!



An Easter Poem:

From the garden of
Gethsemane
Where Jesus knelt to pray
To the betrayal done by Judas
On that grim and fatal day.
From the mighty hands of Pilate
Who preferred to let Him be
To the noble priests and leaders

Who refused to set Him free.

From the crown of thorns upon His head
And lash marks from a strap
To the weight of such a heavy cross
Strapped there upon His back.

From the thief who hung beside Him
Crying, "Lord, remember me"
To the gentle words of Jesus
"Today, you'll be with me."

From the darkness of the noon time
As He died upon the cross
To the earth that shook and trembled
In response to such a loss.

From the cheering cries of soldiers
As they took His body down
To the caring hands of Joseph
A follower new in town.

From the tomb where He was laid to rest
In linen cloth of white
To the guards who had to stand close by
Throughout both day and night.

From the stone that blocked the entrance
As it gently rolled away
To the miracle that happened
On that third and final day.

From the baffled look of soldiers
As they peered into the room
To the startled face of Mary
When she found an empty tomb.

From the frightened look of Mary
As she swiftly left that place
To the light that flowed from Jesus
When she saw Him face to face.

From the doubt of His disciples
When she spoke of resurrection
To the fear upon their faces
As He walked in their direction.

From the written word of scripture
That was told in prophecy
To the eleven who had gathered
On a hill in Galilee.

From the words that had been spoken
Before He went away
To His ascension into heaven
Where He lives this very day.

From the bible on the bedside
Tis the words you need to heed
To find wisdom in its pages
And a light to sow a seed.

From the death and resurrection
Of the One we hold so dear
To the coming of His Spirit
50 days after Easter Sunday is here.

From the numerous chocolate eggs
And fluffy bunnies decorating the mall
To the truth found in scripture
Christ Jesus died and rose for all

Andrew ☺

west: making a difference

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

Meryl A tells of a surprise meeting while waiting for the bus, with a former student from Ethiopia. His name was Abera, and he is now studying in Korea for a degree. Meryl is looking forward to a nice long chat with him, catching up on his family's news. A new term has just started, and Meryl is happy to see two returnees. She

extends grateful thanks for your interest and partnership in the work in South Korea.

Paul and Sarah B Give thanks for the new workshop space and flat in the same building. Pray for the last minute preparations before it opens – finishing the workshop space – preparing the first intake of women. Pray also

the children feel settled in their new home and adapt well to new routines as business starts.

Peter returned to NZ last week. Pray for his re-entry, that he would settle well and God would clearly lead him in this next stage of his life.

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

Closer to home:

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.

The **Rainbow group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H'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** meet today (6 April) at 5.30pm, at Church, for Pottluck dinner and discussion. Please bring a plate to share for tea.

Many thanks to **Jocelyn D** for her dedication to hosting the Knitting and Craft Group over several years. Your efforts are much appreciated.

A warm welcome to **Cath** who has been worshipping with us lately. 😊

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, Marlinka R** and **George and Elizabeth L**.

Kingdom Resources West provides budgeting to people in New Plymouth.

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.

west: groups

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** If you would like to be part of the music group, we practice on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, meeting at the Church at 7pm. If you are interested, you are very welcome to just come along or talk to 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.

west: people



Congratulations to Matt and Jacob for receiving NP Boys High School Tiger Jackets for academic success.

Deb-Lyn's NPGH Gateway programme has started. Part of this will be weekly time spent with a group of children at Spotswood Primary. She has also curated, is reading, thinking, reflecting, delivering bread, and has attended the New Plymouth Christian Leaders Network with Andrew.

Regular **'West Weekly'** communication happens online & by e-mail. If you're not receiving this, please contact Alison, Brent or Andrew. These can be posted out if required.

west: events

17 – 21 April. Easter Camp for years 9-13 – whoop whoop! For info see James M or Andrew.

19 April Brian McLaren speaking and facilitating discussion around global social justice issues. This will be great! Please come if you can! For info and to register click on events at www.smallalternative.org

Mother's Day BBQ Brunch - 11 May. Lots of helpers are needed, so please sign up – see the Noticeboard for the sign-up sheet

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 3 Apr | Music Practice, 7pm at Church | 8,22 Apr | Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm |
| 3,17 Apr | Chocolate Fish Group, James & Carol's | 8,15,22,29 Apr | Movies night at Cannell's |
| 6 Apr | Get Real, meeting at Church 5.30pm | 19 Apr | Brian McLaren seminar, 8.30am – 5.15pm at Church |
| 7,21 Apr | Blokes & Cokes, 7.30pm WestBar | | |

west: pitching in

A Sunday service happens at **Base Hospital**. There are some patients who would like to attend the service, but need their bed pushed for them. West helps with this once every two months. Please contact Grant C for more information or to put your hand up to help, as a once off, or regularly. We need 3-4 people each time we're on. Our turn comes up on Sunday 13 April.

We have our John D memorial **DVD collection** downstairs. If you'd like to borrow something, please take it, record it in the notebook, and return it to the correct place on the shelves.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,000 per month in offerings; in February our offerings were \$9,038.91.

Alison D is co-ordinating our building bookings, and **Andrea M** is checking the Hall before use. Please contact Alison (751 1005) if you wish to make bookings.

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 C 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.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	6 APR Sue W Steve J	13 APR Hester M Will M Murray L	20 APR Brent G Murray L	27 APR Liane L Wayne L Roi M
--	----------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------	--