



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 assembled in the area near the side exit door – they will be happy to pray with you after the service.

See inside for more....

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

SEPTEMBER 2015

6 SEPT Father's Day
BBQ Brunch at 9.45am

13 SEPT Church – Who's in?
"Authority and Me"

20 SEPT Rachael Murray
NZBMS Leader

27 SEPT Church – Who's In?
Political Extremist



How are you finding our new series “Church – Who’s in?” so far?

For me – it’s hugely challenging, really! I’m aware that I’m most comfortable when things around me are familiar and done in ways that I like and understand.

Yet I’m also aware that being a follower of Jesus means I look to Jesus for the things that are to be important in my life. Obviously this doesn’t mean we’ll all do the same things, but that the broad brush-strokes of love, grace, mercy, justice, relationship, forgiveness, and concern for those marginalised will shape our thinking and our actions. Jesus reaches out to woo and welcome all people to him, and therefore his body on Earth, the Church, us, also need to reach out to draw (not push) all people to him.

Two weeks ago Mouse preached, and he described a potato church. This potato church lovingly welcomed in carrots, parsnips, kumara and pumpkins. However it can be easy for the potatoes to continue to do things the potato way – to the neglect of others. Rather, Mouse suggested all the veges get mashed together – not into one culture, but into one people - so that no one type dominates, but rather, that all vegetables can contribute in their

own way to being the church. Of course we want to be submitted to the (C2) culture of the Kingdom of God, but that is expressed most fully through the various ways God has made us.

The church (people) is Jesus’ body. We are all different parts of the body – each with value, purpose, design and beauty. We are not all the same body part – but rather we come together as all different parts – with each part contributing to the whole. We don’t lose ourselves to the whole – but rather our uniqueness adds to the whole.

One example of this could be with cultures: We want to be a church not IN west New Plymouth, but rather a church made up OF people from west New Plymouth. So we want to reflect our community’s cultural make up. This means we need to be mashed together (as in like Mouse’s veges) like we are one people. Yet we value and embrace the carrot culture, the parsnip culture, and the kumara culture SO THAT each culture can contribute to our place of shelter faith and laughter. Nobody knows how best to (for example) welcome people different from us – and so we’d do well to let them have input and shape how we welcome.

On Saturday (5th September) I will be spending the day at Pukeiti to be a part of an incredibly important historic event. The Government will be apologising to Taranaki Māori for the terrible things done to them in the past. This is the gospel in action – there is reconciliation happening for wrongs done, and there will be forgiveness extended. There will be relationships restored and renewed. Differences of cultures will be celebrated. Yep, I’ll be out of my comfort zone – I may even be in a haka and singing a waiata with actions! (Eek!) Yet I (like many of us) am being called/invited/dared by God to walk towards people different from me; to learn, to embrace, to make space.

Andrew 😊

west: making a difference

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

Meryl A Our summer course has recently finished. Please pray that God would bring to us the people He chooses for our next term, starting early September. Please refer to Meryl’s newsletter which was sent out recently.

Paul and Sarah, Mikayla & Malachi; Please pray for wisdom as Paul & Sarah manage their workloads. For protection from the enemy, & strength in their daily lives as they share their lives in Sth Asia and for the children getting used to a new school.

Jo R. Please pray for courage to do what I need to do to look after myself even if it means not participating in social functions or fulfilling other's expectations of me.. Keeping on top of my work load, thinking clearly, & communicating wisely. My language lessons will stop for the next 2 months so please pray I will not lose what I have learned,& that I will be intentional about practising.

Carley. Please pray for God's wisdom & love in working with those around me, especially the teachers at school as I am working very closely with a number of them this year.

Alton Chakma is a student whose education and board we sponsor in Feni Baptist Hostel in Bangladesh. Our sponsorship enables Alton to live in the Feni Boy's Hostel which provides food, education, clothes, medical care and spiritual development in a sound Christian environment.

Closer to home:

Play and Parent Support Group. 10am Thursdays at Naomi's. All (aiming for local) parents/caregivers with children under 3 are welcome.

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.

Lasses & Lattés. A chance for the women of our church (and friends) to get together, every second Monday, at 7.30pm at the Treehouse on Devon St West All women welcome.

The Rainbow group meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H's home. See 'events' section for dates.

Carol and James McK host a fortnightly '**Chocolate Fish**' Bible study at their home. See 'events' section for dates.

Get Real is for all young people from year 7 students and upwards. We meet once a month on

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.

Just letting us all know, there are children and teens in our Spotswood community that we have had a fair amount of contact with, who would love to have, and need to have an adult spend regular time with them.

Kickstart Breakfast Club: Many thanks to those who have volunteered your time to serve our community's children. We've started a new connection with Spotswood College! A few of their Year 9 (13 year old) students will be helping soon too.

west: groups

Sunday evenings. When we hang out, we eat, have fun, and talk about life, faith, and Jesus. See 'events' section for our next date. Speak to Hester or Andrew for more information.

The Movie Group will meet weekly at Grant & Megan's home on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss movies on the themes of our sermon series. On the first Tuesday of the month members take part in a Quiz night at Westbar at 6.30pm.

The Music Group practice will be on 10 September at 69 Barrett Road, starting at 7pm. If anyone is interested in joining the Music Group, we would love to have you come along and join us. We would especially love to have some new musicians and singers. Most practices concentrate on learning new songs.

west: people

Ross and Raewyn – we'll be thinking of you and praying for you as you commit yourselves to each other in marriage later this month!

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

west: events

Soup Lunches over winter have finished now. Thank you Heather B and all our soup makers and hosts! It was great to meet regularly, to eat together, and build on friendships. We'll be doing a review of soup lunches early next year. We want to consider if homes are the best places for lunch. We want to communicate clearly the need for parents to have some supervision of their children.

Saturday 19 September. Mission World Expo. This is an opportunity to learn and be challenged, to research and to glean information. It's for church leaders, mission teams, prospective mission workers long or short, supporters, students, families – there is something for everyone interested in global mission. 9.30am – 4.00pm Central Baptist Church, 89 Liardet St. Free entry.

- * Displays from mission organisations
- * Speak with those who serve overseas
- * 28 'Soundbyte' seminars on all things global mission
- * Glean advice on how to get involved
- * Hear the stories of those involved.

Sunday 20 September. Get Real. Doors open 5:50, dinner at **6pm**.

3,10,17,24 Sept	Play and Parent Support Group, 10am at Naomi's	10,24 Sept 10 Sept	Chocolate Fish at James&Carol's Music Practice, at Gary & Heather's,7pm
7,21 Sept	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood	14,28 Sept 19 Sept	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm Mission World Expo at Central Baptist, 9.30am start
8,22 Sept	Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm	20 Sept	Get Real, 6.00pm at Church
8,15,22 29 Sept	Movies night at Grant & Megan's home		

west: pitching in

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,600 per month in offerings; in July our offerings were \$10,244.25.

Prayer If you have a prayer request, please see Andrew. If you'd like to join the e-mail prayer chain as a pray-er, please talk to Andrew.

Alison D is coordinating 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.

Trust Stuff

More volunteers are needed to help run the Kickstart Breakfast programme on Monday and Friday mornings (7.45-9.00am) at Spotswood Primary School. Our service is truly appreciated at the school and in the community. Please consider helping out once a week / fortnight / month / term. Tracey W would love to hear from you!

Maureen C is preparing the newsletter, which goes out on the last Sunday of the month. Please pass on to her any information you would like included in the newsletter by the previous Tuesday.

**Cleaning &
Morning Tea
Lawnmowing**

5 SEPT
Judy W
Brian W

12 SEPT
Roi M
Jude SML
Roi M

19 SEPT
James M
Carol M

26 SEPT
Lynda L
Andy L
Alison D

3 OCT
Alison D
Lisa A