



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

APRIL 2016

3 APR Easter Stories

10 APR Mentoring # 1

17 APR Mentoring # 2

24 APR Mentoring # 3



Easter 2016 was different for many of us.

We started Lent as we often do – with a focus on Prayer and Self Denial for our Tranzsend friends and partners. We focussed on:

- * the importance of team work,
- * of shining God's light into the lives of others, just as we have received God's light from others,
- * seeing each other as equal partners in God's mission regardless of our role,

viewing the people and work of NZBMS (which includes Tranzsend) as OUR people, and OUR work. That's how the overseas workers see it, and we can see it like this too.

He waka eke noa – All together in the canoe with no exception.

On Maundy Thursday we shared together in our Tenebrae service, or Service of the Shadows.

On Good Friday six young people, Carol and I left for E-Camp in Cambridge. More on this below.

Later on Good Friday morning we opened our building for Stations of the Cross. We set up 12 stations that told the story of Jesus' last few hours before he rose again to life three days later.

Resurrection Sunday was shared with St James.

We'd like to receive some feedback on how these events were for you:

* If you were in New Plymouth over Easter, which gatherings did you come to?

* In what ways did they encourage you to connect with God?

* What did you enjoy/appreciate?

* What would you like to see us do differently?

Please contact me – face to face, text, e-mail, phone, smoke signal... I'd love to hear. Thanks.

E-camp (with 900x 11-13 year olds) had a Star Wars theme. It was amazing! Our morning and evening meetings were about light and darkness.

We learnt that "God Shines Bright, We Need Light." God's light, warmth, and life are what the world and us need and desire.

"We Were Made To Shine." We were made in God's image – to be people of light and love.

"Love Involves A Choice." God gave us a choice to accept his light and love. We have a choice whether we will Reflect God's light, life, and love to others.

Though there is also darkness, "God Steps In And Shines."

And wrapping up; "We Need Saving, Jesus Shines Bright." God stepped down into the comparative darkness of Earth as Jesus. He shone brightly with life and love being shared and shown, and offers us his life and love today.

E-camp was an extremely positive time for our youth – in terms of spiritual growth, friendship formation, and community development.

Let us all continue to give witness to God's light, life, and love this day and month.

Andrew ☺

west: making a difference

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

Meryl A Our new assistant Joshua has started his work with us. Please remember Joshua in your prayers - as a student of ACTS, he has several days of lectures as well as assisting us non-Korean speakers and the other students. Please pray for Jenny, our former assistant as she prepares for her marriage. Pray that God would bless her and David, both now and in their future lives together.

Paul and Sarah B Pray for the small group of GEMS Secondary School students that I mentor through the student council to grow and take on more responsibility as leaders in the school. Pray also for rest and refreshment from God daily amongst the business and heat.

Jo R. Pray for the health of all our team members – the hot season brings it's share of nasties, and the transition between seasons, and the level of busy that we live at , means that colds and flu are more likely. Pray also for good connections to be made with other people around the World who can help us expand our businesses, and grow in a healthy way.

Carley. Pray for the small group of GEMS Secondary School students that I mentor through the student council to grow and take on more responsibility as leaders in the school. Pray also for rest and refreshment from God daily amongst the business and heat.

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:

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.

Spotswood Primary School: We have people volunteering with serving kids breakfast, reading with children, making morning tea for staff, and on the Board of Trustees. If you're interested in finding out more of what's involved in serving, speak to Andrew, Erin, Syd, Robyn (& more!)

west: groups

Awesome Whānau Course on Fridays is going well. There is one session left on the 8th. Planning is underway for a second course on an evening during six weeks of Term 2.

Play and Parent Support Group has stopped, but may re-start following the Building Awesome Whānau course.

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.

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

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** practices will be on April 14th and 28th 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. See Gary B if you are interested.

Get Real For all Year 7 – 13 students, and their parents/grandparents. Friends, fun, faith, food! We meet each Sunday during term time. 6.30 – 8pm in the downstairs part of our building. See West:events section for exact dates. Contact Hester or Andrew for more info.

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

west: people

E-Camp was a fantastic experience for our group (Year 7-9, or 11-13 year olds.) Please continue to pray for our young people.

Jason R's father passed away on Friday 25th March. May God's love, peace and comfort be close to Jason and Tiff.

Brian W's mum recently passed away. They are travelling to be with the family. Our love and best wishes to you all.

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.**

west: events

Over 60's Mokau Boat Trip - 9th April departing the jetty at 11.00am. \$60.00 per person - cash or cheque payment on the day. Wear sneakers or comfortable walking shoes. Scones provided but you may like to bring extra food, or a lunch may be ordered for \$10.00. Any queries phone Carolyn 7511305. Please confirm to Carolyn if coming, by the 6th April.

1,8,15,22 & 29 April	Building Awesome Whanau Course at Naomi's home	12,19,26 April	Movies night at Grant & Megan's home
3,10 April	Get Real, 6.30pm at Church	14,28 April	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home
4,18 April	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood	14,28 April	Music Practice, at Gary & Heather's, 7pm
9 April	Over 60's Mokau Boat Trip, 11am		
11,25 April	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm		
12,26 April	Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm		

west: pitching in

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,835 per month in offerings; February's offerings totalled \$8,908.36.

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.

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.

Trust Stuff

1. Trust elections: At West's AGM Chris D, Alison D, Val W, Stuart W and Hester M were re-elected onto the Trust for a 2-year term.
2. Mother's Day BBQ Brunch: Sunday 8th May. Lots of volunteers needed!

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing

2 APR
Tracey W
Andrea M

9 APR
Roi M
Jude S-M
Murray L

16 APR
Judy W
Brian W

23 APR
James Mc
Carol Mc
Roi M

30 APR
Linda L
Andy L