



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

JULY 2016

3 JULY Sleep out for Syria
Matthew 2:13-20
Luke 1:46-55

10 JULY The Hard Stuff – Forgiveness #1
H.E.A.R.T.
Matt 6:15, 1 Pet 4:8, Matt 18:35

17 JULY Surprise !

24 JULY How to do Reconciliation #3
With Taranaki Restorative Justice
2 Corinthians 5

31 JULY Surprise !

7 AUG New Series -
"Jesus' brother – James"
James 1:1



Over the last few weeks we've been engaging with the topic of our Kiwi bi-culturalness.

We started in the Old Testament book of Esther where ethnic tensions (to say the least!) existed between Jews, Agagites and Gentiles. We considered Jesus' words about prayer and doing good to enemies. Doing good could include hearing the stories of people. This is a helpful way to break down walls.

<http://www.westbaptist.org.nz/wp/?p=4346>

And so we spent two weeks telling our Aotearoa story. Firstly of the changes and adaptations 'seen' from the perspective of an East Coast tree that germinated around the time of Jesus' birth. People from the Pacific arrived around 1300AD. They lived in Hapū – family groups, and spread over most of all our Islands. Europeans came around the turn of the 19th Century. Whalers & sealers, then missionaries, then settlers & politicians, and then military. The missionary influence was largely positive, but also negative. The good news of Jesus, forgiveness, education, and agricultural development were embraced. With more settlers coming, a Treaty was established. This was about Protection, Participation, and Partnership. [PDF of the service & story](#)

Journalist Keith Newman visited and spoke very informatively (especially on the Saturday night) about the next part of our Aotearoa story. Within a few years the Treaty was being ignored. Differences weren't resolved. Misunderstandings flourished. Māori Pā in Waitara were bombed and the land was stolen. People from around the Island started visiting Parihaka Pā on the 17th and 18th of every month. They were taught by missionary trained Tohu Kākahi and Te Whiti o Rongomai. Their message and lifestyle were about passive resistance to the unjust war for land, and Treaty breaches. Parihaka was attacked, and the pain of this November 5 1881

tragedy continues to have much impact on our bi-cultural understanding and practice today. We must understand our history, our story, if we want to move forward as a country. We must learn so that we can be people of reconciliation.

<http://www.westbaptist.org.nz/wp/?p=4316>

Next we considered where we are now in our story. We considered the place of democracy, unity, and privilege. We asked the question about how we can be faithful Treaty partners in leadership? Can we be "one people" whilst still valuing the distinctives of both NZ Europeans and Māori? Can we recognise our place in society as one of privilege? (Thinking of Mouse's chair and ball throwing illustration). To be a just society is to help those who are struggling to move their chair closer to the goal – like the rest of our chairs already are.

<http://www.westbaptist.org.nz/wp/?p=4394>

We then thought together about reconciliation – restoring normal relationships. 2 Corinthians chapter 5. This is an extremely important part of being God's people, the church. We thought about Matthew chapter 18 in which Jesus tells us (how) to sort out our grievances – "for when two or three gather in my name, there I am with them."

<http://www.westbaptist.org.nz/wp/?p=4390>

<http://www.westbaptist.org.nz/wp/?p=4409>

<http://www.westbaptist.org.nz/wp/?p=4431>

In the coming weeks we'll be exploring forgiveness and a bit more practical stuff on reconciliation.

Where do we go from here? As individuals, and as a church family?

Is there something that has grabbed our attention that we want to explore more?

Is there a question we have to find some responses to?

Is there a book to read so we keep learning?

Is there a value/concept (like Partnership/Protection/Participation/Reconciliation/listening/etc) that we want to embrace and see come to life in the things we're involved in?

Is there a person, or group of people we can choose to spend more time with?

God cares deeply about this journey, and is with us on it.

Andrew 😊

west: making a difference

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

Meryl. Meryl has left for her home assignment to Auckland, NZ, and plans to return to Korea at the end of February, in time to teach during the spring term of 2017. Many of the students will move on to share the Gospel with people from other areas.

Paul and Sarah B Pray for Paul and Sarah as they continue to manage heavy workloads. With the arrival of Jake and Megan, new short term workers, pray Paul and Sarah will find time to rest and maintain a good work/ life balance.

Jo R. Please pray for the future Freedom businesses. Pray locals to be found and become involved. Pray also for suitable business ideas to become apparent.

Carley. Pray Carley will take time for much needed rest during the school holidays. Pray also she will be able to prepare well for the school year ahead.

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.

Awesome Whānau Parenting Course. Advertising is now out for our next course starting Sunday 7 August. Contact Naomi for more information.

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.

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.

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, Margaret S. (& more!)

Spotswood Primary Chaplaincy: One of the things happening at the moment is Andrew co-leading two groups. These groups are focused on helping boys listen respectfully, take turns, and provide solutions to problems.

west: groups

The **Music Group** practice will be on July 7th & 21st 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.

Carol and James McK host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home.

See 'events' section for dates.

west: people

Chris Grantham. Next Tuesday 5th July, Chris Grantham is going to be in New Plymouth and he is keen to catch up with anyone who would like to see him. All are welcome to attend a Pot Luck lunch with him at Margaret S's home, 12.30pm. Otherwise everyone welcome to come to McKillop's, 3 Skinner St from 5.30pm onwards for a Takeaways dinner. Please bring own takeaways.

Welcome Bill, Mary, and Aston. Great to have you guys a part of us! Welcome back to Taradise Mary!

In June we welcomed **Raewyn, Ross, Loretta, Andy, Andrea, Jill and Ian** into membership.

Val and Allan would like to thank those who delivered food and visited Val after her recent time in hospital. As Val's recuperation is on-going, this assistance was greatly appreciated.

The **church telephone/address directory** is currently being updated. If you have changed any of your details since the last one please let Heather B know ASAP. If you are new to West and want to be included in the next directory please see Heather B.

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

Get Real is a fun and safe place for young people (Year 7 up) to explore faith and build relationships. We meet on Sunday evenings from 6.30-8.30pm in the youth room downstairs.

The Church Meeting is on Sunday 3rd July.

2 July	Sleep out for Syria	10 July	Soup Lunch at Judy & Brian's
3 July	Church Meeting	11,25 July	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood
4,18 July	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm	12,19,26 July	Movies night at Grant & Megan's home
5,19 July	Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm	24 July	Soup Lunch at Hester & Will's
7,21 July	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home	24,31 July	Get Real, 6.30pm at Church
7,21 July	Music Practice, at Gary & Heather's, 7pm		

west: pitching in

Soup Lunches

July 10 Judy & Brian's

July 24 Hester & Will's

Trust Stuff. The Trustees and Board members met for dinner and discussion about ways the Trust could support the church with future endeavours.

There is currently a vacancy on the Trust Board. If you are interested or want to know more about it please contact Chris D. for details.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,835 per month in offerings; in May our offerings were \$9,424.50.

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.

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.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing

2 JULY
Corey
and family
Allan W

9 JULY
Ross H
Raewyn H

16 JULY
Brian M
Kathy M
Stuart W

23 JULY
Tracey W
Andrea M

30 JULY
Roi SM
Jude SM
James Mck