



shelter



faith



laughter



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

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

27 NOV Advent # 1
Green for Hope!
Hope Will Rise Again!

4 DEC Advent # 2
Blue for Peace!
Peace will Conquer Fear!

11 DEC Advent # 3
Yellow for Joy!
Joy Will Break Through!

18 DEC Advent # 4
Red for Love!
Love Will Triumph Over All!

25 DEC 9.30 am
Christmas Celebration Together

1 JAN Combined Service with St James
10am at WEST



Christmas and the summer season are a great opportunity to begin again. God gave the world a fresh start when He sent Jesus. Knowing Jesus at Christmas gives us the hope of a fresh start no matter what's happened.

The first Sunday of Advent, 27 November is the beginning of a new year - the Christian New Year.

The Church calendar begins, not on the 1st of January, but with the first Sunday of Advent which is four Sundays out from Christmas Day. Advent is a Latin word that means "Coming" and the "Coming" we are celebrating is the coming of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ and the difference He makes in our lives.

So, firstly, this season is a good time to say thank you to people – to show an attitude of gratitude for the year that has passed. So, what should we do? For me I would like to say a big thank you to everyone from West Baptist Church especially to those who have given me a warm welcome and helped me belong to this community. I also want to say 'thank you' to everyone who has volunteered and served at West Baptist Church over this year.

Secondly, this season is not only a good time to count our blessings but it is also a good time to forgive each other because God forgave us. To know Jesus personally and to have our sins forgiven, we must believe that we are sinners separated from

God and that our only hope is in Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, who came and died for our sins. But we must not stop with this realisation. As we welcome Jesus Christ into our life as Lord and Saviour, we also need to take steps towards confessing and turning from our sins. He will move in and help us to change from the inside out. So, who do you need to forgive or to apologise to this Christmas? Who are they? They might be your friends or family or others. What relationships do you need to work on right here and now?

Thirdly, this season over summer is a good time to reach out to those who are in need, and to help friends and acquaintances get to know Jesus more. You can invite friends, workmates and neighbours to worship God who is our Saviour, our peace. As the Bible says, if we draw near to Jesus, He will draw close to us.

Which also raises the question, is it you who needs to draw near to God this summer? What's your plan to study the Bible in January 2017? A regular pattern of Bible reading can help this. One way we can walk with Jesus through the year is in our daily Bible reading <http://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/>. Is this week a good time to restart or re-evaluate your daily readings?

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing over this season so that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom 15:13).

**In Christ's peace,
Roi Nu.**

west: making a difference

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

Meryl has requested prayer for her two co-workers, Jimmy and RoxAnne who have had to return to the USA to help in a family crisis. Also prayers for their son Steven who is unwell, and his wife Kunhee. It is not known when or whether they will return to Korea, and this may mean Meryl may need to cut short her time in N.Z.

Pray also for wisdom for **Meryl** and the staff at ACTS as to how best they can help. Meryl also thanks

West folk for their various kinds of support shown in many ways.

Paul and Sarah B Month 2 of training of our third intake of Women. May our new seven trainees grow in confidence and hope as they struggle for their freedom. May we have the wisdom and the energy required to support and encourage them on their journey.

Jo R. Please pray for my Family as we continue to grieve the loss of Dad. Pray that I will find joy in unexpected places.

Carley. We are going to be very busy over the next few months with exams, reports, functions, and lots of visitors. Pray for continued strength, and the ability to be calm and joyful during this stressful time of the year, and that I will be thankful and happy with what I am doing and where God has placed me.

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 Chaplaincy: Spotswood Primary Chaplaincy: Along with contributing to the school's pastoral care team, Andrew has been spending individual time with four children.

Spotswood Primary Prize-giving: We sponsor the school's top prize, the Citizenship Cup. This is being awarded on Tuesday 13 December at 10am

Hospital Chapel Service support. Hospital Chapel Service Support: West helps with the hospital chapel service occasionally. If you'd like to find out more, please contact Ian & Jill M.

west: groups

Awesome Whānau Parenting Course for all adults wanting to develop in parenting skills, aimed at 0 – 12 year olds. Naomi and Liane have led our third Awesome Whānau parenting group on Tuesday mornings this school term. There are four participants on this course. Please pray for all. More courses will be run next year.

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 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. Last meeting for 2016 on 6th December, restart 7 Feb.

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.

Carol and James McK host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home. See 'events' section for dates. We will take a break over the school holiday period from mid-December, and will start again in early February. Anyone looking for a fortnightly home group is welcome to check us out.

Get Real is all about friends, fun, faith and food. It's for young people who are year 7 through to year 13 (Form 1-7.) We meet on Sunday evenings from 6.30-8.00pm in the church basement. See West:events section for dates. Contact Andrew for more info.

On the 4th December, we're having our End of Year Party with **Year 6 students invited**. 5pm at Sangster's home. We're hitting the beach, devouring a bbq, and roasting marshmallows! Families of youth are encouraged to come. Please bring a salad or a dessert.

The Music Group The last practice will be on the 8th December, at 69 Barrett Road, starting at 7pm.

Practices will recommence in February 2017. 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.

west: people

Welcome back **Ruth & Ricky!** We look forward to hearing about your adventures, as well as your time with Sharon!

A big Congratulations to Rachael McKillop for achieving academic success as dux of NPGHS for 2016. We as a church are very proud of her achievement, and her family would also like to thank the West Community for the love, support and opportunities they have given to Rachael over the years, which has certainly contributed towards her current success.

Welcome back **Jacob and Michael M!** It's fantastic having you back in New Plymouth and at West! We hope you have a good break from your studies.

Let's be mindful of a number of West people having operations in December, or who have just had them. Ross, Margaret S, Val, Lyn, Maureen

Welcome Roi Nu! We're delighted to have you as a part of West for the next three months! Roi Nu's

details will be in the West Weekly. She is staying with Wayne and Liane, and is looking forward to meeting and getting to know everybody. Meal invites would be one great way to do this 😊

We have a number of **new people to West** in the last few weeks. It's great to have you a part of West! We trust you all are able to make friends, to participate as you choose to, and to grow with us as God's people at West. We're looking forward to getting to know you more 😊

Welcome Margaret & Rion C!

Welcome Norma H

Welcome Audrey L

Welcome Andrew and Tania W!

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

west: events

Over 60's Group. A shared Lunch is planned at the home of Carolyn & John F, on Sunday 4 December after Church. Please bring a plate of food to share, and instead of our usual \$5 gift, could you bring a contribution towards the Christmas food hampers – either food or cash. Thankyou.

27 Nov Get Real, 6.30-8pm. Church Basement
4 Dec Over 60's Lunch, Carolyn & John's
4 Dec Get Real End of Year Party **with Year 6 students invited.** 5pm at Sangster's home
5 Dec Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm
6 Dec Rainbow Group at Heather H's, 1pm
8 Dec Music Practice - Gary & Heather's

8,22 Dec Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home
12 Dec Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood
13 Dec Spotswood Primary Prizegiving 10am
13 Dec Rainbow Ladies Lunch at Heather's
13,20,27 Dec Movies night at Grant & Megan's

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2017

1 January Combined Service with St James - 10am at WEST
8 January Combined Service with St James - 10am at ST JAMES (Lawry Street)
15 January 10am at West

22 January 10am at West

29 January 10am at West

west: in our community

Spotswood Primary School Cultural Food Fair: Thursday December 1st, at 5pm. A great range of ethnic foods, cultural performances, fun and more. All welcome.

Friendship and Partnership with Parihaka: Most of Andrew's sabbatical will be spent at Parihaka. If you would like to find out more about the learning and projects, perhaps with an eye to coming out for a day or more, please speak with Andrew this week (from Nov 27.)

west: pitching in

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,835 per month in offerings; in October our offerings were \$10,899.

Trust Stuff. The Trust was successful in their application to the Community Organisations Grants Scheme (COGS) for some funding. This will enable the Trust to continue it's work into the near future.

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.

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.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing

3 DEC
Alison D
Lisa A
Stuart W

10 DEC
Val, Allan W
Michael P
James McK

17 DEC
Sangsters
Erin R
Jude SM

24 DEC
Sue J
Steve J
Murray L

31 DEC
Brent G
Murray L
Roi M

