



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 2017

2 APR Self-Denial #3/4
People are Treasure
Luke 15:8-10

9 APR Self-Denial #4/4
Where is your Treasure?
Matthew 6:19-21

13 APR Maundy Thursday
Service of the Shadows
7.30pm

14 APR Good Friday
Stations of the Cross
Come and Go anytime between 9-11am

16 APR Resurrection Sunday
10 am

23 APR Learning to Love
Rivalry and Peace



It is great to be back at West! One of the things I did on my sabbatical was start a leadership course called Arrow. It consists of four, one week residential block courses, over the space of two years. There is also a reading schedule and mentoring.

In one of the sessions we had, it was pointed out that individuals have a personality, in a similar way to how organisations/churches have a culture.

This has led to me wondering about what our culture at West is like? What are our attitudes; towards each other? Towards children in our services? Towards

learning and growing in Christ-like maturity? Toward worship?

This naturally leads on to what are the key values of our West culture? What is really important to us?

Perhaps it's things like: being radically inclusive of children, 'never the same thing twice,' willingness to embrace change, practically caring for each other, practically serving our local community. What else would you add?

Over the coming months we'll be doing some reflecting on who we are, on who God is calling us to be and to do in the present and future. I'd love to hear what dreams you have!

Andrew ☺

west: making a difference

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



Meryl I arrived safely back in South Korea on 24th February and I have had a great welcome back from many friends with

huge smiles and hugs. I had changed churches about a month before I left, back in June last year – travelling 55 minutes on the train is much better than over 2 hours one way! When I turned up for the first time, I had a lovely welcome from many who recognised me – their memories are much better than mine!

We have started our new Spring course, and although the class is small, we are developing good relationships already. I can see we will be a close knit family very soon. Joshua, our assistant from last year, is now in Canada, and so we have a new assistant – Nam Young. She spent 10 years in the UK and so her English is quite good. However I need to make sure I speak slowly and clearly for her too, as she isn't too familiar with my Kiwi accent. Dirk and Thea have come back from Australia to teach with me again and so we have a real 'Down Under' group of teachers.

Paul and Sarah B Sarah continues to be sick. She has had many tests and Doctors visits but is still sick and they would love to find the answer to all this and pray they can find the cause soon. Paul & Sarah and Family are due to come back to NZ on furlough for 3 months shortly and ask prayer for the women who will be coping while they are away as they are very anxious about their departure Pray the Women would experience the peace and presence of God. Pray Paul & Sarah will have a restful and healthy time in NZ. She will be having more tests while in NZ and is being very careful of what she eats. She is feeling better but not 100% yet.

Jo R. Pray for Jo as she continues with her home assignment this month. Pray that she will find a deep sense of refreshment and an eagerness to return to the people God has called her to. She will be coming to West soon so we will meet her.

Carley. Pray for wisdom in working with counselling teenagers. I have a couple of students with some serious issues at the moment. Pray also for time to spend in doing things that are life-giving and help me connect with God.

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:

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 Andrew is a part of the school's pastoral care team which meets weekly to collaboratively support children and their families. He also spends time with staff and children.

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: growing

Awesome Whanau Parenting Course: for all adults wanting to develop in parenting skills, aimed at 0 – 12 year olds. There will be another 6 week course starting next school term. Speak to Naomi if you'd like to participate or help out.

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. 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.

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

home group is welcome to check us out. The group is currently following a video series on the book of James.

Get Real is all about friends, fun, faith and food. It's for young people who are school year 7 through to year 13 (Form 1-7.) We are still deciding what our gatherings will look like. In the meantime we went up to the top of the Pouakai Ranges on Saturday 1st, and will be going to E-Camp in Cambridge over Easter.

The Music Group This month's practices will be on the 6th and 20th April, 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.

Love a Good Book? We have a bunch of new, excellent books in our bookshelf at the top of the stairs. Would you like to read one, and write up a brief review/response of it for others?

west: people

At Easter James and Carol will be taking a group of six 11 to 12 year old girls associated with West to the BYM e-Camp at Findlay Park on Lake Karapiro, near Cambridge. The group includes Claudia, Caitlyn, Jezmah, Ruby, Jess and Olivia. Please do pray for the group and the individuals, particularly that Jesus will meet with them in a new and special way during the Easter period.

Maureen & Jim would like to thank all those folk who provided meals during a time of incapacity. We appreciate being part of a caring Christian community.

Please continue to pray for and support those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and

those unable to meet on Sundays **Eric P, Lyn S, Lloyd D, Marlinka R, Kathe M, Jocelyn D.**

west: events

A Weekend to Remember:

Marriage retreat and input at its best. 5-7 May. 30 June – 2 July. 22-24 September.

www.familylife.org.nz or see brochure on our notice board. Or talk with Naomi or Andrew – we recommend it!

Over 60's will be taking part in a Car Rally. We will meet at Maureen & Jim's home, at 1.30pm on Sunday 23rd April, arrange car pooling, and leave from there. Back to theirs for afternoon tea and prizegiving.

Church Picnics Every Sunday evening (weather permitting) we meet from 5-7pm at the Eastern end of Ngamotu Beach. Bring your own food and come and enjoy the fellowship.

4,18 Apr	Rainbow Group at Heather H's, 1pm	13 Apr	Maundy Thursday service
6,20 Apr	Music Practice - Gary & Heather's	14 Apr	Good Friday service
10,24 Apr	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood	14 April	BYM e-Camp at Findlay Park
11,18,25 Apr	Movies night at Grant & Megan's	23 Apr	Car Rally for the Over 60's
13,27 Apr	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home	24 Apr	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm

west: in our community

Easter Alive -a dramatic presentation of the last few hours of Jesus' life – will be happening Tuesday 4 – Friday 7 April. About 1600 New Plymouth children will experience this. We are helping by creating the packs that will be given to children, and Andrew will be one of the many actors.

west: pitching in

Breakfast in Schools volunteers:

Do you have a spare 2 ½ hours on a Monday or Friday morning once, twice, three times – or more a term? We require more volunteers to help give the kids at Spotswood Primary a good start to the day by feeding them breakfast. If you are interested, please contact Erin.

The Food Cupboard:

The food cupboard needs replenishing. We need things like pasta, rice, breakfast foods, Juice sachets, coffee, tea, tins of veges, fruit, meals, soup, flour, sugar, etc. If you could bring along one thing each week we will soon have the cupboard restocked.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,384 per month in offerings; in February our offerings were \$8,780.00.

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.

**Cleaning &
Morning Tea
Lawnmowing**

1 APR
Sangsters
Erin R
Murray L

8 APR
Sue J
Steve J

15 APR
Brent G
Murray L
Roi M

22 APR
Liane L
Wayne L

29 APR
Bedford
family
Alison D