



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

JULY 2017

2 JULY On the Way, In the Fray #1
Living Together

9 JULY On the Way, In the Fray #2
Seeking Together

16 JULY On the Way, In the Fray #3
Worshipping Together

23 JULY On the Way, In the Fray #4
Uniting Together

30 JULY On the Way, In the Fray #5
Witnessing Together

6 AUG On the Way, In the Fray #6
Conclusion



We have started a new series on Sunday's called "On the Way, In the Fray."

I started with some sobering statistics:

From 10 years ago until now, there are 46% less people a part of West.

Over the last 5 years our people have lessened by 18%. Over the last one year, the figure is 7%. This is sad, and alarming, especially if we fast forward 20 years. Whilst there is a huge amount of positives in the life of West - due to the complexities of New Zealand society, there is also a need for some change. It's time for us to dream together! :-)

In light of this information, this new series is about "becoming church." It is based on a key saying of Jesus that for nearly 500 years has been foundational for our understanding of church.

Matthew 18:20. "Whenever two or three of you come together in my name, I am there with you."

Or, in other words; The risen & ruling Christ promises to be present when his people gather together in his name

This cornerstone verse has two key implications:

Firstly; our gathered life together is crucial! When we gather together, Christ is present in our midst and we can seek his mind and voice in the gathered community by the Spirit.

Secondly; the risen Christ's presence sets the church free from all other rulers or lords. Final authority over a church, over us – rests not with the Arch-Pastor Andrew (ha ha, cough cough), nor

with a leadership board, nor with a pope, or a creed, or a national body, or a state government, or even you lot! Final authority rests with the risen Christ who is present as Lord in the midst of a congregation.

And therefore, we are free! Free to be slaves of Christ!

In the coming weeks we will be looking at a number of freedoms in how we are "becoming church."

This 6 week series is called "On the Way, In the Fray," which captures the heartbeat of Matthew 18:20

To be "On the Way" together is to be united to one another under Christ and his will as revealed in scripture.

To be "in the fray" together is to be seeking Christ's will in the midst of our differences and disagreements

And so, as we recognise the need for us to change (a bit), let us start dreaming together, united to one another, under the liberating lordship of the risen Christ Jesus.

We'll be hearing from as many people as possible on Sunday mornings over the coming weeks about something they love about West, and a dream they have for West.

We want to capture these dreams, ponder them, pray about them, and seek to articulate a way forward together. I'm quite excited about this! I'm looking forward to hearing more of what God has placed on people's hearts!

Andrew 😊

west: making a difference

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

Paul and Sarah B Thank you all for praying for Sarah's health and her medical tests. The outcome is that she most likely got a tummy bug in S Asia, which has left her with something similar to irritable bowel syndrome. This can be corrected over time with a specific diet. Give thanks for some answers

for her and the family but please continue to pray for complete healing.

Jo R. Give praise for a wonderful home assignment and being able to enjoy all of what NZ has to offer.

Pray for her re-integration into life and work back on the field as a lot has changed in the 4 months she has been away.

Carley Please pray for:

- Relaxation and refreshment on holiday.
- God's continued provision for GEMS – for more of the right teachers to come.
- The four O level students – relaxation and continued study over the holidays!
- Wisdom and guidance for me as I work with teenagers in a pastoral/counselling role.

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.

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

Building Awesome Whanau Parenting Course: for all adults wanting to develop in parenting skills, aimed at 0 – 12 year olds. A Sunday afternoon group has just finished. A new 6 week course is starting on Tuesday mornings in Term 2. This is for anybody, whether you are a part of West or not, a parent or grandparent. Contact Naomi if you'd like to participate or help out in a future group.

All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation every fourth 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.) Conversations with St James church are happening and we are very close to being able to share what the way forward will be like. Watch this space!

The Music Group This month's practices will be on 13th and 27th July, 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? Andrew would be very happy to hear what you're interested in and give some suggestions.

west: in our community

Food Together is about connecting people together, eating healthily and affordably. Fresh fruit and vegetables delivered to West's building on Thursday afternoons. For more info see Food Together New Plymouth on Facebook. To order, go to www.foodtogether.co.nz

west: people

What is something you love about West? What is a dream you have for West? We'd really like to hear from you!

25th Party! August 12th and 13th

Invitations have been printed. People's contact details are nearly all gathered. The event awareness is spreading. We'll be having an open time for anybody to share a memory or story, so please consider that. It's going to be great fun!

Over 60's Group - Judy & Keith will be organising our next get-together. They will be in touch shortly.

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. 22-24 September. www.familylife.org.nz There is a brochure on our notice board. Or talk with Naomi or Andrew – we recommend it!

3,17,31 July
6,20 July
Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood
Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home

11,25 July
11,18,25 July
17 July
13,27 July
Rainbow Group at Heather H's, 1pm
Movies night at Grant & Megan's
Blokies & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm
Music Practice - Gary & Heather's

west: pitching in

The Food Cupboard:

The food cupboard needs replenishing. We need things like pasta, rice, breakfast foods, Juice sachets, coffee, tea, tins of vegetables, 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 May our offerings were \$8,849.

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 JULY
Alison D
Lisa A

8 JULY
Val & Allan W
Michael P
Stuart W

15 JULY
Sangsters
Erin R

22 JULY
Sue J
Steve J
James McK

29 JULY
Brent G
Murray L