



We are 25

And we're having special celebrations during the weekend of 12 & 13 August 2017

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....

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

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

12 AUG 25th Celebration Party! 6pm

13 AUG 25th Celebration Service!
Andrew Bollen

20 AUG Living in Exile #1

27 AUG Living in Exile #2



We are in a Sunday morning series called “On the Way, in the Fray.”

On August 6 we will be summarising and reflecting on the topics that have been discussed.

What do you think all of this means for West?

Are there some adjustments we could make?

Remember how we started with some sobering statistics:

In the last 10 years there are 46% less people a part of West.

In the last 5 years there are 18% less people.

Even over the last year (of measurement), 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.

And this is why we have been sharing dreams for West together! :-)

The plan is to gather all these ideas and things on our hearts and together discern what this might mean for us going forward. If changes/adjustments are needed – what are we moving towards?

We also want to consider what is going well so as to give more effort into that. If I’m a market gardener, the apples might not be going too flash, but those macadamia nuts are doing great! And so how can we support and resource that.

In light of this information, we’ve been talking about “being, or becoming church,” 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, 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!

“On the Way, In the Fray,” 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 continue dreaming together about our future, united to one another, under the liberating lordship of the risen Christ Jesus.

What do you think all of this means for West?

Are there some adjustments we could make?

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, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia): Paul & Sarah. Back from a refreshing 3 months in NZ we are sensing a new season at Loyal, and pray we will have the wisdom and courage to try new things and lead this community in the direction he wants us to go. Pray that he helps us and the kids adjust to life back in Asia.

Carley (S Asia): Please pray for God's continued provision for GEMS as we start a new school year and for me as I walk with teenagers in a pastoral role, for wisdom and guidance.

Jo R Please pray for me as I continue to learn how to prioritise my work and keep my boundaries at a manageable level and be able to rest well..

Andy and Louise (NZ/S Asia): Give thanks for their visa applications being approved and returned. Hard copies of their family brochure are on the back table.

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: Another free & fantastic 'Building Awesome Whānau' parenting course is coming up. This is for

anyone who would like to grow as a parent/grandparent/caregiver. It is for people within and beyond West. Starting Tuesday 8th

August. It runs for 6 weeks at 9.30 am to 11.30am on Tuesday Mornings. Naomi is facilitating the course in her home. Babies and toddlers are welcome. For more information or to register, please phone Naomi on 021 2033653.

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.

Youth Group St James Church and West have merged our groups!! It's exciting to see heaps of young people together having a heap of fun! We're still working on a new combined name. Fortnightly Saturday events for young people who are school year 7 through to year 13 (Form 1-7.) There are also fortnightly Sunday faith discussions for year 9-13.

The Music Group This month's practices will be on 10 & 24 August, 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 Order by Tuesday 12pm. Pick up Thursday 2.30 – 3.15pm or 5.00 – 5.45pm. We'd like more people to help pick up food from St Mary's, and welcome those coming to pick up from West. Please see Jill M if you can help.

Anyone with a spare 2 hours on a Monday morning once, twice or more during term times that can assist with **Breakfast in Schools** please contact Erin as are currently short of team members for Mondays. Email: erin.roche@orcon.net.nz

west: people

Congratulations to our newest Poppa, **Murray L!**

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

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!

West 25 Years – if you are planning on attending on Saturday evening – please assist us to cater accordingly. RSVP erin.roche@orcon.net.nz advising numbers. A Koha towards cost of the meal on the night would be appreciated (to our Bank account) if you'd like to.

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!

Lyn B will be co-ordinating the catering, and will be contacting folk to request slices, for the dessert course of our meal. Help will be needed for setting up tables during the Saturday, and laying out food just prior to the event. If you have some nice pickles

in the pantry, we'd love you to bring those along also.

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!

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| 3,17,31 Aug | Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home | 12 Aug | 25 th Celebration Party, 6pm |
| 8,22 Aug | Rainbow Group at Heather H's, 1pm | 13 Aug | 25 th Celebration Service |
| 8,15,22,29 Aug | Movies night at Grant & Megan's | 14,28 Aug | Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood |
| 10,24 Aug | Music Practice - Gary & Heather's | 14 Aug | Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm |

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 June our offerings were \$9,517.48.

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	5 AUG	12 AUG	19 AUG	26 AUG
	Liane L Wayne L Jude SM	Bedford family	Corey & family Murray L	Ross H Raewyn H

The closer Christians get to Christ, the closer they get to one another.