



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!

See Inside for More.....

Look out for people assembled in the area near the side exit door – they will be happy to pray with you after the service.

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.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

OCTOBER 2017

1 OCT People Jesus Met.
Allan West

8 OCT People Jesus Met.
Roi Monod

15 OCT Making Waves.
Brian Wood

22 OCT Mark Fisher
Spotswood Primary School Principal

29 OCT People Jesus Met.
Andrew Sangster

5 NOV Peaceful New Zealand.
Andrew Sangster



Pastor's bit

There has been much happening in the last three months!

Firstly, we did some thinking on the phrase “on the way, in the fray.”

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

We have recognised the need for us to change, and so we began sharing dreams **together**- dreams we trust God will be speaking to us through as we seek the mind of Christ **together** for our future. Our future is full of hope, possibility, and adventure! May we continue to grow in how we are **united** to one another, under the liberating lordship of the **risen Christ Jesus**.

Then we had our 25 year anniversary weekend. It was a fantastic celebration of the work of Jesus Christ amongst us over the years. Being a place of “**shelter, faith and laughter**,” and sharing life together in groups were really highlighted.

More recently we’ve been taking an overview of the Old Testament with a view to examining the big story (meta-narrative) of the Old Testament, as it seems to have many things to say to the New Zealand church today.

Times have changed for the church in Western society, and especially in New Zealand society. If we look around (not inside our walls I hope!) we can see very few people interested in Jesus, his church, or the story that gives witness to him (the bible).

We started at about 1000 BC with King David and Solomon and the power, wealth and influence evidenced by the extravagant temple. (The Glory Days.) The people of Israel started being unfaithful to God and so prophets called them back to valuing what God does, but still the people consistently rejected God’s grace. (Secularism and God’s faithfulness.) This led to the people being attacked and removed to the empires of the Babylonians and then the Persians. Jerusalem and its temple were complete destroyed. (Exile – on the outskirts of society.) A remnant (group of people who remained faithful) existed. (Living well in exile – knowing our identity as disciples of Jesus.) Eventually they returned from exile to Jerusalem. They rebuilt the temple, had to adjust their expectations, and embrace change. (Adjustments to another way of being.)

In many way’s the Old Testament story is similar to our story today.

We have recognized the churches ‘glory days’ of Christendom, and the need to not look back, but to look forward.

We are familiar with the secularism surrounding us, the unfaithfulness to God, yet God’s unfailing faithfulness to us.

We can see how the church today is like it’s in exile – on the outskirts of society, perceived as Trump supporting, homophobic, gender inequality supporting, war initiating, sexual abuse hiding, irrelevant, unhelpful, and unhealthy. There’s a grief, a loss, a disorientation that goes with this, yet hope too because God is the breather of new life!

We have seen that living well in exile is possible – that we need to know whose we are – that we are participants in the work of the C2 culture of the Kingdom of God – and often this is in direct contrast to our popular C1 culture today. In saying this some of the best people I know don’t identify themselves as Jesus’ disciples, but certainly contribute much to Kingdom work.

We can appreciate that the Western Christian Church might not be as ‘glorious’ as it once was. The future will mean adjustment to new ways of being church and following Jesus. Expectations must and can change. Like God said to the people through Haggai, “be strong, work, I am with you, do not fear.” God is always bringing new life! May we recognise this in our dreams and courageously walk together into the future in which God is still active and at work.

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) We need wisdom as we plan the next 2 years and how we will grow the business. We are grateful for a strong team but we desire to get better at leading our team. So please pray for our growth as leaders. Our energy levels have been low since coming back with lots of niggly illnesses so pray for our health too.

Carley (S Asia): Pray for the 4 young men from GEMS who are sitting their O levels. Pray they will be calm and confident, Pray, too for my health, I have been battered by a few niggly illnesses lately and need to rely on God for my strength and wisdom.

Jo R We continue to search for a new way of keeping all aspects of the company growing here. In the energy sapping humidity pray I will be able to push through to concentrate and get adequate rest times. Remember us as we work hard to ensure sustainable freedom is offered to as many as we can and then some more after that.

Andy and Louise (S Asia): Have been in Dhaka for a month now. They are settling well and finding their way around. The children are picked up each morning for nursery school and during this time Lou & Andy do Language study. Pray for good health, new relationships and good progress with language Study.

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 six week course has started on Tuesday mornings.

These courses are for anyone who would like to grow as a parent/grandparent/caregiver. It is for people within and beyond West. Naomi facilitates these courses. Babies and toddlers are welcome. For more information or to find out when the next course is, please phone Naomi on 021 2033653.

Blokes and Cokes. All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation every fourth Monday at 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** 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 are welcome to check us out

Youth Group 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. Contact James M if you'd like to find out about the events or any other info.

The Music Group. Practices this month will be on 12th & 26th of October, 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 singers. Most practices concentrate on learning new songs. See Gary B if you are interested.

Over 60s Group. The next get together will be Sunday October 29 at 1.30pm. Syd & Cela are organising this and will be in touch with further details.

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 – Fresh Fruit and Vege initiative: 2-3 days fresher. 30% cheaper. Place an order before 12 pm on a Tuesday, pay online, and pick it up from West on Thursdays 2.30 – 3.15pm or 5.00 – 5.45pm. This is going very well. Lots of people outside of West are participating. For more info see Food Together New Plymouth on Facebook. To order, go to www.foodtogether.co.nz 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 Ian or Jill M 757 5403 if you can help.

Breakfast in Schools please contact Erin as are currently short of team members for Mondays. Email: erin.roche@orcon.net.nz

west: people

Our Sympathy to Tracey W and Family. Tracey's father passed away recently. Also to Isabel B whose Grandma passed away in the UK. Let's be prayerful for Tracey and Isabel and their families.

Some extra Special Birthdays are happening this month! John F & Lyn B.

We have a dream! We'd love to hear as many people's dreams as possible. You could do this by: Emailing, calling or speaking with Andrew or a board member (Lyn B, Ruth M, Liane or Carol) You could also share on a Sunday morning – contact Andrew. Or you could write/draw on our picture on the window of our side room

Most of our Notices, as well as brief Sunday reflections are sent out via an email called '**West Weekly**' If you would like to receive this please contact Andrew S or Alison D

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, Ruth S.**

west: events

12,26 Oct	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home	9, 23 Oct	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood
3, 17,31 Oct	Rainbow Group at Heather H's, 1pm	9 Oct	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm
3,10,17,24,31 Oct	Movies night at Grant & Megan's	14 & 28 Oct	Youth Group 7-9pm
12 & 26 Oct	Music Practice - Gary & Heather's		

west: pitching in

The Food Cupboard: We currently do not need any food items for our cupboard.

Baptist Hui/Assembly Nov 9-11 in Bell Block: Would you like to come for a day or the whole gathering? If so, register via the link below or contact Alison by tonight. We have some budgeted finance to support people who would like to go. For information, the program or how to register go to www.baptist.org.nz/baptist-hui-2017

Help is required for the Hui; if you can help with billets, cleaning, car-parking, ushering, serving food etc please contact Anna Jones at Northpoint Church directly. Ph 755 2374 or 0273 050 975 or anna@northpoint.org.nz

Chaplaincy: If you are interested or involved in chaplaincy, you may like to join the Baptist Chaplains Retreat Day on Wednesday Nov 8th (one day before Hui starts) The main speaker is Kim Workman, and there will be lots of interaction for more info see www.baptist.org.nz/chaplains-retreat-day

Offering Cards: We have little cards that can be picked up from the flax kete (basket) as you come in and put in the offering bag as a symbol of the automatic payment or direct debit you have made. The welcoming team can point you to them. Thank you, Jill. Great idea!

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,384 per month in offerings; in July our offerings were \$10,099.

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

7 OCT
Lynda & Andy L

14 OCT
Alison D & Lisa A
Andy L

21 OCT
Val & Allan
Jill & Ian

28 OCT
Erin R & Andrew & Naomi
Syd B

4 NOV
Sue & Steve J