



**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

SEPTEMBER 2017

**27 AUG** Living in Exile #2  
Repeatedly Like Others

**3 SEPT** FATHER'S DAY  
(Brunch Together)

**10 SEPT** Living in Exile #3  
Living For God in a Strange Land

**17 SEPT** Living in Exile #4  
Faithful Against the Odds

**24 SEPT** Living in Exile #5  
Adjusting to the New Normal

**1 OCT** People Jesus Met #1



## Pastor's bit

Our 25 year anniversary weekend was a fantastic celebration of the work of Jesus Christ amongst us over the years. Two key themes that stood out to me were; the 'specialness' of **"being a place of shelter, faith and laughter,"** and secondly, how groups of various shapes and sizes were celebrated as places of discipleship and belonging.

Prior to our anniversary weekend, in our gathered life together we were thinking about 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 have been 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**.

And so, from the last 25 years, and from considering important aspects of 'being / becoming church,' we now come to explore what God might want to say to us, the church in New Zealand society 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).

In God's activity in history, has there been a similar time that we can identify with, and importantly, that we can learn from?

I am suggesting there is such a time. Well, more precisely, about 700 years of time. Starting at about 1100 BC with King David and Solomon, and going through to the rise of Judaism and the Pharisee's after Jerusalem's walls and Temple were rebuilt.

We are taking an overview of the Old Testament as I believe that through examining the big story (meta-narrative) of the Old Testament, that it has many things to say to the New Zealand church today.

Here is a series overview: The people of Israel had some amazing times of power, wealth, and influence. These were the Glory Days. Times changed. After a number of generations of disobeying God they found themselves taken away as slaves to a faraway land where their culture and beliefs were not understood, valued or practiced. They were in exile. How did the people live in such difficult times? Eventually a remnant of these exiled people started again, but nothing was as glorious as it used to be.

The church used to be the centre of society, with much power, wealth and influence. Times changed. Now, we live in much more challenging times where the Western and especially NZ church is on the outskirts of society. Things are not as good or easy as they once were. We are viewed in very unfriendly terms, if at all – such is the apathy and perceived irrelevance. Much has changed in our culture, and the Church (and West) must adapt too, or shrink to oblivion. How do we live well in these difficult times?

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 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** 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** 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** This month's practices will be on 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> of Sept, 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.

**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.

### **A Weekend to Remember:**

Marriage retreat and input at its best. 22-24 September. [www.familylife.org.nz](http://www.familylife.org.nz) There is a brochure on our notice board. Or talk with Naomi or Andrew – we recommend it!

## 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](http://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](mailto:erin.roche@orcon.net.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! Contact Andrew, a Board member, or write it on our drawing on side room window.

**25th Party!** What an excellent time we had! So many hands made the event a real success, great stuff West!

**Our love, support and prayers** go out to **Murray L** and his family with the death of his father. Also to **Roi M** and his family with the death of his aunty (Roi's 2<sup>nd</sup> Mum)

Some extra **special birthdays** have just happened, or are about to happen! **Judy Wh, Margaret S, Jocelyn 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

7,14,21,28 Sept Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home  
5, 19 Sept Rainbow Group at Heather H's, 1pm  
5,12,19,26 Sept Movies night at Grant & Megan's  
14, 28 Sept Music Practice - Gary & Heather's

11, 25 Sept Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood  
11 Sept Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm  
2,16,30,Sept Youth Group 7-9pm

## west: pitching in

**The Food Cupboard:** We currently do not need any food items for our cupboard. This is because of the ongoing donations by West people, as well as a generous donation from Spotswood Primary School two weeks ago. A 'wear your pyjamas to school' day was held, with the cost of participation a non-perishable food item or a gold coin. 188 cans, 33 packets of food and \$135 was donated. The student council decided to give it to West "because we help so many people!" WOW!

**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**

**2 SEPT**  
Andrea M  
& Tracey W  
Roi M

**9 SEPT**  
Roi &  
Jude SM

**16 SEPT**  
Judy &  
Brian W  
Alison D

**23 SEPT**  
Michael P  
Elizabeth M

**30 SEPT**  
Carol &  
James McK  
Wayne L