



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 and 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

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

3 DEC Advent # 1
HOPE Green

10 DEC Advent # 2
PEACE Blue

17 DEC Advent # 3 Chris Grantham
JOY Yellow

24 DEC Advent # 4
LOVE Red

25 DEC CHRISTMAS DAY
9.30 a.m.

31 DEC Combined at St James
10a.m. Lawry Street



This year we've been exploring a bit about being church, especially in our New Zealand society. We've had a fantastic celebration of 25 years of being West.

West has a wonderful healthy history of families growing up together, of having many meaningful relationships across generations, and of long loving service in our community. If a healthy church was like a delicious cake, West would be well advanced in the art of cake making. We are more than just a pile of ingredients or a sweet, sticky blob. We are like a well-formed cake. But, we are a cake that is missing a couple of key ingredients to help it taste amazing. Adding these ingredients require of us; change, risk, adaptation, courage, trust and commitment.

With our 25 year history, we have many excellent relationships, connections and partnerships in our community. We are well positioned with great opportunities to help people flourish into all they can be as they journey with Jesus.

However, we cannot stay where we are.

We've been sharing dreams we have for our church with each other, and we've discussed together a draft of what sorts of things we want to explore taking risks and making change in. That was Sunday 26th November. A finalised version will be coming out soon.

We can do this! Yes change is hard, but that doesn't mean it's not good. We are all in this together and are committed to supporting and respecting one another. As always, I'm keen to hear what you think and to talk together.

Love and peace

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):

A new Production Assistant, Mithu, has started working with Paul - he will be training her over the next 6 months, and will slowly hand his production role over to her, which will free him up from the day to day running of the workshop. Pray the existing staff will accept her and she may quickly become one of our sisters. In January we will launch a Leadership training programme for those who want to grow in Leadership and so strengthen our team.

Carley (S Asia): Please pray for extra strength, patience and time, as I deal with the usual end of year stuff –exams, reports, and functions- mixed with preparing to be away for 3 months in New Zealand. Pray for a time of rest, relaxation, and fun as I reconnect with family and friends over the holidays.

Jo R: Please pray for the team of cleaners that I oversee, that they will grow in harmony together and see each other as loved and significant.

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.

Christmas Hampers: This year we are making up 12 yummy Christmas hampers to give away. As you are able and feel led, please bring special Christmas food items on Sunday 10th and 17th. Alternatively, you may like to bring cash in a labelled envelope to

contribute to buying meat packs which cost \$25 each. Hampers will be made up on the afternoon of Sunday 17 December.

west: growing

All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation every fourth Monday at **Blokes and Cokes**, 7.30pm at Westside Grill (formerly known as 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. Our final meeting of the year is a Christmas Lunch on 12 December. Re-start on 6 February 2018.

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 Westside Grill at 6.30pm.

On the 5th December we have the Quiz. 12th December – Pot Luck Tea to end the year.

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 are now studying Naked Spirituality.

Playgroup - Fridays. 10am. Koha. Contact Shirley P on 751 0711, Please note this is not a

'Mainly Music' group – rather a play group that centres around music. A new name will be coming out soon.

Our last session for this year is on 15th December at 10.00am. The group will start again on 12th January 2018, at 10.00am. During January we do not have a music session.

On Friday 2nd of February the regular music sessions will start again.

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 to be put on the text message group to find out about the events, or any other info. Put a facebook request to the Transit Youth facebook page for updates, and let Andrew know.

The Music Group Music group have finished practices for 2017. We will resume again in Feb 2018

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.

If people purchase a "Gift Bag" online and have the pick up as 'West', we'll get it to a family that could do with a hand.

west: people

Most of our notices, as well as brief Sunday reflections are sent via an e-mail called the “**West Weekly.**” If you’d like to receive this, please contact Andrew or Alison.

Most of our university students are home! **Welcome back** Jacob, Rachael and Michael!

Ricky and Ruth M have/are shifting to Nelson. We will miss them terribly! Their contact details are in the new church directory.

New Church directory. Thank you Heather B for your hard work preparing this!

Please continue to **pray for and support** those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays **Eric P, Ruth S, Lyn S, Marlinka R, Kathe M, Jocelyn D.**

west: events

Over 60’s Group have their final meeting for the year, a Christmas get-together and lunch at Pukeiti, today, 3 December at 12.30pm. Ian McKillop has ordered the buggy (takes up to 13) after lunch, for anyone who would like to have a look around the garden, but is unable to walk the distance.

Youth Group. Year 6-13. Last event for 2017. Year 6 students going to intermediate school next year are welcome! 6:30pm Saturday 9th, at Tupare Gardens, Mangorei Rd. See facebook page, James’ text, or flyer handout.

Advent Service – Sunday 24 December - We will celebrate the last advent service with a brunch style service. Usual time of 10am. Pancakes will be the dish of the day! Bring your family and friends.

3 Dec	Over 60’s Lunch, Pukeiti, 12.30pm	10 Dec	Special ‘Kitchen’ Morning Tea
4,18 Dec	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood	12 Dec	Rainbow Group at Heather H’s, 1pm
4 Dec	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm	12 Dec	Movie Group Pot Luck Tea at Grant & Megan’s
7, 21 Dec	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol’s home	15 Dec	Playgroup, 10am
9 Dec	Youth Group 7 – 9 pm	24 Dec	Brunch style service – Pancakes!

JANUARY 2018 SERVICES:

7 January	Combined at West. Open to God
14 January	Euthanasia Jacob Manning
21 January	Surprise !
28 January	Surprise !

west: pitching in

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,384 per month in offerings; in October our offerings were \$10,568.

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 DEC	9 DEC	16 DEC	23 DEC	30 DEC
	Corey and family James M	Ross H Raewyn H Jude S-M	Brian M Kathy M Alison D	Andrea M Tracey W Roi M	Val, Allan W Jill, Ian M Murray L



Kitchen Tea Party

Let's help

Elizabeth and Michael

Celebrate their upcoming marriage



Sunday 10th December

Special morning tea after Sunday service

Bring a small plate of yummy treats

And a small kitchen gift