



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

FEBRUARY 2018

4 FEB

Chris Grantham

11 FEB

Carley (Tranzsend)

18 FEB

Andrew

25 FEB

Andrew



It's still near the start of a New Year. Times that are new are often times we let our imaginations a little room to move. We imagine. We dream. I wonder what you've been thinking about over the summer so far?

In 2018 I want to encourage us to be like the star gazing scholars of the East in Matthew chapter 2. We don't know much about them, but what we do know is that they followed changes in the night sky with openness to the future. Armed with the best knowledge available to them, they chose to follow this intriguing way that was before them – not knowing where it would lead. They were open to God, and we certainly see God honouring this.

Of course there are other ways to think about the future too. Take King Herod. Faced with the prospect of a real “King of the Jews” being born (Jesus), Herod does his best to destroy anybody who may threaten him. Herod was ruled by fear and his ego – the opposite of love.

Let's not let fear of the future, or fear of God, or fear of the unknown take a hold of our hearts. Rather, let's gaze upwards – allowing ourselves to be curious about life, God, ourselves and others. I suspect that in choosing to be open to God that we, like the ‘wise men,’ will end up in awe of God, the only one worthy of worship.

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:

Meryl sends her greetings from the Republic of Korea (that is the South part of the peninsula, not the North!) The group are settling in to the second week of the term. A number of students are using their course “to improve my English”, but there are several who are using our course as a step towards Mission. Meryl was astounded at NZ's recent high temperatures, and wondered if any of us would like to visit her, where temperatures are between -16 and -5. Last week was the coldest day of the year, so she is hopeful that temperatures will rise from now on.

For more news, read her latest correspondence at the back of the Church.

Paul and Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia): The last few months have been full of visitors and changing team dynamics with Joel leaving and Andy & Lou, Connor and Emilie arriving. We are keen to start settling down into a routine now. Please pray that God enables us to find life-giving rhythms and start to create some margin in our life again.

Carley (S Asia): This month I am in New Zealand on home assignment. Please pray that I will have a time of fun, rest and relaxation while I connect with

family, friends and supporters. Carley will be visiting West Baptist Church too shortly.

Jo R: Charlie and I are engaged! Please pray for us as we continue to learn about each other and prepare for our upcoming wedding in the middle of this year. Both Jo and Charlie K (from England) are currently serving with Freeset in South Asia.

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

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. We will restart on Tuesday 20 February, not the 6th as previously advised.

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.

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. We start the year off on Thursday 15th February.

Music & Play has started for the year. From Friday 2nd February the music sessions will start again. We meet every Friday at 10am. Koha. Contact Shirley P on 751 0711

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 Andrew will give you access to the closed group.

The Music Group This month's practice will be on 15 February 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.

Music lessons with our youth and children An idea being talked about by a few people, is whether we might be able to help teach some of our children and young people to play some instruments? This is with a view to building relationships, passing on skills, and perhaps having them join our music team one day! Would anybody (or group of people) be interested in getting heads together to explore this more?

Christmas Hampers. There were many beautiful responses to the receiving of hampers at Christmas time. Thankyou for the many generous contributions, and especially to Carolyn for putting the hampers together.

Our **Curators** are meeting together after church on the 18th February. If anyone is interested in joining the team, please contact Liane L.

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. Volunteers are on every six weeks. Please see Jill M if you can help.

If people purchase a "Gift Bag" online and have the pick up as '144 South Road' i.e. at West, we'll pass it to a family that could do with a hand.

Taranaki Retreat is our fantastic local place of rest and support for people really struggling, led by Suzy and Jamie. Taranaki Retreat has people baking for them each week and they will be leaving this baking in the foyer on Sunday mornings for it to be picked up by the Retreat on Monday mornings. This is just to let you know 😊

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.

Liane is helping out more with the curating of our services, thanks heaps Liane!

It's been absolutely fantastic having many of our **university students** home for parts of the summer! As you start back into your studies, please know you are loved, you belong, and we are here cheering you on from a distance! We've loved your enthusiasm

and numerous contributions to the life in our community.

Over the summer we've also had a number of **previous West people** with us who have become all grown up and are working in different parts of Aotearoa and Australasia. It's been wonderful reconnecting!

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 Val A will be organising our February get-together, and will be in touch.

Youth Group. Year 7-13. We have our first get-together for the year on Saturday 10th February.

Camping on Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. Some people are thinking of re-starting this fun, non-West event that is open to all people. We're thinking Saturday and Sunday nights camping, either at Oakura or out close to Urenui. Please tell Alison if you're interested so we can get an idea if this is worth exploring more.

CALENDAR

2,9,16,23 Feb	Music & Play, at West. 10am	13,20,27 Feb	Movie Group at Grant & Megan's
5 Feb	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm	15 Feb	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home
10,24 Feb	Youth Group 7 – 9 pm	20 Feb	Rainbow Group at Heather H's, 1pm
12,26 Feb	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood		

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 December our offerings were \$8,552.

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	3 FEB	10 FEB	17 FEB	24 FEB	3 MAR
	Alison D	Michael P	Sangsters	Sue J	Brent G
	Lisa A	Elizabeth P	Erin R	Steve J	Murray L
	Brian W		Stuart W		James Mck