



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 service on Sundays. So please don't worry if anyone with you makes a little bit of noise – 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

DECEMBER 2018 / JANUARY 2019

2 DEC Peace and Distress
Advent # 1 **Blue**

9 DEC Hope and Fear
Advent # 2 **Green**

16 DEC Joy and Despair
Advent # 3 **Yellow**

23 DEC Love and Unloved
Advent # 4 **Red**

25 DEC CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
9.30 a.m.

30 DEC 10am at West
Combined Service with St James



On Sunday 25 November we had a service focused on how “God’s life in West has helped sustain us in our following of Jesus in the world.”

This is one of the key reasons why gathering together as church is so important - that we would be sustained in our faith to follow Jesus in our Monday – Saturday lives.

Lots of people shared how parts of West have helped sustain them. Things they’ve appreciated, things that have helped them think, things that have encouraged, challenged and helped them worship.

At the risk of not including everything, here are some of the things mentioned...

- * Mark Pierson’s time with us was a reminder to expect the unexpected, to be open to things being done differently, and an appreciation of the open heartedness and mindedness that we have at West.
- * The preaching series through Titus.
- * Noticing God answer prayer
- * Thoughtful sermons and services
- * That lots of different people can be involved and different voices heard
- * Like a Fresh Fruit Salad – West has been a refreshing healthy and varied time of worship.
- * A slow healing through who we are and how we believe and behave
- * Knowing that we all belong to God and all are deeply loved
- * Knowing I’m accepted by the church family regardless of involvement level
- * Having a prayer partner in the church
- * Church being real

These are beautiful things. This is God at work in us and through us, building up the body of Christ for God’s purposes in the world.

Let’s be reminded of the Apostle Paul’s words to the church in Ephesus, knowing that God speaks through scripture to us today too. Ephesians chapter 3, verses 14 – 21 say:

I kneel in prayer to the Father. (15) All beings in heaven and on earth receive their life from him. (16) God is wonderful and glorious. I pray that his Spirit will make you become strong followers (17) and that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. Stand firm and be deeply rooted in his love. (18) I pray that you and all of God’s people will understand what is called wide or long or high or deep. (19) I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.

(20-21) I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. His power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

Andrew ☺

west: making a difference

We have a portfolio of people and communities we support around New Plymouth and the world. The basics:

Meryl: In 1996, Meryl left NZ and first went to Africa to work on the mission field in Ethiopia. Then God led her to South Korea 6 years ago where she has been teaching, helping, encouraging and training Koreans and students of other nationalities how to be effective missionaries overseas.

Since working in Korea, almost 250 students have taken the Course provided by SIM, Korea. Meryl expresses her thanks for all our love, support and prayers over these past years. Meryl is making plans to return to New Zealand permanently by Christmas, and would appreciate our prayers over the next few months.

Paul and Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia):

Unfortunately Sarah has been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and they have made the decision to take an extended period of time in N.Z. to rest and receive treatment. She has started to feel better after 2 month's treatment in Thailand but please pray for a full recovery. Pray too for Paul as he hands over the Leadership and responsibilities to the team on the ground, there is a lot for him to do before he can come and be with his family so pray for stamina, wisdom and peace. Please pray for Paul, Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi as they rest together, receive counselling and enjoy their first Kiwi summer together since 2013.

Carley (S Asia): The elections are approaching here and with it comes some extra issues. We have already had a few days of strikes and there is talk of more. The country really suffers with these disruptions and we need to pray for the situation.

Jo and Charlie (N.Z. and S. Asia.): We give thanks for successful surgery and recovery for Jo, - for time in NZ with family especially over Christmas; - for God's ongoing provision and grace in even the small things. We ask for prayer for a successful visa

application, for support raising, and for travel in the new year; for the right timing for return to UK and then back to South Asia.

Closer to home:

We love and 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 co-leading a group for older boys focusing on anger. We've been thinking together about; how anger is an emotion, anger is normal, and that it helps to be able to say "I feel angry when..." Andrew is a part of the school's pastoral care team which meets weekly to collaboratively support children and their families.

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. See Calendar for dates.

The **Rainbow group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H's home. See events section for dates. We have finished meeting for the year, and will recommence in February 2019.

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 will be having our Christmas pot-luck dinner on the 6th December at James and Carol's place. We will be re-starting in February after school is back.

Music & Play For parents and children under 5 years. We meet every Friday at 10am. Koha. Contact Shirley P on 751 0711. The last session for Music & Play is on Friday 14th December and next year we will start on Friday 1st Feb. at 10 a.m.

In January we will have a play group on the 11th, 18th and 25th. The play group will start at 10a.m. and morning tea will be provided.

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 **Impact Youth** facebook page for updates, and Andrew will give you access to the closed group.

Impact Youth have their final night for 2018 on Saturday Dec 8th. This event is also open to any year 6 students who would like to come along to see what we're all about. More details will be sent out closer to the event. Ask James M if you have any questions.

The Music Group will not be having practices during December or January.

THE MUSIC GROUP: We would really love to have some more singers as part of the music group. If you can sing and would like to join us we would love to have you come on board with us.

We practice, usually fortnightly, on a Thursday from 7-8.30pm at 69 Barrett Road.

If you would like to know more please talk to one of the singers or talk to Gary B.

A team of West people started a journey together in a "**Learning Community**" to strengthen a missional discipleship culture here at West.

Key things we're working on are (1) helping us shift from doing things for people, to doing things with people. We want to help create community, and this means enabling our wider community to contribute, belong and own. We also want to (2) develop how we disciple and mentor our young people.

west: in our community

Spotswood Primary have a Helpers Appreciation Morning tea on Monday 10 December at 10:30am. If you've helped out with Breakfast Club, reading, gardening, orchard work, morning teas, sports coaching or other, you are welcome. RSVP to the school on 751 1331.

west: people

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.**

Welcome back to some of our students! It's awesome having Rachael and Jacob back around!

west: events

Over 60's Group We will be meeting at Marbles, on Devon St East, on Thursday 6th December at 6pm. The cost is \$32.90 per person for seniors. Please confirm numbers with Carolyn F by 2nd December – **TODAY**. Our next meeting will be in February 2019.

CALENDAR:

3,17 Dec & 14,28 Jan	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood	8 Dec	Impact Group 7 – 9 pm
3 Dec	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm	11 Dec	Movie Group at Grant & Megan's, Pot Luck Dinner
6 Dec	Over 60's Dinner at Marbles, 6pm	25 Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - 9.30am
6 Dec	Chocolate Fish Group Dinner		
7,14 Dec & 11,18,25 Jan	Music & Play, at West, 10am Playgroup at 10am		

JANUARY 2019 SERVICES:

Sunday 6th January 10am at St James, Lawry St. Combined Service with St James.

10am Services at West to be held on 13,20,27 January.

west: pitching in

Prayer: If you have a prayer request, please contact Andrew who would be delighted to pray with you and/or put your request on the prayer chain.

We have an e-mail prayer chain where a dozen people are committed to praying for any request, as they are able. All West people are encouraged to be a part of this. If you'd like to join the prayer chain as a pray-er, please contact Andrew.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,500 per month in offerings; in October our offerings were \$11,097.

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.

	1 DEC	8 DEC	15 DEC	22 DEC	29 DEC
Cleaning &	Lynda L	James McK	Roi S-M	Michael P	Sangsters
Morning Tea	Andy L	Carol McK	Jude S-M	Elizabeth P	Erin R
Lawnmowing	James McK	Jude S-M	Murray L	Roi S-M	Allan W

*Love is what's in the room with
you at Christmas if you stop
opening presents and listen.
Author unknown - attributed to a
7-year-old named Bobby.*