



**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

NOVEMBER 2019

**3 NOV** Nehemiah # 6  
Chapter 6:15-19

**10 NOV** Charles & Alan  
Baptist Union & NZBMS leaders

**17 NOV** Story time with Isabel B & Michael P  
Baptist Hui Feedback

**24 NOV** Sustaining faith in 2019 ...  
How has West helped me follow Jesus?



**TROY STORY.** This week the senior students at Spotswood Primary School have been performing a musical production called “Troy Story.” Our family went and we loved it! The acting, costumes, singing, script, dancing, lighting – all of it – were very, very good!

As the name suggests, this was a re-telling of the story of Troy – an ancient city and battle from around 1300 – 1200BC. Mount Olympus (the mythical home of the gods) is in turmoil; Hera, Athene and Aphrodite are arguing over which of them is the most beautiful goddess, much to the annoyance of Zeus and the other gods and goddesses. A mortal man, Paris, Prince of Troy, is summoned to Olympus and asked to make the tough decision. Each of the three bickering

goddesses offer Paris a fabulous reward if he chooses her as the best looking, but it is Aphrodite’s promise to give him the most beautiful mortal woman as a wife which clinches it. Furious at this, Hera and Athene vow to bring destruction to Paris’ home city of Troy.

(Watching this story play out to this point, I must admit I was feeling a little uncomfortable at the emphasis being placed on appearances and on what is deemed to be important in relationships. The story continues...)

Sometime later, Paris arrives as a guest at the court to Menelaus, King of Sparta and immediately falls for his wife, Helen, who just happens to be the most beautiful mortal woman! Keeping her side of the bargain, Aphrodite instructs the god of love, Eros, to fire one of his arrows into Helen’s heart. Helen then falls in love with Paris and in a trance, is whisked off to Troy by him.

(After this section I’m a little more concerned – that relationships are being sabotaged and partners swapped – simply due to what men think is beautiful. Yet the story continues...)

The furious King Menelaus raises an army of Greek heroes who, led by Achilles, set off to rescue Helen and bring her back to Sparta. After a long journey, the Greeks arrive at Troy and lay siege but they are beaten in their first battle against the pompous Trojans. In this battle, Achilles’ best friend Patroclus is slain by Hector, Paris’ brother. Devastated, Achilles then kills Hector. The vengeful Paris and his father, King Priam, decide to lure Achilles into the city by using the charms of Princess Polyxena. It works and once Achilles is in his sights, Paris shoots an arrow into his vulnerable heel and kills him. The Greeks are overcome with grief at the death of their top man and revenge is swift. Philoctetes kills Paris in a duel, releasing Helen from her trance-induced love and with her help, secret plans are made for the Greek’ invasion of Troy.

(Now we have seething anger, revenge, murder, lust, deceit. What next?!)

The Trojans are curious as to what the hammering sounds are in the Greeks’ camp and are then surprised to see their enemy’s fleet of ships sailing away from the shores of Troy. On discovering a huge wooden horse which is left, they believe it to be a gift from their fleeing foes, and so they rejoice in their supposed victory and bring it into the city. As night falls, the heroes emerge from the belly of the horse and easily defeat the dozing Trojans! Finally victorious, they return to Greece with Helen.

This is an old story, a well-known story, but surely we must be better than this today?!

The superb narrators (including Keith & Judy’s granddaughter) at the musical concluded the performance with comments about how valuing good looks and violence are not the ways to go about life – but rather – we can take from this story the importance of honour, integrity, friendship and care. It was delightfully described and a beautifully imagined future was encouraged.

Reading the Old Testament is a bit like this. There are parts – like what we’ve seen in Nehemiah – where we find ourselves asking “surely we must be better than this?!” Stories are not intended to

describe exactly the best way to do life – they tell a story – just like it is – and as hearers/readers we are left to use our God-given brains, lessons from history, as well as the wisdom that is found in community, to interpret stories well – that we might live life fully alive.

In regards to Old Testament stories that are difficult, thankfully there is a better way – the ways and person of Jesus Christ through whom, by whom and to whom all things are being brought together, understood, and made right.

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/NZ)** This month Paul, Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi are on a family holiday. Pray for a fun and restful time with extended family.

**Carley (S Asia)** Continue to pray for my physical health. I am still having ongoing issues, nothing terrible, but enough to drain my energy. Also pray for Jesu Das, who has now taken over the role of Principal of GEMS. Pray for strength and wisdom for him in this new role, and also for the staff to accept and support him in this role. Pray also for the right Vice-Principal to be found to replace him.

**Charlie and Jo (N.Z. and S. Asia.)** We give thanks for the first of our official paperwork coming through without a hitch, this is the next step in the registration process. Please pray that we will find ways to engage with the community that are appropriate for us.

**Conversations** are continuing with NBMS about a West trip to see their work in 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 spends Wednesday mornings at the school. He is a part of regular pastoral care team meetings which seek to collaboratively support children and families, and he spends time listening to and supporting children. Andrew is also working on developing a partnership between West, School and Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring.

A new group for boys has started, focused on healthy anger. This is being co-led with Niki (Social Worker in Schools.)

**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 **The Treehouse** Please note the change of venue. 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 **Ladies Tuesday 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 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.

**Music & Play:** For parents and children under 5 years. Term 3 got off to a great start for Music & Play. We have a great team working well together with lots of families participating in the program, and more importantly participating in

community and friendships. We meet every Friday at 10am.

**Family Faith Night** Sunday November 3rd **For Families, Food, Fun, Faith.** 5 – 6.30pm on the first Sunday of each month. We start with shared kai.

**Impact Youth - for years 7 to 13:** See James M for more details.

**Impact Senior Youth - for years 10 to 13:**

Contact James M if you want to be put on the text message group and/or find the Facebook page for

**Impact Youth New Plymouth** (Andrew will give you access to the closed group.)

**The Music Group:** This month's practice will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 69 Barrett Road, starting at 7pm.

### "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid"

On 10 November during our service we will have Charles Hewlett (Baptist National Leader) & Alan Jamison (prospective NZBMS General Director) with us via video link. It'll be great to hear these two leaders talking about Jesus and his church in Aotearoa and beyond.

On 24 November we'll have encouragement galore as we hear from each other about how being a part of West has helped sustain us in our following of Jesus this year. We'd love to have 10 or 20 or 30 people share a sentence or more on this topic.

We've been invited to Parihaka to have a service there! This is an absolutely huge privilege! December 1. It might be unknown and a little daunting – but we are a brave people, a learning people, so please plan to 'step out of the boat' and join in with us. We'll be focusing on Hope, as it's the start of Advent and a brilliant topic to consider in the light of the recent government apology for the significant wrongs done to the people and land of Parihaka in 1861.

## **west: in our community**

"Community Conversations" (Conversations that matter to the well-being of Taranaki.) Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November. 9.30 – 12.30pm. Part 2. "Invitation" Hosted by Tu Tama Wahine o Taranaki (62 Powderham St) and Community Taranaki. Ph 758 5795 to RSVP. See poster on noticeboard for more information.

Learn to speak Te Reo Māori: Now is a great time to enrol in a beginners (or beyond if you wish!) course at Te Wananga O Aotearoa – across the road from West's building. Join Meryl and Isabel! If you'd like a hand going over there to enquire or enrol, I'd be happy to go with you.

## 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, Jocelyn D.**

## west: events

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR:

1,8,15,22,29	Music & Play, at West, 10am	7,21 <sup>st</sup>	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Family Faith Night, 5pm	11,25 <sup>th</sup>	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Blokes & Cokes at <b>The Treehouse</b> , 7.30pm	12,19,26 <sup>th</sup>	Movie Group at Grant & Megan
4,10 <sup>th</sup>	Baptist Hui & related events	14 <sup>th</sup>	Music Practice
5,19 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Tuesday Group at Heather H's, 1pm	24 <sup>th</sup>	Church Meeting after service
		1 December	West at Parihaka

## 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 September our offerings were \$9,682.

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.

<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea Lawnmowing</b>	<b>2 NOV</b>	<b>9 NOV</b>	<b>16 NOV</b>	<b>23 NOV</b>	<b>30 NOV</b>
	Roi S-M Jude S-M	Bedford family Stuart W	Sangsters Erin R	Sue J Steve J James M	Alison D Lisa W Jude S-M

*Lord, while you are busy preparing a place for me, prepare me, as well, for that place.*