



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

AUGUST 2020

26 JULY Revelation # 1. Chapter 1
Interpretation and Domination

2 AUG Anne Peach Dedication
Haere Rā Peach Whānau

9 AUG Revelation #2. Chapters 2, 3
Context and Slavery

16 AUG Revelation # 3. Chapters 4, 5
Christ v Caesar and Climate

23 AUG Revelation # 4. Chapters 6-16
Kingdom, Faithfulness and Race

30 AUG Revelation # 5. Chapter 12
Conquered but Threatened
and People Power



Kia ora West,

Well it's been about seven weeks since life has started to return to a resemblance of normal. For many of us here in Aotearoa, not too much has been affected. Others though are really struggling with job and/or income loss and all that entails. When we consider the relatively excellent position we are in as a country, we can be very grateful for the wise and compassionate decisions made and still being made. Of course, it's very different overseas. There is so much poverty, disease, lack of equipment, lack of character in leadership, confusion and hopelessness. It's not all like this, but it seems there is a lot – and there's no end in sight for some countries who haven't peaked in Covid cases yet. It continues to be an important time to pray for our government and the governments of the world.

Our local government has been up to a whole lot of good too. We are blessed in Aotearoa! This week the NPDC voted to introduce Māori Wards – a way to ensure both Treaty of Waitangi partners have a say in local affairs. There is much more work to do in this area to enable justice to flourish. It is quite possible a citizen-initiated referendum happens with the aim to overturn the council decision. I see that there are four challenges with this. Firstly, that central government needs to change the law that allows Māori ward citizen-initiated binding referendums at a lower threshold to voting on other types of wards is clearly racist – and I use that word carefully and purposefully. Secondly, the 83% of people who voted against having a Māori ward in 2014 (only around 40% of citizens voted) probably only voted that way as they thought it was the most fair way. I suspect there is the challenge to help these people understand the views of the other side and that doing this would quickly shift many of this 83% / 21,000 to vote in favour of a Māori ward. Thirdly, it's now 2020, not 2014. We've all had more time to think and mature in our views about justice, equity and the Treaty. We can think things through and change our minds on topics. Could our citizens vote in favour this time? Fourthly, Andrew Judd suggests that the 'silent majority,' (the huge group of people who didn't vote), could make a big difference. We all have a responsibility to engage with these important topics in our community and country.

A prayer for our leaders:

Jesus, you were born in a little town. You grew up under the leadership of local authorities and officials who made decisions that affected your daily life. You grew up under the dominant power of the Roman Empire that was clearly against what you and your father's work is about. We lift up our local leaders today. We pray for our mayor, councillors, working committees, council staff, and all who serve our city and region. We lift up our central government leaders today too. Strengthen them all with wisdom and grace for the heavy burdens they carry. May they manage their teams and projects with love. Keep their hearts pure and their eyes turned toward your face - and/or the things that matter to you - as they work in the best interests of the people they are called to serve.

In your name, power and grace Lord Jesus, Amen.

What is something you have taken, or would like to take from your lockdown experience – into your life from now on?

Andrew 😊

west: making a difference

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

Jidan - our student in Bangladesh: All the children from the Hostel are now safely back in their village homes. As families are suffering and they have food crisis, their families have been sent money for food assistance. The leaders are waiting for

government direction about schools and education. They are thankful for our loving prayers and concerns.

Carley (S Asia): Pray for Carley as she looks to return to NZ in early August. As Carley prepares to

return, pray for opportunities to say goodbye to friends and colleagues while in the middle of lockdown. Pray for a covering of peace and patience over Carley during this season of transition.

Please pray for the flooding in Bangladesh – where Carley is finishing her work before heading home to Aotearoa.

For the second time this monsoon season, heavy rainfall and rising river waters are causing severe flooding in Bangladesh's northern and north-eastern regions. At present, the cities we are involved in have not been affected. Pray for those who have been affected by the flooding, particularly those who have been evacuated. Pray the flooding will subside, and not cause any further damage.

Charlie & Jo (S Asia): Please pray for Charlie and Jo and their community as they try to safely navigate these strange times – Covid numbers are growing daily. Please also pray for the Freeset business, for

west: growing

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. If anyone new would like to join us, you're welcome to come along.

Music & Play group is for preschool children and their parents or caregiver. Friday mornings at 10am during the school term. We begin with fun and interactive songs with lots of musical instruments, parachutes and ribbons. Followed by a yummy morning tea and play time. The group is an open welcoming space for all who would like to be a part of it. For more information feel free to check out the Music and Play Group Facebook page or phone Naomi on 021 203 3653.

more orders to come in and for the leadership and staff.

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.

Family Faith Night: Families, Food, Fun, Faith. 5 – 6.30pm on occasional Sunday nights. Details to be advised. Bring some kai to share. All children and their families are welcome. Our next get-together is on Friday 26 July, 5pm. Shared kai.

Young Adult day-long hangout. If you're in or can get to Auckland on Saturday 29 August – this would be well worth checking out.

FB: Hauoratanga Young Adults Camp.

Mosaic Youth (for High-schoolers) will be meeting on Friday 14th and 28th August from 5-8pm (includes dinner) at Holy Trinity Church, Henui St, Strandon. See James M for more details.

Additionally some of the youth are getting "confirmed" on Sunday August 9th from 4-6pm.

Contact James M to be put on the text message group and/or find the Facebook page for **Mosaic Youth New Plymouth** (Andrew will give you access to the closed group.)

The Music Group This month's practices will be on 6th and 20th August at 69 Barrett Road, starting at 7pm.

west: in our community

Breakfast for Spotswood Primary Children – we are in need of a volunteer or two for Fridays this term. If you are interested – even if you can only help once or twice – please chat with Erin (021 189 9373)

A reminder to all participants in Girls Together.

Get-together on 8th August, 6pm, 25 Richmond Street, Fitzroy, for a pot-luck tea and to explore Journaling. Materials provided, but happy for people to bring their favourite writing or drawing materials too. Enquiries to Judy at 027 359 7833 or on the Messenger group.

Parenting: If you or somebody you know would like to participate in an outstanding parenting course, we have funds available to support people to do this. We are no longer running parenting courses, but can help connect people into them. Please contact Andrew, Naomi, Alison or Chris D, or Val W.

west: people

Elizabeth, Michael and Anne's last Sunday with us will be on August 2nd. We'll have a soup lunch together to enjoy and farewell them after the service. Please bring bread or other food to complement the soup.

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

west: events

FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES AT WEST: Starting Friday 31 July, 6pm. Star Wars Episode One: The Phantom Menace. We'll be using Star Wars through our Revelation series, so why not watch them 'all?' Good times! Bring dinner/snacks of your choice.

OVER 60'S GROUP: Please join John and Carolyn at 7a Margaret Alice Close after Church on Sunday 23rd August for a shared finger food luncheon.

AUGUST CALENDAR:

26 July	Family Faith night, 5pm. Shared kai	6,20 th	Music Practice
31 July	Friday night movies, 6pm	7,14,21,28 th	Music & Play, at West, 10am
2 nd	Anne Peach dedication and Peach family farewell. Soup lunch.	11,18,25 th	Movie Group at Grant & Megan's
4,18 th	Ladies Tuesday Group at Heather H's home, 1pm	13,27 th	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's
		14,28 th	Mosaic Youth at Holy Trinity
		23 rd	Over 60's Lunch at Carolyn & John's

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 June our offerings were \$10,340.00.

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.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	1 AUG James McK Carol McK Roi SM	8 AUG To be advised	15 AUG Roi SM Jude SM Allan W	22 AUG Bedford family	29 AUG Sangsters & Erin R Wayne L
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