



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 2020 / JANUARY 2021

29 NOV Advent Week 1.
Hope. Green

6 DEC Combined Service
TSB Stadium. 10am

13 DEC Advent Week 3.
Joy. Yellow

20 DEC Advent Week 4.
Love. Red

25 DEC Christmas Day
9.30 am

27 DEC No Service Today



Kia ora West,

On November 15 we had a service dedicated to the topic of: How has the life of West sustained us in our following of Jesus in the world in 2020?

We heard from lots of people which was great wasn't it!? One thing that stuck with me was how most people spoke of the love and care they have experienced from the church (which means from people who are a part of the church).

Nobody mentioned a new theological truth, a life changing a-ha moment from a sermon, or a lyric from a song. Rather; it was care, it was practical help, it was listening, it was making contact, it was asking how they were, it was sharing a cuppa, it was love.

This is gospel stuff! This is excellent! At the heart of the Good News is the message of love – the message of God. Where there is love, there is God. God is love. Where people have experienced love through the life of West – God has been right there with them. God is at work, active and drawing us closer into God's divine life.

In this time of Advent – may we know afresh the love of God through every little act of love we both give and receive. May our eyes be open to God's glorious gospel of love. May we see God in each other, in our families, in our workmates, in our neighbours, in everybody we meet. For God so loved the world that God become one of us, born a baby, in a provincial town, to ordinary folk, in the midst of global upheaval (Roman census). God is Love.

With grace and peace and love

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)

Give thanks to our Father for keeping the staff at Loyal safe and healthy. Pray for His continuous providence and blessing over their lives. Pray that all staff return with positivity and peace after their Durga Puja holiday.

Continue to pray for the team at the workshop. Ask that the Spirit would guide, direct and encourage us as we lead from afar.

Pray for peace and guidance as Paul and Sarah begin to plan their return to South Asia. Pray that they will be able to find a good balance between Christmas orders and production at Loyal.

Carley (S Asia): Pray for Carley as she visits groups and churches as part of her return to NZ. Pray for good times of connection, and encouragement for the future. May Carley's stories

of her time in South Asia inspire others to consider their role in global mission.

Charlie & Jo (S Asia): Continue to pray for the health of our neighbours and people, with regard to Covid, especially coming into the colder months. As December comes, pray for wisdom and guidance on how to explain the Christmas story well.

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.

west: growing

The **Movie Group** will meet weekly at various homes on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss movies on the themes of our sermon series. Phone Megan C for details of venues. 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. Last meet this year is on the 17th December. We re-start in February 2021.

Music & Play group is for preschool children and their parents or caregiver. Friday mornings at 10am during the school term. Our last group for the year will be on Friday 11th December. 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. Our last get-together for the year will be on the 11th December.

Young Adults:

One day conference with great people!! Check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bgdh1XdJEIQ&t=10s>

Mosaic Youth for those of high school age will continue fortnightly on Fridays during term 4. See James M for details (or better yet, ask to be put onto one of the Mosaic Youth WhatsApp groups for kids or parents.)

west: in our community

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.

Spotswood Primary School Volunteer Appreciation Morning Tea is on Tuesday 8 December.

Spotswood Primary School Prizegiving is on Wednesday 9 December.

west: people

Our High School students are finishing off exams at the moment. All the best **Claudia and Caitlyn!**

West has a private Facebook page for connecting with each other. "**West Baptist New Plymouth Connection.**"

Welcome back to West, **Kareen!** We're looking forward to reconnecting with you!

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.**

Unless we see the cross overshadow the cradle, we will have lost the real meaning of Christ's birth.

west: events

Picnics at the Beach - Sundays 5.30pm at town end of Ngāmotu Beach. December 20, 27
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

DECEMBER CALENDAR:

3,17 th	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's	20, 27 th	Picnic at Ngamotu Beach, 5.30pm
4, 11 th	Music & Play, at West, 10am		
8 th	Spotswood Primary Morning Tea	25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 9.30am
8,15 th	Movie Group at venues TBA		
9 th	Spotswood Primary Prizegiving		

JANUARY CALENDAR:

3 rd	Combined Service at St James, 10am
10 th	Combined Service at West, 10am
17 th	Gospel Stories
24 th	Life Transitions # 1
31 st	Life Transitions # 2

west: pitching in

Christmas Hampers

We will be making up **12 hampers** for people in our community on Sunday 20th December. Please bring to church **Christmas goodies**, non-perishable food or cash (used for meat packs) over the next 3 weeks. Thanks, Carolyn & John.

West Baptist assist regularly at **Spotswood Primary School** in preparing **Breakfast** for the children. We are short of volunteers for Fridays this term – if you think you might like to help please chat with Erin.

Jill & Ian McKillop advise that they used to have eight in **West's Chapel Support Team**, but they are now down to only one other helper. It's an easy and pleasant role and only involves 3-4 Sundays per year (and you don't have to help every time). So, if you could help them, both Joe Gray (the Chaplain) and they would appreciate it! Please talk to Jill or Ian.

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 \$8,841.

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.

	5 DEC	12 DEC	19 DEC	26 DEC	2 JAN
Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	Gane family Isabel B	Liane L Wayne L Roi SM	Brian M Kathy M Allan W	Khon A Nang A Wayne L	Lynda L Andy L Andy L