



**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

FEBRUARY 2021

**31 JAN** Life Transitions # 1  
New School/Job

**7 FEB** Why are you doing this?

**14 FEB** Life Transitions # 2  
Ageing

**21 FEB** Lent # 1  
Jesus is Wise

**28 FEB** Lent # 2  
Jesus Makes the World Better

**7 MAR** Lent # 3  
Jesus Helps us be Brave



Kia ora West,

This week as I've met with people I've been asked numerous times how I'm feeling about 2021. I'm excited! I feel really positive about our shared life as West. I'm so encouraged that some younger people are keen to be a part of us and I'm looking forward to engaging in topics I think are really important for us, for society and for the world.

In the midst of much uncertainty, we can have certainty that we will need to adapt and change, responding with kindness, wisdom and courage. These are trying times, filled with opportunity and potential.

This year in our shared life as West Baptist Community Church we'll be focussing on growing in compassionate understanding of ourselves and others – so that we care well, care wisely.

Trying times often happen in times of change – I'll be interviewing various people around their experiences of transition, or change – things like starting a new school or new job, aging, when a loved one dies, and more. We'll hear about what was helpful and unhelpful for our people in these life transitions.

After Lent and Easter we'll be thinking about Mental Health and wellbeing. Obviously this is a huge topic in our world, in our society and I'm sure every single one of us is affected by this first hand or through somebody we love. We'll engage with people who have done some quality thinking on the topic, we'll have a go at some self-care practices and think about how we can helpfully care for other people. We'll make sure this series is done as safely and sensitively and sensibly as possible.

This year we'll enjoy hearing from many of the people and organisations that we partner with – or are wanting to grow partnerships with. There are lots – and their kaupapa are awesome! Lance with Mosaic Youth, Joe with Hospital Chaplaincy, Lou with WITT Chaplaincy, Mark at Spotswood Primary, Ngati te Whiti, Taranaki Retreat, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, NZBMS.

As a church we've said we want to think more about being church in different ways – i.e. – different to a regular Sunday morning service. This year we're going to try some things. More information will be coming out shortly. We have a great message about a great God whose ways bring light and love and we want to share that with our community that God so deeply loves and we also love.

This year I'll be running a monthly get together on a mid-week evening for anybody who wants to engage with interesting topics like:

- How should we pray when we are suffering or angry?
- How to interpret the Bible for a Covid ravaged world?
- What is a faithful Christian posture towards sport today?

These will be presented by a variety of the amazing lecturers from Carey Baptist College. There'll be time to discuss the content and what it might mean for us.

I'm certainly looking forward to wrestling with some of this and am so glad we can do some of that together! There is much of God's wisdom amongst us and hearing from many of us this year I think will be enriching and help us grow in compassionate understanding of ourselves and others.

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)**  
Pray for a good transition back for our kids (Mikayla and Malachi). After 2 years of putting down roots in New Zealand, this will be their biggest change yet. Please think of them as they feel the sadness and anger and worry of this big move. Sarah.

**Charlie & Jo (S Asia):** Joyya is coming! Joyya is the name of the new organisation starting in February. Please be thinking about the leadership, transition and opportunities that will come. As temperatures drop the threat of COVID and other wintery illnesses become more real and difficult to combat in the houses of our friends that are not built for winter, please think about them.

### 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.

**Primary School Reading:** Would anybody like to change the life of a child by sitting with them as they read a book at Spotswood Primary School? If so, please contact Syd (our resident child reading superhero, or Andrew.)

**Kickstart Breakfast Club.** We're looking for somebody to take on overall responsibility for this amazing service into and with our community. It involves a small amount of administration. Please contact Erin, Naomi or Andrew to find out more.

If you or somebody you know would like to help serve breakfast to students at Spotswood Primary once a term/month/fortnight/week, please contact Erin or Andrew. This would be between 7.45am – 9.15am on Monday/Wednesday/Friday.

## 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. We begin again Thursday 11th February.

**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. We begin the year, on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

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

**The Music Group.** Our practices begin in March, the dates being the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> March, at 69 Barrett Road, starting at 7pm.

**Webinar:** "Did you observe that? Rescuing weekly worship from the mundane." A Webinar on February 10<sup>th</sup> at Liane & Wayne's home. Arrive just before the 7.30pm sharp start. This runs until 8.45pm. Feel free to come and join in as some of our curators engage with a Worship Webinar by Mark Pierson – who spent time with us at West a couple of years ago.

This first of five webinars is "From Pancakes to Palm Trees." We'll look at resources and ideas for

Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, the six weeks of Lent, Mary getting pregnant, a bloody anniversary in Aotearoa – New Zealand’s history, through to Palm Sunday (a week before Easter.)

**Young Adults:** One day conference with great people!! Check out:

[View on Youtube](#)

### 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.

**Contact tracing App:** Let’s be responsible and caring by ensuring we use the contact tracing app or sign in everywhere we go – including at services on Sundays.

### west: people

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

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

**FUN AFTERNOON FOR EVERYONE** - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Please diary it and keep it free. From 3pm to 6pm (including BYO tea.) Some options include – walking activities, exploring the city, bike riding, High Tea, beach activity, card games & board games and more. 🤝

**Picnics at the Beach** - **Sundays 5.30pm** near Playground at Ngāmotu Beach. January 31, February 7,14,21,28.

### FEBRUARY CALENDAR:

5,12,19,26	Music & Play, at West, 10am	9,16,23	Movie Group at venues TBA
7,14,21,28 <sup>th</sup>	Picnic at Ngāmotu Beach,5.30pm	11,25	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK’s

### west: pitching in

West Baptist assist regularly at **Spotswood Primary School** in preparing **Breakfast** for the children. We are short of volunteers for Fridays this term – please chat with Erin if you would like to help. Erin is looking for a replacement roster co-ordinator also.

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, 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 December our offerings were \$10,635.

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 give you a tax credit for a full third of what you give.

<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea Lawnmowing</b>	<b>6 FEB</b>	<b>13 FEB</b>	<b>20 FEB</b>	<b>27 FEB</b>	<b>6 MAR</b>
	Roi SM Jude SM	Bedford family Brian M	Sangsters Erin R	Sue J Steve J Isabel B	Gane family