



**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.

**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.

**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!

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

**MAY 2023**

**7 MAY** Faith Cycles # 2  
Rain

**14 MAY** Mother's Day Brunch  
10am at Spotswood Primary School

**21 MAY** Surprise

**28 MAY** Faith Cycles # 3  
Wind



Kia ora whānau,

We are a place of Shelter, Faith and Laughter. I love these. These are us. Reflecting a little on “Shelter” leads me very quickly to how we aspire to be a safe place for all people. We are pretty good at this. We have room for growth too.

We aim to reflect Jesus’ radical welcome to all people. When we see him, we’ve seen God in heaven. God is radically welcoming. This goes a long way to helping spaces like church gatherings be safe for people. I recently heard how when a person enters our Sunday morning space they feel a strong sense of God from the way we greet and welcome, the words we use, the friendliness, the acceptance. How wonderful! What an encouragement to us all!

For us I suspect ‘the words we use’ is a key way we can grow to be a more nurturing place of shelter. It’s something for us to be thinking more about.

Have you been following what’s happening with some criminal cases involving a seeming complete lack of shelter from NZ churches? Even a Baptist one. Here are a couple of quotes from a lament from Stephanie Chan on the worst of non-shelter abuses. I share this as sexual abuse in churches is (rightfully) a very public topic at the moment. It is worth lamenting. It is important to have this topic in the light. We all can play a part in continuing and strengthening a healthy, respectful, sensible, law-abiding, safety ensuring community.

*“How many of us will choose to amplify the voice of this brave young woman? She was courageous enough to go to the police in the first place - an action that should have been initiated by people in the church who knew what was going on. She made the remarkable decision to speak out so that this wouldn’t happen to other people and yet Luke Stainton has been taken off the sex offenders register. After the court ruled him at a medium chance of reoffending. This goes directly against the wishes of the victim herself to protect others in the future. A failure of justice from the judge and others involved.”*

*“Make a statement. Apologise to the victim. Care about the victim for goodness sake. Condemn this crime. Do it publicly.”*

This is a very heavy topic, a vitally important topic. Please talk to me or somebody else you trust if you want or need to.

I’m so glad we are a place of Shelter – and in ways much more than just words. And we need to be growing as a place of shelter too.

With love

Andrew 😊

## west: making a difference

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

**Mother’s Day Brunch. 10am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May** at Spotswood Primary School. This is a really important day in our church calendar where we serve the mums and their families by putting on brunch for them. It’s fun, it’s messy, it’s great being and serving together, it’s a privilege helping people connect over a positive time together. Please consider getting involved. There are sign-up sheets for various roles, on our noticeboard. Baking some sweet muffins is one key thing people can do. For more information, please contact Alison.

**Charlie & Jo (S Asia):** We have been reminded afresh of the amazing community we have here, everything we do, we do together. Recently that has looked like grieving together for our young friend, Surjo. Work and life continues to be full and enjoyable, and we would love your prayers for the whole community as we continue to run amazing vocational training programmes.

**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, such as sports team coaching. 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 with anybody connected to the school community.

## west: growing

**The Movie Group** On the first Tuesday of the month members take part in a Quiz night at Westside Grill at 6.30pm. We meet on the third Tuesday night of the month to watch and discuss movies. Phone Megan C for details of venues.

**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** got off to a good start for Term 2 last Friday.

Our mums and littlies are always excited to return after the holiday break.

Music & Play group is for pre-school children and their parents, grandparents or caregivers.

We meet at 10am every Friday during the school term.

We begin with fun, interactive songs with lots of musical instruments, parachutes and ribbons and many other props.

We follow this up with 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 Carol on 027 738 5465.

**Local Preaching Day Course** with Carey Baptist College principal John Tucker. Saturday 6 May at Northpoint Baptist Church. 9.30 – 4pm \$20, Lunch provided. Register at [info@northpoint.org.nz](mailto:info@northpoint.org.nz)

If you'd like to find out more about **study at Carey Baptist College**, or tapping into their wonderful webinars, hit <https://www.carey.ac.nz/>

[board@westbaptist.org.nz](mailto:board@westbaptist.org.nz) This e-mail address can be used to contact our church Leadership Board. We are keen to hear from you. We love serving you.

**The Music Group** meet at 9.15am Sharp on a Sunday Morning before the service to go through the songs for the service.

We would love to have more singers join us. If you feel this is something you could do on a Sunday please talk to Gary, Heather or one of the team.

**Mosaic Youth** is for school year 9 – 13. This is our collaborating youth group with a variety of other churches. We meet fortnightly during term time for fun, food, and faith discussions. It's a great place to make friends!

Here are the dates for Mosaic this term.

April 28: Youth Group

May 12: Youth Group

May 20-21: Overnight Hike

May 26: Youth Group

June 9: Youth Group

June 10: Parihaka Puanga Kai Rau

June 23: Youth Group

Wednesday evening youth group for intermediates is not currently running, so there are no dates for that.

**Pre-teen Ministry** We have an amazing group of school year 6, 7 and 8's (10 – 12 year olds.) We'd love a couple more adults to come along to love these kids. Please contact Ethan or Andrew if you are interested in finding out more.

Would you be interested in doing a **Carey Baptist College 12 week course** right here in New Plymouth, with other locals in person, and the lecturer via Zoom? Carey has some options for this. I'd love to hear from you if you're interested.

**Please remember** that if you have a concern – 'go to the source. That means, go and speak to the person you have a concern with, lovingly, gently, and with an open mind and heart. Ask questions to understand. If your concern still isn't resolved, or you'd like support to 'go to the source', contact me or your favourite Leadership Board member: Andy L, David, Erin or Andy G.

## west: events

### MAY CALENDAR:

30 April	Church A.G.M.	16 <sup>th</sup>	Movie Group at venues TBA
5,12,19,26 <sup>th</sup>	Music & Play at West, 10am	28 <sup>th</sup>	Mosaic youth starts Term 2
11,25 <sup>th</sup>	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's		

## west: people

**The Church is people...** if you are thinking of somebody or praying for somebody, how about letting them know. Make contact. Ask how they are. Perhaps offer to share a coffee at your home/their home/café.

I'm sure it would be a huge encouragement. Is there somebody you're thinking of right now that might like a phone call or coffee visit? An older person? Somebody less able to get out?

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 S, Heather H, Ruth S, Lyn S, Marlinka R.**

**Being family**, we want to celebrate things in each other's lives. Each month, we'll acknowledge Birthdays and Anniversaries in the newsletter, with special birthdays acknowledged on Sundays.

### Here are dates for May:

6 May	Chelsea Putt
29 May	Thomas W

## 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.

**Each month** we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$10,583 per month in offerings. For March offerings were \$10,908.

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.

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.

	6 MAY	13 MAY	20 MAY	27 MAY	3 JUNE
<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea</b>	Andrea M	Andy L	Brian W	Allan W	Khon A
	Laura D	Lynda L	Judy W	Val W	Nang A
<b>Lawnmowing</b>		Wayne L		Andy L	