



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

JULY 2023

2 JULY West Partner: Mosaic Youth
With Sophie!

9 JULY Who Counts? Part 2
Luke 15

16 JULY Surprise!
With Ethan!

23 JULY Who Counts? Part 3
Luke 15

30 JULY Bible & Redemption
Overview with Lou!

6 AUG Bible & Redemption
Genesis (all of it...)



Kia Ora whānau,

Last week on Sunday morning we looked at the Parable of the Shepherds who lost their sheep, and extremely briefly at the Woman who lost her coin. In the coming weeks we'll be looking at the third parable in this group, the Parable of the Father who lost two sons. These stories are recorded for us in Luke 15. In order to see them more accurately as they were intended, that is, as closely as possible through the eyes of a first Century hearer/reader, we need to (amongst other things) ask questions about the context these

parables are told in. Luke 15 starts with these words: *"Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."*

These words carry a huge amount of meaning and importance for understanding the three parables that are coming. In fact, the three "Lost" parables are Jesus' defence of his actions.

Parables guru Kenneth Baily says: "Table fellowship anywhere in the world is a relatively serious matter. This is especially true in the Middle East." He then quotes biblical scholar Joachim Jeremias:

To understand what Jesus was doing in eating with "sinners," it is important to realise that in the east, even today, to invite a man [sic] to a meal was an honour. It was an offer of peace, trust, brotherhood, and forgiveness; in short, sharing a table meant sharing life... Thus Jesus' meals with the publicans [tax collectors] and sinners... are an expression of the mission and message of Jesus (Mark 2:17), eschatological [end time] meals, anticipatory celebrations of the feast in the end-time (Matt 8:11), in which the community of the saints is already being represented (Mark 2:19). **The inclusion of sinners in the community of salvation, achieved in table-fellowship, is the most meaningful expression of the message of the redeeming love of God.**

In summary, the issue at hand here is Jesus' radical welcome of people deemed to be sinners, to table fellowship – whether Jesus was a fellow guest or (and especially) as the host. To the grumpy religious leaders this was seen as Jesus fully accepting these people. It is in this light that we need to consider what the three "Lost" parables might mean in response to the religious people's grumbings. I look forward to exploring more of this together over the coming weeks.

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:

Charlie & Jo (S Asia): We are experiencing extremely hot days and nights, and are being reminded to take regular breaks and not expect too much of themselves and others during the heat spells. Charlie is enjoying time teaching some of the local children some cooking skills. The delicious food prepared is an added bonus.

Charlie and Jo are thankful for the changes that ever so gently and slowly are rippling through their communities. They appreciate mango season – the silver lining in the months of hot weather. Please pray for the vocational training block that is starting in June, and for their connections in the community, and that their words and actions would communicate love and

commitment they have to the community, and the eternal hope they have.

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 is a supporter of Hospital Chaplaincy. Having Jesus centred people to sit, listen, support and pray with hospital staff, patients and their families is a precious gift we probably all need at some point and time. Part of the funding for this work and ministry

needs to be raised locally and an annual Plant Sale is a key feature in the fundraising efforts. This will be on Saturday September 23rd. There was a huge demand for vegetable seedlings and plants last year. We can support our hospital chaplaincy work by growing vegetable seedlings and plants and donating these to the Plant Sale. Contact Louisa at Taranaki Chaplaincy Service on 753 6139, ext.7968 for more information or if you need pots.

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 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.

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

West partners with **Mosaic Youth** – a community that seeks to support youth to thrive. Our teenagers are a part of it, along with a few others that are connected with West. It's a safe place of belonging for youth where they can grow, explore and be

disciplined. A number of churches are working together, forming Mosaic Youth. Mosaic are looking for adults with a passion for Youth to consider joining as individual Mission Partners. It's for anybody who wants to see Youth thrive and who'll support this work in ways you can. July 30 meeting at 2pm at the Mosaic space at Holy Trinity Fitzroy. Please contact Ethan, Sophie or Andrew if you'd like more information.

Scripture Union is providing a fantastic conference here in New Plymouth to explore how children and families can be helped to experience God's Good News that transforms lives and brings hope. Saturday 22nd July from 9am – 4pm, hosted by the New Plymouth Salvation Army, 118 Powderham Street.

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> This e-mail address can be used to contact our church Leadership Board. We are keen to hear from you. We love serving you.

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

Andrew keeps hearing people wonder aloud if we could do anything for our community on **Fathers Day**. September 3rd. Do you have ideas? Would you love to see something happen? A BBQ? Some sports? Hang out time? We'll arrange a quick chat about whether this is something we'd like to do as a church in a few week's time. This notice is to help us get thinking...

JULY CALENDAR:

6, 20 th	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's	21, 28 th	Music & Play at West, 10am
9 th	Pancakes and All Blacks vs Argentina at 7am	23 rd	Church Meeting after the Service
18 th	Movie Group at venues TBA		

west: people

Redemption! What was lost is being recovered, restored, made new! Cela's hearing is returning through an operation and a series of appointments where her cochlear implants are 'tuned up' to increase what she can hear. It's amazing! We're so delighted for you Cela!

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, Robyn R, 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 July:

3 July	Chris D
4 July	Libby S
14 July	Marlinka R
22 July	Connor G
25 July	Andy L
30 July	Brent

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 May offerings were \$10,612.

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.

	1 JULY	8 JULY	15 JULY	22 JULY	29 JULY
Cleaning & Morning Tea	Andy G	Wayne L	Brian M	Laura D	Wayne B
	Lou G	Liane L	Kathy M	Alison D	Gill B
Lawnmowing		Tim B		James McK	