



**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 whole service on Sundays, in all their wriggling, noisy glory, so please don't worry if you or anyone with you makes a bit of a racket – 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

MAY 2015

**3 MAY** **Mark Fisher**  
John 8:1 – 11  
Casting Stones

**10 MAY** **MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**  
10am at Spotswood Primary School

**17 MAY** **The Gospel of Mark**  
**An Introduction**

**24 MAY** **Christianity Explored #1**  
Mark 1:1 Good News?

**31 MAY** **Christianity Explored #2**  
Mark 4:35-41 Who is Jesus

**7 JUNE** **Sunday Service 10am**  
**Christianity Explored #3**



Part of being a potpourri faith community – where there can be all sorts of people from all sorts of walks of life, and who are in all sorts of different places on their faith journey with Jesus – is that there will be some newer people who want to explore faith in Jesus more.

Starting later in May we will be starting a new group, called “Christianity Explored.” We hope this will help some people who are interested and/or who have questions about Jesus.

Christianity explored is about communicating what the Gospel is all about – the Good News which is Jesus. This seven week course is focussed on God’s remarkable grace, the clear teaching that although we have rebelled against God, we are

deeply loved by him. Loved with an outrageous, costly and incomprehensible love that was poured out for us on a little hill just outside Jerusalem.

Christianity Explored exists to introduce people to Jesus. It does this by participants working their way through the Biblical book of Mark. The course lets the gospel (of Mark) tell the gospel. Group members will notice three great themes in Mark:

1. Who was Jesus? (Jesus’ identity)
2. Why did he come? (Jesus’ mission)
3. What does it mean to follow him? (Jesus’ call)

Christianity Explored was established by All Soul’s church in London – of John Stott fame. We think it’ll be a great fit for West, and especially for the many people we’re connected with that are interested in Jesus.

If you’d like to find out more for yourself (and your whānau?), please contact Andrew or Judy W. You may like to take a brochure from the table at the back of our church building and use it when inviting people you think might be interested. More details coming soon.

Andrew ☺

## west: making a difference

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

**Meryl A** The history of how the gospel came to Korea is absolutely amazing, even unique, and it's something that all Korean Christians should know. Did you know that the Bible was translated into the Korean language overseas (but using Chinese characters) and arrived in this country before the first missionaries in 1885? Did you know that the Hangeul (Korean alphabet) was developed by King Sejong in 1443 but it was not fully accepted or in common use until more than 400 years later? And why was that? Because the Bible was printed again by the early missionaries in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, this time using the Hangeul so the ordinary person could read it, not just the upper class members of society who read Chinese. In this way, the Bible helped to establish the Hangeul for the common people and the establishment of the Hangeul helped spread the gospel in this country.

**Paul and Sarah B** This is a big month for the Loyal Workshop. Harry & Mandy co-founders, are leaving and returning to NZ. This means big gaps to fill and a lot of handover. Pray that the right locals are appointed & the transition goes as smoothly as possible. We also celebrate our 1 year as a workshop with a great time of celebration, and are so thankful for all that has happened this year, we have seen progress in the business & changes in the Women’s lives. Our family has 3 birthdays this month, please pray we can get some R&R, especially important during such a busy season.

**Jo R.** Give thanks for opportunities to practice my language with Freetset women, and for continued good health, and for steadily growing relationships. Please pray for added responsibility as my workload grows and for divine appointments with local people.

**Carley.** Please pray that I can quickly get the support I need to return to South Asia ASAP, and that I am able to settle back into life there, and that language study goes well.

**Alton Chakma** is a student whose education and board we sponsor in Feni Baptist Hostel in Bangladesh. Our sponsorship enables Alton to live in the Feni Boy's Hostel which provides food, education, clothes, medical care and spiritual development in a sound Christian environment.

Closer to home:

**Kingdom Resources West** provides budgeting to people in New Plymouth.

We love & partner with **Spotswood Primary School**, across the road. We're involved with HPP Reading, KickStart Breakfast Club, Pastoral Care, Mother's Day Brunch, Gifted and Talented Kids, 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.

Just letting us all know, there are children and teens in our Spotswood community that we have had a fair amount of contact with, who would love to have, and need to have an adult spend regular time with them.

## west: groups

**Play and Parent Support Group.** 10am Thursdays at Naomi's. All (aiming for local) parents with children under 3 are welcome.

**Kōrero Te Reo Roopu (Speaking Māori Group.)** Thursday 12pm at Naomi & Andrew's for shared kai and to practice speaking Māori language. All speaking levels are welcome!

All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation every second Monday at **Blokes and Cokes**, 7.30pm at WestBar. See Brian M or Will M, and the events section over the page for dates.

**Lasses & Lattés.** A chance for the women of our church (and friends) to get together, every second Monday, at 7.30pm at the Treehouse on Devon St West. All women welcome.

The **Rainbow group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H's home.

**Carol and James McK** host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home.

**Get Real** is for all young people from year 7 students and upwards. We meet on the first Sunday

of each month to hang out, study bible and eat. See 'events' section. Speak to Andrew S for more information.

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 Westbar, at 6.30pm.

The **Music Group** practices will be on May 7 & 28. If anyone is interested in being part of the Music Group, we practice every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday night, at 7pm at 69 Barrett Road. Curators are also welcome to join us. Practices usually concentrate on learning new songs.

**Family Groups** Everyone in the church is in one of four **Family Groups**, who meet for social and service activities throughout the year and help out in practical ways in tricky times. If you are new to West and would like to join a Family Group please speak to Alison.

## west: people

Our Jude S-M is off to Melbourne this week to play Hockey with the NZ Women's Masters Hockey team. We wish you well!

Deb-Lyn was baptised at Central Baptist recently. Great news!

Please continue to pray for and support those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays, **Les M, Lyn S, Lloyd D, Marlinka R and Elizabeth L.**

## west: events

**MOTHER'S DAY BBQ BRUNCH** Sunday 10 May at 10am. Join us at Spotswood Primary School and bring blessings to your community!

## MORNING TEA FOR OXFAM Wednesday 20 May – 10.30am at 69 Barrett Road.

Heather and Isabel are supporting Oxfam – will you help us make a difference? We are holding a Morning Tea for Oxfam to raise money for some of the poorest people in the world. By supporting our Morning Tea you'll be making a big difference to these people's lives.

If you wish you can make a donation online or bring a gold coin donation on the day and come along. There'll be drinks and tasty treats. It's going to be fun so don't forget to put the date in your diary. You'll be making a real difference as Oxfam works to address the root causes of poverty and challenges the unjust policies and practices that reinforce this. By taking part in the Morning Tea you'll be helping work towards a fairer, safer, more sustainable world.

Anybody is welcome to come. Bring your knitting or crafts for a relaxing morning. We would love to see you at our morning tea.

3 May	Get Real, 5.30pm at Church	7,28 May	Music Practice, at Gary & Heather's, 7pm
4,18 May	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar, 7pm	11,25 May	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood
5,19 May	Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm	12,19,26 May	Movies night at Grant & Megan's
7,14,21,28 May	Play and Parent Support Group, 10am at Naomi's	20 May	Heather & Isabel's Morning Tea for Oxfam. 10.30am at 69 Barrett Rd
7,21 May	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home		

## west: pitching in

### Assistance Required - Mothers Day Brunch

1. Some cutting out of card skill and the gift of one to two hours is required before 10 May.
2. Some directing of children ability and sticking ability, plus one hour, are required on Sunday 10 May.

If you feel you could be involved in these ways, you would be helping to make sure that every mother at the Spotswood Primary Mothers' Day Brunch receives a beautiful card. Please contact Judy Wood, [judehwood@hotmail.com](mailto:judehwood@hotmail.com) 758-2455 or 027 359 7833.

**We'd love some new people on the cleaning and morning tea roster! See Alison or Roi.**

**Alison D** is co-ordinating our building bookings, and **Andrea M** is checking the Hall before use. Please contact Alison (751 1005) if you wish to make bookings.

**Prayer** If you have a prayer request, please see Andrew. If you'd like to join the e-mail prayer chain as a pray-er, please talk to Andrew.

**Each month** we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,600 per month in offerings; in February our offerings were \$9,015.70, in March our offerings were \$10,720.99.

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.

**Maureen C** now collects information for the **Newsletter**, which comes out on the last Sunday of the month, so please contact her with any info by the previous Tuesday.

<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea Lawnmowing</b>	<b>9 MAY</b>	<b>16 MAY</b>	<b>23 MAY</b>	<b>30 MAY</b>	<b>6 JUNE</b>
	Brian M	Tracey W	Judy W	Roi M	James McK
	Kathy M	Andrea M	Brian W	Jude S-M	Carol McK
	Alison D		Wayne L		Andy L