



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

JUNE 2018

3 JUNE What is the Gospel? #5
Noticing God's Good News

10 JUNE Stories from Freetset
with Jo and Charlie

17 JUNE What is the Gospel? #6
Like a child

24 JUNE What is the Gospel? #7
Turning From and Turning To



It's not every day that EVERYBODY in the room thinks a sermon is outstanding. It's certainly not common-place to declare the preacher better than all the others. It's even less likely to hear the preacher described as having authority when they teach. What's more – in the midst of these bold claims, NOBODY knows what the preacher even said! And that is half the point! It's not about the words, or the teaching – it's all about the preacher!

I'm sure it doesn't need to be said, but just in case; I'm talking about Jesus! In Mark chapter 1, shortly after Jesus proclaims to the people Good News – the Kingdom of God is here – Jesus goes on with a few friends “to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.”

If we were reading this for the first time we might expect a little summary of his teaching, a few wise words, a handful of choice sayings, his one big key idea. But no, all we are left with is this description: “They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

No content – just amazement. And that is the point. Jesus is the focus. Not even the words of Jesus, but the person of Jesus.

The people aren't putting their best preachers down (the scribes), rather, they are utterly besotted with Jesus.

The authority ascribed to Jesus is over physical things (like the scribes), and over non-physical things (like the demon in verse 23.)

Jesus' authority comes from his Father in Heaven (see Mark 1:1) and is re-enforced in Jesus' baptism (see Mark 1:11.)

I don't know about you, but I'd LOVE to know the content of that sermon!

In the Gospel of Mark, the PERSON of Jesus is more important than the subject of his teaching. If we want to know what the gospel or teaching of Jesus consists of, we are directed to its fullest expression – Jesus.

Jesus is the gospel. Jesus is the good news. Jesus is the authority in all aspects of life (and faith.)

Andrew 😊

west: making a difference

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

Meryl



Thank you to those of you who are part of our ministry in Korea through your prayers and financial support. You are part of changing lives, firstly, lives of our students and then lives of people they in turn come into contact with, both here in Korea as well as overseas.



May God bless you richly for your love and involvement.

With grateful thanks, Meryl

Paul and Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia): Following meetings with the Loyal Advisory Board we are going through an intense season of assessing where LOYAL is at and where we should be going next. We are taking our time over this to pray discuss and reflect. May He guide us clearly as we seek to do His will.

Carley (S Asia): At GEMS we have started the usual end of school year madness. Please pray for our students as they sit their A-level and O-level exams, for wisdom, grace, and success in their final studies.

Jo R: Pray for unity and peace among our local team as we leave them for a while. Pray for us both as we finish up, hand over, pack and travel to NZ to get married. Pray this will be a peaceful process for us. Pray also for a local friend that she will ask for the help she needs to be healthy and 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 is a part of the school's pastoral care team which meets weekly to collaboratively support children and their families. He also spends time with staff and children.

Hospital Chapel Service support. Hospital Chapel Service Support: West helps with the hospital chapel service occasionally. If you'd like to find out more, please contact Ian & Jill M.

west: growing

All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation every fourth Monday at **Blokes and Cokes**, 7.30pm at Westside Grill (formerly known as WestBar.) See Brian 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. See events section for dates.

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 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.

Music & Play For parents and children under 5 years. We meet every Friday at 10am. Koha. Contact Shirley P on 751 0711

Youth Group Fortnightly Saturday events for young people who are school year 7 through to

year 13 (Form 1-7.) There are also fortnightly Sunday faith discussions for year 9-13.

Contact James M to be put on the text message group to find out about the events or any other info. Put a facebook request to the Transit Youth facebook page for updates, and Andrew will give you access to the closed group.

The Music Group This month's practice will be on the 14th and 28th June, at 69 Barrett Road, starting at 7pm.

If anyone is interested in joining the Music Group, we would love to have you come along and join us. We would especially love to have some new musicians and singers. Most practices concentrate on learning new songs. See Gary B if you are interested.

It was wonderful to have **Jamie Allen** with us two Sundays ago.

A number of people have signalled they are interested in the "**Catalyst**" group Jamie mentioned – to help each other with living justly. Somebody will be in touch shortly. Let me know if you'd like to find out the information. There is no commitment to be a part of a group by giving me your name ☺

There are 2018 **“Ethical Fashion Guides”** in the foyer. These little booklets are ideal for the

handbag / man bag (?) to help us use our \$ to support clothing companies that promote justice.

west: in our community

Our annual **Mother’s Day Brunch** for Spotswood Primary School families went extremely well. Well done everybody! Feedback from some of the families has been sent in the West Weekly.

west: people

Most of our notices, as well as brief Sunday reflections are sent via an e-mail called the **“West Weekly.”** If you’d like to receive this, please contact Andrew or Alison.

Please continue to **pray for and support** those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays **Eric P, Ruth S, Lyn S, Marlinka R, Kathe M, Jocelyn D.**

west: events

July 1st - Church Meeting - for everybody.

Over 60’s Group

Val and Allan W will be organising our June get-together and will be in touch.

CALENDAR:

1,8,15,22, 29 June	Music & Play, at West 10am start	12, 26 June	Rainbow Group at Heather H’s, 1pm
2,16,30 June	Youth Group 7 – 9 pm	12,19,26 June	Movie Group at Grant & Megan’s
4,18 June	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood	14,28 June	Music Practice
7,21 June	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol’s home	25 June	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm

west: pitching in

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you very much to all those who faithfully clean the church and take charge of morning tea, as part of the regular roster. We really appreciate your efforts. Please note that DURING SCHOOL TERM, "Music and Play" occurs on Friday mornings. The hall is always vacuumed and the chairs are set up for church after this, so you should now not need to do either of these jobs. May God bless you in the small less glamorous work of his kingdom.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,500 per month in offerings; in April our offerings were \$9,760.

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.

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.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	2 JUNE	9 JUNE	16 JUNE	23 JUNE	30 JUNE
	Michael P Elizabeth P	Sangsters Erin R Syd B	Sue J Steve J	Brent G Murray L Brian W	Liane L Wayne L