

St Philip's

Anglican Church of St Heliers Bay and Glendowie

October Spring Fling



MESSAGE FROM MATT

In 1960 two important things happened in our city.

The first was that the new (and current) St. Philip's opened. On the 19th of June, Bishop Caulton presided and delivered the sermon and in it, he congratulated the congregation on its great achievement which he said was a symbol of vigour and growth.

The second thing that happened in 1960, was that (for the first time) the Farmers Trading Company displayed Santa on the outside of their Hobson Street shop. Over the 59 years that the Farmers' Santa has been around, he has, in the words of Heart of the City CEO Viv Beck, become, "a joyous part of Auckland's Christmas tradition."

Santa has seen a lot of changes over that time and has changed hands at least four times himself but this year will be Santa's last year displayed in Auckland.

The reasons for Santa's retirement include the cost of a new paint job, and the \$200,000 annual cost to store, maintain and assemble his 18m, five-tonne frame. But Beck, when asked if there will be a replacement Santa said, "I can't answer that now because we need to think about how we do celebrate Christmas. It's important we don't lose all the traditions of Santa."

I can understand that the costs associated with keeping, maintaining, and storing Santa are huge when he is trotted out only once a year for a brief period (and then hidden away for the rest of the year) but I also think that it is interesting that marking this change, Heart of the City are asking how do we, as a city, celebrate Christmas and how do we maintain the traditions that have grown up around him?

The same can be said for our faith, can't it? If we celebrate our faith, and attend Church, only at Christmas and Easter, we can ask ourselves those same questions. Is the cost too big and how can we celebrate our faith and maintain the traditions that we like (and bump into so rarely)?

We also run a danger of confining Jesus to either a crib or a cross and not notice the life enabling, life giving

words and actions of our Lord which have relevance to our everyday life, in everyday situations, and with everyday people.

One of the criticisms of the Farmers' Santa is that he looks creepy (in fact in 2011 Website Cracked.com voted him the Creepiest Christmas ornament). The discussion is that the image of Santa that people had in 1960 has changed drastically. In 2011, Santa's beckoning finger and winking eye were replaced by static ones. This was an attempt to make Santa more 'acceptable' to modern tastes. People recognise the 'person' of Santa, but their perceptions of him now are hard to take and actually put people off.

I wonder too, what people's perceptions are of a Jesus located only in a manger or on a cross. If Jesus is only a baby, we can celebrate his birth (as we do all babies) but babies are weak, they need looking after, they are vulnerable. If Jesus is only a condemned prisoner hanging on a cross, then we feel horror, sadness, and death for most is the end of everything.

What is the relevance of only these two images of Jesus to most people when they are viewed in isolation? Are they a symbol of vigour and growth? And do we describe Jesus to others in our words and actions as a living, breathing, growing, constant companion of ours?

The era of the 1960's Santa is gone. He is a figure whose image is now no longer desired and relevant, and who is only seen once a year for such a short time. The era of the 1960's St. Philip's continues. We continue to live our faith always and every day in ways that are not outdated or irrelevant.

And so, may we gather together again this Christmas season and wonder at the Christ child and the message of God's love that His birth brought to us. But let us not leave Jesus in that manger. May we find comfort in the traditions of our faith that we share. But let us not cling to those traditions for tradition's sake. And may we, as members of Christ's body the Church, commit to a life that brings vigour and growth to our lives and to others as we live the values of God's kingdom on earth.

PRAYER SPACE



Our Lady Chapel holds an important place in the worshipping life of our parish (and has done for many years). It is common to see people come into St. Philip's during the day to spend some time in quiet prayer and they just naturally gravitate to the Lady Chapel.

Over the last few months, the Lady Chapel space has been set up as a special place for prayer (over and above the role it currently has). There are prayer resources on the credence table and a prayer tree there where people may write their prayers and hang them on the branches.

From time to time, those prayers will be collected and blessed in the Offertory on a Sunday morning.

To allow the Prayer Space to be accessible, the Church will be left open during the day from 9am to (at least) 3pm.

Please feel free to come and sit, be still, and pray in the Lady Chapel when circumstances and God calls you to do so.

TARORE

Every 19 of October, our Church remembers and gives thanks for the life of Tarore.

Tarore was the daughter of Ngakuku, a chief. Tragically, on 19 October 1836, at the age of twelve, she was killed during a raid. Her father preached forgiveness at her tangi. The Gospel of Luke that was with her was taken by one of the raiding party, who was subsequently converted and made peace with Ngakuku.



This 19 October, a band of St. Philip's pilgrims made the journey to Tarore's grave at Waharoa and shared Middyay prayer. It was a very moving experience for us

all and as we prayed and sang hymns, the sun shone across the farmland surrounding us and the daily collect rang true in our ears:

Gracious and loving God, we thank You for Tarore, whose death brought not vengeance but reconciliation; create in us, your whanau, a gospel love and a truth so deep, that we too may live together in love with all Your children, in the unity of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

Now that our "in-house" social events are over for the year, the events team wants everyone in our community to know how grateful we are for the support you've given us.

The most recent of our events, the Spring Fling, was our third full house and raised \$1,130. Thank you to all who came along and risked an evening of craziness. We hope you enjoy the photographs.

Now we're concentrating on our annual Christmas stall down in the village on 7 December.

Our jam and preserves group has been working for some time on a very inviting collection of pickles, chutneys, jams and jellies. Some offers of baking have been received already and very soon we'll be looking for more people to supply cakes,



pastries and biscuits as well as a group willing to help on the day. Please keep an eye out for information in the pew sheet.

During the paper plane flying competition one of the guests, a visitor to St Philip's, stopped me and asked "are the people at this church always this noisy?"

I think the answer to this question is "Yes, when they are having fun!"

Thank you all for helping us to have fun!

Jackie Scorgie

CAPS CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

We are very grateful to vestry for continuing to support this ministry which enables course participants to attend courses for FREE.

You may think “living on cash” is old hat, so last century or just too inconvenient. However, it is proven that the quickest way into unmanageable debt is to swipe everything “on the card” and not really know where your valuable income is going.

Businesses, banks, lending houses, etc. are very keen to spread the word that becoming a cashless society is the way to go – without education around how to keep yourself and your income safe – this thinking is disastrous for many.

While there is obviously a strong move towards moving away from cash – living on cash is the easiest way to see how quickly those odd small purchases whittle away at your weekly funds, sometimes with the uncomfortable result that the wallet is empty with still three days to go.

The tools that are taught on the CAP Money Course are vital life skills, so whether you are financially well-off or not, self-employed, or need a little help with your finances – **this course is for you!**

If you are prepared to challenge yourself and learn how grandma and grandpa could actually afford to buy a house in Auckland, come to the CAPS Money course with an open mind and give it a chance.

We are keen to meet you where your need is so please contact us for a discussion, and let us know your preferred day and time of day to commit to our modular course run over 3 to 4 consecutive weeks.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding CAPS Money or want to make a booking for the next course.

Who is the course for?

No matter what your financial situation is, the CAP Money Course can benefit you.

Jo Simpson 0275751314

MAINLY MUSIC



The picture above shows our parents grabbing 40 winks in the midst of mainly music - not quite! They are engaging in a movement song with their children, who are leaning more about the terms under, over and around.

This exhausting session is followed with much needed morning tea for children and carers alike.



We are deeply thankful to all of our morning tea volunteers who provide wonderful homemade cakes, caffeine, and kindness to all of our families.



If you would like to join the team please speak to Hazel or Julie - 021 062 4434

ST HELIERS HANDS AND HEARTS



This friendly & creative group, which meets monthly on a Saturday afternoon, held their final get

together for this year on the 26 October.

Since its beginning at the end of May we have produced approximately:

- 140 jumpers and jackets for babies & toddlers
- 95 beanie hats
- 20 blankets
- 10 knitted or crocheted toys



This is a Community Outreach to supply warm clothing for babies and children of families in need, mainly in South Auckland.

Our members are from varied backgrounds and ages & do not necessarily attend St Philip's (or any church), however St Philip's provides the venue and general support.

Not everyone is able to get to our meeting each month – in fact a few are not able to come at all - but still manage to produce wonderful knitting for us! Also we welcome non-knitters and anyone who would like to learn to knit or crochet. We are always grateful for donations received of - and towards - the large amount of wool required.

We are planning to meet again in 2020, beginning on Saturday 28 March (but will keep knitting in the meantime!!) If you would like wool, needles or patterns or any other related information, please contact me.

Elaine (021 0223 7808)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



This year has flown past.....the Christmas newsletter already. We continue to enjoy our monthly meetings, sharing our faith and times of fellowship.

We support our members and the wider Parish Family through the good and sometimes not so good times with the common thread of belonging to St Philip's binding us together.

We welcome new members and are always open to ideas for guest speakers on any subject, perhaps people we know or have heard speak through other organisations.

Sally Warwick - Women's Fellowship Leader



KIDS CHURCH



Stories from the Bible never fail to inspire.

The children loved bringing the story of how Jesus Calms the Storm to life in a vibrant collage at the end of last term.

The spring season began with our Walk with Christ sessions. Knowing that Jesus walks

with them everyday brings great comfort and reassurance to the children.

We discussed how they have the choice to walk in love, faith and wisdom. Our activities included sorting images and statements in to positive and negative choices, and drawing chalk footprint pathways from the exit of the Church.

We hope the congregation were uplifted by the children's messages to 'Love the Lord' and 'Walk in Peace'.



The faith of Noah was a also an uplifting example to the children.

Our programme for Term 4 is detailed opposite. If you want to find out more about Kids Church then please contact the Parish Office:

Lorna Travis - Kids Church Leader

Sunday 17 Nov	Baptism Service & Children's Activities
Sunday 1 Dec	Advent – Hope, Love, Joy &
Saturday 14 Dec	Pageant Dress Rehearsal
Sunday 15 Dec	Christmas Pageant
Tuesday 24 Dec	Children's Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday 25 Dec	Nativity Story and Activities



Time to relax after a Sunday Service

OUTREACH - KIWIHARVEST

Thank you to the Parish for the use of the kitchen in September.

We managed to turn 9 kilos of rescued mince into mince/vegetable pasties and spaghetti sauce as well as lots of carrot and fruit muffins.

This went out to the hungry in South Auckland last week.

Sarah and the KiwiHarvest volunteer cooking team

S.P.Y. ST PHILIP'S YOUTH



SPY at the DIO Whodunnit

St. Philip's Youth Group (SPY) is continuing on Fridays and Sundays in Term 4

See the timetable below for what's on for the rest of this term:

Friday 15 Nov	Combined	@ St. Chad's: 6pm – 9pm
Sunday 24 Nov	Geo-caching	@ St. Philip's: after Church
Friday 29 Nov	Combined	@ St. Chad's: 6pm – 9pm
Friday 6 Dec	End of Year Event!	Time to be confirmed

MEN'S COFFEE GROUP



We are a group of men, not necessarily Church members, connected in some way with St Philip's. We meet at Annabelles in St Heliers every Thursday from 9.30am for about an hour and chat

about anything and everything!

We also offer support to each other socially; e.g. if someone is ill or in hospital, we keep contact by phone or visiting.

New members and visitors are always welcome! Why not try us out? Arrive at Annabelles, order your coffee and make yourself known to the group – usually just inside the cafe on the left.

See you there!

Colin Chipperfield (575 9195)

FROM THE WARDENS

We have different groups of people who are prepared to work hard in their chosen areas for the benefit of all. The Events and Hospitality Group organised a successful Spring Fling which was both friend and fund raising. It was lovely to see some past parishioners attending to support us. Several groups are working steadily to ensure the success of our Bake Sale on 7 December which is the final event for the year.

The Working Bee on 16 November is an opportunity for everyone to be involved in sprucing up the church and grounds for the busy time of Advent and Christmas.

Vestry is very grateful for the time John Kinley has spent researching the history of our endowments so we can be clear on the purpose for which the funds were given and what use can now be made of them. We aim to use our current income for our current expenses but also to support our Dioceses and the Mission Appeals.

It is very pleasing to see several Bible Study groups working successfully and being led by different parishioners rather than always relying on Matt's leadership. We all learn and grow through accepting such opportunities.

Thank you all for supporting us and Vestry in our roles throughout this year.

Madeline Gunn—People's Warden

Warwick Jones—Vicar's Warden

OUTREACH - THE HICKS FAMILY

Taken from the November Hicks Update

“Your Labor Is not in Vain”

These words have been our prayer and song these last few months. At the end of August, we came off of an intense season of dealing with a difficult student who needed to be removed from the school. During and after his removal, we were dealing with some threats and spiritual oppression.

In ministry, as in many other aspects of life, when difficulty arises it is easy for sorrow and hopelessness to crowd out signs of growth and grace. While I was at the New Wineskins Conference, a song entitled “Your Labor is not in Vain” by The Porter's Gate, ministered to me deeply. Our eyes are often cast down, focused on the work underneath, and it can seem like we are working at something that will not bear any fruit. Nothing could be farther from the truth in our Lord Jesus Christ! He is our living vine, the one we adore, worship and work beside.

God has been giving us beautiful glimpses of how he is working and we are encouraged to continue working for him daily, in the power of his grace...

Family News

Thank you all for your prayers for traveling mercies for Judah, Moses, and me as we flew on ten planes to and from Ridgecrest Conference Center in Asheville, NC, for the New Wineskins Conference.



The time began with a retreat with other SAMS missionaries, staff, and board members. It was wonderful to join a small group of women and share our joys and sorrows together. It

was comforting to hear that many of them have experienced the same emotions that I have, even though we serve in a variety of countries.

Jon's mom flew in from Montana for a few days to help me with the boys so I could fully immerse myself in the retreat. Then both my parents flew in from Boston to be with us for a few days. I was not expecting to see them for at least the next 2½ years, so this mini-reunion was such a treat!

It was incredible to gather with over 1,200 believers from every corner of the globe and worship our God the Trinity. We heard from African clergy, formerly imprisoned missionaries, workers in closed countries and many others whose proclamation of the Gospel message was so clear, despite the efforts of the enemy to silence them. At meal times, I got to befriend missionaries, people looking to go into missions, and retired missionaries. Each time we sat around the table, we left having been strengthened also with the bonds of Christian fellowship.

Ministry Updates

It was with great joy that we witnessed the ordination of our former student and friend, Jack Hayford. Not only was he ordained, but he got married two days before his ordination as well! On Friday, we all travelled to his home village of Fa'alau, an hour and half north on our bumpy road. Ava, Cohen and Caeli were all part of the bridal party, and got to wear cute outfits.

On Saturday night, Jon talked to a large crowd about what it means to call presbyters “priests.” He spoke on the theme of priesthood in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. This was to help members of other churches appreciate the sacramental role of priests in the Anglican tradition. On Sunday morning, bright and early, several thousand people gathered for Holy Communion and Father Jack's ordination service. Jon preached the sermon, while we listened from under the shade of cocoa, sago palm and coconut trees.



The afternoon was full of feasting (pig, tuna, cassava, kumara and taro), speeches and singing. It is such a joy to see our students go on and bless people in the villages.

With graduation coming up on November 22nd and the ordination of our graduating class to the diaconate, we are starting a season of good-bye parties and transitions. We finished our last classes last Friday.

Physical Developments

This year has seen some really exciting developments in student housing on our campus. We have already completed one of the student houses and are now about to begin a second. Jon is making arrangements with a team that will begin cutting timber next week. The hope is that we will have four new houses standing up over Christmas Break. Then all of our Year 1 and Year 2 students and their families can be accommodated at the school. The vision of the school is that people would grow into priestly ministry as families, and that the school would be training both wives and children as well in what it means to serve the Church in this way.

A Parting Story

Just before I flew to the US for the conference, I had a severe bout of back pain that left me bed-ridden for four days. I did not want to cancel my Bible Study class with the women, and so I had them all come into our guest room and sit around the bed. I had assigned each of them texts from the Bible to lead a short Bible Study, based on seven questions. That day, two women led and I will never forget what happened.

One woman, Doris, led the Bible Study with confidence that she had not had the first time I assigned her to lead. Afterwards she said something to this effect: "I am unschooled and I am ashamed to read at home. Even my husband and children have not heard my reading voice because I don't want them to laugh at me. Today is the first time I am reading the Bible aloud, and though nobody helped me prepare for leading this Bible Study, the Holy Spirit has led me and told me what to do."

After this, another woman, Hilda, took the lead with another text and again it was evident that she had renewed strength and confidence in the Holy Spirit. As

she led, the other women were eagerly looking into their Bibles and contributing to the discussion and trying to see how they could apply the word to their lives. At the end she spoke to me and referred back to how far they had come in their spiritual walk with the Lord:



"When we arrived here, you treated us like little babies. You fed us and fed us and now we have teeth and can eat anything!" Hallelujah! I went up to tell

Jon and began to cry with joy at the realization at what God was doing in these women.

We thank God for each of you and pray that as you labor in his vineyard, you will know that your labor in the Lord is never in vain. May his power be made perfect in weakness!

Prayer Requests

I will fly with Avalyn and Moses to Brisbane, Australia, at the end of this month to get her fitted for braces. Pray for her to adjust well to having braces.

Pray for the school graduation on the 22 Nov and the ordination of our students on the 24 Nov.

Pray for us to say meaningful goodbyes and share from our hearts.

Pray for continued spiritual and physical protection on our family and campus.

Pray as I start my Master's In Counseling with Westminster in January. Pray for a more stable internet connection to make the group discussions possible.

Love from all of us in the Solomons,

Jon, Tess, Avalyn, Cohen, Caeli, Judah, Immanuel, and Moses Hicks

FROM THE REGISTER

BAPTISM



8/9/19 James Paul COYTE
6/10/19 Charles Reggie BROOK
27/10/19 Tobias Louis Henare KELLY

FUNERALS / MEMORIAL SERVICES

8/11/19 Frank BISHOP
11/11/19 David BOYD



GROUPS

Men's Coffee Group

Thursday at 9.30am in Annabelles in St Heliers Village.

Women's Weekly meeting

Fridays at 10am in Cypress Café in St Heliers Village.

St Heliers' Hands And Hearts

Last Saturday of every month, 3.30pm

Guys' Get Together

Meet regularly in the evenings. For details of the next meeting contact the parish office.

Open Door

Winter evening social group for women. For more information see the web site.

Mums of Teens and Tweens

Meet regularly in the evenings. For details of the next meeting contact the parish office.

Mainly Music

Thursday 9.30 & 10.30am during school term time.

Prayer Group

First and third Monday of every month, 7.30pm.

Women's Fellowship

Third Wednesday each month, 10am.

S.P.Y. Youth Group

See timetable on page 7.

CONTACT DETAILS

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Administrator: Julie White

phone: 575 5288

email: office@stphilips.nz

92 St Heliers Bay Rd, St Heliers Bay, Auckland 1071

Usual Office Hours: 9am - 1pm, Tuesday to Friday

Website: www.stphilips.nz

PARISH CLERGY

Vicar: The Rev'd Matt Griffiths

phone: 575 5288 (office) 021 181 6378 (mobile)

email: vicar@stphilips.nz

The Rev'd Brian Jenkins phone: 575 7797

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Vicar's Warden: Warwick Jones (575 9112)

People's Warden: Madeline Gunn (575 5797)

Worship Music Coordinator: Trish Jenkins (575 7797)

Treasurer: email treasurer@stphilips.nz

Pastoral/Community Care: Lynley Payton (528 0463)

Youth Ministry: email youth@stphilips.nz

Mainly Music: Hazel Hunter (521 2683)

REGULAR COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 9.30am Family Communion

Private Prayer is offered during communion and after this service

3rd Wednesday of every month 10.00am Holy Communion in the Chapel

Alternate Thursdays St Andrew's Retirement Village and Grace Joel Retirement Village

PARISH LIFE



Our thanks to the parish flower team who provide such stunning arrangements.



Delicious food and great entertainment were all part of our Spring Fling event.



Sunday Kids Church—where the vicar can be found!.



Some of our 'Open Door' Group



Chris and Pat at the book launch

Prayers for Peace Service with Rev'd Sarah West and Masooma Mehdi



COME & JOIN US

Christmas Eve

5pm | Children's Service for the whole family

9.30pm | Candlelit Communion

Christmas Day

8am | Communion & Carols

9.30am | Family Service

 St Philip's

stphilips.org.nz

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 1 December - Advent 1

8am Communion

9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 8 December - Advent 2

8am Communion

9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 15 December - Advent 3

8am Communion

9.30am Family Communion with Pageant

7.30pm Carol Service followed with mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday 22 December - Advent 4

8am Communion

9.30am Traditional Lessons and Carols Service

OTHER EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Friday 6 December

Final Spy meeting of 2019. Details to be confirmed

Thursday 12 December

Final mainly music of 2019 - This session includes the retelling of the Christmas story and Christmas morning tea.

Saturday 14 December

Pageant dress rehearsal.

Wednesday 18 December

10am Communion followed by the final Women's Fellowship meeting of 2019 with seasonal refreshments.

Thursday 19 December

Combined Christmas Service held at both St Andrew's Retirement Village at 1pm and the Grace Joel Retirement Village at 2pm.