



Anglican Church of St Heliers Bay and Glendowie 125 Anniversary Countdown

49 weeks to go

St Philip's first vicar is usually regarded as Cecil A. B. Watson. He was born in London, and emigrated to Hobart where he worked in a bank.

He moved on to Auckland where he decided to study for holy orders at St John's College. From there the principal of the school, Rev P.S. Smallfield, also cared for the needs of the people in what is now the St Philip's parish.

He needed help however, and chose one of his students, Cecil Watson, who held services in a private home. These were attended so well that discussions were soon had about the need for a church, and an energetic fundraising effort began.

By 1897 they had enough money to buy a plot of land on the corner of Paunui Street and by the end of 1898 St Philip's had been built and consecrated.

In 1901 when Cecil Watson was ordained priest, he was appointed vicar.

He left St Heliers in 1903 to serve in other parishes. Then in 1934 he was appointed a Canon of St Mary's Cathedral.



Cecil Watson,



The plaque above our bell tower door reads:

THE BELL IS A MEMORIAL TO
CANON C. A. B. WATSON
WHO AS A STUDENT AT ST JOHN'S COLLEGE PIONEERED
THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN THIS DISTRICT AND COLLECTED
THE FUNDS FOR THE ERECTION IN 1898 OF THE FIRST
CHURCH OF St. PHILIP.

For more information visit stphilips.nz or call the parish office 09 575 5288