

Anglican Church of St Heliers Bay and Glendowie 125 Anniversary Countdown

52 weeks to go

By the 1890's St Heliers was expanding from a small seaside settlement of about 20 small farms and orchards, to a steadily growing population. More people were wanting regular church services, which were first held at St John's College, then at a two-storey boarding house on the rise above St Heliers settlement.



Painting of St Philip's Church by Andrew Reid



From *St Philip's 1898-1998 - A Centennial History*,
by Colin Percy

It was becoming clear a church was needed and the decision was made to begin a fundraising programme. By 1897 enough money had been raised to purchase three adjacent lots on the corner of what is now St Heliers Bay Road and Paunui Street at a cost of 60 pounds. Two local builders charged a further 200 pounds to build an unlined church of dressed heart kauri with a tin roof. 50 x 20 ft, it seated 150 people and had a small room underneath for bicycles.

By the end of 1898 a new church was completed and consecrated.

St Philip's Church was formally opened yesterday by the Most Rev. the Primate. In spite of the unfavourable weather there was a large congregation. The church was handsomely decorated by the ladies of the parish with arum lilies and ferns. The singing, under the management of the organist (Mr H.H. Bedford) was very good. The service was read by the vicar and the lessons by the curate (the Rev. C.A.B. Watson). The Primate, who was the celebrant and the preacher, read the dedicatory prayer, and in his address spoke of the importance of public worship, and urged the congregation to assist their clergyman in every way. The offerings during the day for the building fund amounted to about seven pounds. Services will be held regularly every Sunday morning and evening by Mr Watson, who will also superintend the Sunday School in the afternoon.

Excerpt from the NZ Herald Monday, October 10, 1898

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