

St Philip's

Anglican Church of St Heliers Bay

Spring 2026

Balloon fun at mainly music



Ronnie Gardiner Method Exercises on Tuesdays



Women's Coffee Mornings on a Friday



Travelling around schools and other communities Chip Packet Project NZ



MESSAGE FROM MATT

As this Newsletter goes to print, our two elected Synod Representatives and I have spent the last two and a bit days at The Cathedral of The Holy Trinity in Parnell for our annual Synod.

The work of a Synod rep is longer than those two and a bit days, though. There are pre-synod meetings, bills and motions to be read and understood, and many reports from the many arms of our Diocese to be combed through. We are very fortunate to have Fran and Stuart as our reps. Great voting, folks, in choosing them.

Synod is a representative body of the whole diocese gathered under the leadership of the bishop. Licensed clergy, elected lay members, and others come together to worship, debate and plan for the future. They vote on issues that affect the whole diocese and elect members of the Diocesan Council and other committees. Each triennial Synod meets in three annual sessions and our Synod this year is the second session of the Fifty-Eighth Synod of our Diocese.

Our Diocese is episcopally led (by a bishop) and synodically governed. The idea of synods, run the way ours does, goes back to the infancy of the Church in our province and Bishop Selwyn. Selwyn realized that our context was very different to England and he pioneered the establishment of church institutions in our colonial environment.

The Church here is a voluntary one not a state one. Selwyn wrote to his clergy in 1847 and said, “neither I will act without you, nor can you act without me.” The fact that a bishop was willing to consult clergy in decisions was a significant innovation. Selwyn also found that, in this birth of a new country with new hierarchies, that lay people were wanting to take an active part in church affairs too (particularly if the church depended on them for its support). Hence, in all decisions at Synod, Bishop, clergy, and lay people hold the same authority in voting for an outcome.

Our first constitution, written in 1858, set up General Synod (because there was only one diocese then) as the governing body for the church. And it still is. General Synod meets every two years and directs our province (the latest General Synod has just concluded in Tonga last week). As dioceses grew, then each diocese established their own synod to make decisions particular for them. They meet yearly. And that is what Fran, Stuart, I, and about 250 others met for this weekend.

This Synod promises to be a very interesting one. Our Bishop has encouraged us to think about the future organisation of our Church, how and where we worship, and how assets may be used more effectively. Bishop Ross has initiated this process by setting up three Strategic Working Groups made up of clergy and lay people to investigate the issues and provide us with guidance. The three groups are: The Resource Review Working Group (of which our own Warwick Jones is a member), The Parish Structure and Cooperation Working Group, and The Ministry Strategy Working Group. They will give an initial feedback to Synod this year and their work will be completed at Synod 2027.

The impetus for these groups came out of Synod 2024 where there were three motions that asked Synod to look forward and plan for a future rather than be reactive to events that happen. And I think that that encouragement of Synod and our Bishop’s bravery to set up the working groups, is really exciting and it asks us, as a Diocese, to look into the future and ask what kind of Church do we want to be in five years, 10 years, 50 years time?

And we can do this as a parish too. The ways that we know how church is done, the ways we grew up with and which bring us comfort, may need some tuning up and some change. The use of our assets may need review. What do we want St. Philip’s to be known as in our future?

I wonder about that first congregation who gathered in the original St. Philip’s on the 9th of October 1898 at our opening and heard Bishop Cowie speak of the importance of public worship and the importance of all

of us working together. I wonder what their input into our Diocese Working Groups would be?

May we continue to take our part in the mission that God has invited us into in this place and at this time. May we be sensitive to changes around us and may we present God's love to others in a relevant and compassionate way. May we continue the chain of faithful people of St. Philip's into our future together.

Matt Griffiths

WARDENS' REPORT

Every Vestry meeting, we have standard items on our agenda. Maintenance is one that we talk about, so that you, our congregation members, as well as visitors to the buildings, can actually see when progress is made. And progress has been made. The planned necessary maintenance to the hall windows and vicarage is now nearly complete. The last item for 2026, the vicarage cladding, is expected to occur during the last quarter of the year, with further work in the Vicarage planned for 2027. As agreed at the last AGM, we have used \$46,000 of our reserves to do this essential work.

We are fortunate to have Caroline Lawton on Vestry, as she is the driving force behind many of the fundraising activities: sales of oils and Cookie Time cookies, chocolates, hot cross buns, seeds, Christmas socks. These regular initiatives have brought in almost \$3,500 since the end of 2024. The sale of Village Press Oils was popular as Christmas gifts in 2024, and will be repeated this year, along with the sale of candles and candle snuffers. Please continue to support these, and our other fundraising events, all of which are designed to be a win-win for everyone. They bring vital resources into our church while ensuring you and your family receive something wonderful, tangible, or memorable in return. Whether it is purchasing a delicious cake at the annual bake sale, or taking home a unique keepsake, these activities allow us to support the church together while sharing joy and fellowship. Please continue to look out for our upcoming activities and participate where you

can. Your involvement makes a massive difference.

Finally, we wish to extend our continued thanks and gratitude to vicar Matt for his spiritual guidance and leadership, and especially for his thoughtful and often-times powerful sermons, connecting God's words to the lives of God's people. We also extend our appreciation to those who lead us when Matt is absent.

Remember that Vestry members have green nametags, and we encourage you to speak with any of us about our roles and responsibilities, or simply about Vestry.

Tsana Plessius

MEN'S COFFEE

We continue to meet every week as we have done for the past 12 years. The only exception is if Christmas Day falls on a Thursday!



Why not come along and join us to discuss the topic of your choice – or ours - whether it be sport, politics, economics, technology, local or world problems, health or any other issue. At times we have different opinions but we all go home as friends.

If you have a technical problem with your phone, TV or other device, there is usually someone who can suggest a solution.

We also try to keep aware if someone has a health problem and lend support as necessary – be it a message, a visit or simply a prayer.

Every Thursday at Annabelles in St Heliers at 9.30am. See you there!

Colin Chipperfield

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



St Philip's Women's Fellowship meet on the third Wednesday of each month following the 10am Service of Holy Communion.

Our May guest speaker was Lyndsay Roberts from St Johns Ambulance who presented their 'Three Steps For Life' programme which was very informative giving us a demonstration of CPR and how to correctly use our Defibrillator which is in the Church Lounge. We made a donation of \$100 to St John's as it is such a worthy cause.

In June Susanna Burton Thompson, photographer, traveller and author talked to us about her life and all her adventures round the world with a strong thread of faith running through.

In July we gathered for an extended morning tea after the Service as the Church and lounge.

August was soup and beetle month with some fierce competition amid much dice throwing. We enjoyed a tasty soup lunch with warm bread rolls and a slice to have with tea and coffee.

Women's Fellowship are pleased to be able to donate some much needed play equipment to mainly music this year to enhance the Thursday morning music sessions which are so enjoyed by our small people .

Sally Warwick

HANDS AND HEARTS

Our regular monthly meetings continue for 2026 in St Philip's Lounge. All knitters and would be knitters are welcome for fellowship and afternoon tea.

We meet regularly on the last Saturday of the month from February to (and including) November.

Our get together on 1st August was well attended – 22 knitters. There was a warm buzz of chatting, knitting and enjoying a light afternoon tea.

There was more:

The two rows of hats on the left of this photo all had a pair of booties inside them.



THANK YOU ALL for the lovely garments. Monday morning, I took three large bags

full of items to Island Child Charitable Trust. Monday afternoon, a lady from Petal Foundation came to take two full bags of blankets and hats. She was thrilled with the items. It is reassuring that our group can help some babies and toddlers have a little more warmth during these cold nights.

I hope to take the twelve hats with booties to Middlemore Hospital later this week.

Each item in the first photo is placed into an appropriate bag with labels. I have been told the mothers value receiving the gifts this way. The plastic bag has a second life.

Jeanette Davidson



SUNDAY SCHOOL / YOUTH ALPHA

Lorna is hosting a Youth Alpha course this year with the older teens and tweens.

She starts by creating a space where everyone feels welcome and included referencing examples that directly relate to their world to help them feel more understood and accepted. The course dives into life's big questions around meaning and purpose. One of the questions posed was *What Does Real Love Look Like?* During that session they explored unconditional, sacrificial love, forgiveness, and God's amazing grace.

Each session has an accompanying video. The teen presenters travel around the globe interviewing young Christians and asking questions like, 'What Does a Relationship With God Look Like?' Lorna then encourages reflection and discussion to personalise the ways they can grow in their relationship with God.



GIRLFRIENDS IN SPIRIT

We meet once a month on alternating Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the church lounge for a time of chat, laughter and conviviality.

This is a time to get to know other wonderful women in our church community and form friendships. We bring the drink of our choice or there is tea available. We also bring snacks for supper and usually there is way too much!

Our numbers have been somewhat depleted over the winter months with people traveling, unwell, or with other commitments. All girls in spirit are welcome, and we would love to see you!

Fran Martin

MAINLY MUSIC

Thursday mornings continue to be a source of fun for all who come along to our mainly music sessions.



We often hear from families and team members about how much they enjoy this morning of joy and laughter. It is certainly a privilege and delight to watch our young families grow and achieve significant milestones. These can be as important as having the courage to stand at the front of the group with their ladybugs, or to jump like a frog from the log in the middle of the room.

This term we celebrated Father's Day at mainly music. Our session was a mix of favourite songs and rhymes selected by the families. Following which we honoured our Fathers, grandpas and other supportive members of our families. Each child was given a bag with a couple of balloons and some bubble mix, along with a colouring in Father's Day card and sheet and balloon game ideas. Something for them to share at home.



MONDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 9.30am. We pray for our church, our community, our families and for people who need our prayer.

It has been a small group of between three and five people over the last few months.

If you have a problem or issue that seems too hard to deal with on your own, sharing it in prayer can help – God is always listening.

This is a half hour session so you can go and do all the things you need to do afterwards and feel encouraged by shared prayer and faith.

Fran Martin

SUSTAINABILITY

The 2026 Season of Creation takes place from September 1 to October 4, 2026. The global ecumenical theme is **“Immersion in Living Water”** inspired by the vision of life-giving water flowing from the temple in Ezekiel 47.

We will be doing some things here at St Philip's to mark the Season of Creation, but one thing we can all do is to 'Adopt a Drain'. That's right, adopt a drain. Your drain works hard day in, day out, keeping street dry, clean and flood free. But a quick clear of leaves and litter keeps water flowing, streets fresh, floods at bay and entire communities healthy.

We can all do our part. You can Be a Grate Mate: to look after a drain close to you, sign



up at <https://www.neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz/adopt-a-drain>.

An additional initiative agreed at the July Vestry meeting, to tie in our Seasons Of Creation theme this year is a partnership with RE:MOBILE Phone Recycling Scheme.

RE:MOBILE is New Zealand's only mobile phone recycling scheme which is accredited by the Ministry for the Environment. It is not for profit and is managed by the New Zealand Telecommunications Forum (TCF), supported by 2Degrees, One New Zealand and Spark, to encourage responsible disposal of old mobile phones.



For every phone recycled with RE:MOBILE, money is donated to Sustainable Coastlines, an award-winning charity that exists to protect the ocean we all love by bringing people together to reduce plastic pollution and other litter.

A collection box is in the foyer, beside our existing recycle containers. With a few simple steps you can donate your old phone safely.

So rummage around for those unwanted mobile phones to donate. Phones received by RE:MOBILE will be graded, data wiped and sim/memory cards removed and destroyed. Phones that can still be used are sold by tender to offshore businesses that specialise in the resale of second hand mobile phones.

Regardless of condition, working or non working (even pieces missing), make or model, all mobile phones are

accepted by the Mobile Phone Recycling Scheme.

Visit the RE:MOBILE Web Site to find out more remobile.org.nz.

Continuing with the global ecumenical theme of **"Immersion in Living Water"** vestry have also agreed to partner with RefillNZ.

RefillNZ is a New Zealand non-profit campaign that stops plastic waste by helping people refill reusable water bottles with free tap water instead of buying single-use plastic bottles. They are on a mission to help people live more sustainably - in ways that are easy and good for the planet by reducing plastic pollution at source.



In New Zealand we throw away an estimated 168 single use plastic bottles each every year. Adding to our huge landfills and contributing to the plastic pollution in our oceans, killing marine animals and getting into the fish we eat.

RefillNZ aims to change that by making it easier to find FREE tap water in cafes, other biz', council venues and public drinking fountains. St Philip's will become a participating site, registered on the RefillNZ web site and with a sticker in our window – to show that we are a Refill station and people are welcome to come on in and fill up their bottle – for free!

UPDATING NEWS

Vestry received the following update from Chip Packet Project NZ, one of St Philip's Outreach partners:

As many of you may know CPPNZ has been working with Auckland Prison and NZ Corrections Services for some time. There is a new manager at Auckland Prison, below is an excerpt from correspondence received from him to CPPNZ:

'Seeing 107 thermal blankets, sleeping bags, and ponchos heading out to Whangārei, Auckland, Tauranga, Whanganui, Wellington, and Dunedin are both impressive and humbling. While empty shelves are certainly a sign of success, they also

highlight the ongoing need that exists across our communities.

On behalf of Auckland Prison, I would like to acknowledge how much we value this partnership. The work your organisation does has a tangible impact on some of our most vulnerable people, and we are proud to contribute to an initiative that delivers practical support where it is needed most. This collaboration has created meaningful opportunities for people in our care and has helped strengthen positive community outcomes.

Thank you again for your continued partnership and support. I look forward to working together to further strengthen this valuable relationship.'

And an update on our solar panels:

As we continue through a cold spell this winter it is worth reporting how our solar panels are continuing to work hard for us here at St Philip's.

Our Solar Panels were installed in August 2025 and the additional work to organise the sale back of unused power to Mercury was completed in October 2025. We are pleased to be able to report that power bills for this year to date (including the July monthly period) reveal a saving of \$1,193 on the same period in 2025. This is before any consideration is given to the increasing cost of electricity. Great news for both St Philip's and our environment!



PARISH LIFE



Pictures from our parish dinner
Including Raffle Winners





Many thanks to the team in the Kitchen and the wonderful Scout helpers.



Hands and Hearts meeting with more beautifully knitted items collected in June distributed to Island Child Charitable Trust and The Petal Foundation.



CPPNZ HQ

Security camera installed in rear car park



FUNDRAISING

LIGHT UP OUR FUTURE

Our Spring Fundraiser is the sale of Downlights premium Candles. Downlights is a NZ fragranced soy candle company that manufactures luxury candles. The candles are hand poured & the entire manufacturing process supports the development of workplace skills for people with Downs syndrome & cognitive disabilities..

Downlights is a NZ owned certified social enterprise that employs young Kiwis with Down syndrome and learning or intellectual disabilities to offer them meaningful work opportunities while being paid the living wage.

We have 3 different scented candles available for purchase:

- ♦ **Gardenia & Sweet Pea** - *Fresh and light* - an elegant, classic blend of sweet blooming gardenia and delicate sweet pea.
- ♦ **Persian Rose** - *Indulgent* - A captivating and romantic fragrance with rich Persian rose petals and hints of soft spice.
- ♦ **Bamboo & White Lily** - *Fresh and invigorating* - A clean, modern scent of green bamboo, crisp white lily and fresh ozone.

Looking for an original gift idea? Then why not purchase a boxed Candle Accessory kit. We have a limited supply of these beautiful black and silver presentation boxes containing a candle trimmer and snuffer.



FEATURED ITEMS:

Limited Edition Scented Candles and Luxury Accessory Gift Sets. All products by Downlights New Zealand.

PRICING:

Scented Candles: \$15 each or 3 for \$40

Accessory Gift Sets: \$20

BANK ACCOUNT:

Parish of St Heliers 01 0262 0010639 00

COMING SOON

Keep your eyes peeled for our next fundraiser, starting in November, the return of the popular Village Press Gift Packs. There will be two variety packs available, with oils to suit every taste.

Made by the Village Press, a well respected brand established for more than 20 years.

Each pack comes with 3 x 250ml bottles of healthy and delicious Extra Virgin Olive Oil, presented in a beautiful carry box.

Perfect as a gift for a friend or a treat for yourself.



FROM THE REGISTER

FUNERALS

15/7/26
Graham MALAGHAN

7/8/26
Merle HERBERT

24/8/26
Doreen MORRILL



GROUPS

Men's Coffee Group

Thursdays at 9.30am in Annabelles, St Heliers Village.

Women's Weekly Meeting

Fridays at 10am in Annabelles, St Heliers Village.

St Heliers Hands And Hearts

Last Saturday of every month, 3pm in the Church Lounge.

Guys' Get Together

Meet monthly at Moretons, St Heliers Village.
Contact the parish office for details of next meeting.

Girlfriends In Spirit

Meet regularly in the evenings.
Contact the parish office for details of next meeting.

mainly music

Thursday 9.30am during school term time.

Prayer Group

First and third Monday morning of every month, 9.30am.

Women's Fellowship

Third Wednesday each month, 10am.

Fast Food Fridays

Second Friday each month, 5.30-7pm

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

Church Warden: Warwick Jones (575 9112)
Church Warden: Tsana Plessius (021 478 382)
Worship Music Coordinator: Stuart Weightman
Prayer Tree: Lynley Payton (528 0463)
Mainly Music: Hazel Hunter (521 2683)
Pastoral Care: Sally Warwick

REGULAR COMMUNION SERVICES

On line services can be accessed via <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnTsejuVrWDBo27YLcu83Zw> or from *our web site*.

Services are as follows:

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 9.30am Family Communion

Private Prayer is offered during communion and after this service

1st Sunday of every month 5pm Taizé Prayer Service

3rd Sunday of every month 5pm Evensong

3rd Wednesday of every month 10.00am Communion

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

WORKING BEE



'Many hands make light work!'

We were certainly very fortunate to have so much help with our mini working bee, both seen (on the Saturday morning) and unseen at other times during the week..

A big thank you for all your help.

