

St Philip's

Anglican Church of St Heliers Bay and Glendowie

Summer 2024



St Philip's presents:

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

with The City of Sails Barbershop Chorus

Bronze winners of the 2024 Barbershop Harmony New Zealand men's chorus contest

Join us for a glass of mulled wine followed by an evening of musical entertainment



*6.30pm - Wednesday 4 December
suggested koha - \$20 pp*

St Philip's fundraising for building repairs

MESSAGE FROM MATT

I wonder, if you were to think back, what was the best gift that you ever got given to you for Christmas? Was it valuable, was it personal? Was it big or was it small? Why does it stick out in your memory, do you think?

In a 2018 poll of UK residents, the top three answers to the question what do you like most about Christmas, were: 1. Spending time with family, 2. Christmas food, and 3. PRESENTS!

Our tradition of giving presents at Christmas harkens back to the Wisemen from the East who visited Jesus and his parents on that first Christmas. Their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were valuable and generous and paid homage to, and started a preparation for, Jesus' roles of King, Priest, and his death.

There is a popular internet meme that states that if the wise men were women, their more practical gifts to a young mother and her newborn son, would not have been gold, frankincense, and myrrh but nappies, baby formula, and a casserole.

Another influence on our gift giving is following the example of Saint Nicholas of Myra. St Nicholas was the original, super generous giver of gifts and was known for secretly giving gifts to the needy, which led to a tradition of anonymous gift-giving. Today, Santa Claus keeps the tradition alive by making special deliveries on Christmas Eve bringing smiles to people everywhere.

And what kind of Christmas presents do you like to give and receive? Some people like practical presents that have a purpose and are something that they can put to use. There is a Christmas 1946 Hoover Vacuum advertisement that shows a smiling wife kneeling next to her new Hoover on Christmas morning under the tagline, "Give her a Hoover and you give her the best."

Some balk at the idea of practical gifts and the idea of getting a vacuum for Christmas may not feel very festive at all. They may prefer decorative gifts like jewellery, or maybe a trip, or something that makes a memory to last.



Often, practical gift people and decorative gift people meet with difficulty at Christmas and, while each preference is right for each person, there is a gap of misunderstanding between the two!

At Christmas, we look to bring smiles to others and show them how much we love them by giving them the type of gifts they need or like. And, as we gather together in our church, we remember the gift that God gave us. Jesus was and is the gift we need and like!

The gift of Jesus was God once again being generous to us and showing us how much we are loved. God's gift is the reason we can gather together and we come to thank God for Jesus and for The Church and for each other.

I hope that we never lose sight of the incredible way that we are loved by God and, if in the year our vision of that has become a bit hazy, then Christmas sharpens up our eyes and cleans our glasses for us.

And how can we thank God for this amazing gift? The appropriate, loving response is to continue loving God, to keep wanting to spend time with God in reading and prayer, and to care for all of God's creation, people and planet.

Maybe, when we are asked in the future what was the best Christmas gift we ever got, we could answer Jesus and include him on our list. Merry Christmas, all.

Matt Griffiths

CURATE'S CORNER

Being is enough.

There is a way of life that the world sometimes understands on one hand. On the other hand, some mirror those who understand it, and it did not make any meaning to them. When they don't comprehend it themselves, others become confused. The concept of being enough illustrates a simple way of life. This way, it would be easier for a community to find themselves and to build a rhythm of life foundational to every journey.

What is it then really being the concept of "Being is enough?" It is the person who you really are in this world. I've heard from those whom I've crossed paths with say this statement. "I am wanting to be myself in this world." This is, being is enough.

There are three main parts to this concept. Firstly, God created every individual in his image with his breath of life to be, and when he saw it after, everything was very good. The concept of 'being enough' is reflected in how God created us to be in his universe. Secondly, there are some who wanted to move away from what they were created to be. This leads them to mimic others and does not really know who they are. The third part is that when we know who we are, we become clear on where we are going and how to go about our life journey.

I am so thankful for the Diocese

of Auckland with Bishop Ross and the Holy Office for allowing me to be. In my placement here in St. Philip's, the parish enabled me to just be. This was not only the case but further surrounded me with the support that I have so to relearn myself and who I am becoming in my ministry. I am so thankful for the calling of God. I am not the only one who is called, but there are others who are called to be able to weave relationships formed in a culture that explain how God is calling his people to just being.

I would also further express my utmost thanks to St. Philip's with their Priest in Charge, Rev. Matthew Griffiths, Julie White, and its vestry. They have allowed me space to grow in my faith. They have provided me time and resources to be able to know who I am and to comprehend where I am going, as it reinforces my calling for ministry by God.

Lastly, thank you, God, for your guidance and protection, and you're eternally loving me with my humble family. You have blessed us enough to know who you really are. You are the God of all; you are the creator of us and everything. You are the beginning and the end. You have called us and equipped us more with what we need to tell your glory to the world in the little work that we do.

'Ofa lahi atu

Rev'd Wesley Fifita (Curate)

THE REVEREND JOHN ZIMMERMAN

It is with much sadness that we advise you of the recent death of Rev'd John Zimmerman.

John was Vicar of St Philip's Church from 1987 - 2004.



As we give thanks for John's life please pray for his family.

Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon him.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



St Philip's Women's Fellowship meet at 10.00am on the third Wednesday of each month. We start our morning with a service of Holy Communion followed by morning tea.

Our speaker for September was local lady Amanda Warren who runs Gift the Garden with a focus on all things natural and organic. She has created a wonderful garden of her own in St Heliers and also showed us some of the English Heritage gardens she has visited as well as a peep of last year's Chelsea Flower Show.

In October we had an extended morning tea as our St John's Ambulance speaker who was to demonstrate our defibrillator was fully booked but we'll reschedule for next year.



The Jaminators continue to keep the cupboard well stocked with jams and chutneys and very much appreciate the support Women's Fellowship give when produce is out for sale at our meetings.

Women's Fellowship plays an important part in our Church life offering support and Friendship and an opportunity to share our Faith and support our Parish.

Sally Warwick.

HANDS AND HEARTS



Hands and Hearts have continued to meet each month for fellowship and to bring completed knitted garments to be shared namely amongst the Glen Innes community. However, in early September a large amount of newly knitted blankets, cardigans, jumpers, hats were taken to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children in Otahuhu. A big thank you to all the knitters who continue to make beautiful garments for babies, toddlers and children. It is amazing to see the variety of garments that are produced.



Some of the Hands and Hearts knitters also had time to knit stars to assist Julie White in her quest for 100 stars. At the time of writing this, Julie already had over 80 completed stars.

Jeanette Davidson



GIRLFRIENDS IN SPIRIT



We meet at 7.30pm on the 3rd Tuesday or Wednesday each month in the St Philip's lounge.

We are a social bunch and always happy to welcome others so pop in and join us. Contact the parish office to find out more.

MEN'S GROUP



The Mens Coffee Group continues to meet weekly at 9.30am on Thursday's at Annabelles Restaurant.

The group has a stable membership of around 8 to 10 but we do welcome other Men in the Parish who would like to join in the fellowship that we share. Our clergy Matt and Wesley do drop in and mix with us, which we all appreciate.

The staff in the restaurant continue to have a reserved table for us and have got to know our individual drink preferences without asking - a nice touch! Our discussions are wide ranging from issues of the day - local, city, country and international spanning many different facets - sports, religious and, dare I say, politics!. We all come away with a little more knowledge of each others activities, assisting where we can with the concerns that we share.

Our meetings typically last for around an hour but have been known to continue longer! There is always plenty to share as we all get to know each better.

All men in the parish are most welcome - please come and join us.

Jeffrey Hunter

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school runs on the first and third Sundays during school term time. The last Sunday School in 2024 is on 15 December, where we will be in Church retelling the Christmas Nativity story. All children are welcome to join with us

MAINLY MUSIC

At the start of September our mainly music group celebrated Fathers' Day with a special music session recognising all those who are like fathers to us.



Gifts were passed out for families to make their own superhero spoons to pass onto the superheroes in their lives.



Our Thursday morning group continues to grow and we give thanks for the amazing team of volunteers, some of whom can be seen in the photo below, who enable our weekly sessions to happen. We are blessed to have such fantastic support to enable us to offer this regular Thursday morning session to our community.



WARDENS' REPORT



The beginning of the repairs on our Bell Tower is very obvious in the extensive scaffolding which now encases the building. Such safety measures are essential in building projects now but certainly add to the cost. We are very grateful to all the people who have donated to this

project to allow it to begin. If you have not already done so, please do consider this further. The extra scaffolding now required has increased the costs considerably but we are committed to ensuring that this very important feature of our buildings is safe and secure. We can all help also by supporting the fundraising events and activities occurring in the coming weeks.

Buildings are important in that they house and symbolise the work of the church in the community. But more important is that work of support and healing which is carried out largely by our clergy but also by us as parishioners. The recent months have been very demanding on our clergy as the needs of so many parishioners have increased. We acknowledge sincerely the support given by Matt and Wesley to so many during this time.

We all look forward to Saturday 30 November when Wesley will be ordained at the Cathedral. This is a very important achievement for him in his new career and also the beginning of a new stage for us at St Philip's. Wesley has provided wonderful support to Matt this year while he has been learning from his practice but next year he will be able to extend that even further as an ordained priest. It has been lovely to watch their

learning relationship flourish in our church.

Churches need to continue to try new ways of worship to attract and meet the needs of old and new parishioners. The increasing role of music in our services, led by Stuart, is adding to the variety we experience whether it is through Evensong, Taizé or music within our communion service. All add a new depth to our worship.

As we prepare our church for Advent in our annual spring clean, we look forward to the busy and exciting celebration of Christmas ahead. Let us work together and enjoy the fellowship ahead.

Madeline Gunn and Warwick Jones

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We have a number of fundraising events happening to help us to pay for much needed building work. You can support us by getting involved with these events.

- We are currently selling cookies and Village Press Gift packs, either of which make a great gift for school, kindie or someone special. **Orders close on 20 November** so get in quick and place your order by email (office@stphilips.nz) or phone (09 575 5288) or in person at the parish office. Please make payments to account number 06-0111-0237692-02 and include your name and order details (including flavour) - See opposite for more details.
- Our Christmas Musical extravaganza on Wednesday 4 December join us at 6.30pm for a glass of mulled wine and then listen to the City of Sails Barbershop Chorus, who will be singing our Christmas favourites. A beautiful way for us to start our Christmas journey. See the front of our newsletter for more information.
- Don't forget we have a Christmas Sale on some great gifts from our 125 celebration. Check these out on our web site <https://stphilips.nz/home/fundraising-2024/>



Christmas Cookies

\$22 per 2L bucket, \$20 for Gluten Free

For every bucket sold \$2.50 goes towards our fundraising

Flavours: Chocolate Chip, Apricot Chocolate, Cranberry White Chocolate, Salted Caramel, Chocalicious, Brandy Snap White Chocolate, Bumper Brownie Bites, Gluten Free Chocolate Chip

The Village Press Gift Pack

\$30 For Village Press Gift Pack (Mixed or Infused)

For every pack sold \$5 goes towards our fundraising

The Village Press Gift Packs

- ◆ Made with healthy and delicious Extra Virgin Olive Oil.
- ◆ Made by the Village Press, a well respected brand established for more than 20 years.
- ◆ The two gift packs provide a variety of flavours, with oils to suit every palate.
- ◆ Each pack comes with 3 x 250ml bottles of oil presented in a beautiful carry box.



Mixed Gift Pack

1 x First Press - delicate and smooth, use in a wide variety of dishes and salads, as a drizzle or with fresh bread.

1 x Global Village Spain - a mild oil with a delicate fruity and fresh character.

1 x Truffle Infused Oil - the luxury of truffles with earthy tones, this oil lifts any dish to a new level of indulgence.



Infused Gift Pack

1 x Chilli Infused Oil - a wonderfully balanced smokey heat that will lift the flavour of food.

1 x Chilli Infused Oil - Adds depth of flavour to any dish.

1 x Lemon Infused Oil - an extravagant topping to add to any dish for a special treat.



OUTREACH



It is fair to say that the past 11 months have been crazy good and just crazy for Chip Packet Project. HOWEVER - as our volunteers embark on the 'mop-up' of Recycle Week Aotearoa, we have lots to reflect on and be thankful for.

As a result of the partnership with the Graeme Dingle Foundation, as part of their successful Kids Can school programme, this is what they had to say;

The Chip Packet Project, an eco-conscious initiative, encourages the reuse of chip packets to create items that benefit the community. Each blanket is made by carefully fusing and layering used chip packets into a reflective, insulating material that provides essential warmth. The process not only addresses homelessness but also educates young people on the importance of recycling and the positive impact they can have on their community.



At Shirley Primary School and Te Kura o Matarangi Northcote School, students eagerly joined hands, learning how to clean, cut, and fuse packets together to form the blankets. The fused packets have been sent back to Auckland where they will receive a plastic cover

for longevity of the blanket. These will be then be sent back to Christchurch ready for distribution. This hands-on experience has shown the students that their small, everyday choices - like recycling - can make a significant difference for others.

In addition to making a positive environmental impact, the project has encouraged students to embrace values like empathy, responsibility, and teamwork - key aspects of the Kiwi Can programme. Shirley Primary School's and Northcote School's participation has reinforced these lessons, illustrating how students can live out values like compassion and service.

We are so thankful for all our Kiwi Can schools getting involved and helping us to make a difference in our local community.

Thank you for your support in action ie. spreading the word about this amazing but bizarre work, encouragement and financial support. Thank you for helping us give those in need, a warm night's sleep.

Web: chippacketproject.org

Facebook: [chippacketprojectnz](https://www.facebook.com/chippacketprojectnz)

Email: chippacketproject@gmail.com

Charity No: CC60872



PARISH LIFE



New neighbours?



One of the elusive garden team who look after our grounds.



Blessing an ambulance



Home Communion

Congratulations to Ata who receives a school award for most progressive student



Some of the Jaminators at the Churchill Club Christmas Market

FROM THE REGISTER

FUNERALS

5/09/24

Marion JONES

30/09/24

Barbara Louise PICOT

15/11/24

Patricia Joan ELLERY



GROUPS

Men's Coffee Group

Thursdays at 9.30am in Annabelles in St Heliers Village.

Women's Weekly Meeting

Fridays at 10am in Annabelles in 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 in St Heliers Village.
Contact the parish office for further details.

Girlfriends In Spirit

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

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, 5-7pm

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

Curate: The Rev'd Wesley Fifita

phone: 575 5288 (office)

email: curate@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: 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://](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnTsejuVrWDBo27YLcu83Zw)

[www.youtube.com/channel/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnTsejuVrWDBo27YLcu83Zw)

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

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

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

5pm Taizé Service

Sunday 8 December - Advent 2

8am Communion

9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 15 December - Advent 3

8am Communion

9.30am Family Communion with Christmas pageant

Sunday 22 December - Advent 4

8am Communion

9.30am Traditional Lessons and Carols Service

5pm Evensong with carols

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

See above poster

Sunday 31 December

9am Summer Communion

SERVICES AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 5 - 26 January (inclusive)

9am Summer Communion

OTHER EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Saturday 7 December

Bake Sale in St Heliers Village starting at 9am.

Wednesday 18 December

10am Communion followed by the final Women's Fellowship meeting of 2024.

Thursday 19 December

Final mainly music of 2024

Thursday 19 December

Christmas Services held at St Andrew's Retirement Village and the Grace Joel Retirement Village.