

Winter 2026



## Eastertide

Dawn Service, mainly music and Baptism



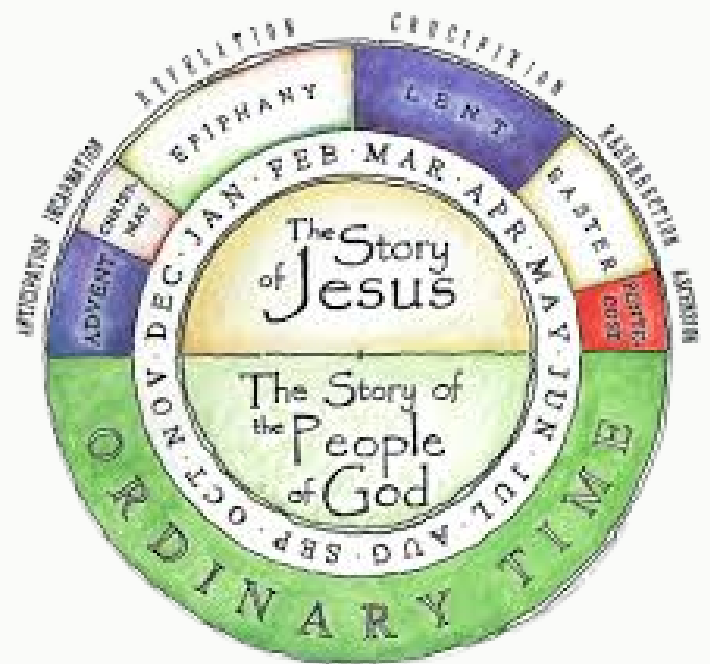
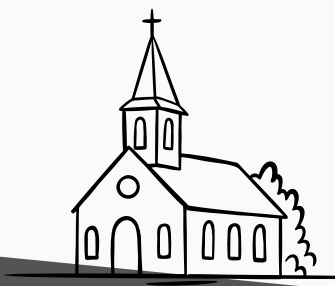
## Message from Matt

Depending on how the days of the week fall in a given year, Ordinary Time is 33-34 weeks long, and the days in Ordinary Time are generally identified by their number. The Latin term for Ordinary Time is straightforward and practical: 'tempus per annum' roughly translates into 'time during the year'.

After the Easter season closes with Pentecost, Ordinary Time resumes and carries on through late autumn until early summer with the beginning of Advent. Not only does Ordinary Time represent a quieter period between the Church's 'major solemnities' and more 'intense seasons', but the proper liturgy for a particular day in Ordinary Time can be replaced by various other feasts and commemorations.

Still, just because Ordinary Time might be 'ordinary' in more ways than one, this does not mean that we should see it as boring or unimportant. Like all liturgical seasons, Ordinary Time calls us to reflect on particular mysteries of the faith in a more focused way than we would in other seasons. Ordinary Time is when we are asked, urged, and challenged to work on our faith and understanding.

You may have noticed that, during our Church year, the upright behind the altar changes colour (as does the stole and chasuble I wear). Our Church year has different seasons and the changing colours help remind us what season we are in.



The American Benedictine nun, Joan Chittister, reflected on the ordered, regular rhythm of our Church year when she wrote, "Like a great waterwheel, the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."

This year we have already experienced the yearly seasons of Epiphany (white), Lent (violet), Easter (white), and Ascension (white) and before us stretches out a long period before Advent (violet) and Christmas (white). That long stretch is called Ordinary Time.

Ordinary, in this case, does not mean normal or boring or usual. The word "ordinary" as used here is derived from the ordinal numerals (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>,...) by which the weeks are identified or counted.

Ordinary Time is a time of growth and new life. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops notes: "The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time, take us through the life of Christ. This is the time of conversion. This is living the life of Christ."

Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ."

The potential for growth and maturation is why the liturgical colour of green is the colour for Ordinary Time. And green also promotes and inspires us in other ways.

Green also is a hopeful colour. In Ordinary Time, as we hear the rhythm of Jesus' life and the hopes of the prophets again, green represents our hope in God's promises for us. Our hope, as outlined in our Catechism in our prayer book, is based in the truth that, "nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which endures and prevails forever." Green reminds us of God's promises and our anticipation of eternal life.

The potential for growth and maturation is why the liturgical colour of green is the colour for Ordinary Time. And green also promotes and inspires us in other ways.

So, if Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, how can we do just that? Could we read our bible daily, pray a little longer each day, get a good book/lecture series/podcast, consciously discuss our faith with each other sharing and looking for understanding? The answer, of course, is all of the above. But if we keep the Ordinary Time challenge in the front of our minds, especially as we enter the shorter, darker days of winter, then we can use the winter season to inspire our Church season too.



*Vestry Commissioning*

I wish all of us a long, productive, ordinary Ordinary Time this year. May we see this season as a chance, a challenge, and a hope. May we enter a new green phase of growth, maturation, and hope.

*Matt Griffiths*

## Wardens' Report

We are now two months into our new Vestry, and at our first meeting after the AGM, members were nominated to fill a number of roles on Vestry, namely:

**Chairperson:** Warwick Jones

**Secretary:** Julie White

**Health and Safety Officer:** Jane Boyd

**Privacy Officer:** Stuart Weightman

**Sustainability Champion:** Tsana Plessius

**Mission Motivator:** Fran Martin

We also confirmed the Outreach champions for each of the groups we partner with in outreach:

**Anglican Trust for Women and Children:** Sally Warwick

**Auckland City Mission:** Parish Office

**Chip Packet Project NZ:** Tsana Plessius

**Feed My Lambs (St Saviours Church):** Warwick Jones

**Rev'ds Joel and Hinemoa Carpenter :** Rev'd Matt Griffiths

**St Mary's Glen Innes:** Rev'd Matt Griffiths

**Anglican Missions Board -** Fran Martin

These are groups that we not only support financially, but practicably where able, making donations of physical goods or providing advice or just a listening ear. And, equally as importantly, praying for these groups, that their good deeds may continue and that those involved with them find strength and encouragement to do their work.

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 and Warwick Jones*



*Tsana and Fran at Diocesan Training Day*

## Vestry Mission Motivator Report

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In April, Anglican Missions and Development Agencies joined with other Church partners from around the Pacific for the Oceania Regional Advisory Committee (ORAC) Conference at Namaquamaqua, Fiji. This provided a forum to update and share information, strengthen relationships and discuss practical responses to issues that affect communities across Oceania.

Things discussed included disaster preparedness, climate resilience, gender justice, water and sanitation, oceans and plastics, and the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in development and Church use. People participating came from Tonga, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and United Kingdom. Archbishop Sione opened the discussion on oceans and plastics and talking about the importance of the ocean to Pacific communities.

Outcomes from the meeting include the expansion of educational programmes, strengthening environmental initiatives, improvement of disaster planning, and community preparation for disasters and severe weather events.

The full report of this conference can be found on Anglican Missions website.

## Women's Fellowship

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

Our 2026 year started in March as the February meeting fell on Good Friday this year. We held our AGM at the March meeting chaired by Vicar Matt. The minutes were passed, the financial report approved and the Committee for 2026 voted in. We followed the AGM with an extended morning tea which was a good opportunity to catch up and chat.

Our April speaker was Adrienne Joyce whose family in 1997 moved their 1960s house from Tamaki Drive to Mangawhai Heads by barge. She was a most entertaining speaker and many of us who lived in St Heliers back then remember the house and its exciting journey to its new home.

Women's Fellowship continue to support our Parish and each other, sharing our Faith and times of fellowship and friendship.

*Sally Warwick*

## Hands and Hearts

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Our April Hands and Hearts meeting went well.

Many knitted garments came in (*see picture*)

Not included in the photo are the lovely garments that Elaine knitted: two pinafore dresses and a fish & chip top with an accompanying hat.

Thank you so much for all the wonderful knitted garments.

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Wendy from Island Child Charitable Trust said thank you for the items donated in early May. They had just come at the right time. ICCT had run out of blankets, jumpers and warm clothes. Her comment has spurred me to knit in the longer colder evenings.

I also received an email and a phone call from a volunteer at Petal Foundation thanking Hands and Hearts for the wonderful knitted items.

It is comforting to know that our garments are helping others to keep warm as the season is definitely changing to colder days and evenings.

I asked ICCT what size blankets (eg peggy square construction) would help 4-5 year old children to keep warm. The response today was "large enough for a child aged 4-8 to sit and cuddle up in with it wrapped around them for warmth OR to pop over a duvet on a single bed (the width of a single bed)."

Our next meeting is on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June starting 3pm in St Philip's Church Lounge. Wishing you all good health and happy knitting.



*Jeanette Davidson*



## Monday Morning Prayer Group

This group meets in the Lady Chapel on the first and third Mondays of the month at 9.30 am. It is a small group of four to seven people. We pray for the world, our Church and community and all those we know in need of prayer. Paul wrote 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 4:6-7 NIV) Praying together is powerful and a great way to start the week.

*Fran Martin*



## GINs- Girls in Spirit

This group of Girls in Spirit meets on alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the third week of each month. We meet in the Church lounge at 7.30 pm so that working women can also come. It is an evening of conviviality and sharing. We bring drinks of our choice and some snacks. All women are welcome. If you are interested, you can talk to Julie or Fran about receiving the monthly reminder and details of the day and date.

*Fran Martin*



## Pentecost Hanging

We celebrated the Feast of Pentecost on the 24th of May and also had the additional delight of blessing a new banner for our worship space celebrating the day.

The banner was donated to St. Philip's by a New Zealand artist, Jan Ubels. Jan describes himself as a Teacher, painter, sculptor, and compulsive maker. Jan is a Christian artist and he has had an eclectic past. His background includes teaching art in secondary schools, designing and making Custom hot rods, developing museum installations and building sets for the NZ Opera and other theatre groups.



*Matt blesses the new hanging*

Jan now lives in Taupo and he was inspired by the idea of Pentecost and so he created the banner. The way he describes it is, "I wanted something that evoked the wonder of the flames descending in the upper room. The wonder of the Holy Spirit. The why. So that led it to being also contemplative.

The strips of fabric, some painted or over layered, were sewn on a backing cloth by my sister Tissy Batelaan. I was hoping that the slightest breeze would give movement to the strips.

I am only now realising the significance of the Holy Spirit, what he is doing in each one of us, still lighting a fire."

If you have not seen the new banner yet, we encourage you to come and see and be inspired by Jan's work and the work of the Holy Spirit which still inspires and encourages us all.

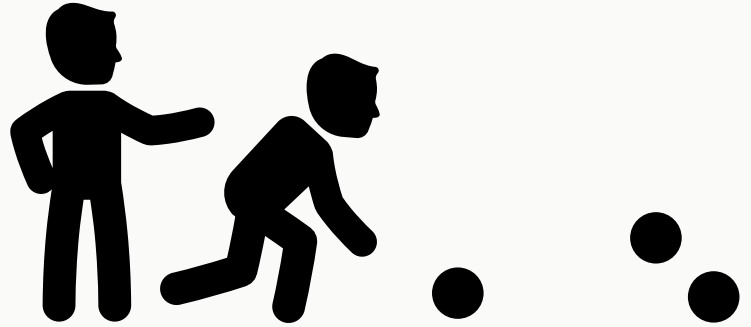
*Matt Griffiths*



*Jan at work*

## Community Events

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### Orakei Senior Indoor Bowls

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The Club meet regularly on Tuesdays from 10am-12 noon. More of a social club than a sports club, the emphasis is on fun and companionship. They do not engage in competitive play against other clubs. No previous experience in indoor bowls is required.

The meeting is split into two parts, with a mid morning cuppa in between. There are a small number of vacancies in the team, so the club is inviting people to try their hand at indoor bowls in a fun and relaxed environment, in the hopes that you might join the club.

There is no charge for the first two weeks. If you choose to join the club then the annual subscription is \$20, and weekly attendance is \$5.

Enquiries to George Clark (President)

09 528 5129

[clarkgeorge@hotmail.com](mailto:clarkgeorge@hotmail.com)

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*PJ's collected  
for winter*

## Ronnie Gardiner Method

Every Tuesday Yeo-Jin comes in to run RGM exercises. These are fun, light hearted and enjoyed greatly by our regular crowd. If you are interested in a type of exercise that also improves concentration, coordination, motor skills, memory and balance, then you should pop in on Tuesday at 1pm. Koha entry, please check the website for more info

<https://rgm-nz.auckland.ac.nz/>



## Chip Packet Project



Chip Packet Project is one of the many groups St. Philip's supports. Currently they are working at the Tamaki Zero Waste Hub on Pilkington Road. Due to the season, as well as the cost of living crisis, the need in our community is greater than ever. If you have chip or biscuit packets you can donate, please drop them in at the St. Philips collection point. Your foil packets will be upcycled into thermal survival blankets to help those sleeping on the street, or anyone who needs a warm night sleep.

*Jessie Ladbrook*



*Msgr Bernard and Rev'ds Matt, Nikki, and Joel on Ash Wednesday*



*Matt gives final blessing on ANZAC*

## mainly music

Each Thursday morning at 9:30am in term time, we welcome a happy crowd of pre-schoolers and their carers - grandparents, dads, mums and nannies. Term One was been especially joyful this year as we prepared for Easter. Songs and rhymes featuring bunnies - the children had bunny ears to wear – hot cross buns and the Easter story made up the programme for April. We all enjoyed the Easter story brought by Vicar Matt using a video and storybook sourced from the Bible Society. The storybook, a tiny palm in a pot with growing instructions grown from seed given by a parishioner and chocolate Easter eggs were given to each child.

We celebrated Mother's day with a gift for each family to give to their mum – an origami teddy bear (made by Julie, Steve, and Sophie White) carrying a chocolate heart.

Hillary and Bev welcome the families arriving for the session, quickly learning their names and chatting as they put on name tags. With some music from the session playing, everyone comes into the hall, sits in a circle on the mats, the children often selecting a soft toy to cuddle. Julie brilliantly leads the session using the data projector showing the words and providing the music. It has been great to have Jessie on the team – she is a pro with technology and relates well to our little people. Kath, Rodney, with Hazel and Viola Fifita from time to time, support with singing and handing out and collecting in various props – bunny ears, rainbow rings, drums and shakers. Julie puts together each 4 – 5week programme including high actions songs quieter rhymes and cuddle songs as well as one or two 'God songs'. We all say a Grace before having morning tea in the lounge with conversation and play with small toys. This is time to spend with our families, listening to their stories and as appropriate offering both practical and prayer support. This is a valuable ministry to our local community and if you would like to help in some way, please speak to Matt, Julie or someone in the team.



mainly music  
est. 1990



*Kath Deeble*



The Quiz



The Quiz



Marking Table at the Quiz



Reaffirming our Baptismal Vows at Easter



Patronal Festival Brunch



Easter Dawn Service



Sarah Clare's Visit



The Quiz



The Quiz



The Quiz



The Quiz



Oliver's Baptism

## From The Register

### Funerals

26/03/26

Barbara Dench

22/03/26

Frank Barrow

### Baptisms

02/02/26

Oliver McCullagh



## Groups

### Men's Coffee

Thursdays 9.30am in Annabelles, St Heliers Village

### Women's Weekly Meeting

Fridays at 10am in Annabelles, St Heliers Village

### 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 Parish Office for details of next meeting

### mainly music

Thursday 9.30am

### Prayer Group

First and third Monday morning of every month, 9.30am

### Women's Fellowship

Third Wednesday each month, 10am

### Fast Food Friday

Second Friday each month, 5:30-7pm



## Contact Details

### Parish Office

Parish Administrator: Julie White

Phone: 575 5288

Email: [office@stphilips.nz](mailto:office@stphilips.nz)

92 St Heliers Bay Rd, St Heliers, Auckland 1071

Office Hours: 9am-1pm Tues-Friday

WEbsite: [www.stphilips.nz](http://www.stphilips.nz)

### Parish Clergy

#### Vicar: The Rev'd Matt Griffiths

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

Email: [vicar@stphilips.nz](mailto:vicar@stphilips.nz)

#### The Rev'd Brian Jenkins

Phone: 575 7797

### Important Contacts

Church Warden: Warwaick Jones (575 9112)

Church Warden Tsana Plessius (021478 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

Online Services can be accessed via <https://www.youtube.com/UCnTsejuVrWDBo27YLc u83Zw> or from our website

Services:

Sunday 8am Holy Communion

Sunday 9:30am Family Communion

*Private Prayer is offered during communion and after this service*

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday every month 5pm Taize Prayer Service

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month 5pm Evensong

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

# **SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

## **AT ST. PHILIP'S**

St. Philip's runs a range of activities and supports lots of local missions. If you would like to join in, or help out, please chat to someone in the office, or ask someone with a green name tag on a Sunday.

**Lenten Studies**

**Glen Innes Food Bank**

**Rest Home Services**

**Chip Packet Project NZ**

**Beach Clean-up**

**Guy's Get Together**

**9.30m Family Service**

**Ronnie Gardiner Method**

**Girlfriend's in Spirit**

**Hearts and Hands**

**Women's Weekly Meeting**

**Mens Coffee**

**Prayer Group**

**Women's Fellowship**

**Evensong**

**Taize**

**Fast Food Fridays**

**Auckland City Mission**

**mainly music**

**8am Eucharist Service**

**Orakei Senior Bowls**

**Parish Dinner**

**Quiz Nights**

**Childrens Church**