

St Philip's

Anglican Church of St Heliers Bay and Glendowie

Autumn 2025



Christmas Services
in 2024



MESSAGE FROM MATT

As the old Welsh hymn Lord, we gather at Your altar (written by J. Clifford Evers in 1873), says, "Lord, we gather at Your altar, Off'ring sacrifices of praise, Just as Abraham and Moses, Offered in those ancient days," it is our tradition to gather together regularly around our altar and offer our worship to God, remember Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and share the meal that Jesus instructed us to do.

Our Altar is a magnificent affair. It is made of marble, measures almost 4 metres by 76cms by 1 metre, and has the Christogram of Iota-eta-sigma in the central panel. Iota-eta-sigma is an ancient symbol for Jesus' name (the Roman alphabet equivalent of Iota-eta-sigma is J-E-S) and our Christogram has the Romanised C for sigma not the lunate form of s. The Christogram is a visual aide memoir of Jesus' presence amongst us when we gather.

The original design for the altar had three crosses on the front, one in each panel. The crosses were Crosses Potent with cross bars at each end (the same design that we see on the blue shields supporting the beams across our ceiling or on the side of the liturgist's chair).

This design caused some controversy at the time and, when it was submitted to the Bishop, he wrote on the design, "I do not approve three crosses – suggest three openings so that the colour for the seasons can be inserted – suggest see Dilworth Chapel." The openings did not eventuate, so an 'Anglican' type of compromise must have been reached!

Our Altar was donated to St. Philip's by the family of William Henri Gerrard Kensington, a local lawyer in the parish who lived in Benbow Street. And, carved into the top, there is a small cross in each corner and a larger cross in the middle. This is traditional in altars and is another aide memoir of the five wounds of Jesus in his crucifixion (the four in his hands and feet and the larger wound in his side).

It is said that what is most important to people is put in the centre of their lives. And, for us, the centre of our church, and the centre of our worship, is the altar and our Communion Meal.

In our Catechism (a statement that expresses our basic Christian beliefs used in teaching) the Communion Meal is described as the statement of thanksgiving given by Jesus for our continual recalling of His life, death, and resurrection. Communion is also described there as the family meal of the Church in which we are strengthened in our union with Jesus and with each other for service.

As we approach Easter, and as we Journey through Lent together, we will continue to gather together at St Philip's and we will continue to gather at the altar and give thanks, recall Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and share in the Communion meal. And that is right and fitting and appropriate.

But, as with all meals we eat, the meal is to give us energy for life and work. And the work we are given to take part in is God's work in our place and in our time. After His resurrection, Jesus directs His disciples to go to Galilee and meet Him there. And, at that meeting, Jesus commissioned them. He instructed them to go into the world, make disciples of all nations, baptise them, and teach them. That is Jesus' work in the world. Go, make, baptise, and teach. That is the work Jesus gave His disciples. That is the work that Jesus offers to us to do too.

It must have sounded a scary, daunting prospect to the disciples as it does to us too. But Jesus made a special promise to them and he does to us too, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This Easter as we gather around our altar, may we feel nourished as we share the meal together. But may we also feel energised to take our part in Jesus' mission in the world.

KID'S CHURCH

May we be fed so that we may be bold enough to feed others and, as J. Clifford Evers wrote so long ago, "So, with Christ, ourselves we offer, To our Father throned above, As the sacrifice of Calvary, We renew with grateful love."

Matt Griffiths

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month with a Service of Holy Communion at 10.00

Most months we have a speaker but make time some months to have an extended morning tea with an opportunity to chat and catch up and enjoy a time of fellowship and friendship.

The last speaker for 2024 was at our October meeting. Graham Walton gave a most interesting talk of the History of Eden Park from the time it was just a swamp to the present day. He was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker.

In December, as we traditionally do, we finished the year with a special Christmas morning tea hosted by the Committee.

Women's Fellowship plays an important part in life of our Parish as we continue to celebrate and share our faith, support and friendship.

Our focus in Children's Church this term has shifted from the old story of Moses back to the newness of Jesus' life as experienced through his disciple Peter.

At the start of a new year, it felt important to remind the children that in the same way Jesus needed helpers to work with Him and carry on His work into the future, we also need to create a strong community of friends to mutually uplift and guide us.

The children imagined the qualities of Jesus that inspired Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him instantly. They could also name good friends that they would help immediately too. As we approach Easter, I look forward to exploring the complex role Peter played in the lead up to the crucifixion and

resurrection. It will be interesting to discuss if they could love and forgive a friend who had denied them as readily as Jesus forgave Peter.



Lorna Travis



Sally Warwick.

MEN'S COFFEE

The Men's Coffee group is a small group of men, typically around 6 to 10, from the Parish who meet together each Thursday at 9.30am at Annabelles on Tamaki Drive at St Heliers. We welcome any men in the Parish who would like to join us for an hour (sometimes longer!) to experience the fellowship sustained with a cup of coffee or tea. The discussions are very topical as to the activities involving all of us. Matt and/or Wesley often join us but our conversations are not necessarily overly religious. Come along if you are free - only too happy to assist with transport if necessary.

Jeffrey Hunter

WARDENS' REPORT

The year began quietly with the combined services at 9am during January. Although this time is a compromise for both groups of our parishioners, it's lovely to have the opportunity to all worship together. It was wonderful this year that Wesley was able to take some services for Matt over this period and allow him to have a break. Wesley's family supported him well in taking responsibility for the services!

Project 24 was a major focus for us last year and we are very grateful for the generosity of our parishioners which allowed the repairs to the bell tower to be completed before Christmas. The essential work on the vicarage to provide a warm and secure home for our Vicar and family is about to begin and we shall report further on that as it proceeds.

Our Parish Administrator, Julie, has been on leave to support her mother in England and we are so fortunate to have Julie's daughter, Sophie, filling the role in her absence. The change has been

seamless as both Julie and Sophie worked hard to prepare for it. We are very grateful to them both.

At the January Vestry meeting, Vestry approved St Philip's becoming a member of ECO Church NZ which will formalise much of the work which is already happening here such as recycling, composting and the Chip Packet Project.

The AGM for 2025 will be held on Sunday 30 March at 11am so please put that date in your diaries. If you are interested in serving on Vestry, please discuss that with Matt or one of us.

Madeline Gunn and Warwick Jones

FUNDRAISING

Following on from a very successful fundraiser at the end of last year, where just over \$1000 was raised from the sales of Olive Oil and Cookies, plans are underway for the next fundraiser which will be launching in March. This will be a Chocolate Fundraiser selling Whittaker's SLABS. If you wish to help with this fundraiser by selling a box of slabs or want further information, please contact Caroline Lawton on 021 1425987. Fundraising is a great way for the wider community to become involved with helping raise money for our church and in particular the latest project for essential maintenance work for our Vicarage.



GIRLFRIENDS IN SPIRIT

Girlfriends In Spirit meet mid week in the evenings once per month in the St Philip's lounge.

These evenings are filled with chats and laughter as we support each other in our daily lives. We are a social bunch and always happy to welcome others so pop in and join us. The next meeting is on Wednesday March 19th at 7:30pm. This is a great way to relax and enjoy the company of other fabulous ladies.

Contact the parish office to find out more.



CONGRATULATIONS



Many congratulations to our once Curate, now Priest Assistant Wesley Fifita for being ordained Priest in November 2024!

There have been a lot of hours and hard work put into this, and it's great to see it all pay off.

MAINLY MUSIC

We are off to a gentle start this year, with Julie having been away in England. Our families have been spending their Thursday mornings playing in the lounge, and are excited to get back into the music, rhymes and movement in March.

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 9.30 to 10 am. There are usually 4 to 8 people present. We pray together on a wide range of subjects. There is always much to pray for, the world and leaders, for New Zealand, for our personal trials and issues. We welcome all who wish to bring their concerns to God so we may all pray together. "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24 NIV.

Fran Martin

HANDS AND HEARTS

Thank you on behalf of the parish to the Hands and Hearts ladies for all their effort in making these beautiful stars for the families at the Christmas services.



HEALTHY CHURCH MODEL

“Knowing God, shaping community, growing in Christ and living beyond ourselves.”

The Healthy Church Model is used by our Diocese to capture our vision for our life and work together, both as a Diocese and at the local church level.

The aim is to build church communities that flourish, demonstrating the qualities expressed in these verses:

“The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

The Healthy Church Model (diagram below) provides a framework that helps congregations celebrate their strengths, identify areas for improvement and create space for creative new initiatives. The four dimensions are not meant to be clinically defined categories of activities; instead, they often overlap. Our ability to hold these things together is a measure of the health of our relationships – with God, with each other, and with the world around us.

LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES

A community which makes generous and positive contributions in word and deed in the wider world.

Being the Church means living beyond our own concerns. We are called to bear witness to our faith and serve the communities around us, actively expressing the love of Christ through generosity and service to those in need.

This love for our neighbour is expressed in multiple ways :

- ♦ providing companionship for older people;
- ♦ supporting new parents;
- ♦ becoming a companion for the grieving;
- ♦ or advocating for social justice and climate change action.

Relevant Outreach and Proclaiming the Gospel

Detailed below are some of the ways St Philip’s is involved in our community outreach and proclaiming the Gospel:

- * Chip Packet Project NZ (CPP NZ) Collection Point
- * Community Compost Bins
- * Foil Fusion Fridays (for CPPNZ)
- * Food baskets for Auckland City Mission and Glen Innes Citizen’s Advice Bureau
- * Retirement Village Services
- * Recycling and compost bins
- * Women’s Friday Morning Coffee Group
- * Combined Services with local churches
- * Men’s Coffee Group
- * Guys Get Together
- * Girlfriends in Spirit
- * Women’s Fellowship
- * Parish Dinners
- * Fast Food Fridays
- * Prayer Chain
- * Quiz Evenings
- * Hands and Hearts
- * Evensong
- * Baptisms
- * Funerals
- * ANZAC Day Service



Care

- * Recycling batteries, soap and toothpaste containers
- * Bible Studies
- * Home Communion
- * House Blessings
- * Monday Morning Prayer
- * Sharing space with the Korean Presbyterian Church
- * Worship Services - available to all
- * Sunday School sessions

How Can I give

All of the following methods of giving can receive a Tax receipt.

Under current rules the Government refunds \$1 for every \$3 you give. This amount will be cumulative if you designate to the IRD that the refund is to be paid directly to the Church.



HELPING US TO HELP OTHERS

At St Philip's we commit 10% of our Gross Annual Giving, as part of our 'first fruits offerings' to helping others. Below are details of the Outreach partners that we regularly support financially:

- * Auckland City Mission
- * Anglican Trust for Women and Children
- * St Mary's Church Glen Innes
- * Rev'ds Joel and Hinemoa Carpenter
- * Anglican Missions Board
- * Chip Packet Project NZ (CPP NZ)
- * Feed My Lambs

- ♦ Internet payments (*St Philip's Bank Account details at the bottom of this page*).
- ♦ Updating / beginning an automatic payment
- ♦ Joining the envelope giving system: weekly / monthly / quarterly.
- ♦ Leave a bequest in your will
- ♦ Gift your tax rebate to St Philip's.

If you are unsure about any of the above you can chat to one of our Wardens or contact the parish office.

All information given is treated as confidential and will be viewed only by the Parish Recorder and used for calculating your Tax Receipt.



Here at St Philip's all that we do and all we support is funded by you and your generous donations.

You enable us to continue our relevant outreach and proclaim the Gospel.

So Thank You.

Our bank account details are:

ANZ Newmarket 01 0262 0010639 00

Please reference any giving as 'Offertory'.

Healthy Church Model - Anglican Diocese of Auckland

Wesley's First Baptism



Fun Kids' Church Crafts



Wesley's First Solo Service - Advent 1

Bell Tower Repairs



Someone is ready for Christmas!

The Mulled Wine Team



Nativity: Behind the Scenes



City of Sails Christmas Concert



And the Pre-Concert Gathering



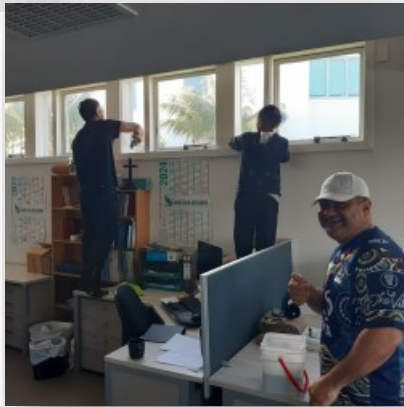
Our new
neighbours are
multiplying!





Flower arrangements
in the church

St Philip's
Working Bee



UPCOMING EVENTS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year St Philip's is hosting the World Day of Prayer Ecumenical service for this area. Other churches nearby have been invited and the service will be lead by women from St Heliers Presbyterian Church and St Ignatius church as well as from St Philip's. This year the WDP Committee of Cook Islands has prepared the service which has been adapted for use in New Zealand so there will be a Cook Island influence in this beautiful service.

It is on Friday 7th March at 12 noon and will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome to attend and it is timed so people can pop in at lunchtime.

2025 LENTEN STUDY

The Lenten study for 2025 is focused on the topic of "Unanswered Prayer - The Prayer Course". It will be taking place at 3pm each Sunday during Lent (9 March - 6 April). We would love to see you there; please speak to Wesley or Matt if you would like any further information.

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

FROM THE REGISTER

BAPTISMS

19/01/25

Heidi Hope TURNER

9/02/25

Ashleigh Eva BURKE



FUNERALS

21/11/24

Victor Manuel SCANIGLIA

9/12/24

Joy ORMSBY

10/01/25

Kathleen Alison PARKER



17/01/25

Stella Ruth MILSOM

28/01/25

Gay SCANIGLIA

17/02/25

Elaine Olive BAILEY

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

Church Warden: Warwick Jones (575 9112)

Church 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://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


3rd Wednesday of every month 10.00am

Holy Communion in the Chapel

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

JOIN US THIS EASTER



 St Philip's

stphilips.nz

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm | Communion

Good Friday

9am | Family Service

Easter Sunday

8am | Communion

9.30am | Family Communion

ADDITIONAL LENTEN SERVICES

Sundays from 9 March - 30 March

8am Communion

9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 6 April - Passion Sunday

8am Communion

9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 13 April - Palm Sunday

8am Communion

9.30am Family Communion with procession

HOLY WEEK

Monday 14 April - Wednesday 16 April

7.30pm Night Prayer in the Lady Chapel

Thursday 17 April

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion
(including stripping of the altar)

Friday 18 April

9am Good Friday starting at St Philip's Church,

EASTER DAY

Sunday 20 April

6.30am Combined Church Beach Service

8am Communion

9.30am Family Communion with Egg Hunt