

## DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

In June of 2021, retired archivist Jacquie Nevins returned to the archives for two days to help with knowledge transfer and training. Chance Dixon was hired as the Archivist in late June of 2021 and appreciated that Jacquie came out of retirement to share her knowledge of the archives. The Diocese has applied for summer student funding, if received this summer the student will work with the Chance on three projects. The focus of these projects will include land research, accessioning (processing) records into the Archives and decolonizing archival descriptions.

The Archives has been focusing on accessioning a backlog of transferred material, providing access through responding to research requests and encouraging onsite research. The Archives also purchased a book/document scanner in 2022. This has allowed us to respond to research request more quickly.

On average per month, the Archives consistently receives around 15-30 requests seeking historical information, as well as requests for copies of baptismal, marriage, and burial certificates. The search for the information is sometimes straightforward, and sometimes complicated by misremembered dates or even by the uneven handwriting skills found in the vestry, marriage and burial record books. Additionally, the Archives has accessioned vestry books and records from a variety of Diocesan parishes and the public.

The Archives has been very fortunate to have a number of volunteers and researchers currently assisting with archival projects. These projects include larger research projects, reference library inventory, Diocese Post subject heading project and a variety of accessioning projects. As COVID safety protocols changed, the dedicated archival volunteers have been able to contribute over 150 hours to the Archives. This year active volunteers include Alison Stewart, Joan Lee and Justine Soles. Active internal researchers include Jesse Robertson.

Thanks to Tara Saracuse, Anna van der Hooft, Judith Coleman, and other members of the Synod Staff for stepping in when needed to help to support the Archives over the last 2 years. It has been a pleasure to work closely with other Synod staff in learning more about the history of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of British Columbia (Islands and Inlets).

Respectfully Submitted,

Chance Dixon, Archivist