

Archive's Report

Chance Dixon started her role as Archivist in late June of 2021 and continues to manage all the needs of the Diocesan Archives program with a small, dedicated team of volunteers. 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 has started a long-term project of decolonizing its finding aids. The project emerges from archival best-practices of decolonization, access, and inclusivity for multiple cultural groups. The project has started with the review of public-facing resources, such as our entries on the MemoryBC website. While doing this work, we will, in true archival spirit, track all changes made, the better to preserve the historical record while updating any problematic language that we find.

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.

We are very fortunate to have a number of volunteers and researchers assisting with archival projects. These projects include larger research projects, audio-visual collection inventory, Faith Tides subject heading project and a variety of accessioning projects. The dedicated archival volunteers have been able to contribute over 100 hours to the Archives. This year's volunteers included Alison Stewart, Joan Lee, Diane Persson and Jessica Ziakin Cook. Internal researchers included Jesse Robertson.

Thanks to the Archives Advisory Committee members and Synod staff for continuing to support the Archives over the last 3 years. It has been a pleasure to work both groups while 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