

## **Report of the Diocesan Archivist**

More and more people are doing family histories today and use the Church Archives for checking and verifying names, relationships, dates and places. Much of my work as Diocesan Archivist is checking parish registers for Baptism, Confirmation, Marriages and Burials. A nominal fee is charged for a certified copy of any registration.

It would be very helpful for someone in the parish to be the Parish Archivist. Parish Secretaries are often too busy with parish work to spend time searching parish registers. If there is such a person in your parish please send me their name, address and phone number so I can contact them if need be.

Clergy should make sure every space is filled in and all documents are properly signed. Please print name first then sign. It's almost impossible to decipher some signatures today.

It's very sad that penmanship is being dropped from the public school curriculum.

Please remember to check all current Registers and when filled up take them to my attention to the Cathedral, with 4 copies of the contents of marked boxes. I then catalogue them and take them to Mills Memorial Library at McMaster University to be digitized and this also sent to the parish for their researching. There is no charge to a parish for this Diocesan service.

I have a record of every item from a parish at McMaster. Please contact me if you want a copy. Also our brochure titled "Archives – our story" tells a parish quite clearly what is archival and what is not. Canon 2.6 is all about Archives.

Respectfully submitted,

Archdeacon John Rathbone

Diocesan Archivist