

PARISH REGISTERS

Registers which record Baptisms and Marriages, are required to be kept by every Parish within the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch. Burials and Cemetery records are also often to be found among Parish Records, as are lists of Confirmations, Admission to Communion and Banns of Marriage.

These records are to be found either in the Diocesan Archives or in individual Parishes. It is advisable to contact the Diocesan Archives, or to check the website

for the current location of this material and for any restrictions follow this link:
<http://www.kinderlibrary.ac.nz/files/documents/Motion%2015%20GSTHW%202016.pdf>

Diocesan and Parish Boundaries have changed over time.

The present Anglican Diocese of Christchurch included Otago and Southland until 1869, and the Parishes of Amuri, Cheviot and Hanmer Springs were transferred from the Diocese of Nelson in 1990.

It is important therefore to investigate whether the information sought may be held in the surrounding parishes, or the adjacent Diocese.

The Registers contain:

Baptism:

Register Number

Date of Birth, Date of Baptism
Christian Name(s) of the person baptised
Christian Names and Surname of Parents
Father's Occupation
Names of Sponsors/Godparents
Signature of officiating Clergyman

Marriage:

Prior to 1880 the following details are usually recorded:

Name of Parish/District
Register Number
Date and Location of Marriage
Christian and Surnames of Parties
Rank or Profession/ Occupation
Condition i.e. Bachelor/Spinster and/or Widow/Widower
Date of Registration
Signature of Officiating Clergyman
Signature of Parties to the Marriage
Signature of Witnesses (and addresses)

After 1880 the following information is **added** for each of the parties

Birthplace
Present and usual Address
Father's Christian Name, Surname and Rank/Profession
Mother's Christian Name, Surname and Maiden name

Banns of Marriage

It was previously a requirement that for the three weeks prior to a marriage, a notice, in the form of banns, was given in the Parish

Church of both parties. Some Banns books have survived.

Divorce/Dissolution of Marriage

The first legislation for Divorce in New Zealand was passed in 1867.

A Certificate is provided by the State recording the end of a Marriage and this may be attached to the marriage entry.

Marriage of Divorced Persons

Prior to 1984 a Bishop's Licence was required for a marriage when one or both of the parties had been divorced. A record of these licences is available.

Burials

Burial Books, record that a service of Burial has taken place at a particular church. The actual burial /burial of ashes may not have taken place in the same location.

The following is recorded:

Register Number
Date (and place) of Burial
Christian Name and Surname of the Deceased
Name(s) and (address) of the Next of Kin
Place of residence
Signature of Officiating Clergyman

CONFIRMATION

The sacrament of Confirmation, which is administered only by a Bishop, was recorded at both the Parish and Diocesan level. Lists can be found in a number of places:

Bishop's Register 1856-1890

Sometimes individuals were named by Bishop Harper in the course of his visitations. These lists have been indexed.

Parish Lists

In the early period (1856-1890) these were written into exercise books or in the back of registers. As they are located they are indexed. After 1890 printed forms were kept in loose leaf folders.

Diocesan Copies (1890 -)

These are retained in bound volumes. Some are indexed.

It is important to realise that an individual may not be confirmed in his/her home church. If numbers were few, combined confirmations were held in the Parish church, or in the Cathedral. Pupils at Anglican Secondary Schools were often confirmed there. These lists contain an individual's full name, and sometimes their age.

ADMISSION TO COMMUNION

There was a brief period (1971-93) when children were admitted to communion, prior to Confirmation.

Lists are available for this period. Today all are admitted to Communion at Baptism.

CHRISTCHURCH CITY LIBRARY TRANSCRIPTIONS

The Anglican Diocese of Christchurch, the New Zealand Genealogical Society (Canterbury Branch) and the Christchurch City Library (Aotearoa-New Zealand Room) have had a joint transcription for Parish Registers since 1981.

These transcripts are an exact copy of the information which can be found in the Parish Registers, are available in a cumulative card index or in bound typescripts.

The period covered by these transcripts varies, depending on the date of the beginning of the Parish and continue to about 1930.

There may be some restrictions on this material, the link below provides additional information:

<http://www.kinderlibrary.ac.nz/files/documents/Motion%2015%20GSTHW%202016.pdf>



The Christchurch Anglican Diocesan Archives
are

Open Each Wednesday by appointment
1.00pm-4.30pm
Ph 03-365-9444

Email: archivesdiochch@anglicanlife.org.nz

*Our job is to preserve the past
and record the present for the future*

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