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# Christchurch Anglican Diocesan Archives



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

## Part 1: Parish Registers

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## 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 collections of the Diocesan Archives or in individual Parishes.

**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 [or if an adult, the occupation of the person baptised]

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.

| When received.                      | When published.  | NAMES.                                     | ABODE.<br>(Street and Number in the Parish or District.) |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| May<br>18 <sup>th</sup><br>1866     | May 20 <sup>th</sup><br>27 <sup>th</sup><br>June 3 <sup>rd</sup>         | Edward Scriver<br>and<br>Ellen Mary Feason | Both of this Parish<br>Antigua Street                    |
| July<br>18 <sup>th</sup><br>1866    | July 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>July 29 <sup>th</sup><br>August 5 <sup>th</sup> | George Bowron<br>and<br>Sidney Mary Martin | Ashley District<br>Of this Parish                        |
| December<br>2 <sup>nd</sup><br>1866 | December 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>3 <sup>rd</sup><br>10                        | John Gay<br>and<br>Ann Foster              | St. John, Christchurch<br>Of this Parish                 |

Extract from the Banns Book for Christchurch- St Luke, 1866- 1938

## Divorce/Dissolution of Marriage

The first legislation for Divorce in New Zealand was passed in 1867. A Certificate was previously provided by the State recording the end of a Marriage and this is attached to the marriage entry where it has survived.

## 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 1860-1861

Sometimes individuals were named by Bishop Harper in the course of his visitations. These lists have been indexed and are available on Putake. <https://putake.recollect.co.nz/>

### **Parish Lists**

In the early period (1856-1890) these were written into exercise books. As they are located they are indexed. After 1890 printed forms were kept in loose leaf folders. See Putake <https://putake.recollect.co.nz/> for Lyttelton 1855-1871.

### **Diocesan Copies (1890 -)**

These are retained in bound volumes and are gradually being indexed. 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. See Putake <https://putake.recollect.co.nz/> for Diocesan Lists 1901-1908.

### ***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.

### **TRANSCRIPTIONS**

The Anglican Diocese of Christchurch, the New Zealand Genealogical Society (Canterbury Branch) and the Christchurch City Library 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. They can be found at Turanga, Level 2 Tuakiri Identity. The period covered by these transcripts varies, depending on the date of the beginning of the Parish and continue to about 1920.

### **PUTAKE**

This web site <https://putake.recollect.co.nz/> can now be searched, partly by subscription for records throughout New Zealand. It contains some material for the Diocese of Christchurch, and more will be added over time.

### **ANGLICAN DIOCESAN ARCHIVES INDEXES**

Parishes outside the immediate vicinity of Christchurch have been indexed. Contact the Archivist for more information.

#### **The Archives are open**

**each first and second Wednesday, by appointment  
1.00pm-4.30pm**

**Location: 95 Tuam Street, Christchurch**

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