

## **REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHIVIST**

This year, 2008 has been a busy one in the Diocesan Archives. With the closure of a number of parishes, this has brought much material to Cathedral Place. I am still in the process of going through many cartons of material to sort out what is of an archival nature. I take all the parish registers, up to the time of disestablishment, index them and send the originals to McMaster University. Copies are not made if the parish is closed. Any copies of old registers are kept safely at Cathedral Place where I have access to them. If only the original exists this is kept at McMaster and I have access to them. This accessibility also applies to Vestry books which have been sent to me. If you don't know what your parish has at McMaster, just let me know and I will send you a copy.

I attended last November 1 - 3, 2007 in Toronto, along with Ruth Anne Martin, the Administrative Assistant to the Archivist, The Anglican Archivists Network Meeting. This was hosted by Nancy Hurn, the General Synod Archivist, and Mary-Ann Nicholls, Archivist of the Diocese of Toronto. Present were Diocesan Archivists from all across Canada. It was privilege to meet with them and share a common interest. Much was learned and taken away from this meeting.

From this meeting has resulted our newly revised brochure on "Archives - Our Story" which sets out clearly each parishes' responsibility for parish archives in Niagara. Copies were sent out to each parish.

We also are exploring the possibility of composing a Stained Glass Window Registry for the Diocese. This will be of great importance and value especially as some parishes are closed and stained glass windows become a problem to deal with. Already a brochure has been mailed to every parish about the care of your stained glass windows \_ NO WINDEX please!

Many people are doing family histories today, or searching U.E.L. connections. Parish records are important sources for much of this information. Please assist future researchers by keeping accurate parish records.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Venerable John Rathbone  
Diocesan Archivist