

REPORT OF ARCHIVE AND HISTORY COMMITTEE

TE PUNA O NEHERA – 2024 – 2025

MEMBERS

Tikanga Maori:	Canon Sharlene Douglas-Huriwai (Lay) Ms Rachel Te Karu
Tikanga Pakeha:	Dr Peter Lineham Ms Jane Teal
Tikanga Pasefika:	The Rev'd Brenda Reed (Co-chair 2024) The Rev'd Salacieli Koroi (Co-chair 2025 - current) The Rev'd Liliani Havili (Co-chair)
Librarian and Archivist:	Mrs Judith Bright
Committee appointments:	The Rev'd Robert Bruere Mr Andrew Metcalfe
General Secretary:	The Rev'd Canon Michael Hughes

The Committee meets three times annually. In 2024 and 2025, all scheduled meetings were held, while two meetings had been convened in 2026 prior to the submission of this report. The first meeting each year was held in person, with the remaining meetings conducted via Zoom.

HISTORY

1. **Anglican Historical Society (AHS):**

The Reverend Peter Bargh was the last remaining member of the Anglican Historical Society in 2024. Since his departure, there have been no members to report.

2. **Historical Research Initiatives:**

The Committee noted the various historical research projects currently being undertaken across the Church. These include research into Māori missionaries in the Pacific, particularly in Melanesia, as well as the history of the Springbok Tour.

ARCHIVES

Digitisation of Registers

The digitisation of Baptism Registers from the Diocese of Polynesia (1891-1986) is underway. The Putake, <https://putake.recollect.co.nz/> the online access to name records includes digitised and transcribed Baptism, Marriage, Burial and Confirmation Registers from the Dioceses of Auckland, Waiapu, Waikato, Nelson, Dunedin and Christchurch. These include records from pastorates and rohe now within Nga Amorangi.

Archival Development and Collaboration:

Ongoing projects and work continues to improve archival systems and promote greater consistency in archival practices across the Church.

Research and Visibility:

Efforts are being made to strengthen collaboration among researchers and to enhance the visibility and accessibility of historical research.

Preservation of Cultural Histories:

The Committee affirmed the importance of preserving and promoting the diverse cultural histories of the Church, with particular attention to Pasefika and Māori histories.

TIKANGA MAORI

Preservation of Hui Amorangi Records

Discussions took place on identifying, preserving, and digitising archival records held within Hui Amorangi and Pihopatanga, and on improving access to archival expertise and resources.

Supporting Church Records and Statistics

Work undertaken within Te Tairāwhiti to collect and record church information was noted as potentially useful for wider church discussions on statistics and record keeping.

Closure and Protection of Records

The Committee considered the preservation of records when churches close, relocate, or are affected by natural disasters, and shared resources to support the protection and transfer of important archival material.

Looking Ahead

The Committee continues to encourage the preservation, digitisation, and sharing of Māori Anglican history and stories for future generations.

TIKANGA PASEFIKA

100 years after the first convene of the Synod of Polynesia:

It was noted that 2025 was the 100th year after the first Synod of Polynesia, which was held in 1925. The records of this synod are held in the Diocesan Archives.

Digitisation of Registers

The digitisation of baptismal registers covering the period from 1891 to 1986 is ongoing as part of the Diocese's commitment to preserving and improving access to its historical records. This work is being carried out by Mrs Judith Bright and Mr Richard Bright. The digitisation of confirmation and marriage registers is also in progress.

Development of the Diocesan Website:

The Diocese established the website, <http://anglicandop.org> to support archival preservation and provide a repository for digital resources and historical records.

Preservation of Historical Artefacts and Stories

Ongoing work is being undertaken in collaboration with the Fiji Museum to preserve the vestments of Reverend Floyd, which date from the mid-nineteenth century. Parishes are encouraged to document and share their histories and stories with the wider community to support the preservation of the Diocese's heritage.

TIKANGA PĀKEHĀ

Christchurch Diocese

- Continued digitisation of parish registers and diocesan archives.
- Supported historical research, local history projects, and publication initiatives.

Dunedin Diocese

- Continued digitisation and preservation of diocesan and parish archives.
- Supported parish anniversaries and local history projects through archival resources.
- Work continued on an updated history of the Diocese and the recording of contemporary stories and memories.

Wider Tikanga Pākehā Activity

- Ongoing work to strengthen record-keeping and archival standards across the Church.
- Continued discussions on statistics collection, clergy and bishops' records, and implementation of lessons arising from the Royal Commission.
- Encouragement of historical research, digitisation projects, and preservation of Anglican stories and records.

The assistance of the General Secretary is acknowledged with appreciation.

Jointly submitted by the Committee.