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Description and Finding Aid
CLIFTON G. GARDNER FONDS
F2330

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CLIFTON GARDNER FONDS

Dates of creation

1941-2000

Extent

39 cm of textual records

4 photographs

1 textile

Biographical sketch

Clifton Gordon Gardner, Anglican clergyman, was born on September 29, 1915 in St. John's, Newfoundland, son of W.J Gardner. After obtaining his BA from Trinity College in 1936, Gardner was deaconed in 1939 and earned a Bachelor of Divinity from King's College at the University of London in 1940.

Gardner was on the clergy list of the Diocese of Oxford from 1939 to 1952, and began as a curate at St Luke's, Maidenhead. His ministry there was superseded from 1941 to 1946 by service as Chaplain in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve. With the help of the Newfoundland Trade Commissioner, Gardner obtained an interview with the Chaplain of the Fleet. Although only 25 years old in March of 1941 (younger than the chaplaincy age minimum of 28 years), he was appointed Probationary Temporary Chaplain to the Royal Naval Barracks at Chatham by mid-April and to the Third Destroyer Flotilla in the Home Fleet of the Royal Navy by mid-May. In 1942 he was appointed to the First Destroyer Flotilla and over the next three years he served as Chaplain on the fleet destroyers HMS *Impulsive*, HMS *Inglefield*, and HMS *Intrepid* and as Chaplain to Destroyers and Small Craft. Some of these destroyers acted as escorts to long-haul Arctic convoys between Britain, the US and Russia and Gardner was on board for four such trips through dangerous waters. In 1945 he was appointed Chaplain to the aircraft carrier HMS *Indefatigable* of the British Pacific Fleet in Japan, but by the time Gardner reached the *Indefatigable* the war in the Far East was over. Upon his release from the Royal Navy in 1946, Gardner returned to his ministry at St. Luke's for one year then became Vicar at St. Peter's, Maidenhead for five years.

Gardner returned to Canada in 1952 when he became Rector of St. Luke's Church in St. Thomas, Ontario. In 1956 he was appointed resident Anglican Chaplain at Westminster Veterans Hospital in London, Ontario, where he stayed for 18 years until 1974. While serving at Westminster Hospital, Gardner was active in many clerical areas. From 1960 to 1969 he was an examining Chaplain for Bishop of Huron, the Right Reverend George N. Luxton, and helped prepare candidates for Deacon's orders. In 1964 he was one of five diocesan clergy appointed as Canons of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. He also acted as the Clerical Secretary of Huron Synod from 1964 to 1973. Additionally he served as the Secretary of the Diocesan Committee, where he drafted pamphlets on burials, marriage, baptism, confirmation and the duties of Church Wardens for consideration at clergy conferences. Also while at the Diocese of Huron, Gardner acted as Secretary of the Spiritual Advance Committee.

In June 1974, Gardner was inducted as rector of St. Peter's Church in Dorchester and became Archdeacon of Middlesex, Ontario with 70 parishes to supervise. Two years later, in 1976, the Gardners retired to Saffron Walden in England. In 1977, however, Gardner was still at work in many area parishes and helping in the deanery of most. He officially retired in 1983, and he and his wife travelled extensively for the next ten years until her death in 1993. Gardner returned to helping with services and was an active member of a Bereavement Visiting Group.

Gardner married Elizabeth Kathleen Baker from Yorkshire in 1942. They had a daughter, Elizabeth, in 1944, and a son, Michael. Clifton Gardner died in March of 2009.

Source: Taken from information in selected newspaper clippings and a biography in a September 2000 Parish Magazine for St. Mary the Virgin in Saffron Walden, both on file in Series 1.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of records about the life and career of Clifton Gardner as an Anglican priest in England and Canada as well as his time as Chaplain in the Royal Navy. The fonds includes some published and unpublished works authored by Gardner, his sermon notebooks, and a diary.

Contains series

1. Life and Career
2. Bulletins and Unpublished Works
3. Sermon notebooks and diary

Notes

Acquisition history: Archival material originally part of larger gift to the John W. Graham library

Arrangement: Arranged by archivist into above series

Restrictions on access: no restrictions

Terms governing use and reproduction / publication: Copyright not held by the archives. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds.

Provenance access points:

Gardner, Clifton Gordon, 1915-2009

SERIES 1: LIFE AND CAREER**Dates of creation:** 1941-2000**Extent:** 13 cm of textual records
4 photographs
1 textile**Scope and content:** This series consists of records from Gardner's years as a Royal Navy Chaplain, newspaper clippings about his clerical appointments thereafter, correspondence, and material related to his life and career.**Location / File Listing:**

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX/ FILE #
Navy Years	1941	1996	Commissions and certificates of service 1941-1945, correspondence regarding Gardner's interview with Chaplain of the Fleet and subsequent appointment as temporary Chaplain, and ephemera associated with Gardner's navy years.	1-1
Photographs	[194-]	[194-]	Christening on board a destroyer 1 photograph : b&w ; 11.8 x 16.1 cm 1943 Christmas Carol Service, Rev CG Gardner RNVR aboard HMS [<i>Stevenstone?</i>] 1 photograph : b&w ; 16.4 x 21.7 cm Musical event on board a destroyer 1 photograph : b&w ; 16.4 x 21.7 cm On board a destroyer 1 photograph : b&w ; 16.4 x 21.7 cm File includes photocopies of above photographs	1-2
Newsclippings	1941	2000	Newsclippings detailing Gardner's appointments to and activities undertaken at various parishes. Includes newsclipping about Anglican rejection of intercommunion between churches, Gardner's induction as Archdeacon of Middlesex, appointment as examining Chaplain for Huron Diocese under Bishop G.N. Luxton, appointment as Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario, and celebration of 60 years in the priesthood	1-3
Journal Discussions of "The Ministry to the Sick"	1963	1963	Discussion of Gardner's Anglican Church of Canada Bulletin entitled "The Ministry to the Sick: A Commentary on the Prayer Book Service", written in the June and July 1963 issues of the journal <i>Sharing: A Journal of Christian Healing</i>	
Correspondence: Canon Appointment	1964	1964	Letter of offer of Canonry in St. Paul's Cathedral to Gardner from the Bishop of Huron, 13 letters of	1-5

			congratulations on Gardner's acceptance, June 27 issue of Westminster Review where appointment is announced, and June 25 London Free Press newsclipping of the appointment.	
Correspondence: Fighting Newfoundlanders	1968	1970	Correspondence between Gardner and Colonel G.W.L. Nicholson, author of <i>More Fighting Newfoundlanders: A History of Newfoundland's Fighting Forces in the Second World War</i> , for which Gardner contributed some material from his time serving as Chaplain in the Royal Navy.	1-6
Church Union, Proposed Marriage Canon	1966	1971	Copy of 1966 letter from the Very Reverend H.V.R. Short, Dean of Saskatchewan, to the Reverend R.T.F. Brain discussing Gardner's paper on the marriage canon. 1971 statement to the Clergy of the Diocese of Huron regarding the Commissions on Church Union and signed by 19 Anglican priests including Canon C. Gardner	1-7
<i>Camera in Convoy: Cambridge to Murmansk 1941-1942</i>	1987	1995	Book about convoys to Russia in World War Two, published in 1987, given as a gift to Gardner from a friend in 1995 (date of accompanying letter). Also included is a book review section from the July/August 1994 issue of <i>Legion</i> reviewing military books, including one about the Arctic Convoys, and an obituary for William Goad, possibly an acquaintance of Gardner's. These items originally were inserted in the book.	1-8
Parish Magazines (with biographical material)	1998	2000	1998 issue of "Furze Platt News" from St. Peter's Church with a reflection on life at St. Peter's from 1947-1952 written by Gardner. 2000 issue of St. Mary the Virgin "Parish Magazine" with a biographical sketch of Gardner written as part of celebrating his 60 years as a priest. Also included are a copy of the biographical sketch, a page torn out of an alphabetical directory (possibly of the Anglican church listing Gardner's basic educational and career information, a newspaper clipping with photograph titled "60 years of services", and a handwritten list of his career appointments in Canada.	1-9
Vestment: Stole	[19-?]	[19-?]	Black stole with embroidered coat of arms of the Diocese of Huron at each end.	Oversize Box 8

SERIES 2: BULLETINS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Dates of creation: 1954-[196-?]

Extent: 13 cm of textual records

Scope and content: This series consists of works authored by Clifton Gardner, including two Bulletins of the Council for Social Services of the Anglican Church of Canada providing commentary on the prayer book service, a manuscript commentary on Holy Matrimony, and a manuscript commentary on the catechism.

Location / File Listing:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX/ FILE #
Bulletin: The Ministry to the Sick	1963	1965	January 1963 Bulletin No. 185 of the Council for Social Services of the Anglican Church of Canada "The Ministry to the Sick: A Commentary on the Prayer Book Service" written by Gardner. Accompanying the Bulletin are a newsclipping about the Bulletin, six letters written to Gardner congratulating him on his Commentary, and 1965 correspondence between Gardner and the Bishop of Huron regarding an incident related to giving Holy Communion.	2-1
Bulletin: The Burial of the Dead	1954	1966	May 1965 Bulletin No. 190 of the Council for Social Services of the Anglican Church of Canada "The Burial of the Dead: A Commentary on the Prayer Book Service" written by Gardner. Accompanying the Bulletin are a handwritten list of edits, a Huron Church News review of the Bulletin, two letters commenting on the Bulletin, two newsclippings discussing funerals, and a copy of a 1954 service "Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed" at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in New York.	2-2
"The Faith of the Church: A Commentary on the Catechism and Supplementary Instruction"	[196-?]	[196-?]	Manuscript of Bulletin-style commentary, 190 typed pages in a three-ring binder.	2
"Holy Matrimony: A Commentary on the Prayer Book Service"	1967	1967	Manuscript of Bulletin-style commentary, 108 typed pages in a pressboard binder. August 1967 letter from the Department of Christian Social Service in the Anglican Church of Canada declining to publish the manuscript as it does not come under social service or welfare.	2

SERIES 3: SERMON NOTEBOOKS AND DIARY

Dates of creation: 1939-19[77?]

Extent: 13 cm of textual records

Scope and content: This series contains 22 small notebooks containing Clifton Gardner's handwritten sermons given at various parishes over the years. Also included is a diary consisting of entries written during his last two years in the Royal Navy and later upon his arrival at St. Luke's Parish in St. Thomas, Ontario.

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX/ FILE #
Notebooks	1939	1977	Twenty two small notebooks, 16 cm x 10cm or smaller, containing mostly handwritten sermons and some speeches. Each notebook is organized either by dates in the Anglican Church calendar, e.g., Epiphany, Easter, or by another ecclesiastical framework such as psalms, gospels, collects or prayers. At the front of almost all the notebooks is an index of when that sermon was given and in what parish. Some have been repeated over two or three years as indicated by multiple dates next to the same sermon topic.	3
Diary	1945	1952	Diary with different entries starting at both sides and related newsclippings and ephemera inserted at both ends. First side has entries from July 1945 to March 1946 when Gardner was appointed Chaplain to the HMS Indefatigable in the Far East. Originally found Inserted at this end are two November 1945 Victory Dance souvenir cards for a celebration on board the Indefatigable, photocopy of a map of Scandinavian theatre of operations, newsclipping "England's Social Conscience", and a handwritten list of numbers [of officers?] of different religious affiliations and interest in confirmation. Second side has entries from May 1952 to August 1952 when Gardner arrived at St. Luke's Church in St. Thomas, Ontario and began as Rector there. Originally found inserted at this end are several newsclippings: "Rev. C. G. Gardner named Rector of St. Luke's Church", "Rev. C.G. Gardner Preaches First Sermons at St. Luke's", "Induct Rev. C.G.Gardner Rector of St. Luke's Church", "Greatest Gain is Shown by Roman Catholics in Elgin", "Back from Canada", "Guild Guests of Rev., Mrs. H. Snell", St. Luke's Have First Booth", "Brownie Pack at Yarmouth Heights", and "True Blues Elect Grand Mistress".	3-1