

Liverpool RECORD OFFICE

LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE, LOCAL STUDIES AND FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

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For opening hours, some catalogues and development news, please
visit our website at www.liverpool.gov.uk/archives

Appointments are not essential for viewing sources on microfilm and
on microfiche. A reader's ticket is needed to request archives, books,
maps, photographs and watercolours. Please bring proof of name
and address. You will be asked to leave any bags in lockers before
consulting original material.

Annual closure for stock-taking and special projects 3rd and 4th weeks in
June.



May 2008

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PARISH REGISTERS INFORMATION LEAFLET 22



Parish records are an invaluable source of information not
only for family history but also for demographic and social
studies. The Liverpool Record Office holds many of the
records of Liverpool's Church of England, Roman Catholic,
and non-conformist churches, as well as some Jewish
synagogue registers.



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Handlists on our Church of England, Roman Catholic and non-conformist records are available at the enquiry desk or for purchase. Alphabetical lists of the Church of England and Roman Catholic churches whose registers we hold can be found at the start of each folder of the 282 and 283 catalogues. The class numbers used for the lists of these records is indicated after the name and location of the church.

Maps of Liverpool marked with locations of Church of England and Roman Catholic churches are available with the handlists and on the walls of the self-service area. Numbered keys show the church names. These can be useful if the area of residence within Liverpool is known but the exact parish is not.

Types of register are abbreviated in the handlists as follows:

Early	Early registers
Bap.	Baptisms
Marr.	Marriages
Bur.	Burials

The term "other" refers to any records of the parish, including the records of church schools where relevant, which do not fall within the category of early, baptism, marriage, burial or banns registers.

Once it has been established from the alphabetical list or handlist that the Church of England or Roman Catholic records are held here, the next step is to use the 283 (Church of England) and 282 (Roman Catholic) catalogue folders in the self-service area. Look for the reference number of the church required, and more detailed information is given, broken down first into an administrative history of the church, and after that the types and dates of registers held. Make a note of the full exact reference number for the date of baptism, marriage or burial you require.



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In order to preserve these heavily used documents, parish registers are being made available on microfilm. At present over half the parish registers in the Liverpool Record Office can be seen only on microfilm and as microfilming continues this will apply to an increasing number of registers. Most of the Roman Catholic registers and some of the Church of England registers are available in this format using our self-service microfilm machines. The catalogue entry indicates whether they are available on microfilm or not.

Microfilm viewers can be booked in advance either personally or by telephone (0151 233 5817); there is a small advance booking fee per two hour session. Reader-printer machines are also available, on which self service copies from parish registers on microfilm can be made, at a small cost.

If the register you require has not been microfilmed, it is usually possible to view the original in the search room. To prevent wear and tear on these documents no photocopying of original parish registers can be permitted, although digital photography is allowed. We do, however, stock transcript certificates, which can be completed and signed by professional staff at a cost.

RECORDS ELSEWHERE

Churches

If you cannot find the church you are looking for in our lists, it is worth checking the current Diocese Directory (H283 DIO) or Archdiocese Directory (H282 ARC) - copies of which are kept at the counter. These give details of other places where registers are kept for churches which have closed down: often Roman Catholic registers are available at another local church which is still in existence.



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Lancashire Record Office

Bishop's Transcripts are copies of parish registers made by the parish clerk and sent annually to the bishop. They are particularly useful where there are gaps in the series of original registers. Bishop's Transcripts for the Diocese of Liverpool are held at Lancashire Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston, Lancashire PR1 2RE (01772 533039) and are available there on microfilm.

Local Register Offices

Some recent nonconformist marriage registers are held by local Registrars (in this context "nonconformist" means non-Church of England so that nonconformist registers are listed along with those of Roman Catholic churches). A list of marriage registers held by the Liverpool Register Office, The Cotton Exchange, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, L3 9LG (0151 233 3000) and by the Register Office, Crosby Town Hall, Great George's Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 1RB is given in *Register Offices Non-Conformist Marriage Registers* (ref. Hq 280 REG). These registers are NOT open to public access.

Non - parochial registers

The Non - parochial Registers Act of 1840 required all non-conforming congregations to deposit their registers (or copies of them) with the Registrar General. These were transferred to The National Archives in the 1960s. All local registers have been microfilmed and are available as described in the Churches, Chapels and Associations section of the non-conformist handlist.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH REGISTERS

Registers of baptisms, marriages and burials were first ordered to be kept on 5th September 1538. Early registers were often poorly maintained and the order of 1538 was strongly reinforced in 1598. The disturbed years of the mid-17th century, the period of the civil war and the Commonwealth, were reflected in the keeping of parish records and it was not until after the restoration of 1660 that registers were generally kept on a more regular basis.



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The information given in parish registers varied according to date.

Early registers

There was no standard format for parish register entries until 1754 (marriages) and 1813 (baptisms and burials). Prior to these dates the amount of information recorded depended on the incumbent or the parish clerk. Usually only the most basic details were given: date; name(s); street location; occupation (where relevant). The entries for baptisms (to 1812), marriages (to 1754) and burials (to 1812) were all made in one volume.

Baptisms

From 1st January 1813 baptism registers record the following details: date of baptism; child's Christian name; parents' Christian and surnames; abode; quality, trade or profession (of father); by whom the ceremony was performed. It became customary to add the child's date, or alleged date, of birth.

Marriages

From 25th March 1754 marriage registers record the following details: name of male party; parish from which he comes; occupation; name of female party; parish from which she comes; status, eg. spinster, widow; whether married by banns or license; date; by whom the ceremony was performed; signatures of parties and witnesses.

From July 1837 marriage registers gave the following information: date; names (of both parties); age (of both parties); condition (eg. bachelor, widow etc.) of both parties; rank or profession of male; residence at time of marriage (of both parties); fathers' names (of both parties); rank or profession of (both) fathers; whether married by banns or license; signatures of parties and witnesses; by whom ceremony was performed.



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Burials

From 1st January 1813 burial registers record the following information: name; abode; date of burial; age; by whom the ceremony was performed.

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH REGISTERS

Although some early registers give simple information in English, the standard details given in Roman Catholic parish registers, on Latinised printed form, is as follows:

Baptisms:

date of birth; date of baptism; name of child; name of child's father; name of child's mother [and whether married to child's father]; mother's name before marriage; signature of priest; name of god father; name of god mother.

Marriages

Date; name of priest; name of bridegroom; address of bridegroom; name of bridegroom's father; name of bride; address of bride; name of bride's father; names and addresses of witnesses; signature of priest.

Deaths

date of death; name of deceased; address; age; date of burial; name of cemetery; signature of priest.

NON-CONFORMIST REGISTERS

Arrangement of Handlist

The sections Churches, Chapels and Associations and Churches and Chapels by Denomination are arranged as simply as possible, alphabetically by name of church, grouping together first Liverpool churches then those for Merseyside. The archives of one church may be split between the Liverpool Record Office and the Merseyside Record Office and also between different collections in either Record Office but their class numbers will indicate where and in which collections they are held. Only the main categories of records for each church are given in the handlist.



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Baptisms, marriages and burials

The records of many Nonconformist churches and chapels do not include any registers of baptisms, marriages and burials. Those that do are indicated in the handlist by/against the name of the church.

Non-Conformist Churches and Chapels by Denomination

Baptist; Congregational/Independent; Methodist; Wesleyan Methodist; Primitive Methodist; Methodist New Connexion; United Methodist Free Churches; Presbyterian; Quaker (Society of Friends); Unitarian; United Reformed Church; Universalist. For further details see the non-conformist handlist.

JEWISH REGISTERS

The earliest Liverpool Jewish births, deaths and marriages (1722-1816) are recorded in the Register Book of the Jews in the records of the Old Hebrew Congregation (296 OHC). Other synagogue registers survive, some of which are closed under section 40 of the Data Protection Act 1998. More information can be found in the catalogues in the search room and in the Merseyside Jewish Community Archives leaflet.