

# Clergy records

## Background

These comprise the records of the Bishop created in the course of his dealings with the clergy. Relations between the Bishop and his clergy also emerge in the [Court Records](#) and the [Letters and Memoranda](#).

## Classes of records:

**Ordination papers** 1777 to 1940, including lists of candidates, correspondence, examination questions and sometimes nominations to curacies. Most useful are the papers candidates had to provide for the Bishop, which include baptism certificates and letters testimonial to their good conduct, giving information about their lives not found elsewhere.

**Licensing records** 1642 to 1924 for curates, preachers and chaplains.

**Letters testimonial** 1790 to 1927, this time including letters relating to incumbents.

**Presentation deeds** 1559 to 1863 whereby the clergy were presented to their livings (or parishes).

**Institution bonds** 1615 to 1758, given to the Bishop by the clergy to indemnify him if they turned out to be ineligible or unsuitable to serve.

**Mandates for induction** 1737 to 1740, with single mandates for 1678, 1779, 1780, 1790

**Resignation deeds** 1609 to 1949, whereby the clergy resigned from their benefices (or parishes).

**Sequestration papers** 1663 to 1956; sequestration is the taking back of the living by the Bishop, which might be simply because the incumbent clergyman had left, but could also be for debt or neglect of duty.

**Non-residence papers** 1801 to 1896; records relating to clergy who did not live in their parishes, including licences for those the Bishop considered to have a reason, and prosecution papers for some he didn't, under the legislation of 1803.



Parochial returns 1814 to 1827; answers to annual questionnaires on church services, incumbents' residence, and curates' stipends.

## Catalogue

The records themselves are not online, but the catalogue of the records is available on [Heritage Search](#). All the diocesan records have the prefix DIOC.

## More information

- Oxfordshire History Centre [catalogues](#)
- [Visiting](#) Oxfordshire History Centre
- [Contact us](#) to make an enquiry about the records.



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirehistory](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirehistory)