

Records relating to Parishioners

Background:

Although the laity, as the parishioners or non-clergy in a parish were known, were the province of the priests in the individual parishes, the Bishop did require information about matters which concerned them, particularly schools and recusants or nonconformists. In addition, he was responsible for confirmations of parishioners.

Classes of records:

Returns of Schools, 1808 and 1815. Answers to questionnaires sent round by the Bishop. There also exist various statutes, plans, reports and circulars about schools from 1808 to 1918.

Confirmation papers: notes of numbers of candidates and arrangements for confirmation; there are lists of confirmation candidates for 1745, 1826, 1871 to 1877, and 1907 to 1989.

Returns of recusants for 1682, late 17th century, 1706, 1767 and 1780. In response to successive requests from the Bishop, the clergy provided the names and sometimes the status of the non-Anglicans in their parishes.

Lists and Bishop's Transcripts of parish registers: a return of 1813 from parishes as to registers held and their location, and the transcripts of registers which clergy had to send in to the Bishop regularly. For Oxford Archdeaconry the transcripts run from the 17th to the 20th century; Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Archdeaconries are added in 1836 and 1845. There are also transcripts from peculiars.

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



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