

## A note on calendar change:

The Julian Calendar was replaced by the Gregorian Calendar in England between 1750-1752, resulting in the following anomalies: 31st December 1750 was followed by 1st January 1750. 24th March 1750 was followed by 25th March 1751. 2nd September 1752 was followed by 14th September 1752.

## Some Latin terms found in parish registers:

<b>Ambo</b> – Both	<b>Baptizat</b> – Baptism
<b>Ecclesia</b> – Church	<b>Eodem</b> - Same
<b>Filia</b> – Daughter	<b>Filius</b> – Son
<b>Infer</b> – Lower	<b>In hac...</b> – In this...
<b>Magna</b> – Great	<b>Matrimonium</b> – Marriage
<b>Nihil nisi lana</b> – In wool only	<b>Parva</b> – Little
<b>Sepultat</b> – Burial	<b>Sui mano</b> – By his own hand
<b>Super</b> – Upper	

## Visit or contact us

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# Local and Family History Parish Registers

The Local and Family History department holds parish records for Leeds and selected parts of Yorkshire on microfilm, microfiche and in printed format – and has access to more online. This leaflet explains what parish registers are and how to use them.

## What are parish registers?

British churches have been keeping registers of their baptisms, marriages and burials since 1538. The Local and Family History Library holds copies for most of Leeds (and a fair bit of Yorkshire) in the form of microfilm, microfiche and printed books, a full list of which is available in the department.

Earlier registers are often little more than a barely-decipherable list of names and dates, meaning that you may never truly know if they refer to the 'right' person or simply someone else with the same name. This is where family history intersects with faith.

## What information is included?

Under **baptisms**, you'll usually find the name of the child, the parents' names (unfortunately not always the mother's), the father's occupation, and where the family was living. Sometimes you'll also get the child's date of birth.

**Marriage** entries generally give the names of the bride and groom, their addresses, their 'condition' (e.g. bachelor, spinster, widow), their ages, the witnesses, the person conducting the ceremony, the signatures/marks of all of these. After 1837, the name and occupation of bride's and groom's father is also recorded.

**Burial** registers usually give the deceased's name, age, normal place of abode, and the name of a relation.

## Non-conformist records

'Non-conformist' registers are those belonging to institutions outside the Church of England, such as Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Quakers, Independents and Congregationalists. A full list is kept behind the counter and a selection available on Ancestry.com.

**Catholic records:** While we have some early Catholic records, the bulk are split between the West Yorkshire Archive Service (those over 100 years old) and the Leeds Diocesan Archive in Headingley. Contact the Leeds Diocesan Archives, Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane, Leeds, LS6 2BX. Tel. (0113) 261 8031. Email: [robert.finnigan@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:robert.finnigan@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

**Jewish records:** We hold little in the way of Jewish records, unfortunately. A research guide for locating Jewish records can be found on the National Archives website: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records)

## Parish Registers Online

It used to be the case that, to trace a family's history, you'd need to choose a likely parish register and go through each entry, looking for names and dates that fitted the family tree. Nowadays, thanks to the various online resources available, it can be much easier to hone in on a particular record, so most people prefer to start by searching the following websites:

**Ancestry.com** (Available free in Leeds Libraries)

Many West Yorkshire parish records are available on Ancestry, including:

- Marriages and Burials, 1512-1812
- Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985
- Marriages and Banns, 1813-1921
- Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906

The easiest way to find these is by searching the list of **All databases**, using the keywords "West Yorkshire".

**Family Search** ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org))

Although incomplete and not always entirely correct, this resource (originally known as the International Genealogical Index, or IGI) is particularly useful for church records prior to 1850. It covers, amongst many other records:

- England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975
- England Deaths and Burials, 1538-1991
- England Marriages, 1538-1973
- Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881
- Ireland Deaths, 1864-1870
- Ireland Marriages, 1619-1898

For a wider overview of the resources available on the internet, see our **Online Resources** leaflet.