

Records of Benefices

Background

These are records relating to the livings of the clergy: their possessions and incomes, and issues depending on or affecting those. They include the Orders in Council for Oxford Diocese from 1836 to 1915, which themselves include such matters as the annexing of Berkshire Archdeaconry to Oxford Diocese in 1836, and the order of 1855 which closed the Oxford City church burial grounds.

They also include papers relating to the valuation of livings and Queen Anne's Bounty from 1675 to 1827. Queen Anne's Bounty was a fund established in 1704 to provide additional income for poor clergy.

Classes of records:

Terriers from 1662 to 1856, though the majority are 19th century; these list the property of benefices, generally from visitations. Most 17th century terriers are found in the [Archdeaconry records](#)

Mortgage papers from 1787 to 1849, relating to the borrowing of money to repair parsonages under Gilbert's Act (1776).

Augmentation papers from 1750 to 1847, relating to the conveying of property from impropriated rectories to augment vicarages or curacies.

Exchanges of glebe (Church lands) between incumbents and private individuals from 1690 to 1849.

Purchases and gifts conveying glebe or houses to benefices, 1819 to 1849.

Miscellaneous papers relating to endowments of benefices, 1633 to 1847.

After 1850, papers relating to individual benefices or parishes are usually found in the [Diocesan parish boxes](#)



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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