

Congregationalists and the United Reformed Church Records

The Congregational church emerged in the mid to late 17th century. The congregations were always independent and appointed their own deacons or elders to run them. An early movement of Congregationalists were known as Independents.

Presbyterianism primarily began in Scotland during the Reformation, and was established in secret in England in 1574. In the 18th century some groups became known as the Unitarians. In 1972 the Congregationalists, Independents and Presbyterian churches united to become the United Reformed Church.

We hold records for the following churches:

NC1 Summertown Congregational Church
NC1/8 Sutton Courtenay Congregational Church
NC2 Thame Congregational Church
NC3 Bicester Congregational Church
NC4 Wheatley Congregational Church
NC5 Witney Congregational Church
NC6 Oxford, George Street Congregational Church
NC7 Oxford, Cowley Road/Tyndale Congregational Church
NC8 Deddington Independent, later Congregational Church
NC9 Kingston Blount Congregational Church
NC10 Christchurch Unitarian Church, Banbury
NC11 Frilford and Longworth Home Mission
NC12 St Columba's Presbyterian, later United Reformed Church
NC13 Temple Cowley United Reformed Church

What will you find?

The records consist of registers of baptisms, marriages and burials. There are also a number of church administration records such as minutes, accounts, registers of members and Sunday school records.

There is very little information available about nonconformist baptisms, marriages and burials from the 18th century. It is worth checking the Church of England registers as some baptisms and burials may be recorded there and before 1837 nonconformist marriages had to take place there to be considered valid.

Where are these records?

These records are held here at the Oxfordshire History Centre.

For national records concerning Congregational church history please contact the [Dr Williams Library](#), London.

For national records concerning Presbyterian history please contact [The United Reformed Church History Society](#).

Where is the catalogue?

The records themselves are not online, but the catalogues of the records are available on [Heritage Search](#)

A copy of the catalogue is also available in the searchroom.

[Visiting the Oxfordshire History Centre](#)