

Bishop's Registers, Act Books and Subscription Books

Registers and Act Books

The sequence of registers runs from 1544 to 1930. The registers basically consist of records of institutions and ordinations of clergy, but there are some consecrations, resignations, grants of licences and patents, appointments of diocesan officials and a few memoranda. The Act Books, 1777 to 1868, contain largely similar material.

Subscription Books

A series of Subscription Books runs from 1604 to 1916. These were subscriptions to the tenets of the Church of England made by the clergy, teachers, surgeons and midwives before they were allowed to practice. A further sequence runs from 1856 to 1967 and includes the declarations of ordinands and ordination candidates.

Interesting Examples

The subscription books include warnings by the Archbishop of Canterbury not to allow certain persons to officiate: "Thomas Stretton, who officiated at Burnham in Essex some months ago, falsely pretending to have been ordained on the Isle of Man, and is supposed by his manner to have been on the stage. W H Rawlins, ordained by the Bishop of London, convicted of manslaughter committed in the Island of St Christopher. Joseph Prendergast, ordained deacon by the Bishop of Gloucester, a man of infamous character." (1819)

Where to find these records

The diocesan records are all with the Oxfordshire History Centre, including those after 1836 relating to Berkshire and those after 1845 relating to Buckinghamshire.

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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