

Deanery records

Background

A deanery is a group of parishes within an archdeaconry, led by a rural dean. In medieval times rural deans acted as officers of the diocesan bishop. Archdeacons gradually took over most of the duties of rural deans, but the office was revived in 1836 and the role of rural deans became more significant during the late 19th century.

Rural deans are responsible for reporting on the fabric of the parish churches within their deanery, for convening chapter meetings of the clergy and deanery synods (formerly conferences) of clergy and laity. They also have oversight of the clergy within the parishes.

Rural-deanery records include chapter, conference and synod minutes and reports, church inspection registers, visitation reports, financial records, correspondence and magazines

Where are these records?

Records for the Oxfordshire deaneries of Aston 1884-1993, Cuddesdon, 1855-1973, Bicester, 1823-1959, Deddington 1848-2011, Henley, 1893-1985, Islip, 1848-1956, Oxford, 1987-2008, Witney, 1847-1969, and Woodstock, 1832-1939 and Bicester and Islip 1968-1970 are at the Oxfordshire History Centre.

Where is the catalogue?

These catalogues are available to search on [Heritage Search](#)

More information

- Oxfordshire History Centre [catalogues](#)
- [Visiting](#) Oxfordshire History Centre
- [Contact us](#) to book a visit to consult archive documents