

# Diocesan parish boxes

## Background

In 1850, the Diocesan Registrar fitted pigeonholes in his offices and started the practice of filing Diocesan papers relating to individual parishes under the name of the relevant parish instead of the particular type of record. This means that long-standing series of Diocesan papers came to an end, and instead one or more boxes exist with all the records relating to each individual parish.

These were called the parish boxes and the name has stuck, although it is now inaccurate. They are actually benefice boxes; when they were first created a parish was usually a benefice, but with the increasing bringing together of groups of parishes to form a single benefice in recent years the boxes often now contain papers relating not to a single parish but to a linked group of parishes. New papers are still being added to the boxes.

## Classes of records:

The following types of record can be found in the parish boxes:

Orders in Council  
Presentations of clergy  
Nominations of clergy  
Resignations of clergy  
Faculties  
Consecrations  
Mortgages  
Conveyance deeds  
Grants from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners

## 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



**OXFORDSHIRE  
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[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirehistory](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirehistory)