

Parish Registers on the Internet

Parish registers in the Church of England date from the late 1500s for some churches. Many churches, however, were not built until the 1830s and 1840s. Non-Conformist registers (Methodists and Roman Catholic) date from the late 18th century.

Finding Sources

Use a search engine such as Google or Duckduckgo.com.

Use quotation marks to search for a phrase. Use wild card searches * or ? *green will search for anything ending in green, green* will search for anything beginning with green. A ? represents one missing letter so Pu???? will find Purcell, Purtell, Purtill etc.

Your PC will only follow your instructions and will search for exactly what you enter. YOUR PC CANNOT READ YOUR MIND.

Searching for "Parish Registers" Lancashire, will search for any webpage which contains the phrase "Parish Registers" and Lancashire. A search without quotation marks will search for any page containing Parish, Registers, and Lancashire, not necessarily in that order.

Try searching for "Parish Registers" and include the town where you think your ancestors were.

Sources

Genuki - <http://www.genuki.org.uk>

The United Kingdom and Ireland Genealogical site. Produced by Family History Societies and others, has coverage of every county in the UK & Ireland

UKBMD - <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk>

A database of Register Office indexes for England and Wales – Search by county and districts within county

On-line Parish Clerks - www.onlineparishclerks.org.uk

Counties covered - Cornwall, Cumberland & Westmorland, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Forest of Dean, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Monmouthshire, Norfolk Transcription Archives, Somerset including Bristol, Sussex, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, IGP-Irish Genealogy Project

Lan-opc.org.uk –

Useful as a good index but be aware that there may be/are many errors in transcriptions. Always check the original parish registers (usually available at archives and some libraries and some images available on commercial websites

FreeReg - www.freereg.org.uk

Transcriptions of parish registers. Free to view.

Archives.org - www.archives.org

Digital images of Parish Register Society publications. Parish registers usually up to mid 1800s. Can be viewed on-line or downloaded as Acrobat.pdf files.

The National Archives – <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Has information on what resources are available at archives and what registers the RG references apply to.

Latter Day Saints Church (Mormons) - <http://www.familysearch.org>

Gives access to the IGI. Some parish registers are transcripts whilst others give access to images of registers.

Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport - <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>

Parish records for Carlow (COI), Cork and Ros (RC), Dublin (COI & Presby & RC) Kerry (COI & RC)

National Library of Ireland - <http://www.nli.ie>

Has images of Irish Catholic Parish Registers. These are not indexed and you have to know the parish in which to search. Indexing has been done by Ancestry.co.uk & Findmypast.co.uk

Ancestry.co.uk & Ancestry.com

Free to view at Lancashire County Libraries and at LFHHS Resource Centre. Otherwise pay a subscription Has census records 1841 to 1911 and many parish registers – London, Liverpool, Warwickshire, West Yorkshire & other counties. Databases for Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland

Findmypast - <http://www.Findmypast.co.uk>

A subscription site. Free to search indexes but subscription or pay-as-you-go needed to view registers. Parish registers for Cheshire and other counties. Some are images and others are transcriptions. Federation of Family History transcriptions are also part of their database. Chelsea Pensioners records in addition to 1841 to 1911 Census and other military records.

The Genealogist - www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Subscription site. NonConformists & other parish records. Some have images, others are transcriptions. Other Non-parish records, Census, BMD indexes.

Public Cemeteries

Most public cemeteries have sections relating to various religions e.g. Church of England, Roman Catholic, Non-Conformist (Methodist, Unitarians, Congregationalist, & others). Many have look-up services. Some are now on-line with pay-per-view.