

A GUIDE TO

**NONCONFORMIST
REGISTERS
&
ROMAN CATHOLIC
REGISTERS**

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CONTENTS	PAGE
Introduction	3
Methodist Registers	4
Congregational Registers	8
Independent Registers	8
Baptist Registers	8
Presbyterian Registers	9
Unitarian Registers	9
Reformed Church of England Registers	9
Roman Catholic Registers	9
Abbreviations & addresses	10

INTRODUCTION

Churches that have disagreed or dissented against the established Church of England are known as Nonconformist. Roman Catholicism was the established religion in England until the Reformation when Catholics lost many of their rights to practise their faith and even own land. Most Nonconformist and Catholic registers date from the 19th century with some dating back to the 18th century and further. It is always worth checking parish records of the established church because many dissenters and Catholics used their parish church for baptism, marriage and burial rites (some dissenters considered themselves part of the Church of England). Few chapels had their own burial grounds and from the mid 19th century municipal cemeteries were being established. Entries in red are held at Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies whereas entries in black are held elsewhere as indicated in the list. For registers on microfilm or microfiche it is advisable to book a microfiche or film reader in advance. Some key dates are given below to aid your research in Nonconformist and Roman Catholic registers.

1552&1559 The Acts of Uniformity made Roman Catholics liable to fines with stricter laws introduced as the political situation deteriorated.

1560 Presbyterian system was adopted in Scotland and had much influence on England during the 17th century, especially during the Civil War. However it lost popularity with many Presbyterians becoming Unitarian.

1612 First Baptist church was established in England by Thomas Helwys. They split in 1633 to form Particular or Strict Baptists with the remainder known as General Baptists.

1647 Quakers or Society of Friends were formed stemming from the activities of George Fox.

1662 Under the Act of Uniformity Presbyterians, Independents and Baptists were expelled from the Established Church. Many took their congregations with them to found independent chapels although few have registers from this date.

1689 The Toleration Act allowed nonconforming congregations to meet (behind unlocked doors) providing that the meeting place was registered with the diocesan bishop or Court of Quarter Sessions.

1740 Methodist Society was established in Moorfields by the preachers John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitefield. They later established a governing body - the Methodist Conference.

1754 After Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753 marriages might only be performed by clergyman of the Church of England but Quakers and Jews were exempted.

1791 The Relief Act enabled Roman Catholics to register places of public worship. Many registers of baptism, marriage and burial begin from this date.

1829 Catholic Emancipation Act gave much more freedom to Catholics and combined with the influx of Roman Catholics from Ireland, strengthened the composition of the church.

1831 The Congregationalist Union of England and Wales was established although they date back to a sect called the Brownists (also known as Independents) who began in 1580.

1837 On 1 July Civil Registration began which enabled Superintendent Registrars to issue licences for marriage in a office of a registrar or a Nonconformist church.

Further Reading

M. Mullett *Sources for the History of English Nonconformity 1660-1830* (British Records Association, Archives & the User No. 8, 1991)

J. Richardson *The Local Historian's Encyclopedia* (Historical Publications, 1993)

P. Palgrave-Moore *Understanding the History & Records of Nonconformity* (Elvery Dowers Publications, 1988)

METHODIST REGISTERS

<i>Place</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
BETHEL , Dudley Rd Primitive Methodist	WA&LS	1851-1955 1849-1910+	1907-1954		M/BETH/5,6 M/BETH/1 M/RG/1/1-4 M/BETH/1	originals originals originals fiche
+ In a previous list this register was attributed to Parkfields Methodist Church						
BETHESDA , Waterloo Rd Methodist See under TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH OF ENGLAND						
BILSTON , High Street Primitive Methodist	WA&LS	1827-1962 1827-1907			M/BILP/A/1-12 M/BILP/A/1-9	originals fiche
Note this chapel closed and merged with Swan Bank in 1962 to form the Bilston Methodist Church.						
BILSTON , Swan Bank (Lichfield St) Wesleyan	WA&LS	1816-1837 1816-1966 1816-1909	1860-1964	1823-1954 1823-1954	S9293 M/SB/A/1/1-3/2 M/SB/A/1/1-3, 3/1-2	transcript originals fiche
Note this chapel was demolished in 1960 and merged with Bilston High Street in 1962 to form the Bilston Methodist Church.						
BILSTON - see also	COLD LANES OXFORD STREET STONEFIELD TEMPLE STREET					
BILSTON ROAD , Wolverhampton Wesleyan Methodist	WA&LS		1902-1937		M/RG/2/1-3	originals
BLAKENHALL - see under RANELAGH ROAD						
BRADLEY , Hall Green Street Wesleyan Methodist	WA&LS	1842-1966 1842-1928	1908-1976	1843-1922 1843-1922	M-BRAD/A/1/1-3/1 M-BRAD/A/1/1-3 M-BRAD/A/3/1	originals fiche fiche
BRADLEY - see also HILL STREET and SALOP STREET						
BRIERLEY HILL , Round Oak Primitive Methodist		1829-1850 (some burials)			S9293	transcript
BRIERLEY HILL , Bank Street Wesleyan Methodist				1833-1853	S9293	transcript
BUSHBURY , Shaw Road Methodist	WA&LS	1904-1972 1976-1977			M/BUS/28 M/BUS/28	originals originals
	SRO		1907-1976*			
*Note: these registers are only available at Staffordshire Record Office						
BUNKERS HILL METHODIST - see under COLD LANES						
CANN LANE - see under HURST HILL						
CHAPEL STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - see under MOSELEY VILLAGE						
COLD LANES , Bilston Methodist	WA&LS	1873-1961,1964 1873-1961,1964			M/CL/1 M/CL/1	originals fiche
Note: later known as Bunker Hill Methodist Church, worship ceased May 1966						
COMPTON ROAD , Wolverhampton - see under TRINITY						
COSELEY Mamble Square & Roseville Wesleyan	SA	1849-1884*				
* Note: these registers are only available at Sandwell Archives						
COSELEY – see also BAPTIST and PRESBYTERIAN REGISTERS						

<i>Place</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
COSELEY & WOODSETTON Wesleyan	SA	1847-1890 *				transcript
* Note: these registers are only available at Sandwell Archives						
CROSS STREET - see under HEATH TOWN Primitive Methodist						
DAISY BANK Methodist	WA&LS SRO	1903-1924		1939-1958*	M/DB/1-2	originals
*Note: these registers are only available at Staffordshire Record Office						
DARLINGTON STREET Methodist	WA&LS	1793-1856 1793-1856			M/DS/47 M/DS/47	originals fiche
Note: known as Noah's Ark Chapel 1793-1825						
DUDLEY ROAD , Wolverhampton - see under BETHEL Primitive Methodist						
ETTINGSHALL -see GEORGE STREET						
FALLINGS PARK , Wimborne Rd Methodist	WA&LS	1880-1975 1880-1920			M/FPK/31-33,196 M/FPK/31	originals fiche
Note: first register also has some Heath Town entries						
FINCHFIELD Methodist	WA&LS		1958-1952		M/FIN/1	originals
GEORGE STREET , Ettingshall Methodist	WA&LS	1825-1987 1825-1900	1900-1974 1974-1987		M/GS/52-65 DX/282 M/GS/52-54	originals originals fiche
GREAT BRICKKILN STREET - see under LORD STREET						
HEATH TOWN ,Cross Street Primitive Methodist	WA&LS	1875-1936 1875-1936			M/HTP/1 M/HTP/1	originals fiche
HEATH TOWN , Wolverhampton Road Wesleyan Methodist	WA&LS WA&LS	1848-1961	1868-1901 1902-1961		M/HTW/2-5 M/RG/11/1-5 M/HTW/2-3	originals originals fiche
Note this chapel ceased to be used as a place of worship in 1962						
HEATH TOWN - see also FALLINGS PARK						
HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH , Wednesfield - see under WEDNESFIELD , Trinity Methodist						
HILL STREET , Bradley Methodist	WA&LS	1853-1897 1914-1965 1853-1897			M/BH/11 M/BH/7 M/BH/11	originals originals fiche
Note: also known as Reform Wesley & United Methodist						
HORSELEY FIELDS , Mount Zion Methodist New Connexion	WA&LS WA&LS	1858-1968 1858-1918	1899-1968 1899-1906		M/MZ/23-27,2 M/MZ/23-25 M/RG/7/1-6 M/RG/7/1	originals fiche originals fiche
HURST HILL Methodist	WA&LS	1848-1950 1848-1920			M/HH/7-9 M/HH/7-8	originals fiche
Note: first register refers to Cann Lane						
LANESFIELD , Laburnam Rd Methodist	WA&LS	1850-1929 1850-1929			M/LF/11 M/LF/11	originals fiche

<i>Place</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
LORD STREET/GREAT BRICKKILN STREET						
Zion Methodist	WA&LS	1862-1965			M/LS/8	originals
	WA&LS		1960-1962		M/RG/12/1	originals
		1862-1965			M/LS/8	fiche
Note: this chapel ceased to be a place of worship in 1968						
MARCH END, Broad Lane, Wednesfield						
Methodist	WSA		1939-1970*			
	WA&LS		1941-1970		M/RG/3/1-4	originals
Note: this chapel ceased to be a place of worship in 1970						
*Note: these registers are only available at Walsall Archives						
MONMORE GREEN						
Primitive Methodist	WA&LS	1847-1913			M/MG/1-2	originals
		1847-1913			M/MG/1-2	fiche
MOSELEY HOLE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH - see under MOSELEY VILLAGE						
MOSELEY VILLAGE, Chapel Street						
Methodist	WA&LS	1855-1915			M/MV/1-2	originals
	WA&LS		1929-1947		M/RG/4/1	originals
		1855-1915			M/MV/1-2	fiche
Note: also known as Moseley Hole Primitive Methodist Church & Chapel Street United Methodist Church						
MOUNT ZION, Horseley Fields -see under HORSELEY FIELDS						
NOAH'S ARK CHAPEL - see DARLINGTON STREET METHODIST CHURCH						
OXFORD STREET, Bilston						
United Methodist	WA&LS	1883-1938			M/OX/1-4	originals
		1883-1920			M/OX/1-3	fiche
PARKFIELD ROAD, Bilston						
Methodist	WA&LS	1886-1991	1941-1990		M/-PR/A/1/1-2/4	originals
		1886-1991			M-PR/A/1/1	fiche
Note: church closed 1 December 1991						
PARKFIELDS - see also BETHEL						
Methodist (also known as Top Chapel)	WA&LS	1912-1962			M/PKF/1	originals
PENSNETT, Shut End						
Primitive Methodist	not given	1845-1887			S9293	transcript
Note: shelved under Shut End						
PORTOBELLO						
Wesleyan	WSA		1850-1891*			
*Note: these registers are only available at Walsall Archives						
POUNTNEY STREET						
Methodist	WA&LS	1901-1948			M/PS/2	originals
PRIESTFIELD, Bilston						
Primitive Methodist	WA&LS	1868-1920			M/PF/1-2	originals
		1949-1965			M/PF/11	originals
		1936-1938 baptism certificate book			M/PF/13	originals
		1868-1903			M/PF/1	fiche
RANELAGH ROAD						
Wesleyan Methodist	WA&LS	1850-1893			M/RR/24	originals
	WA&LS		1894-1962		M/RG/8/1-8	originals
		1850-1893			M/RR/24	fiche
			1894-1902		M/RG/8/1	fiche
Note: also known as Blakenhall and ceased to be used as a place of worship post 1962						
SALOP STREET, Bradley						
Primitive Methodist	WA&LS	1846-1921			M/BSS/1-3	originals
		1846-1921			M/BSS/1-3	fiche
SHORT HEATH						
Methodist	WSA	1838-1959	1901-1982*			
*Note: these registers are only available at Walsall Archives						

<i>Place</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
SMESTOW Methodist	WA&LS	1907-1967			M/SME/1	originals
SPRINGFIELDS , Vernon St Methodist	WA&LS	1879-1968	1927-1967		M/SS/10 M/RG/9/1-3	originals originals
STONEFIELD , Bilston Methodist	WA&LS	1901-1952			M/SF/1	originals
STRATTON STREET Methodist	WA&LS	1879-1967			M/SS/10	originals
SWAN BANK – see under BILSTON , Swan Bank						
SWAN GARDENS , Moore Street & St Matthew Street Methodist	WA&LS	1853-1935 1853-1935			M/SG/1,3 M/SG/1,3	originals fiche
SEDGLEY (inc. Coseley), Coppice Particular, Providence & Darkhouse Baptist Chapels & Coseley Old Meeting House See individual chapels under COSELEY for dates.						transcript
TEMPLE STREET , Bilston Methodist	WA&LS	1901-1940			M/TSM/6	originals
TIPTON						
Tipton Green Wesleyan	PRO SA	1809-1837 1838-1964*	1850-1910*		S9293	transcript
* Note: these registers are only available at Sandwell Archives						
Bloomfield	PRO SRO	1823-1837	1932-1970*		S9293	transcript
* Note: these registers are only available at Staffordshire Record Office						
TRINITY , Compton Road Methodist	WA&LS WA&LS WA&LS	1863-1974 1863-1950	1864-1911 1864-1911 1899-1904 1899-1911		M/TRI/1-3 M/TRI/1-2 DX/148/1-3 DX/148/1-2 M/RG/10/1-9 M/RG/10/1	originals fiche originals fiche originals fiche
Note: this chapel ceased to be used as a place of worship in 1962						
WEDNESFIELD , Hickman St Primitive Methodist	WA&LS	1846-1958 1963-1964 1846-1958	1936-1964		M/WEDP/13&1 M/WEDP/2 M/WEDP/13&1 M/RG/5/1-2	originals originals fiche originals
WEDNESFIELD Trinity Methodist	WA&LS	1853-1961 1853-1949			M/WEDT/64-66 M/WEDT/64-65	originals fiche
Note: also known as High Street Methodist Church						
WEST BROMWICH Ebenezer	[PRO]	1803-1837				fiche
WOLVERHAMPTON John St.(Presb);Queen St. (Ind);Snow Hill (Unitn);Walsall St.(Bapt); Darlaston St.(Wes.Meth) PRO (See under individual places for other registers)						
WOLVERHAMPTON Methodist	PRO	1792-1820*			S9293	transcript
*Note: these registers are only available from Staffordshire Record Office or Public Record Office						
WOOD END Methodist	WA&LS	1860-1961 1860-1930			M/WOOD/1,37 M/WOOD/1	originals fiche

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTERS

<i>Place</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
BLAKENHALL	WA&LS	1904-1959	1937-1952	1904-1955	DX/284/1	originals
QUEEN STREET (See also Independent registers) Note this chapel ceased to be used as a place of worship after 1968.	SRO WA&LS	1879-1970*	1876-1899* 1899-1968		DX-605/A	originals
SNOW HILL	WA&LS	1849-1865	1849-1860		DX/125/1	originals
STAFFORD STREET Note this chapel ceased to be used as a place of worship after 1953.	SRO WA&LS	1888-1956*	1930-1953		DX-606/A	originals
SWAN BANK	WA&LS	1911-1947		1906-1918	DX/125/67,65	originals
YORK STREET	SRO	1911-1930*				

* Note: these registers are only available at Staffordshire Record Office

INDEPENDENT REGISTERS

<i>Place</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
BILSTON Oxford Street	PRO	1785-1837			DX/209	film
HEATH TOWN , Wolverhampton Road Note this chapel ceased to be used as a place of worship after 1962.	WA&LS		1899-1962		DX-603/A	originals
QUEEN STREET (See also Congregational Registers)	PRO	1785-1836			DX/209	film
RUITON , Upper Gomal	PRO	1778-1837			S9293	transcript
TEMPLE STREET	PRO	1771-1836		1787-1799	DX/209	film
WEST BROMWICH Mare's Green Note: there is also a microfilm copy at Staffordshire Record Office	[PRO]	1787-1837				fiche

BAPTIST REGISTERS

<i>Place</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
COSELEY (printed in <i>Surrendered Nonconformist registers of the parish of Sedgley</i>) Coppice Particular	SA	1794-1837			S9293	transcript
Darkhouse	PRO	1822-1837			S9293	transcript
Providence	PRO	1810-1837			S9293	transcript
CRADLEY	[PRO]	1783-1890		1783-1837		fiche
WOLVERHAMPTON Walsall Street	PRO	1832-1837			DX/209	film
Waterloo Road	WA&LS		1899-1970		D/BRA/15/1-8	originals

PRESBYTERIAN REGISTERS

<i>Place</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
COSELEY (printed in <i>Surrendered Nonconformist registers of the parish of Sedgley</i>) Old Meeting House	PRO		1779-1837		S9293	transcript
WOLVERHAMPTON , John Street		PRO		1726-1815 1726-1729*	SRO	DX/209 film
*Note: these registers are only available at Staffordshire Record Office						
WOLVERHAMPTON , Merridale Road	WA&LS		1960-1964		DX-604	originals
Note this chapel ceased to be used as a place of worship after 1964 and moved to Finchfield.						

UNITARIAN REGISTERS

<i>Place</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
WOLVERHAMPTON Snow Hill	PRO	1830-1838			DX/209	film

REFORMED CHURCH OF ENGLAND REGISTERS

<i>Place</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
WOLVERHAMPTON Trinity, Waterloo Road	WA&LS	1880-1965 1880-1965	1881-1892 1881-1892	1880-1891 1880-1891	M/BEDA/1-3 M/BEDA/1-3	originals fiche
Note: in the parish of Holy Trinity and later entries are for Bethesda Methodist Church						

ROMAN CATHOLIC REGISTERS

Note: the majority of Roman Catholic Registers are in Latin

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Originals</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Format</i>
BILSTON Holy Trinity Name Index	BAA	1881-1908 No date		1875-1900	DX/414/7-8 DX/414/8	microfilm microfilm
BLOXWICH (general register)	BAA	1805-1823	1805-1823	1805-1823	DX/414/6	microfilm
CHILLINGTON	BAA	1720-1770	1720-1770		S9293	transcript
CRESWELL	BAA	1780-1819			S9293	transcript
SWYNNERTON (general register)	BAA	1810-1879	1810-1879	1810-1879	DX/414/8	microfilm
WALSALL	BAA	1646-1745			S9293	transcript
WOLVERHAMPTON SS Mary & John	BAA	1855-1894	1856-1915	1894-1905	DX/414/2-4	microfilm
St Patrick	BAA	1865-1923	1866-1898		DX/414/1-2	microfilm
SS Peter & Paul	BAA	1791-1830 1788-1839 1791-1910 1849-1910	1837-1854	1784-1825 1784-1839	S9293 DX/146/1 DX/414/4-6 DX/414/6	transcript transcript microfilm microfilm
Baptism name index Index of all entries		1736-1776 1788-1830	173?, 1757 1810	1784, 1794 1803-1828	S9293 S9293	transcript transcript
WOODLANE	BAA	1797-1851			DX/414/6	microfilm

abbreviations & addresses

BA	Birmingham City Archives Birmingham Central Library, Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3HQ. Tel: 0121 303 4217
ba	banns
BAA	Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Archives Cathedral House, St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham. Open Mon, Wed-Fri 9.30am-4.00pm, by appointment only. Tel: 0121 236 2251
DA	Dudley Archives and Local History Service Mount Pleasant Street Coseley WV14 9JR. Tel: 01384 812770
LJRO	Lichfield Record Office Lichfield Library, The Friary Lichfield WS13 6QG Tel: 01543 510720
PRO	Public Record Office Ruskin Avenue, Kew Richmond TW9 4DU. Tel: 0181 876 3444
SA	Sandwell Community History and Archives Service Smethwick Library, High Street, Smethwick Warley B66 1AB Tel: 0121 558 2561
SRO	Staffordshire Record Office Eastgate Street Stafford ST16 2LZ. Tel: 01785 278380
WSA	Walsall Archives Service Local History Centre Essex Street Walsall WS2 7AS. Tel:01922 721305/6
WA&LS	Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies 42-50 Snow Hill (1 st floor above Netto) Wolverhampton WV2 4AG. Tel: 01902 552480
WRA	Worcestershire Record Office Headquarters Branch County Hall, Spetchley Road Worcester WR5 2NP. Tel: 01905 766351