

Searching for the record of a baptism

Introduction

Baptism registers are kept to record when and where a person was baptised. They usually contain information including the person's name, the names of their parents, the names of their godparents, an alleged date of birth and the date of their baptism.

What information do I need before I start?

To increase your chances of a successful search try to find out:

- the name of the person
- their date of birth/baptism
- their place of baptism/place of birth
- their religion.

Which records can I see at Bromley Local Studies and Archives?

We have been designated as a Diocesan Record Office for the Dioceses of Rochester and Southwark. As a result we hold some baptism registers of those Church of England parishes which fall within the London Borough of Bromley.

Baptism registers are transferred to us once they are no longer in use by the parish. If we do not hold a baptism register, it may still be in the custody of the parish.

Are your records indexed?

We hold indexes for many of the baptism registers that we hold, as well as some indexes of registers that are still in the custody of their creating parish.

Please see the end of this guide for a detailed list of the indexes that we hold.

Indexes may also be found online at the following site;

- Kent Online Parish Clerk <http://www.kent-opc.org/>

Which records are available elsewhere?

If the person whose baptism you are searching had been living close to the boundary with another local authority there is a possibility the baptism took place in a parish situated in the adjacent local authority.

Details of the archive departments of our neighbouring boroughs can be found below:

Bexley: <http://www.bexley.gov.uk/archives>

Croydon: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/archives>

Greenwich: <http://www.greenwichheritage.org/site/index.php>

Kent: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/kent-history-and-library-centre>

Lewisham:

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/history/archives/Pages/default.aspx>

Church of England parish baptism registers held at Bromley Local Studies and Archives

Parish reference	Parish	Dates of registers held	Transcript/index at Local Studies?
P/19	St George, Beckenham	1538 – 1922	Yes, 1538- 1851 (Adult Baptisms 1855- 1879)
P/19	St Michael and All Angels, Beckenham	1877-1894	No
P/19B	St Paul, Beckenham	1871 - 1957	No
P/19D	Holy Trinity, Beckenham	1869 – 1960	Yes, 1890- 1960
P/19G	St Mary's, Shortlands	1870-1972	No
P/19H	St James (Elmers End)/ All Saints, Beckenham	(St. James') 1888-1924) (All Saints) 1908- 1924	No
P/19I	St Barnabas, Beckenham	1877 - 1928	No
P/47	St Peter and St Paul, Bromley	1558 – 1949	Yes, 1558- 1958
P/47B	St John, Bromley	1880 – 1945	No
P/47C	Holy Trinity, Bromley	1843 – 1974	Yes, 1843- 1900
P/47D	St George, Bickley	1865 – 1880	No
P/47F	St Luke, Bromley	1887 – 1979	No
P/47H	St Mark, Bromley	1899 – 1939	No
P/180	St Mary, Hayes	1539 – 1939	Yes, 1539 – 1851
P/208	Keston Parish Church	1541 – 1946	Yes - 1541-1851
P/92	St Nicholas, Chislehurst	1558 – 2002	Yes, 1558-1880
P/92B	The Annunciation, Chislehurst	1870 – 1961	No
P/92C	Christ Church, Chislehurst	1872 – 1979	No
P/104	St Paulinus, St Paul's Cray	1580 – 1977	Yes – 1579-1851 1862-1908

Parish reference	Parish	Dates of registers held	Transcript/index at Local Studies?
P/144	St Giles, Farnborough	1558 – 1624 1661 – 2002	Yes, 1538- 1851
	St Nicholas at Farnborough	1970 – 1973	
P/277	All Saints, Orpington	1560 – 1918	Yes, 1560-1812
P/277B	St Mary the Virgin, St Mary Cray	1579 – 1983	Yes, 1700-1901
P/277C	Christ Church, Orpington	1938-1960	No
P/409	St John, Penge	1850 – 1964	No
P/409B	Christ Church, Anerley	1885 – 1948	No
P/409C	St Paul, Anerley	1867 – 1946 1948 – 1969	No
	North Surrey District School	1892 – 1932	No
	Anerley (LCC) Residential School	1933 – 1948	No
P/409D	Holy Trinity, Penge	1871 – 1966	No
P/107	St Peter & St Paul's, Cudham	1653 – 1918	Yes, 1653- 1732, 1763- 1774, 1780- 1800, 1813- 1851
P/107B	St Mark's, Biggin Hill	1907 – 1986	No
P/123	St Mary the Virgin, Downe	1538 - 1883	Yes, 1538- 1851

Other baptism register transcripts

We also hold transcripts for the following Church of England and non-denominational parishes where we do not hold the physical registers.

Parish	Dates of index/transcript
St Martin of Tours, Chelsfield	1558-1812 (composite register) 1739-1812 (baptisms)
St Mary, Plaistow	1863-1914
St John, West Wickham	1558-1900

We also hold transcripts for the following Church of England and non-denominational parishes which are located in the London Borough of Bexley:

Parish	Dates of index/transcript
All Saints, Fooks Cray	1559-1812