

Minutes and Accounts

The vestry ran the parish, dealing with an increasing amount of local administration. The first heavy duties were laid on it under the Tudors, most importantly administration of the [Poor Law](#), while local needs such as charity administration, the administration of the parish constable and various officials, ranging from the surveyor of the highways to the dog whipper, took up much of its time. Throughout this time the vestry meeting kept minutes of its activities (the survival of which can be erratic), while the churchwardens kept a note of expenditure on the parish's behalf and presented their accounts to the vestry at the end of each year's office. These records can give a picture of day to day life and concerns in the parish.

In 1919, PCCs (Parochial Church Councils) were formed. They took over many of the responsibilities of the vestry and churchwardens, including church fabric and finance. In the 20th century, both vestry and PCC minutes exist for many parishes.

Where are these records?

Many parishes have transferred their records to Oxfordshire History Centre. The records themselves are not online.

Where is the catalogue?

Many but by no means all parishes have a catalogue online. If the parish you are interested in does not appear you will need to visit the History Centre to look at the catalogue in printed form.

Enter PAR and the name of the parish into our [Heritage Search](#) and choose the "Archive Catalogue" collection to see if the catalogue you want is there.

Notices of appeal against a removal order would come up at Quarter Sessions, as would prosecutions by apprentices.