



Gateway to
the history
of Shropshire
and Telford

A short guide to parish register transcripts and indexes

Find My Past

Most Shropshire parish registers up to 1900 are on www.findmypast.co.uk. The registers have been indexed. The index is free to search but there is charge to view the transcript or colour original. On PCs at Shropshire Archives (and libraries in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin) there is free access to the transcripts and images.

Transcripts

You can find out if a printed or unpublished transcript exists for a particular parish by checking the parish register list, which is in a peach coloured file by the microfiche cabinets.

◆ Printed transcripts

- ◇ Printed transcripts exist for many Shropshire parishes; they usually cover baptisms and burials up until 1812 and marriages to 1837. These are usually indexed.
- ◇ The printed transcripts are in books on the library shelves in the bay marked 'transcripts'. They are arranged alphabetically by the name of the parish.
- ◇ Many of the transcripts for Non-conformist and Catholic parishes are bound together in a green volume called *Non-conformist and Catholic Registers*.

◆ Unpublished Transcripts

- ◇ There are also some unpublished transcripts covering the same period. These are generally not indexed. A few of these transcripts are taken from registers that are still at the parish church and not yet deposited at Shropshire Archives
- ◇ The unpublished transcripts are in brown boxes on the Library shelves to the left of the published transcripts. Again, they are arranged alphabetically by the name of the parish.

Other Indexes

◆ The International Genealogical Index (IGI)

- ◇ The IGI is an **incomplete** index to baptisms and marriages. Most of the entries are before 1837 and some parishes are not included at all.
- ◇ The entries are often based on the Bishops' Transcripts (often referred to as BTs) rather than original registers. Bishops' Transcripts are copies of parish registers held by diocesan record offices.
- ◇ Some entries are not based on sources at all but are guesses by genealogists. When using the IGI, make sure you **check any reference** against an original source.
- ◇ The IGI is available at Shropshire Archives on microfiche and online at <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/igi>

◆ Shropshire Burials

- ◇ You can search for burials in Shropshire on the CD Rom – Shropshire Burials. There is also a CD Rom for National Burials.
- ◇ Both of these indexes concentrate on the years 1813-1837, but for some parishes the coverage is much better. The 'help' button will give you an idea of the parishes and dates included in the index.

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