

Bible Christian registers

There is a good survival rate of Bible Christian baptismal registers, which will have been deposited in the county record offices. The problem, common to all branches of Methodism, is that you will probably have to work out to which Circuit your ancestors' chapel belonged, but as Bible Christian Circuits were quite small you will probably have a good chance of working this out. Go to the National Archives catalogue at <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> and use "Bible Christian" and the place in which you are interested, or the county, to find out where the original registers are held.

It was not legal to marry anywhere but a parish church until 1857. Although 42 Bible Christian chapels were registered for marriages by 1867, the Registrar was required to be present. After 1898 ministers were allowed to act on behalf of the Registrar but, although 149 chapels were now registered, there seems to have been no take up of this facility by the Bible Christians. It is therefore unlikely you will find any Bible Christian marriage registers. In any case, the certificates obtainable from the General Registry Office, or local Registry offices, will tell you where the marriage took place (e.g. in the chapel).

There are few surviving chapel burial registers. The one for Lake Chapel, Shebbear has been transcribed and is available at

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/Shebbear/BibleChristians/AppendixC>

All surviving Bible Christian baptismal registers from before 1837 have been digitised, and are available (for a fee) at <http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk/>

Find My Past <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/> or Ancestry <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

If you just want to know if an ancestor was baptised in a chapel before 1837, and who their parents were, then you can find this out for free at Family Search

<https://familysearch.org/>

In the following list, these registers are called **RG4**

All the main genealogical platforms (Ancestry, Find My Past and Family Search) have been working with record offices to digitise registers. The Methodist Church in Britain now gives permission for our records to be included in these collections, so expect to see more Methodist baptismal records appearing online. A number of other baptismal registers have been transcribed by local family history societies, either online or in print and these are listed here.

CORNWALL

All these registers have been transcribed by Cornwall OPC, and may be viewed by searching at <https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>

Where the register covers the period pre 1837, they are also in RG4

Bodmin Circuit 1891-1912
Breage Circuit 1821-1837
Callington Circuit 1863-1915
Camelford Circuit 1884-1912
Canworthy Water Circuit 1821-1823
Falmouth Circuit 1822-1837
Falmouth and Penrhyn Circuit *not yet available*
Gwennap Circuit 1847-1857
Hayle and St Ives Circuit *not yet available*
Helston Circuit 1819-1837
Hicks Mill Circuit *not yet available*
Kilhampton Circuit 1817-1909
Launceston Circuit 1841-1913
Launceston chapel 1871-1911
Liskeard Circuit 1847-1907
Looe Circuit 1848-1900
Looe chapel 1885-1911
Luxulyan Circuit 1820-1864
Luxulyan and Bodmin Circuit 1864-1891 [became Bodmin Circuit 1891]
Mevagissey Circuit 1837-1921
Michaelstow Circuit 1822-1884 [became Camelford Circuit 1884]
Padstow Circuit 1895-1921 [still described as St. Ervan on the site]
Penzance Circuit 1821-1859
1860-1901 indexed at <https://familysearch.org/>
Porthleven Circuit *not yet available*
Redruth and Camborne Circuit *not yet available*
St. Austell Circuit *not yet available*
St. Columb Circuit 1838-1901
St. Ervan Circuit 1820-1894 [became Padstow Circuit 1895]
St. Just Circuit 1860-1901
St Keverne chapel 1839-1900
St Mawes Circuit *not yet available*
St Neot Circuit 1818-1857 (became Liskeard Circuit 1857)
Truro Circuit 1822-1909
Week St. Mary Circuit 1838-1918

ISLES OF SCILLY

Scilly Isles Circuit 1823-1913

CUMBERLAND

Millom Circuit 1870-1891

<https://www.myunitedmethodists.org.uk/content/people/bc-baptism-transcript-millom-circuit>

DEVON

All these registers have been transcribed by Find My Past, in their Devon baptisms collection, and may be viewed (for a fee) by searching at

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk>

Barnstaple Circuit 1866-1909

Brentor Circuit 1839-1859

Buckfastleigh and Exeter Circuit 1820-1837 **RG4**

Bideford Circuit 1846-1892

Chagford Circuit 1822-1837 **RG4**

1837-1882

Dalwood Circuit 1891-1909

Devonport Circuit 1820-1837 **RG4**

Exeter Circuit 1888-1917

Hatherleigh Circuit *none available*

Holsworthy Circuit 1837-1911 contact Devon Family History Society.

The Devon Baptisms collection covers 1884-1914

Ilfracombe *none available*

Kilhampton Circuit 1817-1909

<https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>

Kingsbridge *none available*

Newton Abbot Circuit 1865-1907

Northlew Circuit 1841-1867

Northlew and Okehampton Circuit 1894-1919

Plymouth, Greenbank Chapel 1853-1911

Plymouth, Zion Chapel 1908-1911

Ringsash Circuit 1820-1837 **RG4**

1837-1915

Shebbear Circuit 1818-1837 **RG4**

1855-1912

South Molton Circuit 1857-1915

Tavistock Circuit 1859-1915

Tiverton and Bampton Circuit 1843-1918

Torquay Circuit 1848-1911

Torrington Circuit 1837-1867 contact Devon Family History Society

Week St. Mary Circuit 1838-1911 <https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>

DORSET

Portland *not yet available*

DURHAM

Sunderland *none available*

GLAMORGAN

Aberavon *none available*
Barry *none available*
Briton Ferry *none available*
Cardiff *none available*
Llantrisant *none available*
Neath *none available*
Swansea *none available*

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Bristol , Gladstone Street, Easton 1843-1905 available as part of the Bristol Nonconformist Baptism Marriage and Burial register Collection at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> and <https://familysearch.org/>

Forest of Dean Circuit 1837-1878 contact Gloucestershire Family History Society
Gloucester, Stroud Road A search facility is available at <https://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/genealogy/Search.aspx>

GREATER LONDON

Clapham *none available*
Ebenezer, Old Street 1823-1837 **RG4**
Forest Hill *none available*
Kilburn *none available*
Lee and Hither Green *none available*
London, Jubilee *none available*
Tottenham *none available*
Waterloo Road *none available*
Woolwich *none available*

HAMPSHIRE

Crandall *none available*
Liphook *none available*
Portsmouth *none available*
Portsea Circuit 1830-1837 **RG4**

Southampton and Eastleigh Circuit *none available*

ISLE OF WIGHT

Isle of Wight Circuit 1824-1837 **RG4**

The following may be searched, for a fee, at

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=5215>

Isle of Wight Circuit 1837-1860

Newport and Ryde Circuit 1861-1907

Isle of Wight East Circuit 1846-1863

Shankin Circuit 1863-1920

Yarmouth Circuit 1862-1925

KENT

Ashford *none available*

Chatham and New Brompton *none available*

Chatham, Union Street 1820-1837 **RG4**

Elham *none available*

Faversham *none available*

Faversham, Union Chapel 1823-1837 **RG4**

Sevenoaks *none available*

Sheerness *none available*

Sheerness, Mile Town 1820-1837 **RG4**

Sittingbourne *none available*

Tenterden, Providence Chapel 1830-1837 **RG4**

Tenterden Mission 1805-1908

<http://www.woodchurchancestry.org.uk/nonconformist/index.html>

Warehorne, Providence Chapel 1842-1910

<https://www.freereg.org.uk/>

LANCASHIRE

Barrow in Furness , Roose Road 1875-1922

Indexed at

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/631607?availability=Family%20History%20Library>

Blackburn *not yet available*

Bolton *not yet available*

Dalton in Furness, Cleator Street 1870-1891

Indexed at

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/631703?availability=Family%20History%20Library>

Blaenavon	<i>none available</i>
Chepstow	1838-1906
Newport	<i>none available</i>

SOMERSET

Weston –super-Mare Circuit 1863-1907 available as part of the Bristol Nonconformist Baptism Marriage and Burial register Collection at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> and <https://familysearch.org/>

Farnham Mission 1831-1837 **RG4**
1839-1874 contact West Surrey Family History Society

Brighton, Providence Chapel 1824-1837 **RG4**
Chichester Mission 1835-1837 **RG4**

Birmingham *not yet available*

Bradford	<i>not yet available</i>
Cleveland	<i>not yet available</i>