

Searching for the record of a marriage

Introduction

Marriage registers are kept to record when and where a couple was married. They usually contain information including the names of the couple, the occupations of the couple, the names of their fathers, the occupations of their fathers, the date of their marriage and the signatures of two witnesses.

What information do I need before I start?

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

- the names of the couple
- their dates of birth
- their date of marriage
- their place of birth
- their address(es) at the time of the marriage
- their religions.

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 marriage registers from those Church of England parishes which fall within the London Borough of Bromley.

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

Are your records indexed?

We hold indexes for many of the marriage 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.

What is the General Register Office marriage index?

The General Register Office (GRO) index all marriages that occur within England and Wales. The GRO index can be used to search for basic information about a marriage. That information can then be used to order a copy marriage certificate from the General Register Office.

We hold a copy of the GRO index on microfiche in Local Studies for marriages that occurred between July 1837 and 1996. The index is also

available to search through a number of family history websites including ancestrylibrary and freebmd which can be accessed in Local Studies using the Public Network computers.

Which records are available elsewhere?

Records of marriages made in churches and civil premises as well as records of civil partnerships are available through the General Register Office.

For further details about the General Register Office's copy certificate service please visit <http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp>

If the marriage or civil partnership was registered in the London Borough of Bromley between 1837 and the current day copy certificates can be obtained in person or through the post from the Bromley Registrars.

Further details on the copy certificate service available from Bromley Registrars can be found at:

http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200067/marriages_and_civil_partnerships/397/applying_for_birth_death_marriage_and_civil_partnership_certificates

Top Tip!

If the individuals whose marriage or civil partnership you are searching for had been living close to the boundary with another local authority there is a possibility the marriage took place in the adjacent local authority. Details of the archive departments and registrar services of our neighbouring boroughs can be found below:

Bexley:

- Local Studies and Archives: <http://www.bexley.gov.uk/archives>
- Registrar: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/births-ceremonies-and-deaths/weddings-and-civil-partnerships/marriage-and-civil-partnership-certificates>

Croydon:

- Local Studies and Archives: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/archives>
- Registrar: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community/births-deaths-marriage>

Greenwich:

- Heritage Centre: <http://www.greenwichheritage.org/site/index.php>
- Registrar: http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200067/marriages/1367/get_a_copy_of_a_birth_death_marriage_or_civil_partnership_certificate

Kent:

- History and Library Centre: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/kent-history-and-library-centre>
- Registrar: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/births-ceremonies-and-deaths/weddings-and-civil-partnerships/marriage-and-civil-partnership-certificates>

Lewisham:

- Local Studies and Archives: <https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/history/archives/Pages/default.aspx>
- Registrar: <https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/birthsdeaths marriagesCP/Pages/default.aspx>

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

Parish reference	Parish	Dates of register held	Index/transcript in Local Studies?
P/19	St George, Beckenham	1538 – 1939	Yes, 1823-1935 banns only.
P/19B	St Paul, Beckenham	1873 – 1950	No.
P/19D	Holy Trinity, Beckenham	1878 – 1971	Yes, 1890-1985.
P/19H	St James, Elmers End	1924 – 1938	No.
P/19I	St Barnabus, Beckenham	1893 – 1950	No.
P/47	St Peter and St Paul, Bromley	1558 – 1963	Yes, 1575-1934; 1935-1958 by groom only.
P/47B	St John, Bromley	1881 – 1947	No.
P/47C	Holy Trinity, Bromley	1843 – 1976	Yes, 1843-1907.
P/47D	St George, Bickley	1865 – 1919	No.
P/47F	St Luke, Bromley	1889 – 1981	No.
P/180	St Mary the Virign, Hayes	1540 – 1740 1744 – 1810 1814 – 1939	Yes, 1540-1740; 1744-1810; 1813-1851.
P/208	Keston Parish Church	1540 – 1682 1690 – 1752 1754 – 1810 1818 – 1835 1838 – 1955	Yes, 1540-1683; 1690-1752; 1754-1810; 1813-1851.
P/92	St Nicholas, Chislehurst	1558 – 1993	Yes, 1558-1754.
P/92B	The Annunciation, Chislehurst	1876 – 1972	No.
P/92C	Christ Church, Chislehurst	1906 – 1990	No.
P/104	St Paulinus, St Paul's Cray	1580 – 1977	Yes, 1579-1851.

Parish reference	Parish	Dates of registers held	Index/Transcript held in Local Studies?
P/144	St Giles, Farnborough	1559 – 1622 1662 – 1747 1749 – 1996	Yes, 1538-1851.
P/277	All Saints, Orpington	1560 – 1907	Yes, 1560-1812.
P/277B	St Mary Cray	1580 – 1628 1631 – 1639 1667 – 1693 1696 – 1810 1814 – 1976	Yes, 1580-1851.
P/409	St John, Penge	1851 – 1971	No.
P/409B	Christ Church, Anerley	1886 – 1953	No.
P/409C	St Paul, Anerley	1867 – 1964	No.
P/409D	Holy Trinity, Penge	1874 – 1985	No.
P/107	St Peter and St Paul, Cudham	1657 – 1731 1734 – 1753 1755 – 1947	Yes, 1654-1732; 1734-1840
P/107B	St Mark, Biggin Hill	1937 – 1991	No.
P/123	St Mary the Virgin, Downe	1538 – 1655 1672 – 1746 1755 – 1812 1814 – 1836 1838 - 1911	Yes, 1538-1851