

Records of Newbury Wesleyan Methodist Circuit, 1802-1963.
(6 vols, 3 bdls, 9 docs).

Deposited in July 1974 (acc. 1944 part); March 1979 (acc. 2369 part); June 1988 (acc. 4238 part); November 1992 (acc. 5123 part); February 1993 (acc. 5172 part); January 2008 (acc. 8163)

Cat : RH 12/1993; LS 9/2004; 1/2008

Introduction

Hall's Circuits and Ministers and a centenary list of ministers (D/MC 7/9/2) show that Newbury circuit was formed out of Oxfordshire circuit in 1795. It included Witney until 1803 and Hungerford until 1810. However, apart from the papers listed in section 1 and a preaching plan of 1854-1855 (D/MC 7/5A/1), no administrative records at all have survived before the 20th century, with the exception of a number of early licences for places of worship.

Apart from Newbury itself, this was a predominantly rural circuit.

According to the plan of 1854-1855 there were then 21 preaching places, extending about 10 miles north to Brightwalton and East Ilsley, a similar distance south to include East Woodhay, Kingsclere and Baughurst in Hampshire, and east and west as far as Thatcham and Halfway. By the 1930s there were 15 chapels, with the circuit boundaries little changed, although between 1908 and 1929 when Hungerford Wesleyan Methodist circuit had joined Newbury again the number had swollen to 24 (*see* D/MC 7/5A/2 and records under D/MC 10).

Newbury Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists united fully in 1937, having initially changed their names to Northbrook Street and Bartholomew Street sections (*see* D/MC 9). Moves towards union began in 1934 with the first united local preachers' meeting, the two plans being amalgamated in June 1935.

Disappointingly few records of the Newbury Wesleyan circuit survive. An Early baptism register, 1838-1852, is an exception (D/MC 7/7A/1), but then no register is found until 1908. For births/baptisms and burials, 1795-1837, *see* MF 598 (originals at Public Record Office).

BERKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

NEWBURY WESLEYAN METHODIST CIRCUIT
RECORDS

D/MC 7

Schedule of accessions

Acc. 1944 : 2A/1; 2C/1; 5A/2/2; 5A/3; 9/1
(part)

Acc. 2369 : 5A/1; 6A/1; 9/3
(part)

Acc. 4238 : 7A/1-3
(part)

Acc. 5123 : 5A/2/1
(part)

Acc. 5172 : 1B/1-2; 1C/1; 1D/1-2; 9/2
(part)

Acc. 8163 : 1D/3

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Summary

Circuit administration

Miscellaneous accounts, 1833-1837; licences of places of worship, 1802-1840; Finance Committee minutes, 1923-1963; Wesley Guild Council accounts, 1927-1944; Youth Council accounts, 1944-1963.

Preaching plans and directories

Plan, 1854-1855, 1929-1932; directories, 1929.

Local preachers

Minutes, 1906-1952.

Registration

Registers of baptisms, 1838-1852, 1908-1952.

Miscellaneous

List of ministers, 1795-1960; Circuit calendar and blotter, 1927.

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Records in other collections

Records of individual churches

Boxford	D/MS 21
Chaddleworth	D/MS 31
East Garston	D/MS 41
Hampstead Norreys	D/MS 42
Inkpen	D/MS 45
Newbury City Mission	D/MS 50
Newbury Northbrook Street	D/MS 51
Stockcross	D/MS 71
Thatcham	D/MS 73
Worlds End, Beedon	D/MS 86
Kintbury	D/MS 88
Kingsclere	D/MS 94
East Woodhay	D/MS 101

1	<u>Circuit meetings and administration</u>		
1A	<u>Quarterly Meeting/Circuit Meeting minutes</u>		
	[No Quarterly Meeting minute or account books have been deposited.]		
1B	<u>Accounts</u>		
1B/1	Account for timber, nails and labour for Inkpen chapel.	1 doc	1833
1B/2	Quarterly accounts [draft?] with various jottings of sums of money and resolutions, and the words 'J. Purdue reappointed steward' [see D/MC 7/1C/1.]	1 doc	1836-[1837]
1C	<u>Correspondence</u>		
1C/1	Letter from John Purdue of London, [circuit steward], promising to give the matter of the Newbury circuit accounts his "earliest attention".	1 doc	1846
1D	<u>Other records</u>		
1D/1/1-5	Certificates of registration as places of worship for houses in Enborne, Thatcham, World's End (parish of Hampstead Norris), Compton and Bucklebury.	1 bdl	1814-1839
1D/2	Proposed trustees at Newbury, Hampstead [Norris], Kintbury and [East?] Ilsley, and possible ministers to be invited for the next year.	1 doc	n.d. [1830s?]
1D/3/1-22	Licences for places of worship in Berkshire and Hampshire. (Copies of the original certificates submitted to the diocese or to quarter sessions, certified by the diocesan deputy registrar or the clerk of the peace.) [For a list, see Appendix II. Original certificates for Berkshire have been published in Lisa Spurrier (ed.), <i>Berkshire Nonconformist Meeting House Registrations 1689-1852</i> (Berkshire Record Society vols 9-10, 2005).]	1 bdl	1802-1840

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2 **Circuit committees**

2A Finance and Invitation/General Purposes

2A/1 Finance Committee minutes [from 1937, Newbury 1 vol 1923-1963
 [united] circuit].

2C/1 Wesley Guild Council accounts, 1927-1944, and 1 vol 1927-1963
 Youth Council accounts, 1944-1963 [from 1935,
 Newbury [united] circuit].

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5 **Preaching plans and directories**

5A Plans

[For plan, August-December 1843, *see* N/D 8/20.]

5A/1 Plan, November 1854-March 1855. 1 doc 1854-1855

5A/2/1-2 Plans and directories (Newbury and Hungerford circuit), March-September 1929. 1 bdl 1929

5A/3 Plan, July-September 1932. 1 doc 1932

[For plans of Northbrook Street section (former Wesleyan chapels), 1935-1937, *see* D/MC 9/5A/1-2.]

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6 **Local preachers**

6A Minutes

6A/1 Local preachers' meeting minutes, Newbury Wesleyan Methodist Circuit, 1906-1908, Newbury and Hungerford Wesleyan Methodist Circuit, 1908-1929, Newbury Wesleyan Methodist Circuit, 1929-1934, and Newbury [united Wesleyan and Primitive] Methodist Circuit, 1934-1952. 1 vol 1906-1952

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7 **Registration**

7A **Baptisms**

[For baptisms, 1795-1837, *see* MF 598.]

MF 10363	7A/1	Register of baptisms solemnized in chapels in the circuit, January 1838-August 1852. (Not in chronological order, c.1846-1848.)	1 vol	1838-1852
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[No register known 1852-1908.]

MF 10364	7A/2	Register of baptisms solemnized in chapels in the circuit, May 1908-July 1930. (Not in chronological order, c.1912-1920.)	1 vol	1908-1930
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MF 10365	7A/3	Register of baptisms solemnized in chapels in the circuit [continuing in use for former Wesleyan Methodist chapels after Methodist Union in 1932], July 1930-November 1952 [<i>see also</i> D/MC 8/7A/4]. (Not in chronological order, c.1947-1952.)	1 vol	1930-1952
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7C **Burials**

[For burials, 1823-1837, *see* MF 598.]

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- 9** **Printed material/Miscellaneous**
- 9/1 Accommodation (number of sittings) provided at Wesleyan Methodist chapels and other preaching places, by District (comparison with 1851). 1 doc 1873
- 9/2 Centenary list of ministers in the circuit, 1795-1895 [printed], endorsed with updates to 1960. 1 doc 1895-1960
- 9/3 Circuit calendar and blotter.
(Includes brief history of Newbury (D/MS 51) and Hungerford (D/MS 3) churches, and list of officers of all churches in the circuit.) 1 doc 1927

APPENDIX I

Concordance

The following documents were previously catalogued as D/N :

<u>Old reference</u>	<u>New reference</u>
D/N 4/1/4	D/MC 7/2A/1
D/N 4/1/6	D/MC 7/6A/1
D/N 4/1/7/2	D/MC 7/5A/1
D/N 4/1/7/14	D/MC 7/5A/2/2
D/N 4/1/7/15	D/MC 7/5A/3
D/N 4/1/12	D/MC 7/2C/1
D/N 4/1/15-16	D/MC 7/9/1
D/N 4/2/10	D/MC 7/9/3

APPENDIX II

List of meeting house licences in D/MC7/1D/3

1. Dwelling house of John Sidery in Hampstead Norreys, 1802.
2. Methodist Chapel, Chieveley, 1804.
3. Dwelling house of John Geater in Kintbury, 1806.
4. Dwelling house of James Cruse at Westbrook, Boxford, 1808 (certificate dated 1807).
5. "Lately erected Building" in Peasemore, 1808.
6. Dwelling house of Joseph Tanner in East Ilsley, 1809.
7. Dwelling house of John Maslin in Newbury, 1809.
8. Newly erected chapel in [East] Ilsley, 1810.
9. Dwelling house of James Sawyer at Stanmore, Beedon, 1816.
10. Dwelling house of William Dodds in [East] Woodhay, Hampshire, 1817.
11. Newly erected chapel in Brightwalton, 1819.
12. House of William Piper in Faccombe, Hampshire, 1819.
13. Dwelling house occupied by William Snellgrove in East Woodhay, Hampshire, 1824.
14. Dwelling house occupied by James Trueman in Speen, 1824.
15. Dwelling house occupied by George Pike in Ashmansworth, Hampshire, 1824.
- 16-17. Dwelling house occupied by John Pain at Old Benham, Welford, 1825 (two copies).
18. Chapel in Burghclere, Hampshire, 1825.
19. Dwelling house occupied by Frederick Smith in Sidmonton, Hampshire, 1826.
20. Dwelling house occupied by John Jones in Combe, Hampshire, 1826.
21. House occupied by William Slade in Yattendon, 1839.
22. House "lately erected by Thomas Giles" in Bucklebury, 1840.