



## Methodist Registers

In 1738 John and Charles Wesley began a ministry, which hoped to inspire individuals communion with God. It was a bleak time of poverty and low wages. Wesley inspired people and gave them hope. The people of the North East were particularly interested. Between 1742 and 1790 Wesley visited Newcastle and the North 36 times. Methodism became strongest in the mining areas of the south and east of the county, where the conditions were particularly bad. Wesley discouraged people from leaving the Anglican Church even though the Anglican clergy had little respect for him, regarding Methodists as little better than "Papists". For this reason until Wesley's death in 1791 most Methodist baptisms will be recorded in Anglican church registers. After this date a split occurred and Methodism became a separate denomination. Nationally it was organised as a "connexion" made up of districts, which were divided into circuits. A circuit consisted of several churches or societies.

The Methodist organisation split into a number of divisions. The Wesleyans remained the largest group. In 1797 the Methodist New Connexion was founded and at the beginning of the 19th century the Primitive Methodists emerged. There were several other breakaway groups. In 1857 some of these joined together to form the United Methodist Free Churches. In 1907 they joined with the New Connexion and the Bible Christians to form the United Methodist Church. Finally in 1932 the Wesleyan Methodists, Primitive Methodists and United Methodists joined together to become the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

Baptism registers usually begin in the late 18th century when Methodists broke away from the Anglican Church. They can hold entries for an individual church or for a circuit (a group of churches). The earliest register for Northumberland is the Alnwick Wesleyan Circuit register, which begins in 1791 (the year of Wesley's death). The Northumberland Archives holds a microfilm copy of the 1788 baptism register for Newcastle Brunswick Place.

In 1753 Hardwicke's Marriage Act forced all non-conformists (except Quakers and Jews) to marry in Anglican Parish churches. When registration was introduced in 1837 a marriage could take place in a non-conformist church if the registrar was present. After 1898 Methodist ministers could be authorised to carry out marriages. This meant that until 1837 Methodist marriages were usually recorded in Anglican Church registers. Until 1898 the Registrars copy of a marriage certificate is probably the only one available. After that date Methodist marriage registers usually begin. Methodist marriage registers are closed to public access for 30 years.

Few Methodist churches have burial grounds. Burial records are likely to be in Anglican registers or civil cemetery records. Northumberland Archives does not hold any Methodist burial registers for Northumberland.

In 1837 many non-conformist registers were passed to the General Register Office and then transferred to then Public Record Office, now The National Archives. Northumberland Archives has obtained microfilm copies of some of these. Most registers have been deposited by the churches themselves.

This is a list of all registers held by Northumberland Archives and Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office, in various formats (original, microfilm or transcript). Most registers are on microfilm.

Northumberland Archives hold the majority of the registers however, those, which are also available at the Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office, are marked with an asterisk (\*). There is a transcript of a Methodist baptism register 1877-1912, which is untitled, but appears to relate to Newcastle East Circuit (NRO 4929).

One of the main difficulties with using Methodist registers is working out which circuit a place is in. The National Index to Parish Registers Volume XI by C.P. Neat can help determine this.

Allendale, P.M. Circuit *.	x. 1847-1881.		
Allendale, Wesleyan Circuit.	x. 1883-1941.		
Allendale, Dawson Place.		m.1909-1967.	
Allendale, Catton		m.1959-1964	
Allendale, High House.	x. 1842-1964.		
Allendale, Mohope (West Allen).	x. 1864-1933.		
Allendale, Shield Street		m.1937-1981	
Allenheads, Bethel *.	x. 1834-1927.		
Allenheads, Dirt Pot.		m.1913-1946.	
Allenheads, Trinity		m.1947-1994	
Alnwick, 'A' Circuit.	x. 1940-1972.		
Alnwick, United Methodist Circuit.	x. 1883-1941.		
Alnwick, Wesleyan Circuit *.	x. 1791-1952.		
Alnwick, Bondgate.	x. 1870-1940.		
Amble, P.M. Circuit.	x. 1893-1937.		
Amble, Percy Street.		m.1911-1962.	
Ashington, P.M. Circuit *.	x. 1873-1947.		
Ashington, Central Hall.	x. 1963-1980.		
Ashington, High Market.	x. 1928-1967.	m.1933-1967.	
Ashington, Hirst & Seaton Hirst.	x. 1909-1913.		
Ashington, Linton Colliery.	x. 1948-1987.		
Ashington, North Seaton Road (Wesleyan Reform).		m. 1949-1975 m. 1976-1994	
Ashington, Second Avenue.	x. 1900-1908 & 1912-1944.	m.1952-1991.	
Ashington Station Road & Lynemouth.	x. 1947-1991.		
Ashington, Sheepwash Bank.		m.1946-1982.	
Ashington, Station Road.		m.1912-1983.	
Ashington, Sycamore Street.		m.1944-1951.	
Ashington, Thwaites Memorial.	x. 1913-1991.	m.1984-1989.	
Ashington Wesleyan Reform Methodist Church		m.1949-1994	
Barrington & Scotland Gate (Choppington)	x 1951-1979		
Bedlington, Front Street.	x. 1955-1967.		
Bedlington, P.M. Chapel.		m.1919-1979.	
Bedlington, Vulcan Place.	x. 1902-1939.		
Bedlington Station.		m.1919-1963.	
Bellingham, United Free Church Circuit.	x. 1892-1921.		
Berwick, P.M. Circuit *.	X.1829-1884 (1834-1884 at Berwick).		
Berwick, Wesleyan Circuit *.	x. 1796-1837.		
Berwick, Methodist Mission *.	x. 1837-1884.		
Blyth, P.M. Circuit.	x. 1908-1933.		

Blyth, Wesleyan Circuit.	x. 1840-2003.	m.1930-2003	
Blyth, Beaconsfield.	x. 1963-1968.	m.1919-1968.	
Blyth, Bowes Street.	x. 1898-1952.	m.1930-1958.	
Blyth, Cowpen Quay.		m.1919-1958.	
Blyth, Regent Street.	x. 1941-1950.		
Blyth, Waterloo Road.	x. 1924-1973.	m.1919-1973.	
Broomhill.	x. 1887-1904.		
Cambois.	x. 1958-1974.	m.1960-1970.	
Cambois, Bridge Street.	x. 1920-1955.		
Cambois Beach.	x. 1942-1958.	m.1928-1960.	
Corbridge, Market Place.		m.1958-1979.	
Cowpen.	x. 1899-1935.	m.1948-1980	
Cramlington.	x. 1969-1974.		
Cramlington Colliery.		m.1950-1969.	
Craster		m.1953-2008.	
Great Whittington.		m.1922-1983.	
Greenhead, Blenkinsopp.		m.1900-1965.	
Guidepost (Sheepwash Bank)	x. 1951-1983	m.1946-1982.	
Haltwhistle, P.M. Circuit *.	x. 1851-1941.		
Haltwhistle, Wesleyan Circuit.	x. 1844-1954.		
Haltwhistle, Westgate Circuit.	x. 1941-1968.		
Haltwhistle, Front Street.		m.1899-1972.	
Haydon Bridge, Elmfield.	x. 1942-1950.		
Haydon Bridge, Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.		m.1905-1944.	
Henshaw.		m.1899-1937.	
Hexham, P.M. Circuit *.	x. 1880-1963.		
Hexham Trinity	x. 1954-1991		
Hexham, Wesleyan Circuit *.	x. 1797-1954.		
Hexham, Battle Hill.		m.1915-1952.	
Hexham, Trinity.		m.1899-1980.	
High House, Dryburn			b.1860-1966
Hirst Mission.	x. 1914-1963.		
Hirst, Woodhorn Road.		m.1913-1983.	
Limestone Brae (West Allen)-			b.1866-1955
Linton Colliery	x. 1948-1988		
Lowick, P.M. Circuit *.	x. 1869-1932.		
Lynemouth Ex PM		m.1985-1998.	
Mickley Square	x. 1889-1965		
Mickley Square Central		m.1935-1966	
Mickley Square High Road South		m. 1936-1971	
Mohope*.	x. 1864-1933.		
Morpeth, Methodist Circuit (New).	x. 1908-1962.		
Morpeth, Wesleyan Circuit.	x. 1839-1908.		
Morpeth, Manchester Street.		m.1901-1962.	
New Delaval (with Newsham)		m.1956-1966	
New Delaval, High.	x. 1942-1953.		
New Delaval, Independent.		m.1982-1999.	
New Hartley.	x. 1951-1962.		
Newbiggin.	x. 1924-1937.		
Newbiggin, St. Andrew.	x. 1909-1979.	m.1936-1977.	
Newcastle, Brunswick Place.	x. 1788-1827.		
Newcastle, Hood Street.	x. 1798-1837.		

Newcastle, New Road.	x. 1833-1837.		
Newcastle, Silver Street.	x. 1824-1837.		
Newsham	x. 1956-1994	m.1956-1994	
North Seaton.	x. 1943-1969.		
North Seaton, Office Row.		m.1949-1968.	
North Shields, Wesleyan Circuit.	x. 1808-1837.		
North Shields, P.M. Circuit.	x. 1823-1837.		
Prudhoe Mickley Central	x. 1949-1976		
Prudhoe St. John	x. 1938-1967	m. 1930-1967	
Prudhoe Station Methodist	x. 1938-1970		
Prudhoe West Road	x. 1938-1948		
Prudhoe Wesleyan		m.1912-1930	
Scotland Gate (Choppington) & Barrington	x 1951-1979		
Seahouses Circuit *.	x. 1874-1958.		
Seaton Delaval, P.M. Circuit *.	x. 1875-1956.		
Seaton Delaval.		m.1909-1974.	
Seaton Delaval, Bethel.	x. 1937-1961.		
Seghill, Laycock.	x. 1924-1934.		
Shankhouse, Albion Terrace.	x. 1908-1951.		
Shotley Bridge, Bay Bridge.		m.1911-1990.	
Stakeford.	x. 1951-1971.	m.1968-1984	
Wall Wesleyan Methodist Chapel	x. 1964-2012	m.1913-1999	
		m. 2005-2012	
Wallsend, Carville.	x. 1803-1837.		
West Wylam Trinity		m. 1950-1968	
Whittonstall.		m.1928-1950.	
Wooler, Cheviot Street *.		m.1926-1978.	

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