

Parish registers 1660-1754

Following the restoration of the monarchy, and the reinstatement of the Church's episcopal structure, parish registers generally reverted to being kept in accordance with canon 70. Although existing registers continued to be used in many parishes, new registers were begun in others. Most registers of this period were kept in the form of a single volume, often referred to today as a 'general register' or 'composite register'. Canon 70 did not specify how the entries were to be arranged, resulting in a variety of different formats. In some parishes, baptisms, marriages and burials were recorded in a single chronological sequence. A typical page from this type of register is shown in Figure 1. In other parishes the three types of entry were kept separate, either in different sections, in columns on the same page, or on separate pages. Typical pages from the latter type of register are shown in Figures 2a, 2b and 2c.

Registers before 1754 are almost all in the form of parchment volumes, as required by canon 70, in a wide range of shapes and sizes. Parchment is made from stretched animal skin, and is considerably more durable than paper, although it is much more expensive. Vellum is a finer quality of parchment made from the skin of young animals. The surface of parchment was often greasy, in which case it had to be prepared before use, by sanding with pumice or treating with a powder known as 'pounce'. Although the register was supposed to be written up every Sunday, the practice developed in many parishes of writing it up retrospectively at intervals, and sometimes on an annual basis, or even less frequently, as can be observed in long sequences

(25) 1738

April 20: Theophilus Garranfayers & Elizabeth Dobson
Both in the parrish of St. Martins In Coney Street
were married with a licence from Dr. Audley

31st Mary daughter of Mary Kiffe Buried

May 11th Joseph Simson Buried

21st William son of Robert Painty Baptized

June 29th William Birch of Biccatt & Elizabeth Jackson
of this parrish were married

July 2: Robert Thomson Buried

30 William Rodgers & Frances Wadsworth married

Aug: 9: Mary wife of Richard Banmister Buried.

13 William son of William Kettlewell Buried

16 Jane Daughter of Matthew Furth Baptized

16 Ann daughter of Robert Dobson Baptized

Aug: 24 Mark Wilson In the parrish of St. Martins
In Mielgate & Sarah Walker of the same were
married with a licence from Dr. Audley

Sept: 17th John son of Thomas Poplton Baptized

15 Thomas Hall and Alice Jackson both In the
parrish of Coneystreet were married with a
licence from Doct^r Audley

24 John son of John Creeper was Baptized

October 30 Sarah daughter to John Smith Baptized

Nov: 21st Althe wife of Mr. John Kilvinton Buried

Dec: 20 William Wilson Buried

Jan: 16: Mary daughter of Thomas Lambert Baptized

16 Robert Snary Buried

23: Parker Puffield & Jane Johnson married

30: Thomas Welle & Mary Making Married

31: Parson Thomlinson & Elizabeth Thomas both
In the parrish of St. Crux married with a licence
from Doct^r Audley

Feb: 20 Jane wife of John Dawson Buried

20 Dorothy daughter of John Dawson Baptized

20 Mary daughter of Henry Cuson Baptized

Figure 1: A page from an early 18th century parish register with baptisms, marriages and burials recorded in a single chronological sequence.

(Register of Baptisms 1700-1801, Marriages 1700-1757 and Burials 1700-1800. Parish Records of Fulford, 1607-2008. Borthwick Institute for Archives, University of York, GB 193, PR/FUL/2.)