Guide to parish records

held at the Barking and Dagenham Archives and Local Studies Centre

To access any of the material listed below, please email localstudies@lbbd.org.uk or telephone 020 8227 2033
Introduction

This research guide lists parish records held at the Barking and Dagenham Archives and Local Studies Centre.

For further information about the records listed below or to enquire about viewing archive material in the reading room, please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff by email at localstudies@lbld.gov.uk or telephoning 020 8227 2033.
Parish of Barking

Barking Abbey was founded in the later part of the seventh century by St. Ethelburga. The earliest charter of the Abbey, relates to a gift of land being made by Hodilred, King of Essex. Although all the places mentioned in this charter cannot be identified with certainty, it is fairly certain that it is referring to all the land between the River Roading and Dagenham Beam River. Barking is not appears to be identified as Beddanhaam or Budinhaam, while Dagenham is called Deccanhamm. It is not known when Dagenham became a separate parish. Although it is likely to be fairly early due to the date of the dedication of the Parish Church St. Peter and St. Paul’s.

For secular purpose the land granted by the charter remained in the hands of successive abbesses of Barking, and formed part of the large Manor of Barking until the Dissolution. It remained a royal manor until 1628, when it was mortgaged to Sir Thomas Fanshawe. On his death it was passed to his daughter who sold it to Sir Orlando Humphreys in 1717. In turn it was brought by Smart Lethuillier and then inherited by the daughter of his brother Charles, who was also the wife of Sir Edward Hulse.

The parish of Barking, included parts of Ilford, as well as Barking. These two areas were separated for ecclesiastical purposes in 1830, but remained one civil parish until 1888. Before this division, the parish was about thirty miles in diameter. It is probable that the early inhabitants would have worshipped at Barking Abbey and then St. Margaret’s Church, which was located on the southern edge of Barking Parish. Those that lived north of this towards Ilford, would have attended the Chapel of the Leper Hospital, and later the Chapel at Aldborough Hatch, built in 1653.

The rapid urbanisation during the beginning of the nineteenth century caused problems in the administration of public health and welfare, which the vestries of such districts were incompetent to deal with. The bad name of the town vestries, meant reformers ignored the spirit of local patriotism and the historic descent of local government. After the Poor Law of 1834, ad hoc bodies were continually being created to carry out different tasks that were previously undertaken by the local vestry. Barking, for example found itself within the Romford Poor Law Union. The maintenance of the highways was taken over by the 6th Highway District in 1867. In addition to this the provision of education was put into the hands of an elected School Board in 1889. Barking also had its own Board of Health from 1853 to 1855.

However unity was restored with the establishment of the Barking Urban District Council under the Local Government Act of 1894. The vestry of the parish of Barking, continued to meet despite its diminished power in order to discuss church and secular business, as well as to receive charity accounts after 1895. The overseer also remained in office until the introduction of the Rating and Valuation Act in 1925.

This collection comprises vestry minute books (1694-1926), baptism registers (1558-1812), burial registers (1652-1812), overseer’s accounts (1752-1927), churchwarden’s accounts (1777-1823), rate books (1723-1926), valuation lists (1842-1929), rental books (1763-1778), notice books (1769-1839) and apprenticeship books (1818-1844) of the Parish of Barking. It also includes the records of the Directors’ of the Poor (1855-1893), relating to the management of the Town Quay, as well as and the minute books and depositor’s books of the Barking District Savings Bank (1818-1852). See below for further details of the contents of this collection.
Minute books

Vestry minute books of Barking Parish, 1694-1926 (BD74/A)

Vestry minute book of Barking Parish, 1694-1698 (BD74/A/1)
Vestry minute book of Barking Parish, 1699-1724 (BD74/A/2)
Vestry minute book of Barking Parish, 1723-1749 (BD74/A/3)
Vestry minute book of Barking Parish, 1749-1770 (BD74/A/4)
Vestry minute book of Barking Parish, 1771-1803 (BD74/A/5)
Vestry minute book of Barking Parish, 1803-1832 (BD74/A/6)
Vestry minute book of Barking Parish, 1832-1867 (BD74/A/7)
Vestry minute book of Barking Parish, 1867-1868 (BD74/A/8)
Vestry minute book of Barking Parish, 1868-1888 (BD74/A/9)
Vestry minute book of Barking Parish, 1888-1926 (BD74/A/10)

Parish registers

Baptism registers for the parish of Barking, 1558-1812 (BD74/B/1)

Baptisms register of Barking Parish, 1558-1711 (BD74/B/1/1)
Baptisms register of Barking Parish, 1712-1794 (BD74/B/1/2)
Baptisms register of Barking Parish, 1795-1812 (BD74/B/1/3)

Burial registers for the parish of Barking, 1656-1812 (BD74/B/2)

Burial register of Barking Parish, 1656-1774 (BD74/B/2/1)
Burial register of Barking Parish, 1775-1812 (BD74/B/2/2)

Overseers’ accounts

Minute books of the Overseers' of Barking Parish, 1786-1927 (BD74/C/1)

Overseers' account books of Barking Parish, 1765-1798 (BD74/C/2)
Overseers' rate books of Barking Parish, 1739-1836 (BD74/C/3)
Valuation lists of the Overseers' of Barking, 1784-1830 (BD74/C/4)
Disbursement books of the Overseers' of Barking, 1819-1820 (BD74/C/5)
Receipt and payment books of the Overseers' of Barking, 1868-1887 (BD74/C/6)

**Churchwardens' accounts**
Churchwardens' account books, 1777-1823 (BD74/D/1)
Churchwardens' rate books, 1738-1866 (BD74/D/2)

**Surveyors' accounts**
Surveyors' account books, 1830 (BD74/E/1)
Surveyors' rate books, 1828-1844 (BD74/E/2)

**Rates**
Rate collection books for the parish of Barking,
  Rate collection books for the Barking Town Ward, 1747-1772 (BD74/F/1/1)
  Rate collection books for the Ilford Ward, 1728-1829 (BD74/F/1/2)
  Rate collection books for the Chadwell Ward, 1744-1778 (BD74/F/1/3)
  Rate collection books for the Ripple Ward, 1744-1779 (BD74/F/1/4)
Poor rate books for the parish of Barking, 1837-1916 (BD74/F/2)
Valuation lists for the parish of Barking, 1842-1929 (BD74/F/3)
Rental books for the parish of Barking, 1763-1778 (BD74/G)
Notice books for the parish of Barking, 1769-1839 (BD74/H)
Land terrier books for the parish of Barking, 1829-1840 (BD74/K)

**Apprentices**
Apprenticeship books for the parish of Barking, 1818-1844 (BD74/J)
  Apprenticeship book of Barking Parish, 1818-1839
Apprenticeship book of Barking Parish, 1839-1844

Directors’ of the Poor

Minute book of the Directors’ of the Poor for the Parish of Barking, 1855-1893 (BD74/L/1)

Report by the Wharf Keeper of Barking Town Quay, 1893 (BD74/L/2)

Barking and District Savings Bank

Minute book of the Barking and District Savings Bank, 1818-1843 (BD74/M/1)

Declarations and new depositors' books of the Barking and District Savings Bank, 1824-1852 (BD74/M/2)
Parish of Dagenham

Becontree Heath was the meeting place of the Becontree Hundred, which was a court that governed on local matters until 1465. The Lord of the Manor had some jurisdiction also and Manorial Courts for the Dagenham Manors were held regularly here or in the Leet House at Barking. The Poor Law Act of 1601 set up the ‘Vestry’, the first unit of Local Authority. The members of the Vestry, later known as the Parish Council, were responsible for a number of local affairs put principally the care of the poor.

Ecclesiastical and secular affairs came under the same body, and were carried on in this way for two hundred years. There were also other special bodies, such as Trusteess of the Turnpike Roads and the Commissioners for the Levels. In 1836 the union of Parishes was enforced for the care of the poor and Dagenham elected members to the Romford Board of Guardians and ceased to keep a village workhouse. The poor rate was collected by the Vestry, and the earliest surviving rate book dates back to 1839.

In 1840, the parish became part of the Metropolitan Police Area. The Local Board of Health was established in 1851. This body was responsible for local sanitary matters. Dagenham School Board was founded and five schools erected under the new compulsory Education Act of 1872. In 1902 the School Board was abolished and the management of schools in Dagenham was taken over by Essex County Council. During the same year a drainage scheme was undertaken, and then enlarged in 1910.

The parish remained mainly rural until 1921, when the London County Council started to build the great Becontree Estate. Modern industries, notably the Ford Motor Works, soon followed the new population. Dagenham became an urban district in 1926 and a borough in 1938.

This collection comprises council minute books (1894-1926), rate books (1839-1925), collection and deposit books (1907-1928), collectors’ statements and books (1894-1927), receipt and payment books (1838-1926) and allotment ledgers (1920-1928) of the Parish of Dagenham. Also together with the minute books and ledger of the Dagenham School Board (1874-1903). See below for further details of the contents of this collection.

Council

Minute book of Dagenham Parish Council, 1894-1908 (BD75/A/1)
Minute book of Dagenham Parish Council, 1908-1919 (BD75/A/2)
Minute book of Dagenham Parish Council, 1919-1926 (BD75/A/3)
Attendance book of Dagenham Parish Council, 1894-1925 (BD75/A/4)
Letter book of Dagenham Parish Council, 1923-1924 ((BD75/A/5)

School Board

Minute books of Dagenham School Board, 1874-1903 (BD75/B/1)
Minute book of Dagenham School Board, 1874-1875 (BD75/B/1/1)
Minute book of Dagenham School Board, 1885-1893 (BD75/B/1/2)
Minute book of Dagenham School Board, 1893-1898 (BD75/B/1/3)
Minute book of Dagenham School Board, 1898-1902 (BD75/B/1/4)
Minute book of Dagenham School Board, 1902-1903 (BD75/B/1/5)
Ledger of Dagenham School Board, 1894-1900 (BD75/B/2)

Rates

Poor rate books for the parish of Dagenham, 1839-1879 (BD75/C/1/1-129)
Church rate books for the parish of Dagenham, 1849-1865 (BD75/C/2/1-6)
Sanitary rate books for the parish of Dagenham, 1887-1892 (BD75/C/3/1-6)
Lighting rate books for the parish of Dagenham, 1900-1925 (BD75/C/4/1-3)
Highways rate books for the parish of Dagenham, 1874-1880 (BD75/C/5/1-9)
Poor and sanitary rate books for the parish of Dagenham, 1893-1913 (BD75/C/6/1-40)
Poor and special expenses rate books for the parish of Dagenham, 1914-1922 (BD75/C/7/1-7)
Valuation list for the parish of Dagenham, 1893 (BD75/D/1)
Collection and deposit books for the parish of Dagenham, 1907-1928 (BD75/E/1-14)
Collectors' statements and books for the parish of Dagenham, 1894-1927 (BD75/F/1-3)
Receipt and payment books for the parish of Dagenham, 1838-1926 (BD75/G/1-7)
Allotment ledgers of the Parish of Dagenham, 1920-1926 (BD75/H/1-3)

Tithes

Tithe award book of Dagenham Parish, 1841 (BD75/J/1)
Appointment of rent charge book for the parish of Dagenham, 1844 (BD75/J/2)