

Records of Reading and District Free Church Council, 1916-1993; of Reading and District Free Church Women's Council, 1935-2002; of the Eventide Home Committee, 1944-1991; of the Berkshire Free Church Education Policy Committee, 1961-1976; of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Free Church Federation, 1945-1959; and of the Berkshire Federation of Free Church Councils, 1959-1970.
(24 vols, 38 bdls, 4 docs, 2 files)

Deposited in March 1989 (acc. 4371), in October 1989 (acc. 4477), and in November 1994 (acc. 5532); in September 1996 (acc. 5880); September 2001 (acc. 6846); November 2006 (acc. 7909); May 2008 (acc. 8226)

Cat : LS 1/1996; 9/1996; 11/2001; 1/2007; 6/2008

Schedule of accessions

Acc. 4371 : 1/1/1-6; 1/2/1-13; 3/2; 4/1-3; 5/1/1; 5/2/1

Acc. 4477 : 2/1/1-5; 2/2/1-4,7-11,13-14,16; 2/2/17/1-10,16-17; 3/1

Acc. 5532 : 2/1/6; 2/2/5-6,12,15; 2/2/17/11-15

Acc. 5880 : 1/1/7-8; 1/2/14-15

Acc. 6846 : 1/3/1

Acc. 7909 : 2/1/7; 2/3/1-4

Acc. 8226: 2/1/8-9; 2/2/18-21; 2/3/5; 3/3

Summary

READING & DISTRICT FREE CHURCH COUNCIL : Council minutes, 1925-1993; Executive Committee minutes, 1924-1990; sub-committee minutes, 1948-1967 (occasional); accounts, 1942-1992; balance sheets, 1925-1929 (incomplete), 1943-1944; draft annual statements of accounts, 1985-1992 (incomplete), yearbook, 1916; constitution, 1916; annual report, 1925; lists of delegates, c.1928-30, 1956, 1969; correspondence, 1937-1956, 1973-1976; President's Bible, 1931; miscellaneous, 1921-1954.

READING & DISTRICT FREE CHURCH WOMEN'S COUNCIL : Council minutes, 1935-2002 (incomplete); Executive Committee minutes, 1935-2002 (incomplete); general committee minutes, 1935-1938; lists of Executive members, 1938-1961 (incomplete); correspondence, 1935-1942; publications, 1935; publicity material, 1936-1983; annual reports, 1936-1980 (incomplete); balance sheets, 1936/7, 1962-1969 (incomplete); papers re National Free Church Women's Council, 1946-1950, 1969-1979 (incomplete), n.d.; constitution, 1946; historical notes, 1981-1985; accounts, 1957-1998; annual statements of accounts, 1992-2002 (incomplete); church affiliation and members' subscription accounts, 1966-2001; President's Roll, 1935-2001; meetings attendance book, 1982-2002.

EVENTIDE HOME COMMITTEE : minutes, 1944; correspondence & papers, 1944-1953; report, 1991.

BERKSHIRE FREE CHURCH EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE : minutes, 1961-1967; accounts, 1961-1970; correspondence & papers, c.1961-1976; Joint Anglican/FreeChurch Education Policy Committee minutes, 1961.

BERKS, BUCKS & OXON FREE CHURCH FEDERATION : conference minutes, 1945-1958; Executive Committee minutes, 1946-1954; accounts, 1945-1959.

BERKSHIRE FEDERATION OF FREE CHURCH COUNCILS : minutes, 1959-1967; accounts, 1959-1970.

READING & DISTRICT FREE CHURCH COUNCIL

[The Council was formed in 1896 as the Reading & District Evangelical Free Church Federation. It was renamed as a Council in 1916.

It consisted of the ministers of all affiliated churches *ex officio*; elected representatives of each church; and up to 20 co-opted members. Meetings were held quarterly.

The purposes of the Council were the promotion of evangelical unity, evangelism, and moral and social welfare, specifically excluding party political matters.

In 1975 it became a subsidiary of the local Council of Churches (later Churches Together in Reading). The Council ceased in 1993 when it formally amalgamated with Churches Together in Reading.]

1/1	Council and committee minutes		
1/1/1	Minutes and agendas of Council meetings, January 1925-April 1930, and minutes of Executive Committee meetings, November 1924-March 1930. (Includes press cuttings and memoranda, 1925, and balance sheets, 1925, 1927-1929.)	1 vol	1924-1930
1/1/2	Minutes of Council meetings, July 1930-October 1936, and of Executive Committee meetings, May 1930-January 1937.	1 vol	1930-1937
1/1/3	Minutes of Council meetings, January 1937-April 1942, and of Executive Committee meetings, January 1937-May 1942.	1 vol	1937-1942
1/1/4	Minutes of Council meetings, October 1942-September 1948, of Executive Committee meetings, July 1942-September 1948, and of Education sub-committee meeting, March 1948. (Includes balance sheets 1943-1944; draft constitution of Free Church Women's Council, 1945; report on free church youth organisations in Berkshire, 1945; and report of delegates to Annual Congress of Free Church Federal Council, April 1945.)	1 vol	1942-1948
1/1/5	Minutes of Council meetings, January 1949-October 1954, and of Executive Committee meetings, October 1948-November 1954. (Includes minutes of sub-committee to arrange a week of witness, April 1949; report of special building sites sub-committee, April 1951; and minutes of new churches sub-committee, May 1953, and of old people's homes sub-committee, March 1954.) (Indexed).	1 vol	1948-1954

1	READING & DISTRICT FREE CHURCH COUNCIL		
1/1	Council and committee minutes		
1/1/6	Minutes of Council meetings, January 1955-January 1963, and of Executive Committee meetings, December 1954-May 1963. (Includes minutes of sub-committee on building sites in new area, March 1960-October 1961.)	1 vol	1954-1963
1/1/7	Minutes of Council meetings, June 1963-March 1985, and of Executive Committee meetings, June 1963-March 1986. (Includes minutes of building sites sub-committee meetings, December 1965 and July 1967, and of joint meeting of the executive committee with the executive committee of the Free Church Women's Council, May 1973.)	1 vol	1963-1986 Closed until 2017
1/1/8	Minutes of Council meetings, April 1986-[November 1993], and of Executive Committee meetings, October 1986-October 1990.	1 vol	1986-1993 Closed until 2024
1/2	<u>Council correspondence and papers</u>		
	[For constitution [1896], see D/N 10/14/4/1]		
1/2/1/1-2	Yearbook and constitution.	1 bdl	1916
1/2/2/1,2	Orders of service for annual Easter united services, 1921-1940, with covering letter, 1945.	1 bdl	1921-1945
1/2/3/1-5	Annual report, 1925.	1 bdl	1926
1/2/4/1-20	Publicity material for annual rallies, 1944, 1946-1949, 1951, 1953, 1954.	1 bdl	1944-1954
1/2/5	List of council delegates, arranged by church.	1 doc	n.d. [1928-1930]
1/2/6/1-40	Churches' returns of delegates.	1 bdl	1956
1/2/7/1-25	List of delegates.	1 bdl	1969
1/2/8/1-24	General correspondence and papers, February 1937-February 1947. (Subjects include education, temperance, North Caversham Free Church and the Reading & District Free Church Women's Council.)	1 bdl	1937-1947
1/2/9/1-32	Correspondence and papers concerning education, December 1947-January 1950.	1 bdl	1947-1950

1	READING & DISTRICT FREE CHURCH COUNCIL		
1/2	Council correspondence and papers		
1/2/10/1-63	General correspondence and papers, February 1951-December 1955. (Subjects include education and youth, nonconformist chaplaincies, refugees, the admission of independent churches to the council, and film censorship.)	1 bdl	1951-1955
1/2/11/1-14	Correspondence concerning education and youth, February-May 1956.	1 bdl	1956
1/2/12/1-20	General correspondence and papers, July-December 1976. (Subjects include temperance, the future of the council, and chaplaincies.)	1 bdl	1973-1976
1/2/13/1-11	Press cuttings reporting annual Easter services in the Forbury.	1 bdl	1921-1936,
1/2/14	President's Bible. (Includes, at front, list of presidents, 1897-1991 (signatures, 1926, 1931-1932, 1934-1991).)	1 vol	n.d. [c.1930s]- 1991
1/2/15/1-40	Reports and papers presented to AGMs, 1986-1988, 1991-1992, and Executive Committee meeting, October 1988. (Includes draft annual statements of accounts, 1985-1987, 1990-1992.) [Found loose in D/N 16/1/1/8.]	1 bdl	1986-1993 Closed until 2024

READING AND DISTRICT FREE CHURCH COUNCIL

1/3 **Accounts**

[For balance sheets, 1925, 1927-1929, *see* D/N 16/1/1/1. For balance sheets, 1943-1944, *see* D/N 16/1/1/4.]

1/3/1	Audited accounts (receipts and payments), December 1943 – December 1992. (Includes accounts of benevolent fund, 1942-1964; "special fund 1947", 1951-1970; general reserve fund, 1951-1970, 1973; and Good Friday film service fund, 1957-1958.)	1 vol	1942-1992
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2 READING AND DISTRICT FREE CHURCH WOMEN'S COUNCIL

[The Council was formed in 1935 under the auspices of the Reading & District Free Church Council, although it was not, strictly speaking, a subsidiary body.

It was run by an executive committee consisting of two elected representatives from each denomination, with the power to co-opt additional members. The work of the Council was principally to do with social welfare. From 1936 a full time employee (the "Pioneer") undertook house-to-house visiting of the sick and needy.

[The Council closed in 2002.]

2/1 **Council and committee minutes**

2/1/1	Minutes of Council meetings, February 1935-April 1937, of Executive Committee meetings, September 1935-June 1939, and of general committee meetings, September 1935-April 1938. (Includes copy correspondence, March-August 1935.)	1 vol	1935-1939
2/1/2	Minutes of Council meeting, November 1945; of Executive Committee, July 1944-March 1947; and of special meeting re Spring Fair in aid of the Eventide Home, January 1945. (Includes (at front) minutes of Eventide Home Committee meetings, June-July 1944; and (at back) reports on fundraising events, Aug. 1944-Dec. 1947.)	1 vol	1944-1947
2/1/3	Minutes of Executive Committee meetings, January 1952-September 1955; and of annual delegates' conferences, 1952-1955.	1 vol	1952-1955
2/1/4	Minutes of Executive Committee meetings, October 1955-March 1962; and of annual delegates' conferences, 1956-1961 (two in 1958).	1 vol	1955-1962
2/1/5	Minutes of Council meetings, September 1962; September 1966; November 1967, March 1969, October 1969, November 1970; of Executive Committee, April 1962-February 1971; and of annual delegates' meetings, 1962-1971.	1 vol	1962-1971
2/1/6	Minutes of Council meetings, February 1974, November 1976, October 1980, November 1981; of Executive Committee meetings, April 1971-November 1981; and of annual delegates' meetings, 1972-1981.	1 vol	1971-1981 Closed until 2012
2/1/7	Minutes of Annual General Meetings, 1990, 1995 (part missing), 1996-2002, and of Executive Committee, June 1996-February 2002. (Minutes of final meetings not signed. Bundle includes audited accounts, 1998, and correspondence relating to the closure of the Council, 2002.)	1 file	1990-2002 Closed until 2033

2	READING & DISTRICT FREE CHURCH WOMEN'S COUNCIL		
2/1	Council and committee minutes		
2/1/8	Agenda of Annual General Meeting, 1985, including minutes (unsigned), 1984.	1 bdl	1984-1985 Closed until 2016
2/1/9	Agenda file. (Includes text of presidential induction, n.d. [c.1980s-1990s]; newsletters/fliers advertising forthcoming events, 1992-1999, n.d. [c.2000]; orders of service, 1988, 1990-2001; Executive Committee agendas, 1987-2001; and Annual General Meeting agendas, 1990, 1996-2001, including annual reports, 1995/6, 1998/9-2000/1.)	1 file	1987-2001
2/2	Council correspondence and papers		
2/2/1	Lists of officers and members of the Executive, 1938, 1947-1954, 1956-1961. (Includes ballot form (list of all members, arranged by denomination), 1938.	1 bdl	1938-1961
2/2/2	Correspondence and papers concerning social welfare campaigns and the Girls' Club run by the Council. [The Girls Club in Chain Street, Reading, was run on Sundays by the Council between 1936 and 1938 for young women living alone in Reading. Campaigns run by the Council were also mostly connected with Sunday entertainment.]	1 bdl	1935-1938
2/2/3	Pamphlets (series numbered 1 to 3). 1 : Sunday opening of cinemas 2 : The work of the council 3 : 'The Drink Trade rules Reading!'	1 bdl	1935
2/2/4	Publicity material for rallies and other events held by the Council. (Includes press cutting reporting the annual meeting, March 1937.)	1 bdl	1936-1952
2/2/5	Publicity material for Council events.	1 bdl	1954-1980
2/2/6	Publicity material for Council events.	1 bdl	1980-1983
2/2/7	Correspondence and papers concerning the Council's help in the establishment of Kentwood Methodist Church, Tilehurst.	1 bdl	1936-1937

2	READING & DISTRICT FREE CHURCH WOMEN'S COUNCIL		
2/2	Council and correspondence and papers		
2/2/8	Correspondence and papers concerning the Council's involvement in the erection of North Caversham Free Church Hall and the establishment of a Sunday School, 1939-1942. (Includes annual reports and financial statements of the Council, 1937/8 and 1938/9.)	1 bdl	1938-1942
2/2/9	Miscellaneous correspondence and papers.	1 bdl	1939-1940
2/2/10	Annual reports, 1936-1937, 1940, 1943, 1946-1947, 1949-1952. (Includes balance sheet, 1936/7.)	1 bdl	1936-1952
2/2/11/1-69	Annual reports, 1953-1962, 1966-1971. (Includes annual statements of accounts, 1962-1965, 1969, and reports of the Eventide Home Fund, 1968, 1970.)	1 bdl	1953-1971
2/2/12	Annual reports, 1963-1965, 1972-1980.	1 bdl	1963-1980 Closed until 2011
2/2/13	Reports of, and papers concerning, delegates' attendance at meetings of the National Free Church Women's Council, 1946-1947, 1949-1950, and n.d. (Includes constitution of the National Free Church Women's Council, n.d. [c.1939-1943].)	1 bdl	1946-1950, n.d. [20c]
2/2/14/1-8	Reports of meetings of the National Free Church Women's Council attended by Reading delegates.	1 bdl	1969-1971
2/2/15/1-31	Reports of meetings of the National Free Church Women's Council attended by Reading delegates, 1971-1975, 1978-1979.	1 bdl	1971-1979 Closed until 2010
2/2/16	Constitution.	1 doc	1946
2/2/17/1-17	Historical notes on the council.	1 bdl	1981-1985
2/2/18	Bible containing 'Presidents' Roll' (signatures of presidents, with date and place of induction), 1935-2001.	1 vol	n.d. [early 20C -2001]
2/2/19	Meetings attendance book.	1 vol	1982-2002
2/2/20	<i>To Poland - with love</i> : newsletter of the Brian Hart Poland Fund. [This charity delivered gifts of food, clothing, medical supplies and Christian literature to poor people and churches in Poland.]	1 doc	1992
2/2/21/1-2	Report on the work of the Reading branch of the Gideons.	1 bdl	1999

2	READING AND DISTRICT FREE CHURCH WOMEN'S COUNCIL		
2/3	Accounts		
2/3/1	Accounts (receipts and payments).	1 vol	1957-1998 Closed until 2029
2/3/2/1-5	Annual statements of accounts, 1999-2002.	1 bdl	2000-2002
2/3/3	Church affiliation and members' subscription accounts.	1 vol	1966-1997
2/3/4	Church affiliation and members' subscription accounts.	1 vol	1998-2001
2/3/5	Copy annual statements of accounts, 1992-1993.	1 bdl	1993-1994
2/4	Miscellaneous		
2/4/1	Returns of subscriptions (listing names and addresses of individual members associated with affiliated churches).	1 bdl	2000 Closed until 2031

3 EVENTIDE HOME COMMITTEE

[The Eventide Home Committee was jointly responsible to the Reading & District Free Church Council and to the Reading & District Free Church Women's Council.

It was initiated in 1944 by the latter, and formally established as a joint enterprise in 1946 to set up and run a home for elderly nonconformist women.

For committee minutes, 1944, *see* 2/1/2.]

3/1	Correspondence and papers, c.January 1946-January 1949, April 1953. (Includes report on the work of the committee, 1948.)	1 bdl	1946-1953
3/2/1-46	Correspondence and papers, December 1944-January 1951.	1 bdl	1944-1951
3/3	Report on the home, March 1991.	1 doc	1991

4

BERKSHIRE FREE CHURCH EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

[This committee was formed in 1961 as a joint subsidiary of all the Free Church Councils in the county. The members also acted as Free Church representatives on a joint Anglican-Free Church Education Policy Committee, also established in 1961, to guide local authorities concerning religious education and denominational state schools.]

4/1	Minutes of meetings of the Berkshire Free Church Education Policy Committee, February 1961-April 1967. (Includes (reversed) accounts, 1961-1970.)	1 vol	1961-1970
4/2/1-3	Minutes of meetings of the joint Anglican/Free Church Education Policy Committee, May-October 1961.	1 bdl	1961
4/3/1-12	General correspondence and papers.	1 bdl	c.1961-1976

5 **BERKS, BUCKS & OXON FREE CHURCH FEDERATION/BERKSHIRE
FEDERATION OF FREE CHURCH COUNCILS**

[The Federation was founded in 1945. Each Free Church Council, or similar organisation, in the three counties, sent delegates to the annual conference, and denominational delegates were selected independently. There were four Executive Committees (one for each county, and one for the Federation as a whole, responsible to the Annual Conference.

The Federation disbanded in 1959, and was divided into each constituent county.]

5/1

Minutes

Minutes of Berks, Bucks & Oxon Free Church Federation conferences, February 1945-March 1958; of Federation Executive Committee, February 1946-January 1954; and of Berkshire Federation of Free Church Councils, September 1959-April 1967.	1 vol	1945-1967
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5/2

Accounts

5/2/1

Treasurer's cash accounts (Berks, Bucks & Oxon Free Church Federation, 1945-59; Berkshire Federation of Free Church Councils, 1959-1970.)	1 vol	1945-1970
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