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CITY OF SALFORD

CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Archives catalogue

N/UN2

Records of Swinton Unitarian Free Church, 1833-1985, n.d.  
Deposited: F. Johnson, Esq., 52 Kingley Drive, Whitefield, Manchester, M25 7LR, Chairman of the Church Committee, Mar., 1984, and Aug., 1985 (indefinite loan).  
Catalogued: A.N. Cross, Mar., 1984, and Aug., 1985.  
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The early history of Unitarianism in Swinton is described in the volume, History of Unitarian Cause, Swinton 1820-1921 by the Rev. S. Crook (N/UN2/Z3). There it is traced back to readings from the "Christian Reformer" begun in 1820 in a private house; a congregation was formed and a school established. From 1831 a room was used for the congregation and the school until in 1858 a chapel and schoolroom were completed on a site in Granville Street. In 1862 a meeting was held for setting up a trust for the Chapel and in 1863 a committee was chosen by the congregation for managing the chapel. The trustees resolved in 1863 that the chapel yard should be made into a burial ground. In 1870 the Committee resolved that their chapel should be known as the Unitarian Church and it was subsequently also known as the Unitarian Free Church. Further information on the history of the Church is given in this volume and also in 1920-1958: the Unitarian Cause in Swinton. For information on the sale of the Church to the City of Salford in Jan., 1984, and its demolition during the same month see the issues of the "Calendar" for 1984-85 (N/UN2/Z5). Most members of the congregation decided to attend services at neighbouring Unitarian Churches.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes

N/UN2/AM1-8

Signed minutes of meetings of the congregation, of the committee of trustees, of the Chapel or Church Committee or of other meetings (8 vols. containing also loose or attached copies of other docs. and various notes, first 2 vols. with pages torn or loose from bindings, last vol, with an index)

1863-1962

/AMZ1

"Short Records Being extracts of Sermons ... reports of Teachers and other Meetings from ... 1861 ... 1863", containing accounts of sermons, meetings and other events (1 vol. containing loose typed note regarding the vol., n.d., binding in poor condition)  
According to History of Unitarian Cause, Swinton 1820-1921 (N/UN2/Z3) this book was compiled by George Dawson, one of the first Trustees. It begins with an account of the sudden death of William Boardman of Temple Lodge, Swinton, the first leader of the congregation, in 1861.

1861-63, n.d.

SWINTON UNITARIAN FREE CHURCH RECORDS

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes

N/UN2/AMZ2

Rough notes made at meetings of Church Committee or other meetings, [1906]-09; at end notes made in shorthand, apparently relating to Church or School business, n.d. (1 notebook)

[1906]-09, n.d.

Registration

/AR1

Book with two lists for use in despatching posters and pulpit notices, followed by addresses for use in despatching circulars (arranged under letters of alphabet), n.d.; further on "Address Book 1909 Revised Henry Longworth Hon. Secty." followed by similar two lists and addresses for despatching circulars (arranged by letter of alphabet) (1 vol.)

1909, n.d.

/AR2

List of names and addresses (incomplete), in numbered order, n.d.; at end some financial notes, apparently of amounts of offertory collections, 1945-47 (1 exercise book, much worn)

1945-47, n.d.

CORRESPONDENCE

/C1

Letter from the Privy Council Office, 1887, accompanying printed copy of Order in Council restricting future burials in St. Peter's Church and churchyard and the Unitarian Church and churchyard, Swinton (as in N/UN2/R5), 1886, and copy of certificate, partly filled in but not signed, regarding affixing of the copies of the same Order to chapel doors, 1887 (3 docs. found together)

1886-87

COMMITTEES

/CO1/AM1

Visiting Committee, signed minutes, 1908-09, and at front account of aims and membership of Committee, [1908] (1 small vol.)

1908-09

/CO2/AM1

Minutes of meetings of the Centenary Committee and general or other meetings to celebrate the centenary of Unitarianism in Swinton, 1921-22; at front list of members of the Centenary Committee, n.d., ?1921; at end draft apparently of appeal in connection with the centenary, 1921, and two lists of postage and other expenses, n.d. (1 small vol. enclosing loose paper, 1922)

1921-22, n.d.

/CO3/AM1-6

Signed minutes of meetings of School Committee or of the Sunday School teachers, 1880-1960, with copies of reports or other papers relating to the Schools, incl. photograph apparently of a Whit Walk, ?1959, and printed brochures and programme sheets, various dates (6 vols., damage to part of binding of N/UN2/CO3/AM6)

1880-1960

/CO4/AM1

Account of meetings in 1887 and 1888 for establishment of the Guild of Saint Christopher and signed minutes of its meetings with accounts of talks given to the Guild, 1888-98; account of meeting for establishment of a Guild of Service and minutes of its meetings with accounts of talks, 1903 (1 small vol. enclosing loose papers, 1889, 1893-95, 1904, n.d.)

[1887]-1898,  
1903-04, n.d.

SWINTON UNITARIAN FREE CHURCH RECORDS

COMMITTEES

N/UN2/CO5/AM1

Accounts of annual and other meetings of the Band of Hope and minutes, sometimes signed, of its Committee (1 small vol., some sheets removed at back)

1897-1916

/CO6/AM1

Copies of typed statements on the formation of the Social Union and its rules, n.d. (?1920), written account of a resolution passed in 1919 proposing the formation of the Social Union, minutes of a meeting for this purpose, 1919, minutes of general meetings of the Union and of its Committee, 1920-22, and of the Bulb Show Committee, 1921 (1 vol. enclosing loose papers, 1921, n.d., incl. blank invitation cards to an entertainment, 1921)

1920-22, n.d.

DEPARTMENTS OF OFFICERS

SECRETARY

/DS1/1-4

Letter books of the Hon. Secretary (4 vols. enclosing loose docs., chiefly copies of other letters despatched)

1914-16,  
1916-20

/DS2

Letter book of the Hon. Secretary, copies of a few letters written in shorthand (1 vol. also containing a few loose or detached docs., chiefly letters received)

1918-19,  
1921, n.d.

/DS3/1-4

Letter books of the Hon. Secretary, last vol. containing one letter dated "19274", possibly in error (4 vols. also containing loose docs. or publications)

1921-28

TREASURER

/DT1

"Letter Book: Dec 28, 1914 to Dec. 20, 1920" of the Hon. Treasurer, copies of letters at first in shorthand, n.d. (?1914), 1915-20 (1 vol.)

?1914,  
1915-20

/DT2

"Letter Book: Acknowledging Subscriptions: Nov 5/14 to Jan 19/20", of the Hon. Treasurer (1 vol.)

1914-20

FINANCE

/F1

"Swinton Unitarian Chapel and School Account Book", beginning with accounts listing receipts and payments referring to chapel, 1862-83; ... "Sunday School" ..., accounts listing receipts and payments, 1862-64; receipts and payments chiefly concerning Church, 1884-94; Sunday School Clothing Fund, receipts and payments, 1862; "Auxiliary Fund", statement of accounts for 1893-94; "Church Accounts", receipts and payments, 1895-98, 1900; Sale of Work Fund, 1883 (few entries only); "Choir Fund", 1860 (few entries only) (1 vol., one page for church accounts in 1898 with tear in middle of page; containing loose one ticket for sale of work in the Sunday School, Granville Street, Swinton, 1901)

1860,  
1862-98,  
1900-01

/F2

Account book recording receipts and payments, 1914-28; at end, "House Account Re Minister's House - No. 13 Park Avenue", recording receipts and payments, 1923-28 (1 vol. enclosing loose docs. and notes on investments made and relevant useful addresses)

1914-28

SWINTON UNITARIAN FREE CHURCH RECORDS

	FINANCE	
N/UN2/F3	Receipts, analysis book (1 vol.)	1916-30
/F4	Payments, analysis book (1 vol.)	1913-24
/F5	Vol. recording weekly payments of offerings in numbered envelopes (names not given) (1 vol. enclosing loose docs.)	1895-1907
/F6	Account book listing amounts received in offertory or in members' subscriptions (1 small vol.)	1918-48
/F7	"Church Members Subscriptions Book" listing numbers and monthly payments, 1936-45, some names (as well as numbers) and monthly payments, 1946-47, numbers, names (usually) and monthly or annual payments, 1948-82, and, at end, additional entries for monthly payments on pages headed "GA/MDA", 1957-82 (1 vol.)	1936-82
/F8	Book listing numbers, names and monthly payments, with from 1973 column headed "Promise" or "Promise Per Wk" (1 vol.)	1967-82
/F9	Vol. containing names and payments of weekly amounts apparently subscriptions (1 vol.)	1955-66
/F10/1-2	Receipt books for recording payments in connection with burials (2 vols.)	1880-1938, 1940-43, 1945-47, 1950-53, 1955-59, 1962, n.d.
/F11/1-2	Bank pass books of the Church (2 small vols.)	1918-30
/F12	Bank pass book for the House account of the Church (1 small vol.)	1924-28
/F13	Sunday School, account book recording receipts and payments for various undertakings (1 vol. containing loose papers, binding weak)	1902-13
/F14	Sunday School penny bank, deposit book, recording payments and withdrawals by depositors (giving also names of roads or addresses or of locality of addresses of depositors), 1884-87, with statement of cash account in Nov., 1885, and statements of assets and liabilities in Nov., 1886 (1 small vol., some pages removed, enclosing loose docs.)	1884-87
/F15	Forward Movement Fund, cash book recording receipts and payments (1 small vol. containing 1 loose related letter, 1903)	1895-1903
/F16	Account book, apparently for bazaar account, recording receipts and payments, 1906-08 (1 vol. enclosing bank pass book for Bazaar accounts, 1906-08, and loose papers and 1 bdle. (incl. one written and one printed balance sheet, 1907), 1907-08, chiefly bills and receipts)	1906-08

SWINTON UNITARIAN FREE CHURCH RECORDS

OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS AND REPORTS

Church and Sunday School, printed or duplicated summaries of reports or reports for years 1885, 1887-91, 1893, 1895-97, 1902, 1905-07, 1909-45, 1947-56, 1959-63, 1965, 1967-83, usually incl. financial statements (1 bdl., 29 pamphlets, 1 envelope containing pamphlets, incl. duplicate copies)

1885-1983

/R1/1

REGISTRATION

Register of baptisms, incl. names of parents (incl. sometimes maiden names), occupations of fathers (and sometimes of mothers), places of residence (sometimes also roads), names of children, dates of births and baptisms, by whom baptised and occasional remarks (e.g. that certain baptisms were conducted in a chapel in Pendlebury) from 1833 to 1884 (1 vol., with attached newscutting, 1919)

[1833]-84,  
1919

On a page at the beginning of the book it is described as a "true copy from the Register of Baptisms connected with the Unitarian Meeting House Swinton". But from 1838 there are some entries in a hand different from those around them and later a variety of hands was used. This vol. may well have been begun as a copy of another register, at the time that Nonconformist congregations were requested to surrender their registers when civil registration was begun in 1837, and later continued as an original register. Some entries are not in chronological order, differing from other entries on the same page by as much as several years. The vol. was printed for the Meeting House. A newscutting, 1919, on the celebration of the jubilee of St. Peter's Church, Swinton, has been attached to one page.

/R2

Certificate book of baptisms with leaves indicating issues of certificates, 1898-1954, n.d., and two full certificates, 1956, 1961 (1 book)

1898-1961,  
n.d.

/R3/1-2

Marriages registers printed for the Chapel, with usual headings for ecclesiastical services, together with space for signing by the Registrar (2 vols., second vol. enclosing loose copy of marriage certificate, 1915)

1841-1971

/R4

Burials register (in standard form for ecclesiastical services), 1863-1962 (1 vol. containing loose copies of certificates or notices of burials, 1892-1962)

1863-1962

/R5

"Register of Graves" containing:

Rough plan of Unitarian Church burial ground, junction of Swinton Hall Road and Granville Street, n.d.;

Written register of graves and interments from 1863 to 1962 (with such notes as "Stone unreadable" and "No headstone"), arranged under number of grave, name of present owner sometimes added, compilation begun in 1912;

Written copy of memorial in the Church to the dead of the first World War dedicated in 1920;

Written list of names of those connected with this Church and School interred from 1886 to

[1863]-1962,  
n.d.

SWINTON UNITARIAN FREE CHURCH RECORDS

REGISTRATION

"Register of Graves" containing (contd.):

[1863]-1962,  
n.d.

1935 in other burials grounds, giving names, addresses or neighbourhoods, dates, ages and places of burials, n.d., c.1935;

Loose, printed copy of Order in Council imposing restrictions on future burials in St. Peter's Church and churchyard and in the Unitarian Church and churchyard, Swinton (as in N/UN2/C1), 1886; Loose, one card, 1926, and letter and various notes, n.d.

(1 small vol. enclosing loose docs.)

/SS1/1-3

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Letter books containing copies of letters sent on behalf of the Sunday School and its associated institutions, chiefly by its Hon. Secretary, 1921 - June, 1927, Jan., 1928 - 1941 (3 vols., last one containing loose papers incl. brochure advertising the Homes Department, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire, of the Northern Sunday School Federation, n.d., 1939 or later, and receipt, 1941)

1921-41, n.d.

/SS2/1

"Roll Book": recording attendances by scholars, 1856-64; recording attendances by teachers, 1864-71; at end, recording attendances by scholars and teachers, 1872-76; also at end, pencil note "18/86" altered to "18/87" that "Register of Scholars ... 1864 to ... 1872" was "wanted" (1 vol., parts of cover over binding and covers loose or missing, part of first page missing)

1856-76,  
1886-87

/2

"Register", recording attendances by scholars and teachers, 1876-80, at end, recording in pencil of attendances by scholars at "Week Evening Class" ("slate" set against some entries), n.d. (1 vol.)

1876-80, n.d.

/3

"Teachers' and Scholars' Register: July 1880" recording attendances by scholars and teachers (1 vol., parts of some pages torn out)

1880-87

/4

"Teachers' and Scholars' Register From January 1887" recording attendances by scholars and teachers (1 vol. containing reference to "Enrollment Book, January 1887" as below)

1887-93

/5

Vol. recording attendances by scholars and teachers (1 vol., cover and some pages missing)

1893-95

/6

"Register", recording attendances by scholars and teachers (1 vol., many pages at end cut out)

1895,  
1899-1900

/7

Vol. recording attendances by scholars and teachers, 1896-99, in centre one or more pages removed and entries made on one page for months July - Sept., 1941, and inside front cover list of names, addresses and dates of births (during years 1935, 1937-39) of ten individuals) (1 vol., binding weak, page at front missing)

1896-98,  
1935, 1937-39,  
1941

SWINTON UNITARIAN FREE CHURCH RECORDS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

N/UN2/SS2/8-19

Registers recording attendances by scholars and teachers (12 vols., some with binding loose)

1898-1941,  
1945-66

/SS3/1

"Enrollment Book, January 1887" containing: list of teachers appointed from 1858 to 1895 (dates of appointments, addresses and "General Remarks" noted), incl. references dated to 1895; "Scholar's Roll Revised 1897 & 8" listing Minister and officers of the School and teachers appointed from 1892 to 1900 (dates of appointments, names, addresses and "Remarks" noted, latest note dated 1900; list of scholars (noting dates of admissions, some from 1872, dates of births, addresses, fathers' names, mothers' maiden names and "Remarks as to attendance") attending to 1901; "Roll Revised 1901" listing Minister and officers of the School, teachers (noting addresses and in some cases "General Remarks") appointed from 1887 to 1900 or dates of appointments not given and, under same headings as previous list, list of scholars attending (some from 1875) to 1919 (1 vol.)

1887-1919

/2

"Sunday School Roll Book 1919" containing: list of scholars attending from 1919 to 1929, incl. dates of enrolments, date of births, addresses, father's names and mother's maiden names; list of scholars revised in 1936 giving dates (apparently of admissions), names and sometimes addresses; list of scholars revised in 1948, incl. dates of enrolments (earliest in 1936), dates of births, addresses, father's names and mother's maiden names (1 vol. enclosing loose docs., some pages missing)

1919-48

/SS4/1

Register listing names apparently of members and subscriptions (in amounts of sixpence each), n.d.; "Primary Register" recording names, addresses, dates of birth and attendance of scholars, 1946-49 (1 vol., a number of pages removed)

1946-49, n.d.

/2

"Primary Register" recording names, addresses, dates of birth and attendance of scholars (1 pamphlet)

1949-50

/3

"Primary Register" recording names (with sometimes addresses) and attendance of scholars, 1950-61; at end, list of names and payments, pantomime, 1953, and New Brighton picnic, 1954 (1 vol., binding disintegrated)

1950-61

/4-5

"Primary Register" recording names and attendance of scholars, Dec., 1962, 1963-64 (2 pamphlets)

1962-64

/SS5/1-3

Class registers recording names, addresses (usually), dates of birth and attendance of scholars, 1952, n.d. [1953-54], Dec., 1957-1958 (3 pamphlets)

1952,  
n.d. [1953-54],  
1957-58

/SS6

Sunday School library book listing members and their borrowings, 1900-08, another list of members, n.d., and with lists of the books, 1923, n.d. (1 vol., some pages loose and enclosing 1 loose sheet)

1900-08.  
1923, n.d.

In this and the following vol. a borrowed book is indicated by a number or reference e.g. "282", "A15".



SWINTON UNITARIAN FREE CHURCH RECORDS

N/UN2/SS7	<p>SUNDAY SCHOOL            "Library Register" listing members (arranged under letters of the alphabet) and indicating borrowings (1 vol.)</p>	1911-12, 1921
/BH1	<p>BAND OF HOPE            Register of Band of Hope listing names of members, 1882-88, 1890-91, 1895, 1899, 1905-10, 1912-14, often also recording payments and sometimes addresses, sometimes also distinguishing members of the Committee and in 1887 giving "Name of Paper" (1 exercise book)</p>	1882-1914
/Z1	<p>LITERARY AND MISCELLANEOUS            Autograph book used for listing signatures on occasion of the Sunday Schools Centenary Celebrations in 1922 (1 small vol.)</p>	1922
/Z2	<p><u>Address ... at the opening of the Nonconformist portion of the Swinton Cemetery by the Rev. John Moore, Minister of the Church (1 small pamphlet, with cello tape attached, part of front page missing)</u></p>	1885
/Z3	<p><u>History of Unitarian Cause, Swinton 1820-1921 by the Rev. S. Crook (2 small vols., printed by H. Rawson and Co., 16 New Brown Street, Manchester)</u></p>	1922
/Z4	<p><u>1920-1958: The Unitarian Cause in Swinton by the Rev. Peter B. Godfrey (2 small pamphlets printed by Express Printing (Rossendale) Ltd.)</u></p>	[1958]
/Z5	<p>Printed or duplicated nearly all monthly or bimonthly issues of "Calendar" containing details of church affairs, Oct., 1938, 1946-85 (402 pamphlets or leaflets, a few gaps)</p>	1938, 1946-85
/Z6	<p>Stationery wallet containing:            Printed or duplicated programmes for anniversary services of the Sunday Schools (34 leaflets);             Printed programme for united processions of Swinton Sunday Schools (8 leaflets);             Printed or duplicated programmes of entertainments provided by the Sunday School, Dramatic Society, Young Peoples League or Scouts and Guides (12 leaflets);            Tickets to plays produced by the Dramatic Society (10 docs.);            Programmes (one printed, one duplicated) for services of induction to the church (2 leaflets)            (1 stationery wallet containing items as above)</p>	1907-65, n.d. 1907, 1922, 1937-38, 1940-56, 1958, 1960-65 1948-51, 1953-54, 1961, 1965 1948-50, 1957, n.d.  1951-56  1951, 1956
/Z7	<p>Printed programme cards, Cricket Club (23 docs.)</p>	1889-94, 1896-97, 1912, 1915-16, 1919-30