

Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978 (amended 1992).

Under this Measure all PCC's are required to take steps to bring conditions in line with those required by the Measure for all Registers and documents, any of the above being more than 100 years old, to be placed into the custody of the Hon. Diocesan Archivist, Essex Record Office. It is also recommended to do the same with valuable Registers and documents under 100 years old.

The reasons for this are firstly, most Church vestries are not suitable for long term storage because they are cold and damp and this will eventually lead to their decay, there could also be a risk of their destruction by fire or theft.

When all this originally came into force, we had many discussions at PCC meetings around the subject and most members were not happy to hand over any of our Church Records or documents, but eventually in 1981 it was agreed to hand over 13 of our Registers to the ERO. We are now in 2014 and technology has moved on through microfiche format and copies and digital images on disc thus making all Records easily accessible via the PC. Therefore, Navestock PCC have now handed over to the ERO all the remaining Registers and documents they had in their possession. They are in safe hands and will form an interesting part of Essex history for generations to come and, incidentally, they will always remain the property of St Thomas, Navestock.

Point of Interest:

One of the Registers for Baptisms, Burials and Marriage 1538-1659 from the parish of St Thomas Navestock is one of a very few such existing Registers in Essex.

Also, in the year 1588 there was a baptism recorded on 23rd February of Edward Convers. This is the same Deacon Edward Convers who later became one of the Founders of Woburn, Massachusetts.