

*Dating back to 1550s these leather bound tooled book contain the records of births, marriages and deaths of the parish. Especially interesting are the records of the Parish vestry which contain information on schools, alms-houses, provision for the poor, rebuilding and repair of the church.*

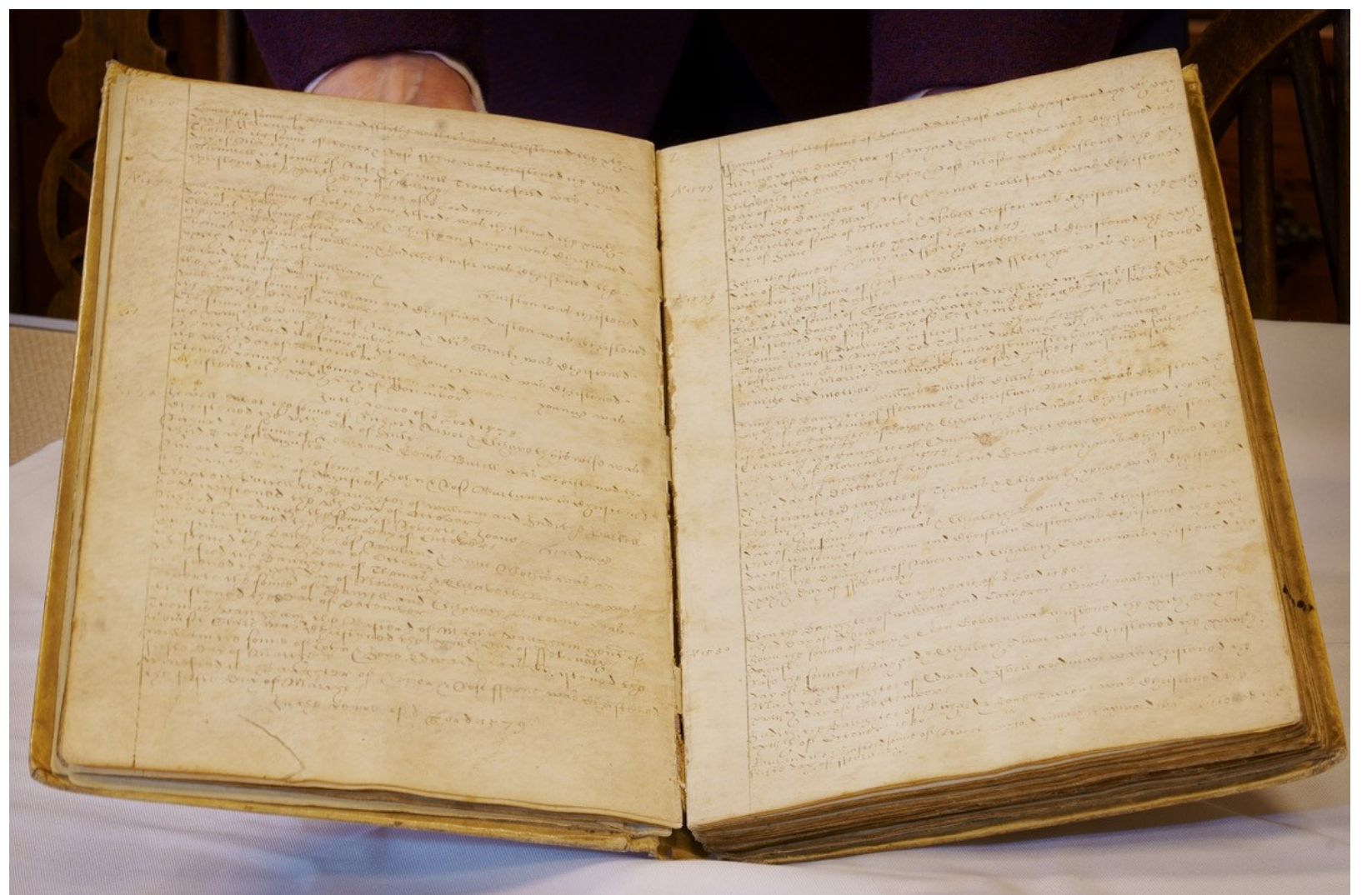
*1685 includes entry for paying bell ringers for news of 'Argyles (Argylls) being routed and taken', in 1707 payment for 22 gallons of 'Sacrement-wine' and in 1714 payment for 'hanging ye church in Mourning for Queen Anne', and some obscure entry's, for example in 1730 payment for 'two hedge-hoggs' and another To Elisha Clarke for a pole Catt'.*

*These records have now been given to the London Metropolitan Archives.*

## BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH

The board outside St Mary Abbots describes the church as the place: "where babies are baptized, lovers wed and those who have died are laid to rest".

The church is here for people at the most joyful and the most sorrowful times, officiating regularly at christenings, weddings and funerals. Each of these life events (known in the church as "occasional offices") is recorded in an official register.



*Records from c.1579 when Queen Elizabeth was on the throne*