Since the creation of the Diocese of Chester in 1541, the area of Cumbria comprised:

Area A: part of the Diocese of Durham;
Area B: the Diocese of Carlisle (except the Parish of Nether Denton which was transferred from the Diocese of Durham to the Diocese of Carlisle in 1703);

and Areas C and D: part of the Diocese of Chester.

The following changes occurred up to 1920:

1836: D becomes part of the newly-formed Diocese of Ripon.
1856: The Diocese of Carlisle (B) is enlarged by the addition of C.
1862: A is transferred to the newly-formed Diocese of Newcastle.
1920: D is transferred to the newly-formed Diocese of Bradford.
Location of Parish Registers

With some exceptions, registers of former north and east Cumberland parishes are now deposited in the Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle, those of former west Cumberland parishes in the Cumbria Record Office and Local Studies Library, Whitehaven, those of former Westmorland parishes and the Sedbergh area in the Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, and those of Furness parishes in the Cumbria Record Office, Barrow-in-Furness.

Researchers are advised to confirm these details before visiting a record office.

Full details of the covering dates and location of registers for all Cumbrian parishes may be found in the Cumbria Archive Service’s publication Cumbrian Ancestors.

Parish boundary in 1829
Parish church in 1829
Chapel in 1829
Chapel created between 1829 and circa 1940

Note that some chapels later became parish churches in their own right.

County boundary pre 1974
Cumbria boundary
Extra-parochial area

For development since 1929 in Barrow, Carlisle, Kendal and Whitehaven, see detailed maps.