

## Bemerton Protestation Return of 1641/42

© Wiltshire OPC 2011

The Protestation Returns relate to the years 1641/42, around the start of the Civil War. It was an Oath of loyalty to the King.

The incumbent of each parish was to read the protestation to his parishioners and all men over the age of 18 had to sign the oath but the women were not usually asked to sign.

The Protestation itself runs in the following terms :—

"I (A. B.) doe, in the presence of Almighty God, promise, vow, and protest to maintaine and defend, so farre as lawfullie I may, with my Hfe, power, and estate, the trne Reformed Protestant Religion expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England, against all Poperie and Popish Innovations within this Realme contrarie to the same Doctrine and according to the dutie of my Allegiance [to] his Ma'ties Royall person, honor, and estate. As also the Power and Privileges of Parliament, the lawfull rights and Liberties of the subject, and every person that maketh this Protestation in whatsoever hee shall doe in the lawfull pursuence of ye same. And to my power, and as farre as lawfullie I may, I will oppose, and by all good waies and meanes indeavor to bring to condigne punishment all such as shall either by Force, Practise, Counsells, Plotts, Conspiracies, or otherwise do anie thing in this present Protestation contained. And further, that I shall in all Just and honorable waies endeavor to preserve ye Vnion and Peace between the three Kingdomes of England, Scotland, and heland. And neither for hope, feare, nor other respect, reliquish this promise, vow, and Protestation."

Adam Ranger, *curate*  
Robert Bower  
John Moowdye  
Leonard Cooke  
Thom Ward  
Robert Ward  
Thom Biggs  
Henry Ranger  
Thom Stevens  
Thom Cooper  
Wm. Bacon  
John Grey  
John Best, sen.

John Best, jun.  
Thom Ward  
Nicholas Subdeane  
Edward Ward  
Robert Sheppard  
Richard Goodfellowe  
Richard Best  
Humfry Creed  
Richard Croatch  
Vincent Fugar  
Richard Daniell, sen.  
Henry Spelt  
Richard Daniell, jun.

(source: W. N. & Q, Book 7, journal December 1911)