

Porton & Gomeldon Protestation Return of 1641/42

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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."

John Sharpe, *vicar*
Edmond Chandler, *consta.*
Wm. Blake, sen., *churchward.*
Richard Brand, *churchward.*
Wm. Blake, ju., *ov'seer*
Henrey Gerrett, *gent.*
John Reade, *gent.*
Wm. Woodford
Thom. Tutt
Wm. Wimbleton
Thom. Westbeare
Rychard Pile
John Nolton
Roger Wimbleton, sen.
Roger Wimbleton, ju.
Edward Rolfe
Robt. Bayley
Thom. Browne-John, sen.
Thom. Browne-John, ju.
John Yeates, sen.
Wm. Cole

John Kenton
Peter Atkins
Wm. Cooper
Richard Bowdey
Walter Yeates
John Willis
Giles Baverstocke
Robt. Collett
Gilbert Yeates
Wm. Griffith
Thom. Hollye
Henrey Perom
Wm. Chamberlayne
Peter Turner
Walter Turner
Alexander Davie
John Yeates, ju.
Wm. Browne-John
Thom. Palmer
Giles London
Walter Younge

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Ed'rd. Naish
Robert Gardiner
Thom. Chicke
Walter Browne-John

John Poynter
John Cooper
Robert Tinmam
Ed'rd. Archur

(source: W. N. & Q, Book 7, journal September 1912)