

## Steeple Langford 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."

Henrey Collier, <i>rector</i>	Nicholas Muscell
John Maye, <i>churchwarden</i>	Datus Parham
John Rowden, <i>churchwarden</i>	John Fornell
John Rowden, <i>ov'seer</i>	James Acre
John Selwood, <i>ov'seer</i>	Richard Rayer
Frauncis Collier	Herculer Hexe
Thorn Webb	Wm. Parham
Wm. Dier	Thorn Rowdon
John Huatt	David Jesse
Francis Macie	Nicholas Thringe
Thorn Cadney	Thom Markes
Robert Rayer	John Bereman
Nicholas Mondaie	Nicholas Edneye
John Helles	John Waterman
Edmund Willes	Alexandr Meryott
Willm. Noath	Wm. Davis
Johell Thringe	Nicholas Snowe
John Thringe	John Hobbs
John Parham, sen.	Peter Bereman
John Parham, jun.	George Bereman
Xpofe Mussell	Humfrye Gilles

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Thom Petticarry	Allen Rowdon
Simond Edmonds	Nicho. Stevens
Thom Bremson	John Rowdon, sen.
John Rowden, jun.	Richard Rowdon
John Rowden, sen.	Joell Rowdon
Fardenando Netton	John Shanke
Rich. Cabell	Stephen Francis
Wm. North	Thom Sense
Nicho Fornell	Thom Pearson
Wm. Smith	John Mondaye
Thom Meade	Wm. Perrye
Rich. Meade	Wm. Dyaper
Wm. Small	Frauncis Dewe
John Harden	Xpofer Randoll
Thom Westen	John Randoll
Ambrose Carpenter	Xpofer Carrowaye
Thom Carpenter	John Porter
Wm. Dewe	Thom Woodman
Xpofer Dewe	Thom Parker
John Huzzis	Wm. Webb
Reynold Sturmye	Thom Morris
Ed'rd. Randoll	Robt. Godfrey
John Jeames	Thom Meryweather
Wm. Sanders	Morgan Watts
John Randoll	Thom Whitehart, sen.
George Button	Thom Whitehart, jun.
John Meryott	Wm. Whitehart
Richard Browne	Thom Lyde
Ed'rd. Farrett	James Browne
John Davis	John Macye
Charles Rowdon	Francis Perkins, <i>esqr.</i> ,
Wm. Rawnsom	Francis his sonne,
Thom Frauncis	and two of his servants,
John Rowdon, jun.	<i>Pop Recu.</i>
Steven Stone	

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