

Newton Toney 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."

Xpfer. Reelye, <i>ministr.</i>	Thom. Phillipps	John Warren
John Jones	Daniell Giles, sen.	Thom. Scutt
Francis Jones	Wm. Dench	Thom. Beuis
Steven Gine	John Beamon	John Hatchett
Robt. Kent	Richard Judd	John Giles
Thom. Beuis	Wm. Child	Daniell Giles, ju.
Thom. Bundle	Henrey Phibbins	George Areland
Wm. Mortimer	John Burnett	Adam Giles
Edward Dench	John Prier	John Gine
Salamon Gracey	Alexandr. Hatchett	Abraham Wayte
John Cooper	Nicho. Cole	Thom. Scutt
Thom. Perrin	Gabriell Bren	Thom. Hebbert
Steven Woods	Wm. Child	Thom. Helliare
John Smart	Wm. Hopgood	Robt. Browne
Thom. Carpenter	Robt. Bevis	Richard Child
Wm. Girle	Richard Turner	

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