

West Harneham 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 Fox, *Minister*

Richard Beevis, *Churchwarden*

John Jeffery, *Churchwarden*

Anthony Blethman, *overseer*

John Bacon, *overseer*

Robert Elliott, *Tything-man*

John Younge, *gent.*

Steven Bowman, *gent.*

Roger Langley

Richard Elliott

Henrey Orpen

Wilim. Dyer

Phillipp Mintorne

Wilim. Gigges

Thorn. Barber

Wilim. Adlam

Wilim. Strugnell

Robt. Thomas

Josias Luxan

John Stone

Wilim. Limington

Christopher Orron [?]

Wilim. Crosman

Richard Laurence

James Lake

John Higgins

Richard Thomas

John Samuel

Richard Quent

John Strugnell, sen.

John Strugnell, junr.

John Jefferye, sen.

Wilim. Randoll

John Randoll

John Jeffery, jun.

Wm. Jeffery

Richard Jeffrey, sen.

Richard Jeffrey, jun.

Richard Elliott

Bennett Jefferye

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Joseph Mitchell
Walter Haylock
Thomas Head
Wilim. Mintorne
George Waterman
Oliu' Whinge
Henry Jefferey
Abraham Strange

Isaack Snelner
Nicholas Jefferey
John Stent
Robert Lymington
Wilim. Jefferye
Wilim. Ward
John Parker

(source: W. N. & Q, Book 7, journal March 1913)