

The following "Presentment" by the parson and the churchwardens of Coombe St Nicholas, Somerset, in 1676, will show the stringency of the law in matters of religion subsequent to the Restoration, and enable us to compare the manners and customs of the past with those of the present day:

A Presentment made by ye Ministers and Churchwardens of ye parish of Coombe St Nicholas for ye Misdomeam'ours of ye parishioners in ye said parish in ye year 1675, and for pt. of ye year 1676, exhibited at ye Visitation of ye Dean and Chapter of Wells, held at Winsham, ye 8th day of June, An Dini 1676, by ye Right Worshipful Thomas Holt, their official.

Imprim's - The Ancient Register Booke of o'r parish is still remaining. And for 4 or 5 yeares and upwards ye clerk hath neglected ye inserting of ye names of ye p'sons married, buried, and baptised in our parish, neither hath there for several yeares a copy of ye Register delivered into ye courte- ye want of w'ch booke of parchment to Register such names, hath been through ye neglect of o'r predecessors.

Ye Glebe lands are known, but we have no Terrier.

Item - We present these persons following, for co'mon absenters from ye publique worship and service of ye Church and for neglecting and peremptorily refusing to receive ye Blessed Sacrement of ye Lorde's Supper, according to ye prescript forme in ye cannons of ye Churche of England - viz: George Betty, Katherine Pyke, vid - John Pyke, John Lumbard, and his wife, John Knight, jun. William Knight. John Harris, and Mary his wife. Robert Channon and Love his wife. William Pyke and Dorothy his wife, Thomas Reed, John Keetell, and Virginia his wife. Mary Dyer, vid, William England, and his wife. Elizabeth Wood, jun Mary Wood. Thomas Dor and his wife, Elizabeth, ye wife of Edward Garland, Henry Griffin, sen, and his wife Grace. Walter Mallacke, and his wife. Edward Gamige. And Joseph Garland, Susan Garland, and Elizabeth Garland being reputed Quakers; and Alice Walter being a reputed Roman Catholicke, and likewise Ann Standerwicke for a notorious and com'on absentee from ye Church and refusing ye blessed Sacraments.

Item - We present ye persons above named for not resorting to their parish church, and likewise Walter Way and his wife for not receiving ye blessed Sacrement John Woonton for refusing to bring his children to be baptised, and likewise his wife for com'on absenters and refusers of ye sacrament of ye Lord's Supper. accordinge to ye forme of ye churche of England, and for refusing to give her thanksgiving; and we believe yt all ye persons forenamed refuse ye same. Ann Standerwicke for refusinge to bury her husband accordinge to ye forme of com'on prayer. James Way, Elizabeth Goffe, vid - Stephen Daniell, Thomas Vincent, for not paying ye Chirch rated.

Item - We present Jane, ye wife of John Woonton, and Rebecca, ye wife of John Wilkins for keepinge private schooles and refusinge to instruct their schooles in ye Churche Catechisme.

Item - We present Nicholas Walter, and Susan his wife for anti-nuptial fornication, and for being clandestinely married, contrary to ye cannons of ye Churche of England.

Ye truth of all these p'ticulars and offences before mentioned we ye ministers and churchwardens for ye time being does attest and subscribe to.

Tho Sherwood, vic. Coombe St Nicholas
Churchwardens (Hugh Rossiter
(Thomas Knight

We ye minister and Churchwardens of ye parish of Coombe St Nicholas in ye County of Somerset, present ye p'sons undernamed for making a publique and riotous disturbance in ye time of ye

publique buriall on ye last day of June, An Dini, 1676, and for making an assault at ye time on our present Vicar, viz: Henry Griffin and his wife; George Kellaway; Elizabeth ye wife of Edward Garland; George Betty; John Lumbard; Wid Knight.

Subscribed by ye Minister and Churchwardens of ye parish aforesaid.

Tho Sherwood. Vic.

(Hugh Rossiter

Churchwardens

(Thomas Coiffe