

## CONVENTICLES IN SURREY IN 1669.

(FROM THE MS. RETURNS IN THE ARCHIEPISCOPAL LIBRARY AT  
LAMBETH.)

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ARCHBISHOP GILBERT SHELDON, who succeeded the pacific Dr. Juxon as Primate, in 1660, ordered a return of all Conventicles throughout his Province in 1669.

Dr. John Waddington, in his *Surrey Congregational History*, says: "The Primate thought that the strength of the Nonconformists was over estimated, and with characteristic energy he caused diligent search to be made for conventicles throughout the kingdom."

The MS. (No. 639) from which the succeeding extracts are taken relating to Surrey, is now in the Library at Lambeth, and contains returns from all parts of the Province.

The agents were instructed to learn the places where the congregations met, to what religious body they belonged, their numbers, the "quality" (*i.e.*, social status of the people attending), and the names of their teachers.

The reader will remark the contemptuous tone adopted by the compiler in mentioning those who attended, and the use of the word "one" as applied to some of the preachers, evidently imagining this will prove agreeable to his employer.

Parishes and Conventicles in them.	Sects.	Numbers.	Qualitie.	Heds and Teachers.
SURRY				
DEANRY OF SOUTHWARKE				
St. OLAVES ... .. 6	—	200	—	one Ford <sup>1</sup> a servant to Thankfull Owen Mr. Beereman a Silkman Carter <sup>2</sup> Palmer <sup>3</sup>
One in Mill lane Att the malt house of one Walker a Brewer	—	—	of pretty good Qualitie	Mr. Lye <sup>4</sup> a Nonconfor- mist minister
Another in Morgan's lane, at the house of one Cholmeley a Brewer who hath been detected with false tunnes to Cheat the Exeise	—	—		

Parishes and Conventicles in them.	Sects.	Numbers.	Qualitie.	Heads and Teachers.
Another in farthing Alley in a house built on purpose	—	5 or 600	some people of good fashion the rest servants and streete walkers	one Mr. Vincent <sup>s</sup> who Chatechizeth the people and baptizeth Children some privately some publickly in his Conventicle
Another att Horsey Doune in a warehouse	fift Monarchy men	about 100		
In another house built on purpose on Horsly doune	Quakers	2 or 300		
In Shad Thames in a house built on purpose	Anabaptists	1000		
ST. SAVIOURS .. ... 4				
One in Mountagne Close Att the house of widow Souten	Presbyterians	100	for the most p <sup>t</sup> Tradesmen	Sevall nonconforming ministers
Att St. Mary Oueryes Dock one in the house of one Bloxsom a Taylor	Independants & fift monarehy men	150	not knowne	

Another att the house of one Desmore a Baker	100	unknowne	one Eastlake <sup>6</sup> a Devonshire nonconformist
Another in Fishmonger Alley Att the house of one Price a wine cooper	60	Baker's meal men and such like people	Mr. Wodsworth <sup>7</sup> & Mr. Chester <sup>8</sup> both Presbyterians who doe Chaptelize & Administer the holy sacram <sup>t</sup> & marry and privately Baptize Children
In Globe Alley in two large meeting houses built on purpose into w <sup>ch</sup> the other small Conventicles empty themselves	about 600	—	

The reasons they Alleage for their under practises are their Dissatisfaction with our Established worship and His Ma<sup>ties</sup> permission and tolera<sup>o</sup>n of them.

EWELL DEANRY

EWELL ... .. 1	50	—	Mr. Symes frō Wimbledon Mr. Batho <sup>9</sup> from London Mr. King <sup>10</sup> formerly att Ashteed
Sometimes att the house of Mr. Cutler a Brewer some ( <i>sic</i> ) of one Mrs. Holmes a widow			

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<b>KINGSTON UPON THAMES</b> 2				
One in a house called Dounhall,	people of setall	100	—	Sometimes Mr Mayo <sup>11</sup>
the other	Quakers	40		sometimes others
<b>HORNE</b> ... .. 1				whose names cannot
Att the house of John Rey-	Anabaptists	—	—	be learnt
nolds a Farmer, a monthly				
Conventicle				Their chief seducer is
<b>BLECHINGLEY</b> ... .. 1				one Caffin <sup>12</sup> of Hor-
	There hath been noe meetings		in Bleehingley since	sham in Sussex
<b>ESHIERE</b> ... .. 1	Anabaptist		went away from thence	Edmond Blundell the
Once a month att Thomas		40 or 50	Thomas Edlin & his	John Stevens of Kings-
Edlin's house	—		wife	ton a malt man
			John Becket & his wife	
			Wm. Lather	
			Widow Coles	
			Thomas Moore	
			John Greenfeild	
			Thomas Seaman	
			Phillip Horley & his	
			wife	
			John Horley	

		STOKE DEANRY		
VOL. XIII.	GODALMING ... .. 2	—	7 or 800	—
	Att the house of John Platt a Nonconformist minister A weekly Conventicle every Sunday in time of Divine Service	—	4 or 500	—
M	Another monthly Conventicle Att the house of Henry Gill a Quaker	—		unknowne
	ST. MARYES IN GUILDFORD 1			
	Att the house of John Clanke an Anabaptist	Anabaptists	60 or 80 sometimes 100	—
	WEYBRIDGE ... .. 1	Presbyterians	above 100	—
	Att the house of John Tilly			Mr. James <sup>14</sup>

The said John Platt

unknowne

Mr. Pace  
Mr. Rowell<sup>13</sup>  
Mr. Mayo

Mr. James<sup>14</sup>

Parishes and Conventicles in them.	Sects.	Numbers.	Qualitie.	Heads and Teachers.
NEWDIGATE ... .. 1 At the house of Anne Small- peice <sup>15</sup> a rich widow who goes under the name of the wife of Rich: Bax	Presbyterians & Quakers	100	Will <sup>m</sup> Smallpeice John Bristow & his wife John Dimock & his wife the servants of these two families The widow Lee Henry Wheeler of the Presbyterians Mrs. Steere widow of Geo Steere <sup>16</sup> late minister att New- digate is a cheife meeter	unknowne
DARKING ... .. 4 One Att the house of Mr. John Wood their Speaker Another att the house of Mr. James Fisher	Presbyterians  Independts	about 300  about 100	—  —	The said Mr. Wood <sup>17</sup> Mr. King of Ashted  Mr. Feake <sup>18</sup> and other strangers

Another at the house of John Barnard	Anabaptists	about 50	—	the said John Barnard
Another of Quakers				

These following parishes in the county of Surry are returned to have noe Conventicles in them viz<sup>t</sup>.

BLECHINGLEY	0
ASHTED	0
MICKEHAM	0
CATERHAM	0
MERTHAM	0
PETERSHAM	0
CRUYDON	0
RICHMOND	0
FETCHAM	0
REIGATE	0
EAST CLANDON	0
PUTENHAM	0
DUNSFOLD	0
SHEIRE	0
OCKLEY	0
LIMPESFELD	0
ALBURY	0
BANSTED	0

## NOTES.

<sup>1</sup> Stephen Ford, Vicar of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. After his ejection he continued to preach to his people, but was sadly harassed, and at length some of his enemies threatened his life, so that he was forced to fly to London, where he often preached in the time of the plague. When liberty was granted, a meeting-house was erected for him in Miles Lane, Cannon Street, where he was pastor of a Congregational Church. Here he held a catechetical lecture for young men, at 7 o'clock on Lord's Day mornings, which he afterwards changed to the evening. Dr. Walker says, "It hath been reported that this Mr. Ford had been a servant to the head of a house." Mr. M. Dewes, of Chipping Norton, states that he pursued his studies at Oxford, but at what college doth not appear. (*Nonconformists' Memorial*, by Edmund Calamy, D.D., edited by Samuel Palmer. 2nd Edition, Vol. III, p. 121.)

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Carter, M.A., Rector of Chatham, of St. John's College, Cambridge. A fine scholar and an excellent preacher, much esteemed and loved by Dr. Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester, to his death; and often assisted by him. They were contemporaries at the University. Mr. Carter, when silenced, practised physick, and lived at Newington Butts, where he died about the year 1685. (Calamy, II, p. 324.)

<sup>3</sup> Antony Palmer, M.A., sometime Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, admitted 1640. Rector of Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. Born at Great Cumberton, in Worcestershire. Forced out of his living by some of the neighbouring gentry before the Act of Uniformity. He had a congregation afterwards in London, and exercised his ministry there till his death, 26th January, 1678. A Commissioner for ejecting Scandalous Ministers; author of the *Gospel New Creature*, 1658, and other works. (Calamy, II, p. 232.)

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Lye, M.A., of Wadham College, Oxford. For sometime Minister of Chard, in Somersetshire, and one of the Triers of Ministers in those parts; chosen by the parishioners of All Hallows, Lombard Street, to succeed Mr. Cardell, ejected by the Commissioners in 1657. Preached two farewell sermons to his people 17th August, 1662, previously to retiring from his cure. Died 7th June, 1684. (Calamy, Vol. I, p. 84.)

<sup>5</sup> Nathaniel Vincent, M.A., of Magdalen College, Oxon. Admitted to the University at 11 years of age and left M.A. at 18. Preached publicly as a lecturer at Pulborow before he was 20; ordained at 21, and became Rector of Langley Marsh, Bucks. After his ejection, came to London soon after the Fire in 1666, and preached to large multitudes; sometimes to thousands in the ruins. His popularity drew upon him the anger of the higher powers; having a meeting-place in Southwark, the soldiers would sometimes come in the morning and take possession of it and hinder him from preaching. He was a

son of Mr. John Vincent, and brother of Mr. Thomas Vincent who was unwearied in preaching and visiting the sick during the great plague of 1665. (Calamy, Vol. I, p. 304, &c.)

<sup>6</sup> William Carslake, of Exeter College, Oxford. Curate of Werrington, Devon. He preached about in the churches of London all the time of the plague. For some years pastor to a congregation near Horsleydown, in Southwark. Inclined to melancholy. Died soon after the Revolution. (Calamy, Vol. II, p. 96.)

<sup>7</sup> Thomas Wadsworth, M.A., Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge. Born in St. Saviour's, Southwark. On the death of Mr. Moreton, he was appointed to Rectory of Newington Butts, February 16th, 1652. In his settlement here, the parishioners were divided into two parties, and both of them, upon the vacancy, went with their petitions to Westminster, neither knowing the other's mind, and he was the person pitched upon by both. Here he preached constantly and taught his people from house to house, gave Bibles to the poor, and expended his estate in works of charity among them. Resigned the living in August, 1660, to Mr. J. Meggs, who pretended to be the legal rector; though before he died he acknowledged his claim unjust. Mr. Wadsworth lectured on Saturday mornings at St. Antholin's, and for some time on Lord's Day evenings and on Monday nights at St. Margaret's, Fish Street; was also lecturer of St. John Baptist. He was Perpetual Curate of St. Laurence Poultry. Upon his ejection, he preached privately to one congregation at Newington, and another at Theobalds, by turns, without taking any salary from either. He had afterwards a fixed congregation at Southwark, where, as his health required him to be much in the country, Mr. Parsons was his assistant, and he divided his labours among the two congregations. Died on Sunday, 29th October, 1676, aged 46. He was author of numerous theological works. (Calamy, Vol. I, p. 138.)

<sup>8</sup> John Chester, Rector of Wetherly, Leicestershire. After the Restoration, Mr. Bucknall laid claim to the living and came to take possession of it with great violence and fury. Mr. Chester being from home, he demanded entrance into the parsonage-house, and the servants denying it, he fetched a smith's sledge and broke open the door, and not only turned them out, but threw out what goods he pleased into the street, and kept the rest. On Mr. Chester demanding them, he told him that if he went to law for them he would swear him out of his life. Upon this Mr. Chester removed to London, preached once every Lord's Day for Mr. Jenkyn at Christ Church, till the Act of Uniformity took place, and continued in London all the time of the plague. Mr. Baxter speaks highly of him. He often made excursions into several parts of Surrey, but his settled abode was in Southwark, where, in the latter part of his life, he preached stately at a meeting-house in Gravel lane near St. George's Fields. Died at his son's house, a physician at Guildford, in May, 1696. (Calamy, Vol. II, p. 403.)

<sup>9</sup> A Mr. Batho is mentioned in the *Nonconformists' Memorial*, Vol. III, as having been Rector of Ewel, Surrey, and a Mr. Bathoe as Vicar of Brampton, Suffolk. (Calamy, III, pp. 303 and 256.)

<sup>10</sup> Mr. King ejected from the Rectory of Ashtcad, Surrey. (Calamy, III, 300.)

<sup>11</sup> Richard Mayo, one time Vicar of Kingston, Surrey. He had afterwards a large and flourishing congregation in London. Died 8th September, 1695. He had two sons in the Ministry, the one a Conformist at St. Thomas', Southwark, the other a Nonconformist at Kingston-upon-Thames, afterwards (in part) at Hackney. (Calamy, Vol. III, p. 304.)

<sup>12</sup> Matthew Caffyn, 1628–1714, General Baptist Minister. Born at Horsham, Sussex, 26th October, 1628, seventh son of Thomas Caffin, by Elizabeth his wife; was adopted by a neighbouring gentleman as a companion to his son, and sent to a Kentish Grammar School and to the University of Oxford, but expelled for the advocacy of Baptist tenets. Returning to Horsham he joined a General (*i.e.* Armenian) Baptist Church there and soon became its minister, though not ceasing to be a farmer. Buried at Itchingfield. (Stephen's *Dictionary of National Biography*, Vol. 8.)

<sup>13</sup> Probably Stephen Revel, M.A., of Exeter College, Oxon., son of Mr. Thomas Revel, of Hunsdon, in Ermington parish, Devonshire, where he had a good estate. He many years survived his son, who died of consumption July, 1671, at about 40. An excellent Greek scholar, and a man of very pleasant temper. One time Vicar of St. Issy, Cornwall. He married the daughter of Mr. John Vincent, who was sister to Mr. Thomas and Mr. Nathaniel Vincent, so well known as eminent ministers. His father, owing to his early decease, left his estate to his grandson. (Calamy, I, p. 352.)

<sup>14</sup> Perhaps John James, M.A., of Alban Hall, Oxford. Born at Bicester, in Oxfordshire, 1620. Episcopally ordained, first minister at Bighthelmstone (Brighton), in co. Sussex, for about seven years, then became Rector of Ilsley, in Berks, for about six years, enjoying the living till 1662. Offered several preferments by Dr. James, Warden of All Souls', Oxford (particularly a Canonry of Windsor), if he would conform, but he declined. He had six children when he quitted his living, and was harrassed by the Five Mile Act; at length settled at Staines, Middlesex, where he continued nine years. Came thence to London, where he died July 1694, leaving behind him a good reputation both for piety and learning. (Calamy, Vol. I, p. 288.)

<sup>15</sup> Ann Smallpeice. A scandalous insinuation. The marriage of Richard Bax, of Capel, and Ann Smallpeice, of Newdigate, was celebrated at the latter place after Quaker forms, according to one Register of the Society, on 28 . 2<sup>mo</sup> 1666, or as given in another on 28 . 8<sup>mo</sup> 1666, the difference in the months being clearly a clerical error. (Registers of Births, Deaths, and Marriages of the Society of Friends, preserved at Devonshire House, Bishopsgate Street, and Somerset House.)

<sup>16</sup> Rev. George Steere, instituted Rector of Newdigate 20th March, 1609–10. Admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge, June 1599. Buried 13th January, 1662. He appears from the Parish Register to

have been active in repairs of the church. By his will he charged an estate called Blackbrooks, in Dorking, with payment of £10 a year towards the maintenance of a young person in Trinity College for four years, and then another for the same period, &c. (Manning and Bray.) The pedigree of his wife, showing her marriage, is entered in the *Visitation of Surrey*, 1623. She was daughter of Thomas Smallpeece, of Newdegate, and granddaughter of Thomas Smallpeece, of Guilford. (*Surrey Archæological Collections*, Vol. XII.)

<sup>17</sup> John Wood, Rector of North Chapel, Sussex. After being cast out here he lived upon a small estate which he had at Westgate (Westcott), near Dorking, in Surrey, where he afterwards had a congregation. A grave, solid, and judicious divine. He died 1695, aged 78. (Calamy, Vol. III, page 323.)

<sup>18</sup> Mr. Feak. Perhaps the noted fifth-monarchy man, Christopher Feake, who began life as an independent minister. Edwards reports that, in 1645, he was a preacher in London without settled charge. He preached at St. Peter's, Cornhill, St. Mary, Woolchurch, and elsewhere. In January 1646 he obtained the sequestered vicarage of All Saints, Hertford. In 1649, on the sequestration of William Jenkyn, Feake received the Vicarage of Christ Church, Newgate, and one of the lectureships at St. Anne's, Blackfriars. Soon after he gathered or joined a Baptist church meeting at Blackfriars, and subsequently in Warwick Lane. He wrote against the Quakers. Feake's preaching became more and more virulent in its attacks on the existing Government. He was brought before the Council of State, deprived of his preferment, and committed to Windsor Castle. He appears to have been liberated in 1655, but was soon sent back to Windsor. He seems to have been set at full liberty on Cromwell's death. (Stephen's *Dictionary of National Biography*, Vol. 18.)