

Miscellaneous instances of 'lay non-conformity' (Protestant dissent) in the Archdeaconry of 1587-1643

The following examples, which are not exhaustive, have been classified in the Archdeaconry of Nottingham Presentment Bills database as 'lay non-conformity'. The offenders may well also have been presented at other times for other offences such as 'not attending church', 'not receiving holy communion', or 'standing excommunicate'.

Reference	Parish	Date	Details
AN/PB 326/8/17	Balderton	1625	Tho. Thrumpton for a common swearer, for not kneeling at the confession and for not standing up at the creed and the gospel
AN/PB 295/2/39	Barton in Fabis	21.4.1612	Francis Wallis for having his hat on his head when the psalm being sung the time of prayer
AN/PB 294/2/100	Basford	11.4.1608	Richard Brocke and Gefferie Brocke his brother, are presented for sitting covered with their hats on and talking and laughing at time of divine service and sermon.
AN/PB 294/2/206	Bothamsall	14.4.1608	Steven Lanfelld, Joyes Lanfell, Anne Dobson and Robeart Carlell and his wife, for only coming to church six times since 1 February and at all times resorting to hear sermons in other places.
AN/PB 294/2/194	Boughton	1608 (c)	John Hurste and Robert Woodhouse for not repairing to our chapel except when there is a sermon.
AN/PB/302/541	Bramcote	24.10.1629	Thomas Redwaye for receiving the communion sitting.
AN/PB 314/7/18	Clifton	20.10.1627	Mrs Anne Lummas, widow, for refusing to receive the communion at the feast of St Michael last past, because it might not be ministered to her sitting; Mrs Anne Lummas junior in like manner for the same.
AN/PB 314/8/47	Clifton	28.4.1628	Mrs Ane Lumas, widow, for absenting herself from her own parish church and going to others.
			[n.b. Anne Lummas was presented for various offences up to 1634. She lived in an area called 'Garbathorpe', which appears to have been shared between the parishes of Barton in Fabis and Clifton. Along with Francis Wallis and Gervase Thorpe, Anne Lummas was often presented by both parishes for not paying duties.]

AN/PB 294/2/66	East Markham	7.5.1607	Nicholas Storke for being absent from church on the Sabbath day and being at bowls; we asked him a reason for his absence and he answered 'he can reade as much at hoam & that he knoweth our reder for no lawfull minister', but we know our reader has a licence by one Mr Dodsworth of York for Mr Field's absence.
AN/PB 295/1/117	Eastwood	4.8.1610	Richard Smithe of Eastwood for not coming to the church on Sundays [even] as much as monthly, and for scoffing and deriding those who do come.
AN/PB 339/6/27	Edwinstowe	1624 (c)	Richard Hooton for sleeping with his hat upon his head in both service and sermon time.
AN/PB 295/4/105	Everton	23.4.1613	Roger Drew for covering his head in time of divine service, and disturbing the minister by refusing to depart from the church, being excommunicate.
			[n.b. a Roger Drew, 'returned from beyond the sea', was presented for not attending divine service in 1607 (AN/PB 294/2/227). He had perhaps been in Amsterdam; a John Drew was part of a Puritan congregation there – see <i>Massachussetts Historical Society Proceedings VI</i> (1890), pp. 41-67]
AN/PB 295/6/17	Farndon	18.4.1616	Ann Knifton for an obstinate separatist and one that altogether refuses to come to the church.
AN/PB/302/528	Greasley	1630 (c)	John Sifferne for not kneeling at the sacrament at Christmas.
AN/PB 296/1/7	Gringley-on-the-Hill	26.4.1610	Henry Wyld for giving out evil speches, 'sayeinge he was not to doe anie submission to anie prelate in England'.
AN/PB 341/6/25	Gringley-on-the-Hill	4.4.1638	Churchwardens for suffering men to sit covered in prayer time
AN/PB 295/4/17	Hawton	1613 (c)	Adam Jackson, for that he sits with his hat upon his head in time of divine prayer and sermon, he has not provided the Bible of the last translation in the time of his late churchwardenship, and he has incurred the horrible crime of perjury in wilfully omitting to present many enormities and offences which he has known committed.
AN/PB 295/7/155	Hayton and Tilm	4.10.1618	John Bingham of Tylne for suffering and hearing sermons and private conventicles in his house, as it is commonly reported.

AN/PB 314/3/35	Hickling	6.5.1622	Agnes Winthorpe, Katherine Waye and Alice Knutton for going from their own parish church at morning and evening prayers to another church on Sunday 14 April last, at which time there was a sermon at our own church
AN/PB 314/8/109	Holme Pierrepont	12.7.1628	Willyam Leeson, weaver, because he 'in a sawcy fashion' went into the minister's seat and opened the Bible and on the Sabbath in the presence in many people did vilify and gainsay the doctrines which he preached.
AN/PB/302/524	Hucknall Torkard	24.10.1629	John Watkinson for leaving his parish church and going to other places.
AN/PB 292/6/26	Kirkby-in- Ashfield	20.4.1598	Gilbert Moare and his wife for not receiving communion for at least one year; the said Gilbert calls the preaching of God's word contemptuously 'prittle prattle'.
AN/PB/302/266	Kirkby-in- Ashfield	5.10.1625	Laurance Newton for sitting with his hat on his head.
AN/PB/302/270	Kirkby-in- Ashfield	24.10.1625	James Walker for going to other churches and neglecting his own, and for not receiving the sacrament because he might not have it sitting or standing.
AN/PB 295/8/11	Laxton	15.10.1619	Edward Taylor of Laxton for abusing and disgracing his minister in the churchyard on 8 August, saying that he preached false doctrine in the face of the congregation; the said Edward and Thomas his manservant very seldom resort to their parish church but run about to Collingham or other places.
			[n.b. North Collingham was a centre of Puritanism at this period]
AN/PB 303/790	Lenton	12.4.1630	Robert Moore for irreverently receiving the communion sitting.
AN/PB 295/3/8	Littleborough	21.7.1612	Roberte Wrighte's wife for going out of the church before half prayer was done last Sunday.
AN/PB 339/1/32	Littleborough	15.5.1620	Robert Wright for unreverent behaviour in continually coming into the house of God in time of divine prayers and entering the chancel with a hat on his head.
AN/PB 295/7/17	Mansfield	15.7.1618	Alice, wife of Robert Farrand, for [not attending] ... our parish church divers Sundays, and going to other [churches] ... there are divers other of our neighbours who usually resort to other parish churches.

AN/PB 295/8/31	Mansfield	3.11.1619	Edmonde Bee's wife for usually going every Sunday to [hear the] sermon at evening prayer at Sutton [Sutton-in-Ashfield], and yet our own minister preaches every Sunday at both morning and evening prayer; the said Bee's wife for receiving the holy communion at Sutton, at the hand of the minister there, at least once since Lady Day in Lent last. Note added at the bottom by Brian Britan [vicar]: asks that Mr Willson, the curate of Skigbie [Skegby] and Thomas Jeffray alias Tomlinson, churchwarden of Sutton either this year or last year, to be called; they can relate the names of all those of his parish who usually resort to sermon at Sutton every Sunday, and divers that have received communion there.
AN/PB 293/2/70	Mattersey	1603 (c)	Thomas Jesop for going from his own parish church to Babworth on Sabbath days.
AN/PB 294/2/41	Mattersey	17.6.1607	Thomas Jessopp for refusing to take the communion at Easter until he is resolved whether he may take it lawfully kneeling, sitting or standing.
AN/PB 339/2/54	Mattersey	16.9.1621	Minister presents Bryan Holmes for divers abuses towards himself on St Peter's Day last in the open street, in front of Jo. Copperwhite and Hen. Fletcher, churchwardens, Robt Ouldfeild and many other substantial town men: first he sought to disgrace and discredit him using the words 'I scorne thee and thy preaching & ministre, Thou are noe Scholler I my selfe am a better then thou art, and have more learninge then thou hast. Doe thy worst, I scorne thy teachinge, neither will I ever receive the sacrament at thy hands. I am as good a man as you art. And savinge thy Cloth thou art a bace fellow, for all thou art a Mr of the Arts', and many other vilifying and ominous terms.
AN/PB 340/5/33	Mattersey	1632 (c)	Some have negligently absented themselves from church and others have frequented other parish churches than their own.
AN/PB 295/2/61	Newark	25.11.1612	Margaret Leake ... great scandal to the congregation and grief to the people, renounces to answer to anything [which in] most mild manner shall be proposed according to catechis[ing]...[she says with] malice 'give me your book that you give to your frends and then it may be I will answere you'; thus she taunts me laughing at her departure and kissing her hands for joy that she has 'thus bravely lift up her hornes agaynst her and men in the congregation'.

AN/PB 295/5/114	Newark	1615 (c)	Wynifred Ridgom for going to the church at Collingham, being excommunicate.
AN/PB 294/2/119	Nottingham (St Mary)	11.4.1608	Edward Nixe to be a 'brownis' [Brownist].
AN/PB/302/595	Nottingham (St Mary)	28.4.1628	Goone Rowe for receiving the sacrament kneeling, but irreverently; Frances Tealler, servant to [name missing through damage] Litlefeare for the like.
AN/PB/303/102	Nottingham (St Mary)	1631	Richard Collishawe, William Barker, Roger Cooper, Charles Moreley, John Bestwicke, Henry Hawkins, Widow Bestwicke, Richard James, his wife at Bridgend, George Wheatley, John Barrett, Henry Armsone, Widow Huthwayte, Mr Pointons daughter, Widow Wycome, John Howlett and Robert Parsons for going out of the church in the time of divine service to the great offence and disturbance of the congregation on Sunday 4 September 1631.
AN/PB/302/513	Nottingham (St Nicholas)	29.10.1629	Robert Bamford, gent, for leaving his own parish church in time of divine service on the Sabbath day and repairing to other churches 'contrary to my lordes grace his edicte or order'; Thomas Kente alias Hемpe for the like; the wife of Robert Bowes for the like.
AN/PB/303/10	Nottingham (St Nicholas)	25.9.1630	George Balderton and his wife for not coming to their own parish church, but going to another.
AN/PB 303/583	Nottingham (St Peter)	6.4.1638	Presentment of 42 individuals for not receiving communion at Easter.
			[n.b. This was brought about because of the recent Laudian changes, requiring communion to be taken standing, at the communion rails. St Peter's was a church sympathetic to Puritan ideas, and many parishioners refused to participate out of principle; others argued that they had been unable to receive due to the crush of people making their way to the front of the church - see Ronald Marchant, <i>The Puritans and the Church Courts</i> , pp. 59-68]
AN/PB/302/315	Radford	5.5.1626	Thomas Jackson for not coming to his own parish church, but instead goes to Lenton, and for not receiving holy communion at Easter with them

AN/PB/302/552	Radford	1629	Francis Gr[---] [name obscured by damage] for being absent from his parish church on Sundays and holy days divers times and going to other churches.
AN/PB 295/7/76	Rempstone	1618 (c)	Many have their hats on in time of preaching.
AN/PB 295/4/36	Rolleston	22.4.1613	Edward Barom the elder for using himself irreverently in time of divine service, especially in not putting off his hat or kneeling in time of prayer for the most part.
AN/PB 295/6/1	Rolleston	1616 (c)	Edward Barred for sitting with his hat on his head in time of divine service and prayers, and not kneeling when he received the sacrament but only at Easter last; Edward Watkis for not usually kneeling at his prayers.
AN/PB/303/56	Selston	21.4.1631	Richard Worth for absenting himself from the church on Sabbath days and going to other churches from time to time.
AN/PB 303/473	Sneinton	19.5.1637	Thomas Morley for receiving the sacrament sitting, and Marie Wood his daughter in law for the like.
AN/PB 303/606	Sneinton	26.4.1639	Thomas Mooreley for resorting to St Peter's Church on Sundays.
AN/PB 295/7/104	South Leverton	24.4.1618	Willm Carrier, who is a separatist.
AN/PB 339/2/18	South Leverton	1621 (c)	William Padley 'for that he doth not uncover in time of divine service and sermons'.
AN/PB 298/128	Stanton-on-the-Wolds	May 1642	Thomas Worthington for taking the communion table out of the rail and spilling the bread in a violent manner.
AN/PB 294/2/50	Sturton-le-Steeple	21.5.1607	William Cowper for wearing his hat in time of divine service, and for coming into the church and going forth covered.
AN/PB 314/2/26	Sutton Bonnington (St Anne)	11.4.1621	Humfrie Hooton for leaping upon the communion table in the chancel and breaking it.
AN/PB 314/9/46	Sutton Bonnington (St Anne)	24.10.1629	Richard Tomson, butcher, for absenting himself, along with his family, from divine service on Sunday 6 September and other times within this present year, and going to other parish churches to hear divine prayer or sermons; Thomas Tomson, butcher, for the same, on Sunday 6 September and other times.

AN/PB 295/1/58	Tithby	1610 (c)	William Rowerth for giving out slanderous speeches against the word of God preached by Mr Langdon, 'in that he said that he preached false doctrine and never made good sermon since he came to the town nor ever read preayers well but on Christmas day last'.
AN/PB 296/1/4	Treswell	26.4.1610	George Leegit, gent., Robart Poull, gent., the wife of Mr Poull and his wife's sister, Babinton Barturupe and John Elis for not coming to their own parish church when there are sermons; Gregery Veckers, Frances his man, Doryte Dawsons his maid, Palamadayes Gelbe and his wife and his man Willyam Hugard, Will Porter and his wife, John Hugard and his wife, Homfre Jacson's wife, Wilyam Jacsone, Richard Temperall and his wife, Edward Heardson, Robart Kirkbe and his wife, Richard Hugard, Ane Hugard, John Gelbe the younger, Omfre Gilbe's wife, John Chamberes and his wife, and Hendrye Ward and wife, for absenting themselves from their own parish church when there are sermons.
AN/PB 339/1/52	Treswell	21.5.1620	For having their hats upon their heads in the church in sermon time, Mr George Legatt, Mr Francis Bacon, William Porter, Abraham Filding, William Heardman, John Smithe, William Wells, Jeffraye Cobb, and Tho: Wilkinson.
AN/PB 341/5/53	Walesby	13.1.1638	Richard Houllmes for a negligent comer to the church, and when he does come he turns his back in a scornful manner on the minister, 'ase thous he will do in despite'.
AN/PB 314/4/41	Willoughby-on-the-Wolds	12.4.1624	Wyllyam Brett for 'refusing nay contemning' both divine service and sermons at his own parish church, and frequenting other churches; Wyllyam Soare for obstinately refusing to participate in the holy communion kneeling, and thereupon departing and not participating at all; Margaret Wryde, servant to Wyllyam Garton the younger, who obstinately refused to participate in the holy communion kneeling, and thereupon departed and would not participate at all.
			[n.b. William Sore was a well-known dissenter, listed in <i>Nottinghamshire County Records</i> as a 'Sectary'. He was sent for trial at the Assizes on 12 January 1634/5 for obstinating refusing to go to his parish church. He was presented by the churchwardens of Willoughby to the Archdeaconry court for not attending church, not receiving communion, and standing excommunicate, at various times from 1622 to 1641.]

AN/PB 295/7/151/1	Worksop	15.9.1618	<p>William Hodgekin for depraving the government of the Church of England in these or like terms, 'When Mr Carte preached that the church of Rome taught the doctrine of devils [devils] in forbidding meat and marriage I could have smiled at him, for he defendeth the doctrine and practise of the church of England which forbiddeth meat and marriage, doth not he teach the doctrine of devils then?'. He abuses his minister in words, in reporting that [the minister] said that only seven [people] in his parish should be saved, and that he would not bid God Speed, nor good morrow and good even to men when he met them or saw them working, lest he should take God's name in vain in speaking to profane persons; he maintained to his minister's face, in the presence of many, the position (contrary to the doctrine of our church and the practice of civil men) that he should keep company with all men alike, except excommunicants, and that he ought not to think any man to be in a wicked course until his death; that only when a man died without repentance and after admonition and the orderly proceeding of the church, might he be judged to be damned.</p>
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