

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

PayPal

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *Transactions of the Baptist Historical Society* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_tbhs_01.php

The Baptist Board Minutes.

Continued, with notes on page 283.

July 29. 1728²⁶

Present.	Mr Wallin
Mr Gill	Mr Arnold
Mr Rudd	Mr Townsend

A letter from Portsmouth being Read wherein they Mention their Want of Minister the following Answer was Agreed to.

Brethren

Yours we Rec^d & not to Enter into the Difference between you & Your Pastor as you Desire we wou'd help You to a Minister Its Necessary for us to know, what Encouragem^t You can give him, or what You can Raise in Case Such a one shou'd offer, or if any shou'd be willing to Come down to Assist You whether You wou'd Defray his Charges²⁷

We Remain

Yours Sam^l Wilson

in y^e Name of the whole

Sec

Sep^r 23. 1728

Some friends Came from Waltham Abby to ask the Advice of the Ministers ab^t settling a Baptiz'd Church & Building a Meeting place there, It was Agreed that it was Expedient they shou'd first give up themselves to one another in the Lord in a Church State, & then Promise to give them all assistance they Can towards building a Place [which was done.]

Ocr 19th 1728

Having Rec^d two Letters from y^e People of Ringwood in Hampshire Concerning Mr Jope A Letter

was Writt & Agreed to the Copy of wch is in ye Book [on a loose sheet? not extant. See June 11, 1734].

Jan^y 20th 1728

Present M^r Ridgway M^r Gill M^r Rudd M^r Wilson
M^r Tom's.

Three Persons from Deptford Applyd for Advice One said he Came from M^r Beamonts because he was not Sound in y^e faith, and all agreed for the Same Reason they Cou'd not Set Down with M^r Biddle, and added, the Charge of his being Guilty of Lying in the Pulpitt because he Laid Down Sometimes three or four heads, & promis'd to Speak to 'em, And yet Never Explain'd or Insisted on any of them. They added they had Set up a Meeting Licens'd the place, And (tho No Church) had Call'd Out wth M^r Floods Approbation and in his Persence a Person to Preach, Who had Preach'd for M^r Flood at Richmond whilst he Serv'd them at Deptford.

The Answer of the Board was That they Lookd upon the Whole of their Conduct as Yet to have been Disorderly & Irregular That they had Cast a great many Unjust Reflections upon M^r Biddle whom We valued & Esteem'd, And We Cou'd not but be Surpriz'd that whilst they appear'd to be so Zealous for the Gospell, they Discover'd So Little of a Gospell Spirit. That [We Saw no Manner of Reason to Set up Another Meeting at Deptford Whilst they had Such Provision, and therefore Coud not but Advice them to Desist from all further Attempts of this kind.²⁸

Sign'd Sam^l Wilson Sect^r.

Sep^r 29th 1729 Present

M ^r Wallin	M ^r Ridgway
M ^r Arnold	M ^r Gill
M ^r Rudd	M ^r Jo ⁿ Wilson
M ^r Townsend	M ^r Rees
	M ^r Wilson Sect ^r

Agreed to alter this Meeting from Munday To Tuesday Afternoon at three a Clock for Several Reasons then Assign'd.²⁹

April 14th [1730] Present

Mr Wallin Mr Gill Mr Townsend Mr Arnold Mr Brine Mr J. Wilson Mr Rudd Mr Gifford.³⁰

Agreed to meet Every Tuesday at $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour after three Clock Upon the forfeiture of two pence to be determin'd by the Majority of the watches present unless the person be sick or out of town. Mr Gill Excepted ag^t it.

Agreed that the Book be kept in a Cupboard & that 2 keys be given the one to the Secretary & the other to a Member agreed on by the Board.³¹

June 9th 1730. Present

Mr Wallin Mr Gill Mr Arnold Mr Wilson Mr Townsend Mr Brine Mr Gifford

A Letter from one of Mr Sam Wilsons Members directed to Mr Gill desiring this Board to perswade Mr Wilson to Reced from the Resolution to build a new meeting place was Read³²

Agreed that this Board cannot consider any matters of Difference, Except both Parties desire their advice & Mr Gill do acquaint Him wth this Agreement

April 6 1731.

The Opinion of several Ministers & Messengers appointed to Hear & Examine y^e Difference between Many of y^e People under y^e Care of Mr John Wilson Glass House Yard especially Mr Gold & Mr Freeman as stated before them March 23^d 1730/1. viz.

It seems but too plain to Us y^t y^e Exercise of Xn Love & forbearance So much recommended in y^e Gospel has been greatly wanting in the General

& y^t instead thereof, a sp. of Jealousy Contention & Emulation has prevaild among too many off Members w^{ch} in time occasiond this Unhappy Breach

We are of opinion that M^r Freeman gave too just occasion of offence to M^r Gold by calling him Fool, Blockhead &c; & that supposing M^r Goulds Carriage to M^r Freeman cannot be justified in every part, yet M^r Freemans Words & Carriage to him must be blameable as being very disagreeable to y^e Rules of y^e Gospel & even to y^e Rules of humane society.

We also apprehend that considering y^e steps M^r Gold took to Make M^r Freeman sensible of his Evil, & y^e manner in which He & y^e other Brethren were Rec^d by M^r Freeman, too just Occasion was given for M^r Gold to bring y^e Case before y^e Church

And We are farther of opinion from w^t we are informed pass'd at y^e Ch meeting that there was Reason to Admonish M^r Freeman to consider y^e Nature of y^t Offence, and avoid y^e like for time to come, but as y^t supposes some proper time allow'd to observe w^t effect y^t admonition might have, We cannot but think y^t y^e other step of withdrawing from him &c was too hasty & disagreeable to y^e Patience Long suffering & meekness which Christ & y^e Gospel recommends to his Churches.

But notwithstanding this, We can by no means approve of that meeting obtaind in such an uncommon Manner y^e following Lords Day at noon as a regular Church meeting, or esteem any thing therein transacted as valid Acts of y^e Church w^{tever} number of Members might be then Present.

And as we hope Those Who have separated themselves from y^e Church Wⁿ they consid^r in a cool & Christian Spirit, such their hasty separation, will blame themselves for y^t y^r irregular Conduct; so we are obliged to declare the step they have taken alto-

gether unjustifiable, Which instead of promoteing is ye likely way to bring them & ye Laws of Christ into Contempt, & is a Practice which leads to break his Churches and a Scandal upon our holy Profession.

Upon the whole we cannot but declare that we are greatly grieved on Acct of ye prest unhappy Differences & take leave upon this Occasion Seriously & heartily to Advise both Parties to humble themselves befor ye Lord by joyning together both in public & private Prayer labouring togethr in ye strength of Christ to put on Bowels of Compassion & Tenderness One towards Another forgiveing Each other for his Sake, that a Spirit of Peace & Unity, May be agⁿ restored amongst You, & ye prest Division (which so plainly threatens yr own future Honour & Race as well as ye Reputation of ye Several Churches of ye baptist Denomination) may speedily & Comfortably be healed.

And we think it Proper before we sign this Paper to wipe of a Reproach too often cast upon ye ministers In General, viz that they are against encourageing Ministerial Gifts in ye Churches by now declareing it wou'd rejoice o^r hearts to find ye Churches Ready to try ye Gifts in Each Congregation, & to hear yt any regular Church hath sent forth any Person whose abilities and Conversation give an encourageing Prospect for Usefulness in so honourable a Station.

Humphry Friend	Edwd. Wallin
Geo Warren	W ^m Arnold
Ebenez ^r Briggs	Sayer Rudd
David Selby	John Brine
Joseph Woods	A. Gifford
Cha: Bowker	S. Wilson

The Original of this Copy was orderd to be tyed up with ye Papers yt concerned this Case.

Oct^r 26 1731

Present Mr Wallin	Mr Gill
Mr Arnold	Mr S Wilson
Mr Jno Townsend	Mr Phillips
Mr Dew	Mr Machin
Mr Moreton	Mr Jn Wilson
Mr Ed Townsd	Mr Brine
	Mr Gifford

A complaint being sent by o^r Bro Anth How of Colebrook against Freeman as an Irregular & disorderly Preacher. Agreed that y^e following Letter be sent to y^e Church under His care

Hon^d Friends

Being informed y^t one Edw^d Freeman hath been in y^r Parts, & among some of y^r Friends under y^e Pretence of being a Minister of y^e Gospel We have thought Proper to give You Notice that He is so far from being an Approved Minister that None of Us can Esteem Him worthy of Regard as an Orderly Member of any Church Nor do we know of any regular Church or Minister who esteem or Encourage Him as such.⁸³

Dec^r 28 1731

Present Mr Gill	Mr Sam Wilson
Mr Arnold	Mr John Wilson
Mr Edm ^d Townsend	Mr Brine
Mr Phillips	Mr Dew
Mr Moreton	Mr Grant
Mr Fuller	Mr Gifford

Notice being given this board from y^e Trustees & Managers of y^e Library in Red Cross street that they are Agreed to permit all y^e Pastors and Setled Ministers of o^r Denomination y^e Use and Perusal of y^e sd Library. Agreed that the following List be remitted to y^m by the hand of o^r Bro Gill; and signed by Him; and that He be desired to meet y^e General Baptists

in order to compleat ye General List and present it accordingly.³⁴

Copy of our List³⁵

Mr Wallin	Mr Gill	Mr Arnold
Mr Phillips	Mr Rudd	Mr Dew
Mr Taylor	Mr Jn ^o Wilson	Mr Brine
Mr Edm ^d Townsend	Mr Rees	Mr Sam Wilson
Mr Biddle	Mr Matthews	Mr Gifford

Agreed that M^r Ebenezer Fuller be admitted a member of this Board.³⁶

April 17. 1733

Present

Mr Wallin	Mr Brine	Mr Wilson
Mr Arnold	Mr Sayer Rudd	Mr Jn ^o Townsend
Mr Gill	Mr Jn ^o Rhudd	Mr Flood
Mr Dew		Mr Gifford

Whereas M^r Farmer reflected in a very unkind and unhandsome manner upon ye whole Body of the Baptists, & seemd to justify it in ye presence of ye Body of Independ^t ministers. Agreed that the following Letter be sent to ye s^d Body. viz.³⁷

Rev^d Brethren

The Body of ye Baptist Min^{rs} of ye Calvinist Perswasion in & ab^t Londn having considered ye affair debated in y^r Presence at Sn's Coffee House March 12 1732/3 viz M^r Farmers Treatm^t of M^r Wilson togethr wth his unkind & unjust Reflection on ye whole Body of ye Baptists cannot but represent ye great uneasiness to you apprehending y^t they were not treated wth y^t Regard ye Noty of ye thing called for

Wherefore in Order to maintain y^t peace & Love wth has so long Subsisted between us we desire y^t five or six Pastors of y^r Body may be appointed to give a like number of Pastors among us a meeting at such Place as you may think proper, y^t this affair may be amicably adjusted

We are Rev^d Brethren wth gr^t Respects yrs

Sayer Rhudd	Jn ^o Gill
Jn ^o Rudd	Jn ^o Brine
A Gifford	Edw ^d Wallin
	Sam ^l Dew
	W ^m Arnold
	Jn ^o Townsend

Ps We desire y^t M^r Farmer may be prest^t at y^e sd meeting

April 24. 1733

Present

M ^r Wallin	M ^r Rees
M ^r Wilson	M ^r Dew
M ^r Biddle	M ^r Sayer Rudd
M ^r Gill	M ^r John Rhudd
M ^r Arnold	M ^r Brine
M ^r Flood	M ^r John Townsend
M ^r Phillips	M ^r Gifford

Agreed That M^r Gill and M^r Arnold carry y^e afore-mentioned Letter: which they did and reported that that y^r were not ministers eno' to return an ans^wr. Agreed that they go again this day fortnight, and desire it.³⁸

May 8. 1733

Present

M ^r Wilson	M ^r Wallin	M ^r Arnold
M ^r Gill	M ^r Dew	M ^r Townsd
M ^r Brine	M ^r Gifford	

M^r Gill and M^r Arnold reported y^t they had been^t with y^e Brethrn of y^e Independ^t Perswasion abt M^r Farmer &c who returnd y^e following Ans^wr

That they dislik'd & abhor'd M^r Farmer's Treat^ment of M^r Wilson in particular much more of his

treatment of the Baptists in general & desir'd y^t they
would let y^e affair drop for y^e sake of Peace

Agreed to comply, wth their Request

July 3. 1733

Prest Mr Biddle in the Chair

Mr Gill Mr Jn^o Townsend Mr Moreton

Mr Dew Mr Brine Mr Jn^o How

Mr Curtis Mr Ed: Townsend Mr Wilson

Mr Arnold Mr Gifford

Whereas Mr How of Folkston acquainted this board
that Dr Edw^d Jarvis left by will y^e Congregation under
y^e s^d Mr Hows Care upwards of y^e sum of 1000l we
being satisfied by y^e advice of able Council that they
have an undoubted Right to it are unanimously deter-
mined to assist & stand by Him to the utmost of our
Power.³⁹

Ocr 2^d [1733] Present

Mr Gill Mr Biddle Mr John Rudd Mr S. Rudd

Mr Gifford Mr Townsend Mr Petto Mr Dew Mr

Townsend j^r Mr Morton Mr Flood

Upon a Letter from M^r [Philip] Jones of Upton Agreed
that a Letter be Sent by M^r Gifford to M^r Jones to
acquaint him that whereas Certain Brethren have
lately been in town to obtain Mony for Building a
Meeting It is the Opinion of this Board that it wou'd
be more Adviseable for Him to Come up about a
Month after Christmas.⁴⁰

Six brethren appearing from the Church lately under
the Care of Mr. Sayer Rudd Declar'd that whereas
they were now without a Pastor they Desir'd the
Gentlemen of this Board to Assist them by preaching.
It was resolv'd Unanimously to Assist them as far as
suited our Convenience.⁴¹

A Message being Sent from the board to the Brethren
meeting at y^e British Coffee house to Desire their
Concurrence in the Affair of the late Dr Jarvise's

Will It was agreed by them that Six of their pastors shou'd Meet Six of our pastors at North's Coffee house October 15th at three o clock in ye afternoon The Brethren from us appointed were Mr Gill Mr Arnold Mr Gifford Mr Wilson Mr Brine Mr Dew.⁴²

Novembr 20th 1733

Present

Mr Gill in the chair

Mr Arnold, Mr Wilson, Mr Brine, Mr Gifford, Mr John Rudd Mr Dew, Mr Morton, Mr John Townshend, Mr Flood, Mr Phillips, Mr Abraham Rudd, Mr Carter, Mr Brown & Sayer Rudd.

This board having rec'd a letter from Mr [Joseph] Harrington [of White Street, Southwark], it was agreed to return the following answer

S^r, Yours of Septembr 4th 1733 to the ministers meeting at Blackwell's Coffee House has been read.

We observe that the greatest part of it relates to some difference between you and your church & Mr Arnold and his church, the which we were strangers to before you acquainted us with it by your letter, Mr Arnold having never taken any notice of it to us, and which we must leave to be made up between your selves, unless you jointly agree to refer it to us.

We apprehend that the main thing you have in view in your letter, is to have a free conversation with us the ministers, meeting at the above place: The difficulty with us is, the scandal you lie under on account of some part of your conduct particularly at Coventry. If you are willing to submit to a close examination on this head, that we may be able to judge for ourselves, and give the people satisfaction under our care, who are frequently objecting to your character, we shall be ready to do you all the justice in our power, and concur with you in any thing that may conduce to the glory of God, the good of his

interest, and the peace, comfort and advantage of each other.

Novembr
20th 1733

A. Gifford^d
Jno Rhudd
John Townsend

John Gill
W^m Arnold
Joseph Carter
Sam^{el} Dew
John Philips
Sayer Rudd
Abraham Rudd
Jona Brown

[These signatures are autograph which is very exceptional. They show spellings preferred.]

Dec^r 18th [1733]

Present Mr Brine in the chair

Mr Gill Mr S. Rudd Mr Dew Mr Gifford Mr
Ridgway Mr J Rudd Mr Phillips Mr J. Townsend
Mr Flood Mr Morton Mr Wilson

Mr Gill reported that he had Delivered the Message to Mr Harrinton & that he agreed to submit to any Method this board shoud think proper to Inquire into his conduct at Coventry or Elsewhere

Agreed that Mr Gill & Mr Brine Draw up a Letter to the Church of Coventry upon this affair & that it be brought to the board to be approved of by the brethren

Feb^ry 26th 1733/4

Prest Mr Arnold in the Chair.

Mr Wilson	Mr Jn ^o Towsend	Mr Browne
Mr Machine	Mr Gill	Mr Jn ^o Rhudd
Mr Anth How	Mr Curtis	Mr Moreton
Mr Sayer Rhudd	Mr Dew	Mr Jones
Mr Flood	Mr Gifford	Mr Brine
Mr Phillips	Mr Kenword	[a deletion] ⁴³

Three messengers from the Church late under y^e Care of Mr Wallin informed the Board that the said Church being dissatisfyed wth Dr Rhudd's sentiments concerning the Doctn^e of y^e Trinity, declared in a Paper

delivered in; desire the farther assistance of this Board;

Agreed that we do assist Them in the best and most proper manner we can.

Agreed that Mr Sayer Rhudd & Mr John Rhudd be desired to withdraw [two words deleted]

Whereas Mr Sayer Rhudd and Mr John Rhudd have this day openly declared that, "*The Trinitarian Doctrine appears to (them) to be entirely humane, consisting of words & phrases of mens own inventing, & which are no where to be met with in Scripture; such as three persons and one, divine Essence*"

Agreed Nemine Contradicente That the said Mr Sayer Rhudd & Mr Jn^o Rhudd be no longer admitted to sit with us as members of this Society.

March 4. 1734

Pres^t Mr Gill in the Chair

Mr Wilson	Mr Dew.	Mr Curtis
Mr Edm ^d Townsend	Mr Jn ^o Townsend	Mr Brown
Mr Braithwait	Mr Machin	Mr Phillips
Mr Moreton	Mr Jones	Mr Gifford
Mr Brine		

Agreed that any member of this Board may have a Copy of Dr Sayer Rudds Declaration referd to in ye last Minutes.

Two Messengers from the Church late under ye Care of Mr Jn^o Rhudd presented Reasons for desiring Mr Jn^o Rhudd to desist from exercising the office of a Pastor & desired ye Assistance of ye Board agreed to Assist y^m as far as we conveniently can.

May 21. 1734.

Pres^t Mr Gill in the Chair

Mr Wilson	Mr Jn ^o Townsend
Mr Brine	Mr Curtis
Mr Biddle	Mr Machin

Mr Morteon
Mr Ridgway

Mr Braithwait
Mr Gifford

Agreed that Mr Fall⁴⁴ & Mr Griffiths have liberty to sit at this Board

Agreed that ye following Answer be given to Mr Harringtons Letter. viz

The Church of Coventry wholly, declining giving us any Acc^t of your Conduct from an apprehension as we are since informed of your Readiness to take advantages ag^t any, y^t shall impeach your Character We are obliged to drop your Case till you can engage them to comply with our Request.

Agreed that we have a meeting of Prayer Wensday y^e 29th Inst at Bro Braithwaits place upon y^e Acc^t of y^e Removal of several Honourable & usefull Min^s to begin at 10. & end at 2.

June 11. 1734. Mr Gill chairmⁿ

Pres ^t	Mr Brine	Mr Dew	Mr Ridgway
	Mr Petto	Mr Biddle	Mr Fall
	Mr Edm ^d Townsend	Mr Machin	Mr Curtis
	Mr Jn ^o Townsend	Mr Moreton	Mr Phillips
	Mr Gifford		

Mr Caleb Job haveing applyed to several Brethren for Encouragement & they haveing given him for answer to y^s purpose "that for some reasons they " coud not receive him into their pulpits, nor recom- " mend him to any of y^e Congregations in or about " Town y^t are destitute but if they coud serve him by " teaching school or educating youth they woud be " willing as a fellow creature & they hoped a fellow " Xn." Agreed that Bro Brine & Bro Dew be messen- gers to inform him from this Board that ye above mentiond answer having been reported to y^s board they are determind to abide by it.

July 16 1734

Present. Mr Gill in the Chair

Mr Braithwait	Mr Biddle	Mr Wilson
Mr Edm ^d Townsend	Mr Griffiths	Mr Brine
Mr Fall	Mr Curtis	Mr Machin
Mr Moreton	Mr Flood	Mr Dew
Mr Phillips	Mr Gifford	

Agreed that Mr Abraham West have leave to sit with us at this Board

Two Messengers from y^e Church under y^e care of Bro Moreton desiring y^e Assistance of y^e Brethren y^t meet at y^s board; Agreed to improve some time in prayer at Glass house street [Westminster] beginning at Ten & ending at Two

Sept 3. 1734. Mr Wilson Chairmn.

Pres ^t Mr Dew	Mr Braithwait	Mr West
Mr Ed ^d Towns ^d	Mr Ridgway	Mr Griffiths
Mr Curtis	Mr Moreton	Mr Fall
Mr Phillips	A Gifford	

Mr Dew presented y^e Request of y^e Ch: at Northampton desiring our assistance to build y^r meetinghouse. Agreed Nem: Contrad.

That in conformity to several Resolutions formerly made we do not as a board of ministers receive any such case⁴⁵

Sept 17. 1734

Pres ^t Mr Gill chairman	Mr Edm ^d Towns ^d	
Mr Wilson	Mr Biddle	Mr Braithwait
Mr Griffiths	Mr Fall	Mr Curtis
Mr Phillips	Mr Dew	Mr Ridgway
Mr West	Mr Moreton	A. Gifford

Agreed that Mr Clendon Dawkes be admitted to sit with us as a member of this society.

Oct^r 1. 1734

Prest^t A. Gifford Chairmn

Mr Gill	Mr Wilson	Mr Braithw ^t
Mr Ed Towns ^d	Mr Phillips	Mr Fall
Mr Curtis	Mr Griffiths	Mr West
Mr Flood	Mr Dawks	Mr Jn ^o Towns ^d
Mr Ridgway	Mr Dew	

A Letter from y^e late M^r Arnolds people signifying the several steps taken sinec y^r late pastors death. Agreed y^t y^e ans^r given y^m be *That we are glad to hear of their unanimity & heartily wish y^m well.*

M^r Hodgchkins of Newcastle upon Tine &c acquainted us wth y^e circumstances of y^r Church there & desird us to assist in advising them to a minister. Agreed to consid^r the case & give y^m an answer⁴⁶

Nov^r 19. 1734 Mr Gill Chairman

Prest^t

Mr Brine	Mr Ridgway	Mr Braithwaite
Mr Wilson	Mr Dawks	Mr John Townsend
Mr West	Mr Griffiths	Mr Edw ^d Towns ^{end}
Mr Fall	Mr Curtis	Mr Phillips
Mr Dew	Mr Morton	Mr Biddle
		A. Gifford

B^r Gifford communicated y^e contents of a lett^r fro y^e Southmoulton desiring y^e advice of y^e Brethn w^t ans^wr to give Agreed Nem con y^t B. Giff^d be advised to give y^e following Answer viz.

That if M^r Machin stands y^e best in y^r affections he has y^e prior right, but y^t if M^r Machin has y^e greatest Interest in y^r affections M^r Machin who has been consulted declares he is willing to relinquish any right he may have by virtue of y^r call.⁴⁷

Dec^r 3^d 1734

Mr Gill chairman	Present
Mr Wilson	Mr Griffiths
Mr Braithwait	Mr Biddle

Mr Dew	Mr John Townsend
Mr West	Mr Edm ^d Townsend
Mr Dawks	Mr Moreton
Mr Fall	Mr Phillips
Mr Machin	Mr Brine
Mr Flower	A. Gifford ^d

A Letter fro Dr Sayer Rhudd was rec^d read & orderd to be layed up among the Papers relating to y^e Board

March 25th 1735

Present Mr Gill in the chair

Mr Brine Mr Wilson Mr Dew Mr Braithwaite Mr Phillips Mr Biddle Mr Moreton Mr Dawks Mr Ed^d Townsend Mr Griffiths Mr Machin.

A Long Letter from Dr Sayer Rhudd being received Agreed to Adjourn the farther Consideration of it to Saturday Next

March 29th 1735. Present Mr Gill in y^e Chair Mr Brine Mr Wilson Mr Braithwaite & Mr Dew. The Letter being read by Mr Gill & Considerd Agreed that the following answer be Considerd by us at the Next Meeting—

That it appears to us from this Letter that Dr Sayer Rhudd is now of the same sentiment as to the Doctrine of the Trinity or Three Persons & One God, as he appeard to us to be by the manuscript deliverd to us feb. 26. 1733/4 w^{ch} he Declared to Contain a Confession of his faith respecting that article, and upon w^{ch} We Determined no more to meet him as a member of this Society.

April 1st 1735 Mr Wilson in y^e Chair Present Mr Brine Mr Braithwaite Mr Biddle Mr West Mr Dawks Mr Moreton Mr Machin Mr Phillips Mr Jon Townsend

Dr Rhudds Letter being read by Mr West Agreed that it appears to us He is of the same sentiment now as when He Deliverd the Manuscript refered to Above.

And that the article above be transcrib'd by M^r Gill & M^r Brine & Deliverd to him as our answer.

April 8th 1735. Present

Mr Gill Mr Brine Mr Biddle Mr Ridgway Mr West
Mr Dawks Mr Phillips Mr E. Townsend Mr Curtiss
Mr Braithwaite Mr Griffith Mr Jo: Townsend Mr
Dew—

Agreed that instead of the phrase *as he appeard to us to be* in y^e Vote Respecting D^r Rhudd it be inserted *We Apprehend him to be.*

The Minute of March 29th being transcribed & Deliverd toth Dr Sayer Rhudd by Mr Gill & Mr Brine they receivd an Immediate Answer from him Sealed w^{ch} was prepared before they had Deliverd the Minute & being read to the Society, was laid up Among the papers belonging to it.

May, 27th 1735. present

Mr Gill Mr Dew, Mr E. Townsend, Mr Dawkes, Mr Curtis Mr Morton, Mr G. Townsend, Mr Braithwaite—
Mr Birch, Mr Foskett & Mr Pewtress messengers from M^r Gifford's church reported y^t that church at a meeting appointed by M^r Gifford & his friends were come to a resolution y^t M^r Gifford should continue no longer a pastor to 'em nor preach any more among 'em & desired y^t the ministers of this board would assist 'em by preaching to 'em & to have our answer the next Tuesday⁴⁸

Nov^r 11th 1735

Present Mr Gill in the chair

Mr Dew Mr Brine Mr Braithwaite Mr West Mr Daux Mr Curtiss Mr John Townsend Mr Flood Mr Morton Mr Ridgway Mr Ed^d Townsend Mr Wilson
Whereas a charge of sodomitical attempts, offerd by Mr Andrew Gifford to Mr Phillips & others was laid before this Society by Six of its members, of w^{ch} he has had an Exact Copy given him in writing, Agreed

that Mr Edward Ridgway, & Mr Joseph Flood go to the said Mr Andrew Gifford, and acquaint him that he is Desird to attend this Society at Blackwells Coffee house at the usual time, of Meeting on Tuesday Next or Tuesday Sevenight, or to send an answer to the said Charge by letter within that time, otherwise he will be excluded this Society,

S. Wilson Secretary

See a farther Acct page 67th [after the next three entries.]

Novr 25th 1735

Present Mr Wilson Chairman

Mr Gill Mr Brine Mr Braithwaite Mr Griffiths Mr Philipps Mr Hannell Mr Curtiss Mr Ed^d Townsend Mr Dawks Mr Ed^d Ridgway Mr John Townsend Mr Burch the Elder Mr Evans Mr Pewteris Desired the Ministers to agree to have the Monthly Meeting at the Meeting place in Little Wild Street to wch request the Ministers agreed.

Mr Morton desiring a copy of the charge ag^t Mr Gifford might be deliver'd to him *as from this Society* Agreed that Mr Braithwaite be desird to give Mr Morton such a copy to be carried by him to Mr Gifford.

Oct 5th 1736 Present

Mr Gill Mr Stennett Mr Brine Mr Braithwaite Mr Wiles Mr West Mr John Townsend Mr Phillipps Mr Curtiss Mr Ed^d Townsend Mr Morton Mr Dawks Mr Ridgway Mr Dew S. Wilson

A report being made by Mr Braithwt that several scandalous things were said of Mr Morgan Griffiths a member of this Board. Agreed that Mr Braithwte & Brine Inquire into it & Report the truth to the Board the next Meeting

S. Wilson Secry

October 12th 1736

Present Mr Gill Mr Dew Mr Ridgway Mr Morton
Mr John Townsend Mr Curtiss Mr Dawks Mr Ed^d
Townsend Mr West Mr Braithwaite S. Wilson

Agreed that Mr Gill Mr Braithwaite Mr Dew Mr
Brine Mr West Mr Wilson be a Committee with any
of the Board to draw up petitions on the behalf of
widdows & children of our brethren deceased & recom-
mend them to the gentlemen concernd in y^e Widdows
fund. Agreed that M^r John Haden a member of
Bro^r Wilsons church, calld out by them to the work
of the ministry, be admitted a member of this Board,
accordingly he was receivd.

M^r Braithwaite reported According to an Order of
October 5th 1736 that He had been with M^{rs} Maul
the mother in law of M^{rs} Griffiths in company with
M^r Brine who reported he was chargeable with Pride
Passion Swearing & Abuse of his wife & notorious
Lying. Agreed that Bro^r Ridgway & Bro^r Morton
bee appointed Messengers to Acquaint M^r Griffiths
herewith & Desire his Attendance next Board to
answer this Charge.

67

Whereas a Message was sent from this Board to M^r
Gifford According to an Article containd page 62^d
And no answer sent from M^r Gifford to this board
Answerable to that Message The following Agree-
ment was unanimously came to, but omitted to be
enterd at that time but remaining in the Secretary's
hand is to this Effect

Agreed that M^r Gifford being Considerd at this Board
meerly as a public Preacher of the Gospel, We have
nothing to do as Members of this Society to Consider
his Repentance as a private Christian, However we
are still of the same mind that the account brought us
by M^r Russell & Paine is too general relating chiefly

to the Corruptions of Nature & not the particular Crimes He stands chargd with.

Having a Serious Concern for the Glory of God & the Honour of the Interest of Christ among us We cannot think it our Duty to meet with him here as a Minister.

Jan 18th 1736/7

Mr Paine by Mr Wilson desird the assistance of the brethren to open Mr Giffords meetinghouse.

Agreed that we can by no means comply wth the said request.⁴⁹ Present Mr Gill Chairman Mr Braithwaite Mr Dawks Mr Ed^d Townsend, Mr John Townsend Mr Morton Mr West Mr Phillis S. Wilson Sec^r

August 9th 1737

Present Mr Gill Mr Ridgway Mr Braithwait Mr Curtiss Mr J. Townsend Mr E Townsend Mr Dew Mr Stennet Mr Brine S. Wilson

Mr Simson of Floor, presented a Case, desiring assistance as to a meeting place, Upon reading & considering it; Agreed He be advis'd to withdraw it, for the present, So many of the Like being recommended this Year already And it is farther agreed, if the Case appear in the same light to us, next Spring, to Give it the precedence of any, other, & Incourage it as far as we can.

Feb: 28th 1737-8

Present Mr Gill

Mr Stennett Mr Ridgway Mr Braithwaite Mr Brine Mr John Townsend Mr Flowers Mr Morton

Agreed to receive Mr Anderson a member of Mr Gills church calld out by them to the ministry as a member of this Board. Agreed to the following List of approv'd ministers to be transmitted to the General Body.

Mr Biddle Mr Braithwaite Mr Brine Mr Dew Mr
Dawks Mr Davenport Mr Flower Mr Flood Mr Gill
Mr Anderson Mr Morton Mr Rees Mr Ridgway Mr
Ed: Townsend Mr Jo. Townsend Mr Wilson Mr
Stennett Mr Kenward Mr West Mr Curtiss⁵⁰

S. Wilson Sec^r

July 31. 1739

Present

Mr Gill Mr Braithwates Mr Dew Mr Townsend Mr
Dawkes Mr E. Townsend Mr Anderson Mr Curtiss
Mr Flower Mr Morton Mr Ridgway

The people at Malmesbury made application to have
their case recommended to our friends in order to
collect mony for the Building a meeting house It
was agreed it was not adviseable to proceed at this
time but that it woud be best to come up to town
about february next and that in the mean time we
shall take care to recommend no other case till that
presents.

Dec^r 11. 1739 Present

Mr Gill Mr Braithwate Mr Stennett Mr Dawkes
Mr Brine Mr Curtiss Mr Townsend Mr Ridgway
Mr E. Townsend S. Wilson

Mr Stennett reported the church under his care had
calld out Mr Jos: Palmer to preach the gospel, and
desird he might be admitted to set with us at this
board. W^{ch} was unanimously agreed to and he took
his place accordingly. The church at Crockerton
applying for advice & assistance as to building a
meetinghouse agreed to consider it next to that of
the church at Malmesbury

March 25. 1740

Present Mr Gill Chairman Mr Stennett Mr Braith-
waite Mr Brine Mr J. Townsend

Mr Stennett reported the Church under his care had

call'd out his son Mr Jos: Stennett to the Ministry,
On a motion that he be admitted to set with us a
member of this board it was unanimously agreed to.

June the 3^d 1740 Mr Wilson reported the church
under his care had call'd out to the ministry Mr Benj:
Beddome & Mr Sam^l James on a motion they be
admittedd to set as members of this board it was
unanimously agreed to.

A letter from Guildford was read Agreed to postpone
the consideration of it till next meeting

Present at this meeting: M^r Gill Stennett Dew Brine
Morton Townsend Ed^m Townsend John Ridgway
Stennett junr Dawks Wilson

June 10th 1740 Present

M^r Gill Stennett Braithwaite Dawkes Morton
Flower Ridgway Dew Townsend Ed Townesend John
Anderson Beddome Jones M^r Brine Machin Wilson

A motion being made on the reading of part of a
letter from one of the people at Guildford who are
dissatisfisd with M^r Phillips. It was agreed that
M^r Wilson acquaint them that if they send up two of
the Brethren to ask the advice of the ministers they
will hear them & give them the best advice they can
Agreed that Mr Ed^d Townsend acquaint Mr Phillips
with this

June 24. 1740

By adjournment at the Kings head Swithins Alley
Present

Mr Gill Mr Stennett Townsend Townsend Machin
Dawks Dew How Wilson

Agreed that the people who are dissatisfied with M^r
Phillips be advisd to Continue together & pray one
with another and watch over one another in love
waiting for the issues of providence, and avoid every
thing w^{ch} may have the appearance of resentment,
or reflection

Aug: 12. 1740

Some brethren from the church at Frimley, having desired advice on a difference between them & Mr Seely their pastor relating to the Imprudence of his conduct—And the brethren having wrote to Mr Seely about it, He this day Appeard in Person and after a long hearing of the case, It was agreed to advise him to go down & humble himself to the church for the offences he has given them and give them fresh assurances that he will relinquish all communication with that woman—And that if he does not like the advice to leave the people peaceably,

Aug. 26. 1740

Present Mr Gill Mr Stennett Mr Dew Mr Flower
Mr Stennet junr Mr Townsend senr & junr Mr Brine
Mr Dawks Mr Wilson

A letter being read from the people at Guildford desiring our assistance in recommending a minister Agreed to desire Mr Curtiss to go down & serve them.

Dec^r 1741 Mr Benjamin Wallen was admitted a member of this Board.⁵¹

Jan: 13th 1740/1 Three friends from the people late under the care of Mr Freeman attended the Board desiring in y^e name of the Body, advice as to their being acknowledged as a sister Church expressing their readiness to comply wth anything Judgd proper for that purpose Agreed to take the matter into consideration & give them some advice this day, fortnight.

Jan^y 27th 1740/1

The minute of Jan: 13th being read over agreed to advise the people late under the care of Mr Freeman to dissolve w^t they call their church state and that those who came out of the world and stood in no

relation to any church (if they judge it meet) form themselves into a church, and that the rest apply to the churches to w^{ch} they stood related for a dismission. March 19th 1740/1 The church at Crokerton having made no application for assistance as to the building of their meeting house since Dec^r 1739. Agreed that the church of Bildestone under the care of M^r Millar be encouraged to send up their messengers to collect the charity of London friends about may next.

April 14. 1741

M^r Sleaf & another friend came from the people meeting at Newport markt with an answer in writing to our advice w^{ch} M^r Sleaf read to this purpose.

“That if bearing their testimony ag^t persecution
 “immorality & contending earnestly for the faith were
 “marks of a church, we ought to allow them as such,
 “till we could disprove them. That they had the
 “gospel preachd, ordinances regularly administred.
 “And they thought we had stretchd our ministerial
 “authority in desiring them to dissolve, w^{ch} was
 “without precept or precedent.

Agreed that they have misrepresented the case, Whereas they suggest we requir^d their *Dissolution*, & stretchd our *ministerial authority* We only gave them advice agreeable to their desire w^{ch} they well know they are at liberty to take or refuse, and that the paragraph they, referr to was not ours but from another body,

June 2. 1741

Mr Wilson reported Mr Meredith Townsend was calld out to the work of the ministry, & desir^d to be admitted a member of this society. Agreed that he be admitted & he was accordingly,

July 7th 1741

The church at Wantage apply'd by letter for relief

as to building a meeting place Agreed to receive it & recommend it as soon as the two instances already before us are considered.

Two friends Ric^d Price & W^m Chapman from the congregation of particular Baptists at Chatham desired advice & assistance as to their Separation from the Presbyterians on account of Sabellianism & other errors Agreed to advise them to continue in prayer to be careful as to discipline & walk & that if the case be as they represent on conversation wth their minister they would give them all Encouragement—
Mr Symmonds & Gowen Messengers from the Church asked assistance for the people at Beccles as to a meeting place Agreed to consider it in its order.

Nov^r 10th 1741

At a Board held Oc^r 20th Mr Coombs a Member of Mr Wilsons Church was admitted a Member of this Society. Oc^r 27th Mr Acourt from Mr Ed: Townsends Church was also admitted.⁵²

Jan^r 19th 1741/2

A letter from M^r Bevois was read relating to a difference between him and M^r Anderson, Agreed that M^r Anderson be desired to comply with his request that the matter be left to three persons under arbitration bonds one chose by M^r Bevois another by M^r Anderson (both of the same trade with them) & a third by this Board) To w^{ch} M^r Anderson agreed & for this Board M^r Wallen was chosen a Referree. A copy of this was sent by the Secretary to M^r Bevois.

Feb: 16. 1741/2

Several Letters being read relating to an agreement between the churches at Folkstone & Ashford as to M^r Greens serving the Folkstone people Agreed that Folkstone people should be satisfied with the proposal

of the People at Ashford that Mr Green serve them once a fortnight—⁵³

Mr Gaskin presented a Petition from Mr Acourt relating to Collecting mony for him Agreed that as we have recommended B. Lawrence It is not adviseable whilst he is soliciting our friends, for us to sign Mr Acourts case, but that it be desird of Mr Townsends Church to sign a Letter for him if they think proper.

July 13th 1742 Mr Russell applied for advice to settling in an orderly way with the people late under the care of Mr Harrinton Agreed to give him our advice this day fortnight Mr Wills case of Eversholl as to help in building a meeting place being omitted to be set down in its proper place Agreed it be the next considered when the people of Beckles have finishd—⁵⁴

July 27th 1742

Mr Russell appearing the advice given him by the Brethren was That the People late under the care of Mr Harrinton be desird to request the several churches to send two messengers & their minister to meet some of their brethren to consult of proper measures as to their comeing into order

Aug 24. 1742

Cap^t Norris presented the case of the church at Wisbech as to Building a meeting place agreed to receive it in its Turn.

Mr Coombs reported Mr Russell was below & desird to come up & be admitted as a Member of this Board, on w^{ch} a Committee of the Pastors were appointed to consider that case, who accordingly being formed into a Committee after some conversation wth Mr Russell, appointed Mr Gill & Mr Wallen to Inquire

into some affairs relating to Mr Russell & make a report in a months time.

Sep^r 14th 1742

A report was made to the Brethren by Mr Gill concerning Mr Russell, And it was agreed Mr Dew be Desir'd to Acquaint him He is desird to attend the Brethren at their next Meeting.

Sep^r 20. 1742

Mr Russel proposing to be admitted a Member of this Board upon hearing the report made by the Messengers appointed to inquire into the said Mr Russels affair agreeable to Minutes of Aug. 24. 1742 And Attending to his Defence It was unanimously agreed (Mr White excepted) that all circumstances considerd He ought not be admitted a Member of this Board, And further it is the advice of this board that he do not continue in the Ministry, apprehending it will not be for the honour of Religion.

Agreed the Church meeting in White street be acquainted that for several reasons this board has found it necessary to refuse Mr Russel admittance as a Member w^{ch} Reasons the Board is ready to give when She thinks fitt to apply for them, That this notice be given in writing and that Mr Wallin send the notice to Mr Sam^l Wilson Distiller at Deptford member of the said church

Nov^r 23. 1742 The People at Basaleg in Monmouthshire applying for releif as to building a Meetingplace Agreed to receive at in its turn w^{ch} will be after the people at Wisbech

Jan^r 4th 1742/3

Agreed that the Churches are desird to send two Deputies wth their Minister to Mr Dews Meeting place on Tuesday next at three oclock precisely to consider

of some affairs to be laid before them Mr Kenwood & Mr Stinton came as Messengers from the Church under the care of Mr Flowers [Unicorn Yard] with the following Question Whether a person ought to be continued in y^e fellowship of the Church who shall receive the sacrament in the Church of England to Qualify himself for executing an office of trust or profit when at the same time he does not incur any penalty if he refuses to accept the place to w^{ch} he is Elected—Present fourteen Brethren. Agreed unanimously that it is absolutely unlawfull for any Member of a Gospel Church to commune with the Church of England on any consideration whatsoever.

Blackwells Coffee house

Feb: 1 1742/3 An abusive Letter was sent to the Brethren highly reflecting on the Ministers & Deputies of the several Churchs subscribd Tho: Bevois It was agreed that the said letter be delivered to Mr Dew to lay before the Church under his care Mr Dew promising when he had so done, To return it again

Feb: 8th 1742/3

A Letter being read from Mr John Townsend signifying his Desire to be stroke out of our List Agreed that his request be complyd with And that he be no longer lookd on as a Member of this Society

March 8. 1742/3

A Letter was drawn up & orderd to be sent to the Church under the care of Mr Dew complaining of Mr Bevois a member & officer in that Church for his conduct in sending a letter referd to in the minute of Feb: 1st And S. Wilson & Mr Wallin were appointed to deliver it to the said Church at their next Church meeting

April 26. 1743 / S. Wilson reported Mr Meredith Townsend had declared himself to be a Pædobaptist & Joind himself to a people of that persuasion. Contrary to the advice of the Church he stood related to, And that the Church had dealt with him for that disorder. On w^{ch} it was agreed that he be declard to be no longer a Member of this Society.

July 26. 1743

Mr Vesey applying for the people at Cullimton as to building a meeting house Agreed to receive the Case & that it be recommended to our friends after the case of Baseleg in Wales.⁵⁵

Mr Dew Reported that the Church under his care took the Ministers Letter into consideration & charg'd Mr Bevois with the Abuse he had offerd to the Ministers for w^{ch} & conforming to the Church of England he was cut of from the Community.

Aug 16. 1743

Agreed to receive Crockerton Case after Cullumton case is finishd.

July 17th 1744 Agreed to receive the Case of the People at Boston as to building a meetinghouse & that it be considerd after the case of Crockerton⁵⁶

[Until 1747 a variety of hands held the pen.]

Aug^t 21. 1744 Agreed to recive the case & recommended after Boston case

[See after the next four dates.]

Memorandum Jan 22^d: 1744-5

The cases of Mrs Eliz Sutton Joanna Sampson Hannah pointing & Agnes Cully were recommended to the managers of the widows Fund. Also Mrs Brewster Mrs Germain Mrs Hawkins & Mrs Miriam Burford & likewise Mrs Machin & Mrs Sibley⁵⁷

Feb. 19. Mrs Booth Mrs Richardson & Mrs Herbert

Mar. 5 A Letter was read from ye Church at Warwick representing ye necessity for a Minister to settle with them with a particular account of ye circumstances Br^o Wilson observd yr was a prospect of 2 or 3 gifts to be calld out in about a twelve month from his church. Agreed Mr Wilson be desird to write & suggest this prospect having no other Person immediately in View likely to serve them

Mem^o Further cases reccommended to Widdows Fund. Mrs Petto Mrs Hoar Mrs Gilmor Mrs Shepard Mem^{dm} on ye other side is a copy of a minute respecting Mr Flower Church taken 27th Novbr ye Inserting of wch in its place was omitted

March 5. 1744/5 A Letter from ye Church under the care of Mr Braithwaite complaining against the church meeting on ye Maze Pond being presented to ye Board was read. A copy of ye s^d Letter being moved for by Mr Wallin Resolved, A copy of ye s^d Letter be granted to ye Church complained of & Mr Wallin be intrusted with ye said Letter in order to take a copy of the same.

March 26 1745 A Letter with a copy of a Letter sent to sometime since to ye Church under ye care of Mr Braithwaite together with a copy of an answer given by ye s^d church to ye messengers of ye church meeting at ye Maze Pond to ye request for ye dismissal of a Member was presented to ye elders by persons deputed from ye church last mentioned. The s^d Letter & copy were read Resolved that Mr Braithwaite be acquainted with it & a copy of the said writings be granted if required.

Mem^d A minute taken Novbr 27. 1744

Present

Mr Gill, Mr Townsend, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Dawkes,
Mr Brine, Mr Wallin, Mr Dew, Mr Stennet

A Message being brought from the Church meeting in Unicorn Yard by Mr Kenward Mr Stinton, Mr Lyons Mr Lyons, Mr Pickering Mr Sawkins Mr King & Mr Parker acquainting us thir being destitute of a Pastor Thy desired us to assist them in afternoons, till they were provided Agreed that we assist them in our Turns, in afternoons as their circumstances shall require & we have opportunity

April 2. 1745 Mr Braithwaite was informed of some writing relating to the Church under his care delivered in by Messengers from ye Church meeting at ye Maze Pond pirsuant to a Resolution last Board A copy of the said writings being requested by Mr Braithwaite It was granted him accordingly

May 14 1745

Mr Wilson reported the Church under his care had called out Mr Jn^o Needham and Mr Josiah Thompson to preach the Gospel desiring they might be admitted to set at this Board which was unanimously agreed to and They took their place accordingly.

Sept^r ye 20th 1745 A Motion being made To Set apart a day for Sollemn humiliation & prayer on ye Acct^t of ye present Situation of the affairs of ye Nation. Agreed that a day be Sett apart on ye above Occation & That it be on Thursday ye 28th Instant & That The Several Churches of our denomination in ye Countrey be invited To Join with us on This Ocation & on ye day Above Mentioned & That each of The Ministers be disrd to write To Them to inform Them of it.

Tuesday August 20 1745

A Letter from ye Church at Deptford under the care of Mr Biddle requesting ye Board to use their

Interest in y^r behalf under their distressed condition w^{ch} according another writing appeared to be their being deprived of y^r meeting house

Resolved it is y^e opinion of this Board the People aforesaid go in a Body with thire Pastor & a Minister provided to preach for them & assert their right to occupy the place on the day of their turn in course

Agreed M^r Templeman be & he is hereby desired to carry a copy of this minute to M^r Biddle & his people

Sept^r y^e 10th 1745 Pursuant to y^e above Minute in Relation to the affair of y^e Church at Debtford Brother Townsend being Requested to go down y^e Last Lords day did accordingly Go & with Some of the Members entered The Meeting place & being their Some Time The Minister & Some of The people on y^e other side came into y^e Place upon which M^r Thumane Adressed him self to Them & accerted Their Right to The Liberty of The place & That it was The day on which it was Their Turn upon w^h [The Minister That came to preach *erased*] one of Those people made a proposition to This purpose y^t as Their were Two Ministers came down The day should be divided between Them which Accordingly was agreed To & also [The] Minister Concerned for y^e Other people *erased* promised That a day Should be apointed for both parties to Meet in order Talk over The Affair & That it should be Speedily Fixed.

Tuesday May y^e 18th 1746

M^r Wallin Reported That M^r Aaron Spurier being a member in full communion with y^e Church under under his care was by y^e said Church Sent forth in y^e work of y^e Ministry & accordingly had preaced at y^e Maze Pond & at Limehouse & therefore Requested

he ye said Aaron Spurrier might be admitted a member of this board but Mr Braithwaite objecting to The same disird ye case might be postponed to This Day month at which Time he would be prepared to give in his objections & That ye Several members of This Board might be in informed of it yt So they might attend to Consider ye Same which was Agreed unto;

[Wilson resumes the pen]

July 7th 1747 Mr Charles Miles was presented to the Board as a proper Member being regularly Calld out to the Ministry, It was unanimously agreed to receive him

Augt 4th 1747 Mr Samuel Stennett was presented to the board being regularly calld out to the Ministry, It was unanimously agreed to receive him

Augt 19th 1747

A message being deliverd by six Brethren from the Church at Limehouse acquainting this Board they had calld Mr A. Spurrier to the Pastoral office among them, & that they desird any three Pastors we shoud depute to assist in the work of setting him apart & the rest of us woud attend on the occasion on the last thursday in this month.

The Brethren being desird to wthdraw after some debate it was unanimously agreed That the Brethren be desird to acquaint the Church at Limehouse that whereas there is a difference subsisting between two of our Churches wth relation to this Brother, & several Pastors being absent it is our request that they woud postpone the Ordination for one month that we may have an opportunity to meet all together & consider if we can find out any expedient on this occasion that may tend to the Harmony of all Churches & the honour of the Interest, for w^{ch} we are greatly concernd.

Aug^t 25. 1747

Mr Wilson reported Mr Lewellin was calld out to the Ministry by the Church under his care & that He preachd publickly last Lords day, and accordingly proposd him to be a member of this Board w^{ch} was unanimously agreed to.

[Next three entries in another hand.]

Agust ye 25th 1747

It is ye unanimous advise of ye Brethren y^t Brother Spurrier be disired to Repeat his Confession in ye Terms of ye Paper delivered to ye church under ye care of Mr Braithwaite & declare he is sincere in the acknowledgement y^t he humbly disires ye censure of ye church may be Removed, upon which he is disired to Signify That as he is calld to ye Pastoral office in Mr Rees church he disires They would give him a Line of Recommendation

Tuesday ye 22^d Sept^r 1747

Present Anderson in ye Chair Mr^s Brine Townsend Thompson Templeman Leweling Mr Braithwaite Jun^r Reported from his Father y^t ye affair of Mr Spurrier was Ishued to ye generel Satisfaction of ye Church & that they had given him a Letter of dismission To ye Church at Limehouse Signed by all ye bretheren present at ye said Church Meeting

It being moved & seconded That Mr Spurrier be admitted a member of this board it was Agreed Nemane Contra &c That he should be admitted & accordingly was admitted

Tuesday ye 20th Octo^r: 1747

Agreed y^t Two meetings of prayer be caryd on at 2 Different places on acc^{tt} of ye mortality Among ye Cattel & ye War in which ye Nation is ingaged & ye decay of ye Vital Power of Religion & To begin on

Thursday[altered, but not to Friday] y^e 30th Octr at 5 a Clock in y^e evining at Mr Dews meeting place⁵⁸

[Wilson resumes]

Decr 1st 1747. Mr Gill presented the case of the church at Ashford in Kent relating to the building of a Meeting place Agreed to receive it & that it be considered the first convenient season.

The above case was Considered June 1748

Febv y^e 23^d 1747 Mr Stennett preferred the case of y^e People at Charlford Bottham in Glostershire Relating to y^e building of a meeting place Agreed To Receive it & that it be considered next to y^e case above mentioned⁵⁹

This case has been confirmed

July y^e 19th 1748 Mr Stennet preferred y^e case of y^e church at Reading in Berkshire Relating to y^e Repairs of a Meeting house Agreed to the same be Recived & That it be Considered next to y^e Case above mentioned

May y^e 2^d 1749

Doctr Gill Reported Mr Henery Scoffield was called out to y^e Ministry by y^e Church under his care & that he preached publicly in Thier place at y^e same Time Request he might be admitted a member of this Board which accordingly, was Unanimously agreed to

June 1749. Mr Austin presented the case of the church at Limehouse relating to the Repairs of their Meeting place Agreed it be recommended after that of Reading

July 11th 1749 The church at Rye in Sussex sent a Letter for a Minister Agreed Mr Wallin recommend in our Name Mr Rogers of Chatham⁶⁰

Octbr 10: 1749

Mr Jocelyn a member of the church at Plymouth represented the case of ye said church that their meeting house required to be rebuilt desiring the assistance of friends in London Agreed the case be recommended next to that of Limehouse

March 20th 1749/50

Application being made to us from the church at Devonshire Square late under the care of Mr Braithwaite signifying that they had Calld Mr Stephens to be their Pastor & Desiring the Brethren to attend & assist in his ordination

It was declar'd to them that there was some Uneasiness among the Brethren relating to Mr Stephens being publickly concern'd at the Tabernacle. To w^{ch} the Brethren from Devonshire Square replyd that They woud desire Mr Stephens to attend the Ministers next Tuesday.

March 27th 1750

Mr Stephens Attended & gave an account of his Total Separation from the Methodists to the Satisfaction of the Brethren

Agreed to receive Mr Stephens as a Member of this Board.

Agreed that a committee be appointed to consult wth the Brethren at Devonshire square about the Time of Mr Stephen's Ordination

Agreed that Dr Gill Messrs Stennet Wallen & Wilson be that committee

A motion being made that a Day of Humiliation be kept by the Churches on Account of the late alarming Providence in the two Shocks of an Earthquake Agreed that If we have no Notice of such a Day, from the Publick That We fix on a Day on Tuesday Next⁶¹

April ye 3^d 1750

having had some incouragment to expect a day of humilliation on acct of ye Late providence of the two Shocks of an earthquake would shortly be apointed by ye Government it was agreed To wait Till This day Month to know Their Mind in This affair & if a day is not apointd Then to Fix on one to be Kept by our Several Churches, The Commitee apointed to Consult The Brethren at Devonshire Square about ye time of Mr Stevens ordination Reported They had mett The above brethren & had agreed to Thursday, ye 10th of May for the Same,

May 1st No Notice being given of a Day of Humiliation from the Government agreed to keep Thursday, the 14th of June next & that Notice be given to the Churches

July, ye 31st 1750 Mr Simonds presented ye Case of ye Church Namely a branch of the Church at Beckles meeting at Rusehall in Suffolk for ye building a meeting house Agreed it be considered next To ye case of Limehouse⁶²

26. An attendance of only five after no minutes for sixteen months needs explanation. The Gloucestershire Coffee-House ceased to be the place of meeting, Blackwell's being chosen instead. Blackwell was a member of the church now under Rudd, at Devonshire Square, as appears by the last minute. In 1725 Joseph Jenkins held the books and papers of the older Fraternal, at the British Coffee-House, and he only gave them up in 1728 on payment of two guineas. A new list was made of that Fraternal, showing Burroughs, Cornthwaite (a schoolmaster, unable to attend regularly), Ingram, Kinch, Morris, Abraham Mulliner, Randall, Smith; Foster joined soon. Thus at the time the older society was the stronger and the more numerous. It may be seriously doubted whether it is accurate to say that the Three Denominations consisted then of three Boards, one of which was the Blackwell's Coffee-House Fraternal: the list of 37 just given in the text shows members of both Fraternal and others too; the committee included Burroughs and Kinch of the British.

27. Ridoutt says that John Howe of London came in 1727 and stayed only a year: Joseph Curtis came from Wapping for a year, and then refused a call because of one dissentient voice.

28. Deptford had the ancient General Baptist church, probably dating from the days of Elias Tookey, 1624; in 1697 William Alcock and William Woodham were Elders; John Gale preached on Sunday mornings till his death in 1721; it subscribed for the baptistery in Horsleydown in 1716 and nominated John Yeomans trustee. Biddle was a member of this Board, which defends him and considers his church adequate to the district. He continued till 1749, in good standing here and with the Fund. Beamont was not a Baptist; in 1663 he was reported to government as living in Southwark, and combining with Bragg, Cobb, Veninge, to hold meetings. Some of his sermons are to be seen at Oxford, Rawlinson, MSS E97-103.

29. Several changes took place at this time, quite unnoticed in these brief minutes. Angel Alley had some troubles, and quitted the Fund; Ridgway ceased attending here, although he continued as a minister recognized on one of the Three Denominations. In 1730 Noble died at the age of 71 on 12 June; Richardson the tenant of Devonshire Square died; Morton resigned Cripplegate, and was succeeded by John Brine of Kettering, from Coventry; he was at once invited to join the British Society, which was being reorganized.

30. Thomas Harrison of Wild Street came into bad odour over a funeral sermon; in January 1728/9 he desired to be relieved of the morning service, in July he resigned, conformed, and in October attacked the Baptists. Andrew Gifford, assistant to George Eaton of Nottingham, was called in December, and ordained in February 1729/30. He joined the British Society as well as this.

31. Trouble arose this year between two Baptist churches in and near Guildford, which led to a joint meeting of the two Societies. This is an instance how very imperfectly Wilson recorded even important business, and may account for the order that the book be kept on the premises, accessible to some one else.

32. Wilson's church proposed to quit Wapping, where it had worshipped seventy years at least: it did actually build in Rosemary Branch, Rosemary Lane, Goodman's Fields, afterwards named Little Prescott Street. As often happens in such cases, a few people clung to the old site in Johnson's Street, Old Gravel Lane; they presently called John Rhudd, brother of Sayer Rudd.

33. Ivimey modernised these two documents and re-told the story. He did not explain that John Phillips was the Teaching-Elder

of Colliers' Rents, who held office 4 March 1730/1 to 12 May 1732, according to Walter Wilson, iv. 323. John Machin is more of a puzzle; but as he appears here just between the death of Richardson and the election of Clendon Dawkes, it is probable he was helping the Devonshire Square tenants. The next minute shows that he was not a pastor or settled minister.

34. The Library was due to the liberality of Dr. Daniel Williams. At its new home on Gordon Square it bears his name, and the trustees still show the same liberality, extending it also to country ministers.

35. Here is an authoritative list of fifteen Particular Baptist pastors; Joseph Matthews was of Cherry-garden Lane, Rotherhithe; Taylor is unknown; Harrington is not on the list; Fuller and Grant were evidently only ministers, not pastors.

36. At this point minutes cease for sixteen months, during which the principal changes in the ministry were:—Artillery Lane, John Weatherley succeeds John Kinch deceased; Maidenhead Court, Samuel Dew succeeds John Noble deceased; Wapping remnant calls John Rhudd before August 1732; Westminster loses John Wilson by death, Weatherley joined the British Society, which invited Dew and Rhudd, apparently without result.

37. John Farmer was the new assistant to Mr. Rawlin at Fetter Lane. Wilson iii, 457.

38. Many assemblies are far more touchy about their own dignity, than solicitous to do their work.

39. The first church at Folkstone was the General Baptist church under Edward Morris, dating from Commonwealth days. In 1728 four members quitted it "on account of their denying the divinity of Christ and other important doctrines of the gospel, and united with Mr. and Mrs. John Stace and Mr. John Bayley in the attempt to establish the cause of Christ in this town." They built in Mill-bay, allied with Calvinists at Canterbury and Shallows near Margate, and called John Howe from Portsea; he came in 1730 and lived in Folkestone, as pastor of the church in Thanet. Thus there were two ministers, two churches, and the will was ambiguous which was intended.

40. The Upton church was Calvinistic Seventh-day; Townsend had come from Natton, not far away.

41. Sayer Rudd had insisted on visiting France against the will of the church, which declared his pastorate at an end. At this stage there was no mention of doctrine, and Rudd himself concurred in this resolution.

42. This matter dragged on for three years at least. The last minute in the British Society's quarto book refers to it being sent to arbitration in 1736. At that stage we lose the help of those minutes as the folio book which continued, is not accessible.

43. This large attendance included many who were never pastors; they were probably "ministers" duly called out by their churches. The minutes are very irregular in their record of election.

44. This is apparently the James Fall of Horsley Down who in 1735 became pastor of Watford, not his son who 18 years later became pastor of Little Alie Street.

45. The Baptist church at Northampton had a small meeting-house already, on the Green, which was not large enough for a much increased membership. The church had been formed in 1701 by the 'dismission of members from Steventon in Bedford, where Daniel Negus was pastor. Since then Nathan Brown, Mawbey, John Collins, and Boomer had shepherded the flock. A second Baptist church had been formed on 16 November 1732, and in the presence of Brine had ordained Charles Rodgers as pastor. It had tried to use the College Lane premises, but the trustees there encouraged the formation of a new church, with eleven members, to whom they gave the use of College Lane. The second Baptist church therefore migrated to the Green, where Boomer resigned, the two churches united, and Rodgers was pastor to 36 men and 41 women. This is the only Baptist church, for College Lane had Pedobaptist pastors and was but a tiny concern. Gill, Brine, Dawkes and other Northants worthies befriended the Green till after 1748. Only with 1759 did College Lane begin to flourish, under John Collett Ryland.

46. The church at Newcastle was endowed with a meeting-house and manse on Tuthill Stairs by George West in 1720. Since then a Mr. Weir had done uphill work against a Mr. Durance, but details are not available till in 1749 James Kendall of Gateshead wrote to the Northern Association on behalf of the church.

47. The second time the name Machin occurs, is clearly a mistake. It is a question whether "South" Moulton is not another mistake. Of the Devon church at this time we know nothing; and it would more naturally appeal to Bristol than to London. But at North Moulton in Northants, John Painter had ended a useful career, and Thomas Stanger had not yet begun. Machin was dismissed by Limehouse on 22 May 1737 to Bridlington, where he became pastor till his death in 1743.

48. This minute is not recorded in the writing of Wilson the secretary.

49. The other side of this story is in the opening minutes of the Kingsgate Church book. John Payne in October 1734 gave to the Little Wylde Street church, twelve silver cups for use at the Lord's table. In April 1735 a difference arose; Gifford and over a hundred members withdrew, though they were the majority. They worshipped in Red Cross Street, then in Bear Yard, and on 16 February 1736/7 opened a new meeting-house on the south side of Eagle Street, just where the present building stands. Arbitration awarded the cups to Payne, and he gave them to the pastor and deacons of Eagle Street. It would appear that church and pastor were boycotted by the other churches and ministers till Gifford's death in 1784. The Wild Street church invited Joseph Stennett the younger from Exeter, and he joined the Society. As to the charge against Gifford, Woollacott of Wild Street in 1858 lets us know that the church book is almost a blank; he implies that the charge related to events alleged to have occurred in the Academy at Bristol, since when Gifford had married and had been widowed. We may probably disbelieve the charge, for had it been true, he was liable to be hanged; Woollacott says his life henceforward was exemplary; he certainly was instrumental in expanding the Academy to a College, and became its great benefactor.

50. This authoritative list of Particular Baptist ministers may be expanded and complemented with the names of the *General Baptist elders in London, to show all the ministers on the General Body, as in the list of 1727:—(William Anderson, Horsleydown); John Biddle, Deptford; George Braithwaite, Devonshire Square; John Brine, Cripplegate; *Joseph Burroughs, Paul's Alley; *Robert Cornthwaite, Mill Yard; Curtis; Peter Davenport, Eastcheap; Clendon Dawkes, Devonshire Square tenant; Samuel Dew, Eastcheap; Thomas Flood, Richmond; Thomas Flower, Unicorn Yard; *James Foster, Paul's Alley; *Samuel Fry, Fair Street; Andrew Gifford, Eagle Street; John Gill, Horsleydown; Joseph Harrington, White Street; Kenward; *Joseph Morris, Glass-house Yard; William Morton, Swallow Street; *Abraham Mulliner, White's Alley; *George Mulliner, Park (date doubtful); *Matthew Randall, Virginia Street; David Rees, Limehouse; Edward Ridgway, "Angel Alley" in Petticoat Lane; *James Smith, Hart Street (disband this year); Joseph Stennett, Wild Street; Edmund Townsend, Cripplegate Sabbatarian; John Townsend; John Weatherley, Artillery Lane; Abraham West, Maze Pond; Samuel Wilson, Prescot Street.

In 1739 Maitland published his History of London, with a map

and an account of the parishes. At page 516 he sums up the places of worship, and the numbers are somewhat unexpected:—Anglican 68, Baptist 33, Presbyterian 28, Independent 26, French 21, Quaker 12, German 8, Jewish 3, besides 15 miscellaneous including the nonjuring and ambassador's chapels. The Baptist places are as follows; Maitland is only responsible for the topography, * denotes General Baptist, † denotes subscribing to the Particular Baptist Fund; the numbers show the order in which the churches originated, not the order in which they occupied these premises. Missing numbers indicate extinct churches.

The migration of London Baptist churches from site to site, often to share a building with another church, or to occupy a building previously used by another church, has rendered it desirable to draw up a chronological list, identifying each church by a number, retained irrespective of the place used at any moment. The list is given, with notes, in "A Baptist Bibliography," of which the first volume is reviewed in this issue. The numbers will enable ready comparison with notes 84, 97.

1. *White's alley, Little Moorfields; John Ashworth succeeding Abraham Mulliner.
2. *Fair Street, Horsleydown; Samuel Fry.
3. †Rosemary Branch, Rosemary Lane; Samuel Wilson. (Curtis).
5. †Devonshire Square, Bishopsgate Street; George Braithwaite. Also another church, 29; Clendon Dawkes.
8. †Little Wood Street, Cripplegate; John Brine. The Seventh-day church, 27; Edmund Townsend.
11. *Pennington's Street, Virginia Street; Matthew Randall.
12. *Pepper Street, Southwark; Samuel Hands succeeding George Mulliner.
13. *Mill Yard, Ragfair; Seventh-day; Robert Cornthwaite and Peter Russell.
14. Paul's Alley, Redcross Street, (Barbican); Joseph Burroughs and James Foster.
19. *Glass-house yard, Pickax Street, (Goswell Street); Joseph Morris.
22. Unicorn Yard, Horsleydown Lane; Thomas Flower. (Kenward).
23. Pinners' Hall, Old Broad Street; Jeremiah Hunt, a pedobaptist; church therefore reckoned by Maitland as Independent, though it was the headquarters of the Particular Baptist Fund.
24. †Maidenhead Court, Great Eastcheap; Samuel Dew. (Davenport).
25. Rotherhithe; John Biddle.
28. *Deptford; outside Maitland's area; quite possibly disused at this time, or else Richard Barron.
32. Church Lane, Limehouse; David Rees.
33. *St. John's Court, Little Hart Street (Covent Garden); just dissolved, the elder and most of the members joining number 1.

34. †Maze Pond Street, Southwark; Abraham West. Maitland also mentions the former home, Flower-de-Luce, Tooley Street; but it cannot be told whether there was a separate church here, or even whether it was still used for worship. (J. and M. Townsend).
 36. Angel Alley, Whitechapel; Edward Ridgway.
 37. New Way in the Maze; possibly used by Warren, successor to Thomas Warburton of Tooley Street.
 38. Sheer's Alley, White Street, Southwark; Joseph Harrington.
 40. †Little Wild Street, Great Wild Street; Joseph Stennett the second.
 41. Artillery Lane, Spittlefields; John Weatherley.
 42. Brewers' Hall, Addle Street.
 43. Glass-house Street, Swallow Street (Westminster); William Morton.
 44. †Goat-yard passage, Horsleydown; John Gill. (Anderson).
 45. Beech Lane, near Whitecross Street (Glovers' Hall); John Pryor.
 46. Collier's Rents, White Street, Southwark. Now in pedobaptist hands.
 47. Cherry-garden Lane, Rotherhithe; Joseph Matthews.
 48. Johnson's Street, Old Gravel Lane; the former home of number 3, dying since John Rhudd.
 49. Newport Market. An evanescent church under Freeman, not classed as Baptist by Maitland, nor acknowledged by the Board; see Jan. 1740/1.
 50. Eagle Street, Red Lion Street, Holborn; Andrew Gifford.
 51. Snow's Fields. Another evanescent church under Sayer Rudd.
- Besides these, Maitland also catalogued the ancient baptistery in Dipping Alley, Horselydown, which was certainly registered for worship, but was used only as needed; e.g. on the Sunday next after 9 September 1739 for John Clarke and William Dring. Also a place at Vinegar Row, Shoreditch Fields, as to which we know nothing.

51. Benjamin Wallin was son of Edward Wallin, of Maze Pond, where he was now pastor after the death of Abraham West. The date is written 1741, but the sequence suggests it was a blunder for 1740.

52. William Coombs soon went to Church Lane, Limehouse, as co-pastor with David Rees.

53. The Baptist Magazine for 1820 has a centenary sketch of the Folkestone church, drawn from its own book. It states that in 1728 some people headed by a minister, not pastor, G. Green, left the old General Baptist church of Hythe and Folkestone, then tending towards Socinianism. They united with three members of the Particular Baptist church of Canterbury, resident in Folkestone, and built a meeting house. The pastor of the P.B. in Canterbury, Folkestone, Thanet, was John Howe, 1729-1750; he came to live in Folkestone 1730. Ivey was

informed, iv. 515, that George Green was ordained pastor at Ashford 1753 till death in 1761. The present entry implies that in 1741 Green was already there.

54. The Eversholt people had William Gates of Gamlingay and James Grant of Wellingborough to preach at the dedication this year.

55. Members of the Up Ottery church had worshipped at Cul-lompton since 1700; under the auspices of Prescott they now built, and organized as an independent church 1745.

56. Crockerton dated from 1669. Boston had long had a G.B. church, and the P.B. church did not organize till 1770.

57. Isaac Poynting of Worcester, 1715-1740. Richard Culley of Worstead 1717-1725. James Brewster of Ingham, 1714-1724. Henry Hawkins in the Western Association 1723. The Burfords belonged to the Lyme district. William Sheppard of Frome joined the Bristol Fund 1738. Mrs. Elizabeth Booth left £50 to the P.B. Fund, but as this was paid in 1742, she cannot be the widow referred to. Petto had been at Guildford in 1715. Machin died at Bridlington 1743.

58. One of many signs that Dew's meeting house, in Maidenhead Court, Great Eastcheap, where Brine and Gill conducted a lecture on Wednesday, was the chief place of meeting for Baptist united effort. The only other places of meeting within the walls of the city were Curriers' Hall and Pinners' Hall, each used by two churches.

59. Chalford dates from 1740.

60. Rye was just separating from Sandhurst on the question of the laying on hands at ordination. Charles Rodgers did actually come in 1754, the Northampton pastor, and promptly built a meeting house, as will appear.

61. This was not the great earthquake of 1755, extending from Scotland to Asia Minor, and wrecking Lisbon.

62. Baptists in this district had a very intermittent church life. A group held together from 1645, combining both Baptists and Pedo-baptists; in 1714 this first Pulham church dissolved, and most members joined Norwich. The present effort was due to Milliot living at Rushall in Norfolk and Simmons living at Beccles in Suffolk. When the latter died in 1766, the nine survivors at Beccles united with three others to form the church of Shelfanger-and-Rushall; meetings at Rushall died out about 1774. Such is the account in the Pulham Messenger of 1903.