

THE EPISCOPACY OF BISHOP WILSON (1697–1755)  
PRESENTMENTS FOR BALLAUGH (FOR MAGICAL  
PRACTICES) \*



**1. BALLAUGH, 7 JUNE 1709**

Alice Cowley presented for giving Charm for the ague & Isabel Quaile for u[sing?] the s<sup>d</sup> Charm.

To be publickly reprov'd by y<sup>e</sup> Mi[nister] & ask God & y<sup>e</sup> Congregation forgiveness, & promise Reforma[tion] sub poenâ 10s writ & sent out

**2. BALLAUGH, 28 DECEMBER 1712**

Alice Cowley of this parish & Isabel Gawn of Peel presented for many practices in sorcery, &c, concerning w<sup>m</sup> & the persons that dealt w<sup>th</sup> them, Depositions are taken by the Rect<sup>r</sup>.

They are censur'd in particular orders; Alice Cowley being try'd by a Jury, who have left her to a ffine & Punishment.

**A. VIDE A. B. C.**

At KK Michael, 26. ffeb. 1712.

A. Christoph<sup>r</sup> Calow of KK Maughold & Henry Quay of KK Michael are bound in 3<sup>ll</sup> ad us<sup>n</sup> Domini, that John Curlet jun<sup>r</sup> of Ballaugh, & his wife shall never hereafter apply themselves to any person for Charms, or any unlawful means, towards the ffurtherance of Conception, as the s<sup>d</sup> Jo: Curlet's Wife lately did to Alice Cowley of Ballaugh afs<sup>d</sup> neither will they have recourse to Charmers in any matter whatsoever.

J:Woods Reg. Ep.

B. Jo: Curlet Sen<sup>r</sup> obliges himself in 3<sup>ll</sup> ad usum D<sup>n</sup>i not to have recourse to Charmers hereafter.

C. Gilb<sup>t</sup> Cain's Security of 3<sup>ll</sup> to the same purpose, is W<sup>m</sup> Cry.

**3. BALLAUGH, 26 JANUARY 1713**

Rob Stephan for giving charms, famâ commum.

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He has renounc'd it upon Oath; & given Security, to decline such Practices, Tho: Stephan & Dan: Kewn; 3<sup>ll</sup>

4. **BALLAUGH, 26 SEPTEMBER 1714**

Joney Clague for calling Gilb<sup>t</sup> Cain's wife *Calliagh Hollaanagh*, in respect of her defect of understanding

To be imprison'd 7. days, & before Releasement, to give in Bonds to ask fforgiveness in the Church.

5. **BALLAUGH, 30 SEPTEMBER 1716**

The Rect<sup>r</sup> presents John Kissack of Douglas for coming to Rob<sup>t</sup> Stephan [since dead] for a charm for his sick child, & this on Sunday in time of divine service.

To be confined 4. days, & do penance in Ballaugh=Church.

6. **BALLAUGH, 3 SEPTEMBER 1725**

At Ballaugh, Sep<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1725.

Lersy Lace of KK Patrick having made a most grievous complaint, that she had suffer'd much in her good name by a rumour being spread of her practising Sorcery & Witchcraft, & an attempt having been also made to mark her as a Witch, by drawing blood on her &., tho' upon a strict examination this day not the least word or action tending that way cou'd be laid to her charge; It is therefore order'd that no person whatsoever presume hereafter to slander her or her husband or children on the s<sup>d</sup> acc<sup>t</sup> Otherwise the person or persons offending are to be fin'd 3<sup>ll</sup> as usum Domini, punish'd at the Ordinary's discretion. Dat ut supra.

W<sup>m</sup> Walker

Let this order be publish'd in KK Patrick & Peel Church.

7. **BALLAUGH, 23 OCTOBER 1726**

Jo<sup>n</sup> Corris Warden presents, Gilb<sup>t</sup> C[or]kan of KK Michael for going for a Charm to Tho. Quayle, as the s<sup>d</sup> Gilb<sup>t</sup> told him.

Quayle has solemnly declar'd to the Rec[tor] he never gave a Charm in his life,

8. **BALLAUGH, 31 OCTOBER 1731**

Philip Stephan for wishing the Curse of God in the Eyes of Bahee Kewish for reckoning his Lambs. presented by John Stephan one of the Chapter Quest.

Promised Reformation.

**9. BALLAUGH, 2 APRIL 1732**

eod die Christen Christian for wishing, upon her knees, that the said Corlet and his Goods might never thrive.

ut suprâ. (= “Reconcil’d in Court, aft<sup>r</sup> Admonition & reproof for her unchristian Language”)

**10. BALLAUGH, 21 MAY 1732**

Patrick Cry for saying to John Kinread of Lezaire that the Devil had taken the *Tarra* out of his Barley last year whatever he would do next Year. presented by John Tear upon the Complaint of the said Kinread.

Patr: Cry Acknowledg’d his offence & promis’d Reformation in Court

**11. BALLAUGH, 3 APRIL 1733**

Daniel Cowl presented by the Rect<sup>r</sup> and Warden for these Expressions following, being Spoke in the presence of an Enquest and Several others, the Clerk of the parish and one of the Wardens being by. the words are these. Some of the Ministers are worse than the Devil for one of ’em went by me where I was plowing, and did not bless me at which time one of my Bullocks laid down before the said Minister’s face, w<sup>ch</sup> I will refer to his own Oath whether he saw him or no, then I went and took up some of the Earth of the said Minister’s feet and threw it on the Beast and the said Beast got up which never laid down before nor since. I say he is the Devil, and the Devil is in him, for the Devil is more busy about Ministers and Clerks than he is about others, for they are the worse sort among us.

**11.1 DEPOSITION OF JOHN BRIDSON (28 MAY 1733)**

28<sup>th</sup> May. 1733. John Bridson Clark of Ballaugh declares upon Oath that the Above presentm<sup>t</sup> is true in every particular, being Utter’d in his presence—John Bridson.

W<sup>m</sup> Bridson (Rect<sup>r</sup>)

**11.2 DEPOSITION OF JOHN CORLETT (28 MAY 1733)**

Eodem Die—

W<sup>m</sup> Curlet Warden declares by Vertue of his Oath y<sup>t</sup> sometime in Lent last, Upon a dispute bewixt the Clark & One of his Neighbours, Dan<sup>l</sup> Cowle being present, Advis’d the Clark to Agree, saying y<sup>t</sup> Minsters & Clarks shou’d be examples to other folks—but says he, A Minister passed & repass’d by my plough and did not bless me, upon w<sup>ch</sup> One of the foremost Bullocks fell down, and he the s<sup>d</sup> Cowle said y<sup>t</sup> he took up some earth.—And the s<sup>d</sup> Beast never lay before or since y<sup>t</sup> time; ~~the Depon<sup>t</sup> further deposes y<sup>t</sup> he y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Cowle said that these he who kept adding he is worse than the Devil y<sup>t</sup> keeps Malice in their his hearts was worse than the Devil.~~ Upon this the Deponent went out of Doors & heard no More of the Disput that he can remember

W<sup>m</sup> Curlett

**II.3 CONSISTORY COURT PROCEEDINGS (5 JUNE 1733)**

At Bishop's Court June 5<sup>th</sup> 1733.

**A. DEPOSITION OF ROBERT CORLETT**

Rob<sup>t</sup> Curlet sworn & examin'd deposes y<sup>t</sup> sometime before last Easter upon the beforemention'd dispute betwixt the Clerk & his neighbrs Dan<sup>l</sup> Cowle said Minister & clerks ought not to give bad Example, but says he a man pass'd & repass'd by me where I was plowing & did not bless me, upon w<sup>ch</sup> one of the Bullocks fell down. & I took up some of the Earth where he was and threw it on the beast & y<sup>t</sup> he got up & did not ly down before nor since. Adding y<sup>t</sup> he woud refer it to the man's oath wheth<sup>r</sup> he saw the beast or not—and y<sup>t</sup> he was a minister and further y<sup>t</sup> upon one saying it was not becoming to pass by a Team without bidding God speed the s<sup>d</sup> Cowle reply'd he is worse than the devil y<sup>t</sup> keeps Malice in his Heart. And again said, He is the Devil or the Devil is in him.

Rob<sup>t</sup> Corlet his m<sup>rk</sup> +

**B. DEPOSITION OF THOMAS COWLEY**

Thos Cowley deposes y<sup>t</sup> upon the occasion mention'd in the foregoing Deposition. Dan<sup>l</sup> Cowl said a minister pass'd by me where I was plowing & did not bless me & one of the Bullocks fell down, upon w<sup>ch</sup> I took up some Earth and threw it on the beast & he got up & did not lye down before or since—Adding he is worse than the devil y<sup>t</sup> did not bless me, or y<sup>t</sup> keep's malice in his heart, but wheth<sup>r</sup> of the two last mentioned Expressions he doth not particularly remember

Tho<sup>s</sup> Cowley his m<sup>rk</sup> X

**II.4 CONSISTORY COURT JUDGEMENT (5 JUNE 1733)**

Bishop's Court June 5<sup>th</sup> 1733.

Dan<sup>l</sup> Cowl having been presented by the Rect<sup>r</sup> & Wardens for very base and scandalous Expressions touching the ministers of Christ, And for using, by his own declaration, a wicked Charm, when a Minister passed by, as is fully prov'd by sufficient Evidence: It is hereby order'd that he perform publick penance in the Churches of Jurby, KK Mich<sup>l</sup> & Ballaugh, acknowledging his offence & asking fforgiveness sub pena Confinem<sup>t</sup> in S<sup>t</sup> German's by the Sumn<sup>r</sup> or a Sold<sup>t</sup> until he give Bonds to submit & pay all ffees.

Dat ut supra

Tho. Sodor. & Man  
John Woods.

To the Sumn<sup>r</sup> of Ballaugh

**12. BALLAUGH, 12 SEPTEMBER 1736**

Elinor Cannel for cursing Adam Cannel and Curse on her Knees

There does not appear any just foundation for this Presentm<sup>t</sup>

**13. BALLAUGH, 24 OCTOBER 1736**

We inform the Court that Daniel Cowl told us that he saw a woman on the first day of May 1735 gathering of Dew; and being asked who she was, he would not tell us; and we also declare that he and others have several times since reflected on us for not making a Presentment of the same, tho' we did not know who the person was.

order'd y<sup>t</sup> no person presume to reflect on them : the Information being so gen<sup>l</sup> & no person nam'd, so y<sup>t</sup> no regular Presentm<sup>t</sup> cou'd be made

**14. BALLAUGH, 22 MAY 1737**

Christen Wife of Robert Corlet for cursing on her knees on Sunday morning presented by W<sup>m</sup> Callister one of the Chapter Quest upon the Information of Elinor Wife of Patrick Cowley

The Women have ask'd forgiveness of One Ano<sup>r</sup> upon their Knees, & are reconciled in Court.

**15. BALLAUGH, 1745**

John Crain complain'd to Matt. Cowle one of the Wardens that Jane Cown als Brew went on her knees and cursed the said Crain his Child and Goods = Reconcild in Court—Jane Cown has ask'd forgiveness—& prom<sup>is</sup>es Reforma<sup>con</sup>.

**16. BALLAUGH, 1751**

Phi: Kegg on the Complaint of Gilb<sup>t</sup> Stephan, that the s<sup>d</sup> Phi: Kegg Called him the s<sup>d</sup> stephan a Cursed Devil. & that the s<sup>d</sup> stephan had a Bad Eye.—And all the above Expressions in the s<sup>d</sup> Questman's hearing

W<sup>m</sup> Garret of Lezayre becomes bound for Phil: Kegg in the penalty of £10 10s 0 ad us<sup>u</sup> D<sup>ni</sup>, that he will not be guilty of such vile Expressions for the future.

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STEPHEN MILLER, 2018

