

The Society of Particular Baptists Articles of Religion of the church meeting at Berton, Buckinghamshire



These are the articles of religion that I solemnly subscribed to when I joined the church at Berton, on the **8th of January 1976**, and which I strove to maintain. Knowing also covenants must not be broken nor the terms added to once made Gal. 3 15. Also covenant breaking is a crime against God Rom I 31):

These articles I transcribed and I personally copied from the original trust deed held by Miss Bertha Ellis. The son of John Warburton from Trowbridge signed the document.

The Articles are as follows:

And whereas certain persons meet together and with the blessing of God will continue to meet together for the purpose of divine worship at a chapel or place of worship adjoining the said hereditament and called the Berton Baptist Chapel and the said persons call them selves “The Society of Particular Baptists” and such persons are herein after meant and referred to by the expression of “The Church” and the said persons believe and pledge themselves to the promulgation and support of the tenets or articles of faith herein after set forth, that is to say,

1 They believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration of God and are the only rule of faith and practice and that these scriptures reveal the one true and only God who is self-existent, infinite and eternal. That there are three self existent co-eternal persons in the Godhead namely the Father the Son and the Holy Ghost and these three are one God and that the Lord Jesus Christ is very God and very man in one glorious complex person.

2 That Before the world began God did elect a certain number of the human race unto everlasting life and salvation whom He did predestine to the adoption of Children by Jesus Christ of his own free grace and according to the good pleasure of His will.

3 That God created Adam upright and all his posterity fell in him, he being the federal head and representative of all mankind.

4 That the Lord Jesus Christ in the fullness of time became incarnate and that he really suffered and died as the substitute for the elect of God only and in their stead whereby he made all the satisfaction for their sins which the law and justice of God could require as well as made a way for the bestowments of all those blessings which are needful for them for time and eternity.

5 That the eternal redemption which Christ hath obtained by the shedding of his blood is special and particular that it is only and intentionally designed for the elect of God who only can share its spiritual blessings.

6 That the justification of Gods elect is only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them and received by faith without consideration of any works of righteousness done by them and that the full and free pardon of all there sins and transgressions is only through the full free pardon of all

their sins and transgressions is only through the blood of Christ according to the riches of Gods grace.

7 That regeneration, conversion, sanctification and faith are the work of the Almighty efficacious and invincible grace of God the Holy Ghost.

8 That all those chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son and sanctified by the Spirit shall certainly and finally persevere unto eternal life.

9 That there is a resurrection of the dead both of the just and the unjust and that Christ will come a second time to judge the quick and the dead when he will consign the wicked to everlasting punishment and introduce His own people into his kingdom and Glory where they shall be for ever with Him.

10 That baptism of believers by immersion and the Lords Supper are ordinances of Christ to be continued until His coming again and that the former is absolutely requisite to the latter, that is to say that only those are to be admitted as members of the church and participate in its privileges including the ordinance of the Lords supper who upon profession of their faith have been baptised namely immersed in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. And that no person who has not been baptised as afro said shall on any account be permitted to sit down or commune at the Lords table within the said school room and whereas for the purpose of giving effect to the objects and intentions of the parties hereto and of the said church it has been agreed that the said Hereditament's shall be conveyed to the trustees upon the trust and for the purpose hereinafter contained and these present have been approved by the members of the said Church meeting called for that purpose and held at the said chapel on or before the date

Hereof

The indenture further witnesseth that in further pursuance and consideration of the premises they the trustees do hereby severally covenant and agree amongst themselves and with each other and with the church that they the trustees their successors and assigns shall and henceforth stand and be possessed of the hereditament And premises hereinbefore conveyed unto them upon trust to dedicate and devote and preserve the same for the purpose of holy and divine according to the tenets or articles of faith herein set forth.

That the election of any future pastor of the said church and the removal of any pastor shall be decided by the vote of two thirds of the church assembled at a regularly convened church meeting together with the object for which it is convened having been publicly announce for four successive Lords days. No member eligible to vote has to have been four times to the Lords table in six months unless prevented by illness etc.

No minister shall be elected to the pastoral office or continue therein but such as holds to the doctrines and communion aforesaid nor shall it be lawful for the said church to receive into fellowship any such persons as members but such as have been baptised that is by immersed in water upon confession of their faith in Christ and are able to give some satisfactory account of a work of grace having passed upon their souls in being called out of darkness into Gods marvellous light, nor shall it be lawful for the said church to admit to her communion (in which term is include the ordinance of the Lords supper) any person who has not been baptised by immersion in water on a profession of faith in the name of Jesus.

Signed and Witnessed by
John Warberton

BIERTON STRICT BAPTIST CHAPEL 1832

THIS INDENTURE made the 25th day of February in the year of our Lord 1832 between William Bonham late of Wilstone in the Parish of Tring in the County of Hertford now of Bierton in the County of Bucks (Brick Layer) (1) Joseph Rose of Aylesbury in the said County of Bucks Gentleman a Trustee for the said William Bonham (2) Robert Dell of the same place, Wine Merchant (in whom as surviving Executor of the Last Will and Testament of John Parker late of the same place Gentleman) the hereditaments hereinafter particularly mentioned are described and intended to be hereby bargain and sold are now vested for the residue of a satisfied **Trust term of 1000 years** (3) and William Bell (Farmer) Thomas Elliott (Butcher), Thomas Bonham (Brick Layer), James Bonham (Brick Layer). William Bonham the younger, William Dickens (Farmer), William Rodwell (Labourer), David Price (Labourer), James Jeffery (Labourer) and William Parker (Labourer), all of Bierton aforesaid James Henry Marshall (Book Seller), Joseph Freeman (Tile Maker), Samuel Brocklehurst (Gardener), John Gunn (Grocer) Augustus Lines (Grocer) and Thomas Reynolds (Tailor), all of Aylesbury aforesaid and William Woolhead of Hardwick, in the said County of Bucks Gentleman (4)



WHEREAS the said parties hereto of the fourth part have with the said William Bonham Brick Layer for the absolute purchase of the land and hereditaments hereinafter particularly mentioned and described and intended to be hereby bargain and sold in manner and for the purposes hereinafter in that behalf mentioned and the fee simple and inheritance thereof in possession free from encumbrances for the sum of one pound one shilling

NOW THEREFORE THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that in pursuance of the said recited and agreement and for and in consideration of the sum of one pound one shilling of lawful money of Great Britain to the said William Bonham Brick Layer in hand well and truly paid by the said several above named parties hereto of the fourth part and at on or before the sealing and delivering of these presents the payment and receipt whereof the said William Bonham (Brick Layer) doth hereby acknowledge and thereof and there from and of and from part thereof doth hereby equit release and discharge them the said several parties hereto of the fourth part and doth of them their and each of their heirs trust executors administrators and assigns forever and also in consideration of the sum of five shillings of like lawful money to the said Joseph Rose and Robert Dell in hand also paid by the said parties hereto of the fourth part at or before the execution hereof the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged they the said Joseph Rose and Robert Dell according to their respective estates and interests in the premises and at the request of and by the direction of the said William Bonham (Brick Layer), testified as aforesaid have and each of them hath bargained and sold and buy these presents do and each of them doth bargain and sell and the said William Bonham (Brick Layer), have granted bargained and sold released and confirmed and by this present Deed indented sealed and delivered in the presence of two credible witnesses and intended to be forthwith enrolled in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery doth grant bargain sell release and confirm unto the said William Bell Thomas Elliott Thomas Bonham James Bonham William Bonham (the younger) William Rifkin William Rodwell David Price James Jeffery William Parker James Henry Marshall Joseph Freeman Samuel Brocklehurst John Gunn Augustus Lines Thomas Reynolds and William Woolhead the parties hereto of the fourth part their heirs and assigns ALL THAT plot or piece of land parcel of a private orchard or home Close of enclosed ground lately pasture round situate at the

Parish of Bierton aforesaid in the said County of Bucks adjoining or belonging to a messuage or tenement formerly divided into and used as two Cottages or tenements heretofore in the several use and occupation of Thomas Cripps and William Parker afterwards of William Bowden and Bernard Rodwell Esquire of Thomas Impey or his heirs assigns with some additions and alterations into and used as for tenements and in the several occupations of Bemard Rodwell John Ross Thomas Wiggins and Ann Chappell Widow Nomas Collins and himself the said William Bonham Brick Layer and which plot or piece of land is bounded on the South by the Tumpike Road leading, or through Bierton aforesaid on the East and North by other parts of the said private orchard or plot and on the West by the sited and ground belonging to other Cottages or tenements built by the said William Bonham Brick Layer on other part of the said private orchard or Close and contained in width at the South end thereof twenty-seven feet or thereabouts and at the North end thereof twenty five feet or thereabouts and in length on the East side thereof sixty seven feet or thereabouts and on the West side thereof sixty eight feet or thereabouts as the same is now set out and divided from the remainder o. the premises by a brick wall and part of a footpath on each side thereof together with the on all sides of the said plot or piece of land and all ways water watercourses hedges ditches walls fences easements privileges advantages monuments hereditaments rights and appurtenances whatsoever to the said land and premises hereby bargained and sold or intended so to be belonging or in any wise appertaining and the and various remainders and remainders yearly and other rents issues and profits thereof and any part thereof and also all the estate right title interest and trust inheritance possession benefit property possibility and demand whatsoever both at law and in equity of them the said William Bonham Brick Layer Josepl1 Rose and Robed Dell and of each of them into and out of the said land hereditaments and premises hereby bargained and sold or intended so to be and every part thereof TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said land hereditaments and or and singular other the premises hereby bargained and sold or intended so to be and any part thereof with the appurtenances unto the said William Bell, Thomas Elliott, Thomas Bonham, James Bonham, William Bonham the younger, William Rifkind ,William Rodwell, David Price, James Jeffery, William Parker, James Henry Marshall, Joseph Freeman, Samuel Brocklehurst, John Gunn, Augustus Lines and Thomas Reynolds and William Woolhead, the parties hereto of the fourth part their heirs and assigns to the use and behoove of them the said William Dell Thomas Elliot Thomas Bonham James Bonham William Bonham the younger, William Rifkin, William Rodwell, David Price, James Jeffery, William Parker, James Henry Marshall, Joseph Freeman, Samuel Brocklehurst, John Gunn, Augustus Lines, and Thomas Reynolds and William Woolhead, the parties hereto of the fourth part their heirs and assigns forever upon the trusts nevertheless and to and for the interests and purposes hereinafter expressed and declared that is to say upon trust to permit a Chapel or Meeting house and other offices to be erected built and completed and from time to time repaired restored and rebuilt upon the said land and to permit the Chapel or meeting house thereon for the time being to be from time to time and at all times hereafter dedicated used and enjoyed as a place of public religious worship by the Society or Congregation of Protestant Dissenters called particular Baptists and Independents who shall assemble thereat and maintain the doctrines commonly known as Calvinistic and by such other persons as shall thereafter be united to the said Society and intend the worship of God at such Chapel or meeting house and for that purpose to permit to officiate in the said Chapel or meeting house such person or persons of the denomination of the Protestant dissenters called particular Baptists and Independents so that the major part of the adult members of the said Society being communicant therein shall at any Church meeting duly assembled for that purpose from time to time elect to officiate as their Minister or Pastor therein according to the usual order and custom of Societies of Protestant dissenters of the denomination aforesaid which person or persons so from time to time elected as Minister or Pastor of the said Society shall continue such Minister or Pastor only so long as and no longer than the major part in number of the adult members of the said Society being communicants therein shall think fit and to permit any part of the offices or buildings of the said land to be used

with and be appurtenant to the said Chapel or meeting house as a vestry room or otherwise to be taken for the enlargement of the said Chapel or meeting house as occasion may require and UPON FURTHER TRUST as to such part of the said land as shall be more than sufficient for the site of the said Chapel or meeting house and offices with their appendages to permit and suffer the same from time to time and at all times hereafter to be used and occupied as and for a burial ground or place of internment for the bodies of the members of the said Society or Congregation and of such other persons as the major part of the adult members of the said Society being communicants there in shall from time to time think fit and allow to be there interred and UPON FURTHER TRUST from time to time if and when thereto required by the adult male members being communicants of the said Society or Congregation for the time being in their Church meeting duly assembled or the major part in numbers of those so assembled to raise such sum or sums of money as they or the major part of them so assembled shall direct by mortgage of the said premises and thereupon to demise or release and convey-the said premises for that purpose and stand possessed of the money which from time to time shall be received from any such mortgage upon trust to lay out and dispose of the same in such manner and to such purposes for the benefit of the said Society or for the improvement of the trust property or the enlargement repair or rebuilding of the premises or otherwise as the major part in number of the adult members of the said Society being communicants therein as aforesaid and present at a meeting to be called for that purpose shall from time to time direct but in case the said Society or Congregation of particular Baptists and Independents shall be totally dissolved or dispensed and the public worship of the said Chapel or meeting house be discontinued by them for the space of twelve calendar months together then UPON SUCH FURTHER TRUST to let or otherwise dispose of the said Chapel or meeting house and premises to such person or persons for such terms in such manner and for such purposes either religious or civil as the Managers for the time being of a Society called the Particular Baptist Fund established in London in (1717) One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventeen shall from time to time direct or appoint of or concerning the same provided always that in case any mortgage sale or other disposition of all or any part of the said premises shall at any time be made or any letting thereof shall take place in pursuance of the trusts aforesaid the person or persons borrowing a Purchaser or Purchasers or mortgagee or mortgagees or otherwise paying any money in respect of the said premises his her or their Executors or Administrators shall not be compelled to see to the appropriation of the money so by him her or them paid nor be answerable or accountable for the misapplication or non-application of the same or any part thereof and that the receipt or receipts which shall from time to time or at any time or times be given by the Trustee or Trustees for the time being for such purchase mortgage or other monies or any part thereof shall be a good valid and sufficient equitance and discharge and good valid and sufficient equitance and discharged for the sum or sums of money which shall have therein been acknowledged to have been received provided also and it is hereby agreed and declared that when and so often during the continuance of the trusts hereby created as the number of the Trustees shall by death or otherwise be reduced to five or less and so from time to time as often as there shall be not more than five Trustees for the purposes aforesaid or officers if the adult members of the said Society or Congregation shall think it expedient so many other persons being Protestant dissenters by profession shall be named and chosen to be Trustees of the said premises as shall make the number of fifteen Trustees at the least such Trustees to be from time to time nominated appointed or chosen by the adult members of the said Society or the major part of them for that purpose only assembled by public notice in their Church meeting and upon every such choice the continuing Trustees or Trustees for the time being or the last of those last surviving Trustees shall be sufficient conveyance and assurance in the law convey and assure the said land Chapel or meeting house and premises with the appurtenances to such new Trustees so to be appointed as aforesaid so and in such manner as that the same may become legally and effectually vested in such new Trustees only or in such new Trustees and the continuing Trustees or any of them as the case may require upon such or the like trusts and to and for such or the like intents and purposes as are

hereinbefore declared and expressed concerning the same and the said Robert Dell for himself his heirs Executors and Administrators and for his own acts only and the said Joseph Rose for himself his heirs and Executors and Administrators and for his own acts only so hereby severally covenant and with and to the said parties hereto of the fourth part their heirs and assigns the said Robert Dell and Joseph Rose have not nor have either of them at any time heretofore made done committed executed occasioned or knowingly suffered any act or matter or thing whatsoever whereby or by reason or means whereof the said land hereditaments and premises hereby bargained and sold or intended so to be or any part thereof are or shall or may be in any wise impeached affected or encumbered in title estate interest or otherwise howsoever and the said William Bonham Brick Layer for himself his heirs Executors Administrators and assigns hereby covenant promise and agree to and with the said parties hereto of the fourth part and their heirs and assigns in manner following that is to say (for and notwithstanding any act deed matter or thing whatsoever by him the said William Bonham (Brick Layer) or any trustee for him made done committed executed occasioned or knowingly suffered to be contrary) he the said William Bonham Brick Layer either alone or together with the said Joseph Rose and Robert Dell now at the time of or immediately before the sealing and delivering of these presents is and stands or was and stood so seized of and in the said land hereditaments and premises hereby bargained and sold or intended to be sold and to have good right full power and lawful and absolute authority to grant bargain and- sell the same and every part thereof with the appurtenances unto and to the use of the said parties hereto of the fourth part and their heirs and assigns forever in manner and upon the trusts aforesaid and according to the true intent and meaning of those premises and also that if it shall and maybe lawful for them the same parties their heirs and assigns from time to time and at all times forever hereafter peaceably and quietly to enter into and upon and to have hold use occupy and possess the said land hereditaments and premises hereby bargained and sold or intended so to be and to receive and take the rents issues and profits thereof and of every part thereof to and for their use and benefit as such Trustees as aforesaid without any let suit objection molestation hindrance or interruption whatsoever of from or by him the said William Bonham Brick Layer his heirs or assigns or of from by through or other personal persons whatsoever having or legally or equitably remaining or who shall or may have or legally or equitably retain any estate right type or interest whatsoever of into or out of ...

The remainder deals with covenants for title etc.

Signed sealed and delivered by all parties