

Letter to Rev. S.H. Beresford, Vicar of Brailes, about the behaviour of the children in church, 25 February 1838, DR308/23

Notes in the margins of the document have been added as footnotes, as per the original. Some are illegible.

Brailes 25th Feb. 1838

Sir. In corres[pondenc]e to your note, respecting the behaviour of my Children.

I beg to observe, that Mrs Long have been to Winderton, to Examine Mr. John Spencer, on the subject.

he confidently affirms, that he never saw, or heard any thing improper, by any of them

during the Morning you complain of, or at any other time¹, but on the other hand, he have always remarked how very quiet they behaved in Church², and he will tell you at any time, there is not

Four better behaved Children in the Parish. As regards my own absence. I refer you to Mr. Lawley Surgeon of this place³ who have attended me almost daily for some time past. I have to regret exceedinly that your severe conduct towards me⁴, will compel my family

¹ "that's wrong", Mr J Spencer says Mr [name illegible] told Mrs Long that he had heard them talking & laughing at other times & has stopped & cautioned them.

² "going rather too far"

³ He had an illness of ten days or a fortnight commencing on or abo[u]t Monday the 12th Feb.

⁴ No particulars alleged

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to attend some other place of worship.

I have been a Teacher, for nearly
20 years and came to Brailes
more than 7 years ago with a most
undeniable character⁵, and during my long residence
in this place, I never felt
any thing so unpleasant
to my feelings, as the
present time.

I wish to be furnished with the names of my false
accusers, that my Attorney
may bring them before the proper tribunal.

I remain Sir

Yours Respectfully

J. H. Long

Mem: Mr Long went up to Mr J Spencer
on the above errand during time of divine service
Mr Spencer having found him there on his return
from Church

(This letter contains 7 blunders, either in grammar or spelling)

⁵ What character? Or testimonial. No character no testimonial