

Methodist Chapel at Tucking Mill article by Professor Joe Bettey

It is a shame that this historic feature of Compton Dando has fallen into such a ruinous state, but I fear it is now too late to do anything to save it. As you know, it was founded by James Bince, the owner of the fulling mill in c1807. The necessary application to the bishop for a licence was signed by James Bince, John Pointing, William Boulton, George Coombs, James Weaver and Robert Ennicott. Many of these men were prominent residents of Compton Dando.

Gravestones of the Bince and Pointing families could still be seen by scraping away the leaves and debris littering the floor. No doubt it was established in this remote valley since the Pophams would not have countenanced a nonconformist chapel in the village of Compton Dando. The Popham archives include a copy of the will of Angel Pointing Holbrook, yeoman, 20 August 1841, whereby he left the burial ground at Tucking Mill to the feoffees of the Wesleyan chapel.

The Harding family who lived at Compton Green Farm and Manor Farm in C.D. and at Vale Farm Marksbury, also worshipped there, including Joseph and Rachel Harding, the famous cheese makers. Some infant Harding children are also buried there. It must once have been larger since the 1851 Census records that it had 100 free sittings and 20 other sittings. It was said to have a congregation of 50 persons on Census Sunday 30 March 1851.