John Bunyan was a major figure in seventeenth-century Puritan literature, and one deeply embroiled in the religious upheavals of his times. This Companion considers all his major texts, including The Pilgrim’s Progress and his autobiography Grace Abounding. The essays, by leading Bunyan scholars, place these and his other works in the context of seventeenth-century history and literature. They discuss such key issues as the publication of dissenting works, the history of the book, gender, the relationship between literature and religion, between literature and early-modern radicalism, and the reception of seventeenth-century texts. Other chapters assess Bunyan’s importance for the development of allegory, life-writing, the early novel and children’s literature. This Companion provides a comprehensive and accessible introduction to an author with an assured and central place in English literature.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO BUNYAN

EDITED BY
ANNE DUNAN-PAGE
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Shannon Murray teaches early-modern and children’s literature at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. She is the founder and editor of The Recorder: A Publication of the International John Bunyan Society (1993–9). She writes on adaptations of The Pilgrim’s Progress for children, on the Polish children’s writer Janusz Korczak and on learning communities and teaching for creativity in higher education. She is a Canadian 3M National Teaching Fellow for excellence and leadership in university teaching and a published children’s writer.

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STUART SIM is Professor of critical theory in the English Department, University of Sunderland. He is the author of numerous publications on the fiction of the long eighteenth century and contemporary critical theory. A joint-editor and founder-member of the journal Bunyan Studies, he was elected a Fellow of the English Association in 2002. Recent works include The Eighteenth-Century Novel and Contemporary Social Issues (2008), and he has edited, with W. R. Owens, Reception, Appropriation, Recollection: Bunyan’s ‘Pilgrim’s Progress’ (2007).


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NOTE ON THE TEXT

Early-modern texts cited in this Companion can be consulted via Early English Books Online (EEBO). Unless stated otherwise, the place of publication is London. Spelling and punctuation have not been modernised. Dates are given in Old Style with the year beginning on 1 January.

Page references to Bunyan’s works appear in parentheses within the text. The titles of his non-fiction works have been shortened. The dating of all the works follows Richard L. Greaves’s chronology in Glimpses of Glory: John Bunyan and English Dissent (Stanford University Press, 2002), pp. 637–41.
ABBREVIATIONS

Bunyan’s works

B & G

Bunyan, Works
The Works of that Eminent Servant of Christ, Mr John Bunyan, ed. Charles Doe (1692)

GA

HW

LDB
The Life and Death of Mr Badman, ed. Roger Sharrock and James F. Forrest (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988)

MW

P’sP

Critical works

Brown, Bunyan
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Greaves, Glimpses

Hill, Turbulent
Christopher Hill, A Turbulent, Seditious, and Factious People: John Bunyan and his Church, 1628–1688 (1988; Oxford University Press, 1989)

Keeble (ed.), Conventicle

Reference works

Oxford DNB

Journals

BQ
Baptist Quarterly

BS
Bunyan Studies: John Bunyan and his Times

ELH
English Literary History

ELR
English Literary Renaissance

PMLA
Publications of the Modern Language Association of America

RES
Review of English Studies

SEL
Studies in English Literature, 1500–1900

SP
Studies in Philology
CHRONOLOGY

1628 Born in Elstow, near Bedford (Bedfordshire), the son of Thomas Bunyan (a brazier) and his second wife Margaret Bentley. Assassination of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. Petition of Right.

1629 Dissolution of Parliament and beginning of Charles I’s personal rule (to 1640).

1633 George Herbert’s *The Temple* and John Donne’s *Poems*. William Laud appointed Archbishop of Canterbury.

1640 Summoning of the Long Parliament


1643 The Westminster Assembly of Divines begins meeting (to 1649).

1644 John Milton’s *Areopagitica*. Death of Bunyan’s mother and sister. His father marries his third wife within a few months. Bunyan joins the Parliamentary forces in Newport Pagnell (Buckinghamshire), in the garrison of Sir Samuel Luke (company of Richard Cokayne).


1646 End of the First Civil War. Episcopacy abolished. Bunyan volunteers for service in Ireland (but does not serve).

1647 The Army Debates at Putney concerning democracy and the constitution. Bunyan is demobilised and he returns to his father’s house in Elstow.
chronology

1648 Second Civil War (to 1649). Colonel Pride’s purge of the Long Parliament to secure a majority for bringing the King to trial, creating the ‘Rump’ Parliament.

1649 Trial and execution of Charles I. Monarchy and the House of Lords abolished. Commonwealth proclaimed. Bunyan marries his first wife, whose name is not recorded (four children born of the union). She brings as a dowry Arthur Dent’s *The Plaine Mans Path-way to Heaven* (1601) and Lewis Bayly’s *The Practise of Pietie* (1612?).

1650 Birth of Bunyan’s first child Mary, who is blind. Spiritual awakening after an encounter with ‘three or four poor women’. Starts meeting with the separatist congregation of John Gifford in Bedford.

1651 Thomas Hobbes’s *Leviathan*.

1652 First Anglo-Dutch War (to 1654).

1653 Cromwell becomes Lord Protector. Margaret Cavendish’s *Poems, and Fancies*.

1655 Moves from Elstow to Bedford. Admitted a full member of the Bedford congregation, possibly after accepting baptism by total immersion. Begins to preach. Death of John Gifford, succeeded by John Burton.

1656 Margaret Cavendish’s *Natures Pictures*. Bunyan’s first printed work, *Some Gospel-truths Opened*, against the Quakers.


1659 Collapse of Richard Cromwell’s Protectorate and restoration of the Rump Parliament. Bunyan marries his second wife, Elizabeth (three children born of the union). Supposed at this date to have written a tract in support of a woman accusing Quakers of witchcraft. His right to preach is challenged by Thomas Smith, keeper of Cambridge University Library and Professor of Arabic. *The
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1660</td>
<td>Collapse of the Commonwealth and restoration of the full Long Parliament which votes to restore monarchy and for its own dissolution. Declaration of Breda. Charles II returns to England. Reopening of the theatres with actresses on stage. Founding members of the Royal Society begin meeting. Samuel Pepys begins his <em>Diary</em> (which he continues until 1669). Death of the Bedford congregation’s minister, John Burton. William Wheeler is offered the pastorate, but declines. Bunyan arrested for illegal preaching in the hamlet of Lower Samsell (Bedfordshire). His wife Elizabeth gives premature birth to an infant who dies shortly afterwards.</td>
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<td>1662</td>
<td>Quaker Act. Ejection of Puritan ministers who refuse to conform as required by the Act of Uniformity re-establishing the episcopal Church of England (24 August). Licensing Act. Charles II marries Catherine of Braganza. <em>I Will Pray with the Spirit</em> (?)</td>
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<td>1665</td>
<td>Five Mile Act. Bubonic plague. Second Anglo-Dutch War (to 1667). <em>The Holy City, The Resurrection of the Dead</em> (?) and <em>One Thing is Needful</em> (?) and <em>Ebal and Gerizzim</em> (?) two verse collections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
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<td>1666</td>
<td>Great Fire of London. Margaret Cavendish’s <em>Observations upon Experimental Philosophy. To which is added … A New Blazing World. Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners</em>, Bunyan’s spiritual autobiography.</td>
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<td>1668</td>
<td>John Dryden created Poet Laureate. Bunyan probably begins writing <em>The Pilgrim’s Progress</em> while still imprisoned.</td>
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<td>1669</td>
<td><em>The Holy City</em>.</td>
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<td>1670</td>
<td>Second Conventicle Act. Treaty of Dover secretly concluded between Charles II and Louis XIV, committing Charles to return England to Roman Catholicism. Samuel Parker’s <em>A Discourse of Ecclesiastical Politie</em>. Twenty-eight members of the Bedford congregation are arrested at an illegal conventicle.</td>
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<td>1671</td>
<td>John Milton’s <em>Paradise Regain’d</em> and <em>Samson Agonistes</em>.</td>
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<td>1673</td>
<td>Declaration of Indulgence withdrawn. Anti-Catholic Test Act. Charles II’s brother and heir, James, Duke of York, refuses to take the sacrament at Easter and marries the Italian Catholic Mary of Modena, raising the prospect of a Roman Catholic ruling dynasty. <em>The Barren Fig-Tree</em>. Bunyan pursues his controversy with the Baptists with <em>Peaceable Principles And True</em>.</td>
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<td>1674</td>
<td>Death of John Milton. Bunyan causes a scandal by riding on horseback with a young maid, Agnes Beaumont. Her <em>Narrative of the Persecution of Agnes Beaumont</em> will be published in 1760.</td>
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<td>1675</td>
<td>Charles II cancels the licences formerly issued in accordance with the Declaration of Indulgence. Rebuilding of St Paul's Cathedral by Christopher Wren begins (completed 1711). Bunyan goes into hiding for a few months, possibly finding refuge with London Congregationalists. <em>Instruction for the Ignorant</em>, a catechism, and <em>Light for Them that Sit in Darkness</em>.</td>
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<td>1678</td>
<td>Popish Plot. Death of Andrew Marvell. First Part of <em>The Pilgrim’s Progress</em> published by Nathaniel Ponder. <em>Come, &amp; Welcome, to Jesus Christ</em>, one of Bunyan’s most popular non-fiction works.</td>
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<td>1680</td>
<td>Death of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, and publication of his <em>Poems. The Life and Death of Mr Badman</em>.</td>
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<td>1681</td>
<td>Andrew Marvell’s <em>Miscellaneous Poems</em>. John Dryden’s <em>Absalom and Achitophel</em>. The opposition leader Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, imprisoned and later released when a London Grand Jury issues a verdict of <em>ignoramus</em>.</td>
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1685  

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1690  
John Locke's Essay Concerning Human Understanding.

1692  
Death of Elizabeth Bunyan. Bunyan's friend Charles Doe publishes The Works of That Eminent Servant of Christ, Mr John Bunyan in folio, including twelve previously unpublished pieces (An Exposition on ... Genesis, Of Justification by an Imputed Righteousness, Paul's Departure and Crown, Of the Trinity and a Christian, Of the Law and a Christian, Israel's Hope Encouraged, The Desire of the Righteous Granted, The Saints Privilege and Profit, Christ a Compleat Saviour, The Saints Knowledge of...
CHRONOLOGY

Christ’s Love, A Discourse of the House of the Forest of Lebanon, Of Antichrist, and His Ruine).

1694  George Fox’s Journal.

1696  Richard Baxter’s Reliquiae Baxterianae published by Matthew Sylvester.

1698  Charles Doe publishes The Heavenly Foot-man, possibly composed by Bunyan in late 1667 or early 1668, its central metaphor anticipating The Pilgrim’s Progress.