

Douglas, J. D., Comfort, P. W., & Mitchell, D. (1997, c1992). *Who's Who in Christian History*.

KEN, THOMAS (1637-1711)

Bishop of Bath and Wells (England); hymn writer

Born in Hertfordshire, Ken lost his parents early in life. He attended Winchester School and Hart Hall, Oxford. Ordained into the ministry of the Church of England, he held a series of appointments, including a position at Winchester School and Cathedral. For the boys there he wrote many devotional pieces, among them the hymns "Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun" and "Glory to Thee, My God, This Night."

In 1679 Ken was appointed chaplain to Charles II's sister, Mary, wife of William II, the prince of Orange. He resided at The Hague and performed his difficult task honorably. In 1683, by then the king's chaplain, he refused the use of his house in Winchester to the royal mistress, Eleanor (Nell) Gwynne. The king respected Ken's principles and personally appointed him to the bishopric of Bath and Wells in 1684. Later Ken gave the king the last rites.

In the troubles surrounding the short reign of James II and the arrival in England of William and Mary, Ken stood by his principles and lost his bishopric. He became a Non-juror but was not active for that cause. He lived a simple life as a celibate and died peacefully, affirming his commitment to the Catholic and Reformed Church of England.

See: Thomas Ken. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*.

[Thomas Ken](#)