

A Grain of Faith

*Religion in Mid-Century
British Literature*

ALLAN HEPBURN

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	xi
1. Introduction	1
Religion in Mid-Century Britain	4
On Faith	12
Keywords	15
The Human Condition	21
2. Bombed Churches	29
Picturing Devastation	29
A Faith to Fight For: John Strachey and Virginia Woolf	54
Muzzy Religion	63
<i>The Stones Cry Out</i>	69
Rebuilding	78
3. Saints and Miracles: <i>The End of the Affair</i>	86
Miracles and Novels	86
The Lives of the Saints	92
Starting Over	103
Greene and Mauriac	109
Miracles and Responsibilities	117
4. Muriel Spark and Evil	130
Privacy and Intrusion in <i>The Comforters</i>	133
A Philosophical Guide to Evil	146
Varieties of Evil in Mid-Century Literature	156
<i>Memento Mori</i> : Omniscience and Prophecy	162
A Problem in Ethics	171
5. Rebuilding the Church: Barbara Pym's Parochialism	173
The Novel and the Parish	175
The Parson's Wife: <i>Jane and Prudence</i>	185
Building the Postwar Church	193
Paganism in <i>A Glass of Blessings</i>	210
Coda	220

6. Conclusion	222
Two Nuns' Tales	223
Communities	229
<i>Works Cited</i>	235
<i>Index</i>	253