
CONTENTS

Preface	vii
A map of the diocese of Chester	x-xi

PART 1 THE DIOCESE

1 THE STRUCTURE OF THE DIOCESE	3
2 THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DIOCESE	7

PART 2 SIN AND THE CLERGY AND PARISH OFFICERS

3 INTRODUCTION	15
4 SIN AND THE CLERGY	20
5 SIN AND THE CHURCHWARDENS	46
6 SIN AND THE SCHOOLMASTERS AND READERS	82

PART 3 SIN AND THE LAITY

7 DRUNKENNESS	103
8 DEFAMATION AND SEXUAL SLANDER	113

CONTENTS

9 FORNICATION, ADULTERY, AND BASTARDY	127
---------------------------------------	-----

PART 4 MATRIMONIAL PROBLEMS

10 CHILD MARRIAGES	161
--------------------	-----

11 MATRIMONIAL CONTRACTS AND DISPUTES	169
---------------------------------------	-----

12 CLANDESTINE MARRIAGES AND DIVORCE	178
--------------------------------------	-----

PART 5 SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH COURTS

13 THE ATTITUDES OF SOCIETY	199
-----------------------------	-----

14 THE DECLINE OF THE COURTS	211
------------------------------	-----

Notes	216
-------	-----

Bibliography	236
--------------	-----

Index	242
-------	-----