

## **Church History in the DEI**

This guide leaves out items commonly available in the University Library, including works by MacCulloch, Elton, Duffy and other major church historians. Instead, it focusses on less well-known works which, while they may not qualify as secondary scholarship, in themselves serve as primary sources for the understanding of church history from the 1800s onward. For further information on the DEI's resources, search the library catalogue using the filter 'Special Collections', or contact the librarian Anne Howard either by email ([anne.howard@devonandexeterinstitution.org](mailto:anne.howard@devonandexeterinstitution.org)) or by visiting the librarian's desk in the Inner Library.

### **General Church Scholarship**

Most of the works in this section can be found in the general history or theology sections of the DEI (use the online catalogue to find their class numbers, or ask the member of staff on duty in the Inner Library for guidance if you are struggling to locate them). They are listed here in chronological order of publication; the collection includes some reference works which students of church history may find helpful, as well as scholarship connected to the church.

- ❖ J. Strype, *Annals of the Reformation in England* (four volumes published between 1709-1738). Strype was a London clergyman whose works focus on the history of the Protestant church. His connections with a number of major political and religious figures enabled him to gain access to original documents regarding the history of the Church of England, on which this work is based.
- ❖ The Bridgwater Treatises (published between 1833-1840) were commissioned on his deathbed by F.H. Egerton, Earl of Bridgwater, to examine 'the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of God, as manifested in the Creation'. The DEI has a collection of the eight original treatises as well as Charles Babbage's additional ninth treatise in reply to the first eight. They are a useful source for studying beliefs in natural philosophy and the concept of a divine creator being exposed through the natural world
- ❖ R. Mant, *History of the Church of Ireland* (1840). Mant was an English clergyman who eventually rose to become an Irish bishop. This book examines the history of the Christian Church in Ireland from the Reformation up to the reign of William IV.
- ❖ E.C. Harrington, *Brief Notes on the Church of Scotland from 1555 to 1842 with a summary of her Ecclesiastical Government and Discipline Bearing Upon on the Present Controversy* (1843). Written by the then vicar of St David's Church, Exeter, a collection of papers delivered to the Exeter Clerical Society. Summarises the history of the Church of Scotland from the Reformation under John Knox up to the time of publication.
- ❖ G.H.A. Ewald, *A History of the People of Israel* (1859). Ewald was a linguist, theologian and historian, and a founder of the Protestant Association in Germany in 1863. He was also active in reforms of the church in Hanover in the nineteenth century. He believed that the history of Israel was the history of how mankind

acquired knowledge of one true religion; this work is a study in Biblical history from the time of Moses onwards.

- ❖ Jean-Henri Merle D'Aubigne, *Reformation of the Sixteenth Century* (1835-1853). D'Aubigne was a Swiss Protestant evangelical minister, born in 1794; his History of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century is focussed on the early part of the Reformation, mostly the development of the Protestant Church in Germany under Martin Luther. It was an immediate success in France and was subsequently translated into most major European languages, including English.
- ❖ F.M. Muller, *Introduction to the Science of Religion* (1873). German scholar F.M. Müller was one of the founders of comparative religion as a field of study, publishing numerous works on many theological topics including English translations of around 50 eastern sacred books. He also translated into English the works of some European philosophers, including Kant. *Introduction to the Science of Religion* was published in 1873 and is made up of four lectures delivered to the Royal Institution, along with two essays on analogy in religious writing and one on mythology.
- ❖ Anonymous, *Supernatural Religion: An Inquiry into the Reality of Divine Revelation*, Vol. 1-3 (published between 1874-1879). No one has ever admitted to writing this book, which focusses on the relevance of rational enquiry in religion.
- ❖ Rev. F. Arnold, B.A. (Christ Church Oxford), 1875; *Our Bishops and Deans* (Vol. 1&2) This book examines the history of the Church of England through looking at its bishops, their actions, beliefs and influence on the church as a whole. Vol. 1 covers the Victorian Church, the history of bishops in England in this period and eminent bishops and archbishops including Bishop Wilberforce of Winchester, Archbishop Tait, Archbishop Thomson and the later bishops of London, Winchester and Durham. Vol. 2 covers High Church, Low Church and Liberal bishops, bishops with literary careers, the Bishop of Peterborough, Welsh bishoprics, the social aspect of a bishop's career, a background of deans and cathedrals in this period, a look at a number of eminent deans including those of Westminster and St Paul's Cathedral, and finally an examination of the Church in the future as shaped by the clergy examined here.
- ❖ A. Schweizer, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* (1906). This book summarises the study of the historical figure of Jesus from the late eighteenth century up until the time of publication, finishing with Schweizer's own views on the subject. This includes his suggestion that Christ believed the day of judgement was to follow very soon after his own death, resurrection and ascension.
- ❖ E.K. Prideaux, *Sutcombe Church and its Builders* (1913). A detailed architectural investigation into one specific church.
- ❖ A number of works by Sabine Baring-Gould, on themes as varied as theology, history, local studies and archaeology. Baring-Gould was a Devonian vicar whose bibliography so far consists of over 1000 works, on topics as varied as hagiography and folk music as well as a number of novels. His work is remarkable for its sheer breadth and scale, as well as for its focus on the West Country. As well as his writing, he founded the Committee of the Devonshire Association for the exploration of Dartmoor, and served on it for a number of years; the preservation of many

prehistoric artefacts on Dartmoor is largely down to this work. He died in 1924. The collection of his works in the DEI includes;

- *The Church Revival* (1914), which examines the history of the Church of England from the death of Henry VIII onwards, covering most major figures in the church throughout that period and their influence on English church life. The work also covers movements such as the Evangelical Church of Germany, where relevant to the discussion.

-*The Evangelical Revival* (1920), which examines evangelical post-Reformation movements including Latitudinarianism, Calvinism and Utilitarianism, and the author's view of their impact on the English Church.

- ❖ A. Hamilton Thompson, *Helps for Students of History: Parish History and Records* (Pamphlet, 1919). Contains a discussion of the ecclesiastical and secular factors which combined to create the parish as an entity, and the way parish records can be interpreted by students of local history.
- ❖ Monseigneur Maurice Landrieux, *The Cathedral of Rheims: The Story of a German Crime* (1920). An account of the bombing of Rheims Cathedral in September 1914.
- ❖ C. Jenkins, *Helps for Students of History: Ecclesiastical Records* (Pamphlet, 1920). This pamphlet reproduces the text of three lectures on 'The Ecclesiastical Scribe', 'Administrative and General' and 'Judicial and Legal' records.
- ❖ H. Westlake, *Westminster Abbey: The Church, Convent, Cathedral and College of St Peter, Westminster* (1923). A large illustrated history of the Abbey by its archivist, which makes widespread use of the archives at Westminster.
- ❖ W.R. Inge, *God and the Astronomers* (1931-1933). This is a collection of the 1931-1933 Warburton Lectures, a series of theology lectures held in London since the eighteenth century. These particular lectures focus on the link between religion and science.
- ❖ G. Sheldon, *The Transition from Roman Britain to Christian England A.D. 368-664* (1932). Sheldon was almost entirely self-educated, having been unable to go to school or university due to an attack of polio as a small child. This book is therefore more valuable as a guide to historical thought in the 1930s than an account of beliefs at the time.
- ❖ R. Birt, *The Glories of Winchester Cathedral* (1948). This book outlines the history of Winchester Cathedral in both an architectural and historical context, looking at the overall place of the city as a centre for English political life from Anglo-Saxon England onwards and examining the building and its contents.
- ❖ Kathleen Edwards, *The English Secular Cathedrals in the Middle Ages: A Constitutional Study with special reference to the fourteenth century* (1949). This book aims to identify the extent to which the English Reformation was due to dissatisfaction with the clergy and ecclesiastical government of the time. Focuses on fourteenth century as this is the era when most cathedral customs, rules and procedures were codified and regulated and when record-keeping of administrative processes became much more widespread.

- ❖ National Council of Social Service Inc, *A Handlist of Medieval Ecclesiastical Terms* (Pamphlet, 1952). This glossary is useful for anyone struggling to understand medieval church records or similar primary sources.
- ❖ B. Clarke and J. Betjeman, *English Churches* (1964). A pictorial guide to church architecture from Romanesque through to the twentieth century, covering all major church building styles including Gothic and early post-Reformation. The collection mostly covers Anglican churches but some examples of Roman Catholic and other denominational architecture is included.
- ❖ M.W. Barley and R.P.C. Hanson (eds.), *Christianity in Britain 300-700* (1968). This mostly focusses on Roman Christianity but with some work on the early medieval church, and the way both eras influenced the church later in British history. It includes essays on the church in northern Britain, Wales and Ireland as well as archaeological studies of cemeteries and work on early British Christian art.
- ❖ H.H. Millman (former Dean of St Pauls), *Annals of St Paul's Cathedral* (1968). The annals begin by discussing Roman and Saxon Christianity, through to the Cathedral under Kings George I and II. The work discusses the Reformation & Counter-Reformation and their impact on the life of the Cathedral in detail, as well as including chapters on the restoration after the Great Fire of London and the monuments within the Cathedral.
- ❖ D. Knowles and R. Neville Hadcock, *Medieval Religious Houses in England & Wales* (1971). This book contains chapters on all the main religious houses including Benedictine and Cistercian monks and nuns and Franciscan and Dominican friars. It also covers the Knights Templar, hospitals run by or with religious houses and monastic establishments which eventually became secular cathedrals or establishments between 1539 and 1546.
- ❖ D. Dymond, *Writing a Church Guide* (Pamphlet, 1977). Most useful in this work is a list of suggested documents to find information about individual churches, including surveys of church property, churchwardens' accounts, antiquarian surveys and county journals.
- ❖ W. Rodwell, *The Archaeology of the English Church: The Study of Historic Churches and Churchyards* (1981). Addresses general practices of archaeological investigation of churches in England, ignoring specific issues or points of interest in cathedrals and other well-known church buildings.
- ❖ C. Platt, *The Parish Churches of Medieval England* (1981). A general history of the status and development of the parish church from pre-Norman conquest England through to post-Reformation. Both architectural and historical context.
- ❖ G. Randell, *The English Parish Church* (1982). A guide to English parish church buildings, furnishings and decoration from pre-Gothic onwards. Incorporates theological reasons behind specific features as well as architectural techniques.
- ❖ C. Platt, *The Abbeys and Priors of Medieval England* (1995). Similar to his investigation of parish churches, this follows the history and architectural developments of religious houses from the Norman Conquest until the sixteenth century.

- ❖ M.R. Watts, *The Chapel and the Nation: Nonconformity and the Local Historian* (Pamphlet, 1996). This book credits the social justice influence of the Nonconformist movement for preventing such a drastic split between Christianity and socialism like in many continental European countries. Watts points out that their democratic nature, Nonconformist chapel records record much more intimately the life of the church community, including arrival and departure of members and local affairs. It is a very useful background study for anyone wishing to know more about Nonconformity in a local context.
- ❖ *Crockford's Clerical Directory* (yearly editions from 1858 up to 2006-07). This directory was first published by John Crockford, a London publisher; it is the authoritative directory of the Anglican Communion in the UK, giving details of benefices and churches in England, Wales and Ireland and short biographies of around 26,000 priests and other clergy. It is now produced yearly by the Archbishop's Council through Church House Publishing.
- ❖ Newspapers like the Illustrated London News can also be explored for information on major events in church history over the last two centuries – the DEI has a complete run of this as well as a number of other newspapers from the nineteenth century onwards

### **South West Church History**

The DEI has a well-developed local history section and the items mentioned here are by no means a comprehensive collection. Particularly useful for church historians are the detailed histories of specific local churches, as are local history society journals.

- ❖ Rev. D.P. Alford, *The Abbots of Tavistock: with Views Beyond* (1891). A collection of essays outlining the history of Tavistock Abbey and its leaders, going up to the Victorian town, church and its vicars.
- ❖ E.S. Chalk, *History of St Peter's Church, Tiverton* (1927). Like the churchwarden's accounts mentioned above, this is a useful source for specific investigation into local churches because it contains a number of references to primary sources and records from the early medieval period onwards.
- ❖ R.J.E. Boggis, *History of St John's, Torquay* (1930). This work discusses the development of St John's Church out of necessity, due to the existence of only one church in the town at the beginning of the nineteenth century. This is a useful source for Victorian Christianity and religious movements outside the Church of England, discussing the fact that the church was built following a Nonconformist chapel being built nearby.
- ❖ Devon History Society newsletter and journal – these journals are worth examining for information they may provide about local churches.
- ❖ The DEI's Exeter Collection includes a number of documents and books covering the history of the cathedral and Exeter Diocese, including a complete set of the Exeter Episcopal Registers
- ❖ Annals of the Exeter Diocesan Architectural and Archaeological Society. These nineteenth century documents include information on church buildings and

monuments in and around Exeter, and are useful for any students wishing to examine local church history during the Victorian era.

## **Primary Sources**

The DEI has a complete collection of the publications of the Somerset Record Society (SRS) from the nineteenth century onwards. These include secular records and document collections, as well as the church records mentioned here, and would be useful for both church and local historians. The documents here are listed in chronological order for ease of dating.

- ❖ A.W. Haddan and W. Stubbs (eds.), *Councils and Ecclesiastical Documents Relating to Great Britain and Ireland* (Vol. 1-3) (originally published 1860s-1870s). The sections here include the British Church 200-681, the Church of Wales 681-1295, the Church of Cornwall 681-1072, the Churches of Ireland and Scotland 350-1188 and the English Church 595-1066.
- ❖ Bishop Hobhouse, (ed.), *Church-Wardens' Accounts of Croscombe, Pilton, Patton, Tintenhull, Morebath and St Michael's Bath Ranging from A.D. 1349 to 1560* (SRS, 1890). This collection of primary sources is extremely useful in describing the day-to-day life of parish churches away from the sacred aspects. The sources include lists of the Guilds who presented yearly offerings in some parishes, and are supplemented by a brief background summary of each parish.
- ❖ W. Hunt (ed.), *Two Cartularies of the Priory of St Peter at Bath* (SRS, 1893). These charters provide information on the day-to-day business of the abbey, as well as a brief history of the institution, its life and traditions.
- ❖ H.J.F Swayne, Wilts Record Society & A.M. Straton (ed.), *Churchwardens' Accounts of St Edmund and St Thomas, Sarum, 1443-1702 with other documents* (1896). This collection of primary records, spanning nearly three centuries, provide an insight into all aspects of parish life, including church personnel, church supplies (e.g. candles) and the festivals held in the church such as marriages, funerals and burials.
- ❖ Rev. E.H. Bates (ed.), *Two Cartularies of the Benedictine Abbeys of Muchelney and Athelney in the County of Somerset* (SRS, 1899). The Muchelney Abbey Cartulary appears to have been compiled in the fourteenth century; the latest document in it is dated 1282. As well as the abbey's charters, this book also includes a brief history of the house and a list of its abbots. Sources in Latin are translated and a short description of each item is given. Only some of the Athelney Cartulary survives and is reproduced here; it begins with a clause of a charter of King Alfred. A list of abbots for this institution is also provided here.
- ❖ Rev. F.W. Weaver, *A Cartulary of Buckland Priory in the County of Somerset* (SRS, 1909). This collection includes lists of prioresses and sisters at the institution, as well as contributions to organisations such as the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem and lists of confessions during Lent.
- ❖ H.C. Maxwell-Lyte and M.C.B. Dawes, *The Register of Thomas Bekynton BBW 1443-1465 Parts 1 and 2* (SRS, 1934). Not much is known about Bekynton's early life, until

he is mentioned as King's Secretary in February 1438. Like the other bishops whose registers are recorded here, he had a role as a diplomat as well as a cleric; he was promoted to be Keeper of the Privy Seal in 1443. He was appointed to Bath and Wells later that year, but like his successors he appointed a vicar general as well as a suffragan bishop to conduct the day-to-day business of the diocese on his behalf and spent most of his time at court. This register is not a complete record of all documents received or dispatched by the bishop's office during this period; however, when used in comparison with bishop's registers from later years it is a useful comparative tool.

- ❖ Sir H.C. Maxwell-Lyte, KCB (ed.), *The Registers of Robert Stillington, Bishop of Bath and Wells 1466-1491 and Richard Fox, Bishop of Bath and Wells 1492-1494* (SRS, 1937). Stillington was appointed to the see as well as holding the royal post of Keeper of the Privy Seal, and so much of the diocesan business recorded here was conducted in his absence. The section on Stillington contains (not in chronological order):
  - a register of Hugh Sugar, vicar-general in Stillington's absence
  - an incomplete register of documents executed by the bishop
  - register of ordinations held in the diocese during Stillington's time in office
  - certificates of ecclesiastical elections held during the same period
- ❖ Richard Fox's register is much shorter, and less is known about him. He was appointed Keeper of the Privy Seal in 1487, and bishop of Exeter the same year, being translated to Bath and Wells by a Papal Bull in 1492. However, it is likely that he never actually visited his new diocese. The records contained here mostly consist of the acts of his vicar general and a few episcopal documents. They are not ordered chronologically.
- ❖ H. Maxwell-Lyte, *The Registers of Oliver King Bishop of Bath and Wells 1496-1503 and Hadrian de Castello Bishop of Bath and Wells 1503-1518* (Somerset Record Society, 1939). Unlike the previous volume, this one does not include lists of people ordained in the diocese, which forms a major part of both registers. Oliver King served as secretary to Henry VII and it is probably on the king's orders that he was created bishop of Exeter in 1492. He was translated to Bath and Wells in 1495, but did not spend much time in the diocese until his retirement as the King's secretary around 1499. Like his predecessors, he therefore ensured that vicars general were appointed for all diocesan business that did not require the bishop's personal attention. The Register here contains a number of papal bulls granting benefices etc. to certain members of the diocesan clergy, as well as records of ecclesiastical dignitary elections during King's time in office.

Hadrian de Castello was sent to England as a clerk in the Pope's household, created bishop of Hereford in 1502, cardinal in 1503 and bishop of Bath and Wells in 1504. He spent very little time in England, being based mostly in Rome, so was rarely if ever in his diocese. The records in his register tend to be extremely lengthy, including both papal bulls and records of diocesan business such as the pensions granted to retiring incumbents etc.

- ❖ H. Maxwell-Lyte, *The Registers of Thomas Wolsey, bbw 1518-1523, John Clerke bbw 1523-1541, William Knight 1541-1547 and Gilbert Bourne 1554-1559* (1940). Like the bishops mentioned above, the four whose diocesan records appear here were rarely present themselves; business was instead carried out by vicars general. Knight and Clerke, especially were more diplomats than priests, and as such spent most of their time at court or travelling on royal business. The contents of all four Registers is very similar to the two volumes mentioned above, including records of ordinations and other parish business as well as papal and ecclesiastical documents.
- ❖ Dom A. Watkin, *The Glastonbury Chartulary Vol.1-3* (SRS, 1947). Written by a monk from Downside Abbey, this collection of the records of Glastonbury Abbey is produced here in Latin, but with a useful descriptive analysis section as an introduction. Would be useful for anyone doing Classics and History or for Medieval Studies MA candidates.
- ❖ D.S. Bailey, *Wells Cathedral Chapter Act Book 1666-83* (SRS, 1973). This is a useful source for the study of monastic foundations during the Restoration period. As a secular foundation, Wells suffered less severely than other religious institutions during the Reformation, but felt the effects particularly during the years when Thomas Cromwell was its (permanently absent) dean. The Chapter Act Book consists of a day-by-day account of the chapter's meetings, recording the attendees and the business transacted. The book also contains a number of appendices, mostly consisting of correspondence between the chapter and external figures.
- ❖ G.H. Woodward (ed.), *Calendar of Somerset Chantry Grants, 1548-1603* (SRS, 1982). This record collection outlines what happened to Somerset's chantries after the Chantry Act of 1547, following the declaration by the Protestant members of Edward VI's council that chantries were a remnant of superstitious Roman Catholic practices. All lands and items connected with chantries were to be seized and used to swell the royal coffers. Among other things, this work contains records of the purchase of chantry lands and properties from the crown by well-off members of the Tudor public.
- ❖ M.D. Costen, *Wesleyans and Bible Christians in South Somerset Accounts and Minutes, 1808-1907* (SRS, 1984). A useful record for anyone investigating Christian movements outside the Church of England during the nineteenth century, this is a detailed account of the financial transactions and meetings of early Methodist circuits in the county, as well as the similar but smaller Bible Christian circuit.
- ❖ K. Harris, *Glastonbury Abbey Records at Longleat House: A Summary List* (SRS 1991). This is especially useful for anyone considering undertaking archival work in the Longleat collection, to identify whether the items there will be helpful.
- ❖ S. Hobbs, *The Cartulary of Forde Abbey* (SRS, 1998). Forde Abbey was a Cistercian house founded in 1136 near Okehampton, which thrived during the twelfth century thanks to substantial patronage from local lay nobles. This collection of sources provides a record (sadly incomplete) of the Abbey's estates and possessions; it is noticeably lacking more than a brief mention of the royal confirmations of abbey lands in 1189 and 1204, possibly because these documents did not fit in with the rest of the general cartulary's contents.

- ❖ R.W. Dunning (Part 1) and M.B. McDermott (Part 2) (eds.), *Church Accounts 1457-1559* (SRS, 2013). This contains the church and churchwardens' accounts of seven churches in Somerset during this period.
- ❖ D.M. Owen, *The Records of the Established Church in England excluding parochial records* (Pamphlet, 1970). These describe the actions of spiritual authority by the ecclesiastical administration of England's dioceses and cathedrals, as opposed to the secular administration of church lands and possessions.
- ❖ D. Seymour (ed.), *The Exchequer Cartulary of Torre Abbey* (2000). A huge collection of charters connected to the Abbey; a very valuable primary source for students of early medieval Christianity and the religious life.