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Longland, 1521-1547

Margaret Bowker

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## THE HENRICIAN REFORMATION

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A sixteenth-century bishop, possibly John Longland, from a missal certainly belonging to him. (B. M. Add. Ms. 21974; reproduced by permission of the British Library.)

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THE  
HENRICIAN  
REFORMATION

THE DIOCESE OF LINCOLN  
UNDER JOHN LONGLAND  
1521–1547

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MARGARET BOWKER

*Reader in History  
University of Lancaster*

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TO JOHN AND DAVID

Qui domi moras, auxilium studiis  
attulerunt non sine dolore ac  
risu mutua vice inter se coniunctis.

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## PREFACE

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This book has been an intolerably long time in the research and the writing: not only did I bite off rather more than could be easily chewed and digested, but the move of my family to Lancaster put more than 200 miles between myself and my sources and required of me wholly new lectures and skills. The research loaded into the removal vans in 1973 has only really been able to come out over the last year and much of it has looked faded or incomprehensible. I should have burned it all by now were it not for the persistent and sympathetic help of a number of research foundations and the conviction shared and facilitated by my husband that 1979 was to be 'make or break' year in my long involvement with the diocese of Lincoln. The willingness with which he has talked through the problems, tried to correct the style and cooked the supper makes the feminism of some of my contemporaries sound a deal too shrill.

But I have also been helped with access to my sources: first when my son was too young to allow me to reach them and thereafter when distance made travel expensive and often impossible. I am most grateful to the Leverhulme Foundation, the British Academy and the University of Lancaster for the generous help they have given to me in overcoming some of these problems, and to the patience of archivists at Lincoln – where they must have wondered if I would become part of the furniture – Leicester, Bedford, Buckingham, Huntingdon, Northampton, Oxford, the British Library, Lambeth and the Public Record Office.

The volume of the material which this research produced necessitated the use of a research assistant. Miss Susan Hunt has looked up more than 2,000 clergy in Emden and other volumes. I am grateful for her good-humoured patience and for the support of the Leverhulme Foundation in paying her. The pure business of transcribing so much material had me all too frequently flat on my back. My late mother-in-law, a highly skilled calligrapher, wrote and wrote to my dictation with much humour and even more compassion. The results of her labours and

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### *Preface*

mine we realised would, in card form, put the dining-room table almost indefinitely out of commission. I decided that no sample would do justice to the subject, and all the clergy, their patrons, their incomes and their parishes were put on computer tape. I am grateful to Dr Martin Porter and the Institute of Applied Linguistics at Cambridge for their help in this regard.

Much of the material for the investigation was in difficult Latin. Longland's sermons were translated from English into an Erasmus-type Latin which often nearly defeated me and certainly would have done so had not Mr James Hunt, formerly of Rugby School and now of Magdalene College, Cambridge, borne with my ignorance, translated what I could not and conveyed to me the 'Churchillian gusto' (his words) of the original.

I am grateful to the British Library for the reproduction from Longland's missal of which the wood cut of the bishop is thought to portray some likeness to the owner. I am also greatly indebted to Mr C. V. Middleton of Lincolnshire Press and Television Services for his photographs of the Cathedral and bishop's palace and to Mr A. P. Moore of Bishop Grosseteste's College for his picture of Longland's chantry.

After so much help, one would hope that the book would be worthy of the generosity accorded it. I know it is not. It would be worse if Dr Christopher Haigh and Professor Kathleen Major had not pruned it of its more elementary errors. I am profoundly grateful to both and to Dr and Mrs John Nurser who have cherished me at Lincoln. It will, no doubt, be a relief to everyone – not least myself – that my long association with the diocese of Lincoln is now at an end.

Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Deirdre Grant for her feats of typewriting, performed after long days in the university. My mother, after retiring from a medical career, took on the onerous task of indexing. Such maternal devotion goes well beyond the call of duty. To her and to the staff of Cambridge University Press I owe much for their meticulous correction and kindness.

Copies of the data base of research material are available. Approval for receiving a copy should first be sought from Mrs M. Bowker, Department of History, Furness College, University of Lancaster, Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4YG, UK. Details of costs will be sent with the approval. Payment should then be sent to Mrs Bowker, and a 2400-foot 9-track magnetic tape should

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*Preface*

be sent with a copy of the approval and details of the tape format required to the Literary and Linguistic Computing Centre, University of Cambridge, Sidwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA, UK.

*Margaret Bowker*

*Michaelmas 1980*

*The Cottage,  
Bailrigg, Lancaster*

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1. The dioceses of England and Wales in 1521

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2. The diocese of Lincoln in 1521

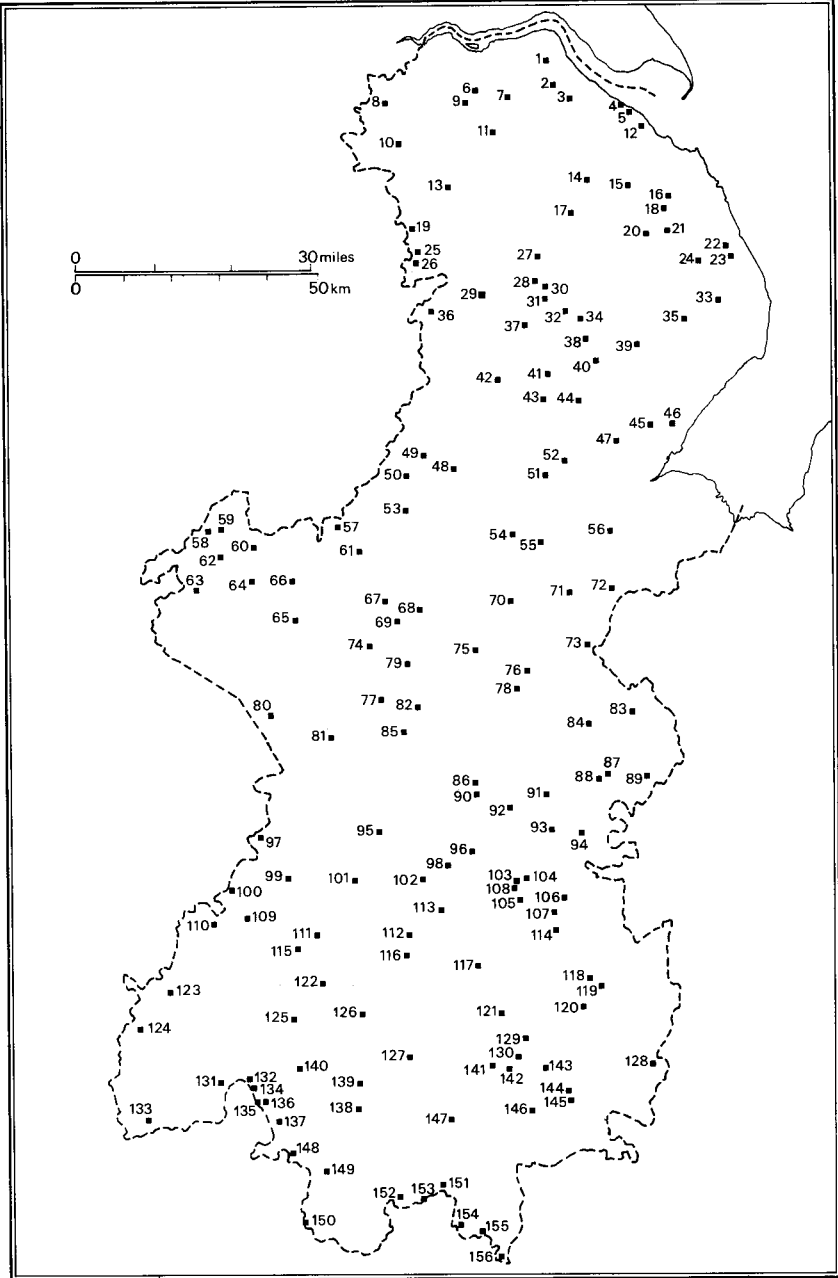
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3. The religious foundations of the diocese of Lincoln

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3 Nun Cotham	55 Bourne	107 Warden
4 Grimsby	56 Spalding	108 Caldwell
5 Wellow	57 Dalby	109 Chacombe
6 Thornholme	58 Breedon	110 Wroxton
7 Elsham	59 Langley	111 Biddlesden
8 Hirst	60 Garendon	112 Bradwell
9 Gokewell	61 Kirby Bellars	113 Tickford
10 Axholme	62 Gracedieu	114 Chicksands
11 Newstead	63 Heather	115 Brackley
12 Humberston	64 Ulverscroft	116 Snelshall
13 Willoughton	65 Leicester	117 Woburn
14 Orford	66 Rothley	118 Hitchin
15 North Ormsby	67 Owston	119 Wymondley
16 Alvingham	68 Brooke	120 Temple Dinsley
17 Sixhills	69 Launde	121 Dunstable
18 Louth Park	70 Stamford	122 Chetwode
19 Heynings	71 Deeping St James	123 Cold Norton
20 Maltby	72 Crowland	124 Bruern
21 Legbourne	73 Peterborough	125 Bicester
22 Hagneby	74 Noseley	126 Hogshaw
23 Markby	75 Fineshade	127 Aylesbury
24 Greenfield	76 Fotheringhay	128 Hertford
25 Torksey	77 Dingley	129 Markyate
26 Fosse	78 Cotterstock	130 Flamstead
27 Bullington	79 Bradley	131 Eynsham
28 Barlings	80 Lutterworth	132 Godstow
29 Lincoln	81 Sulby	133 Clanfield
30 Stainfield	82 Pipewell	134 Rewley
31 Bardney	83 Ramsey	135 Osney
32 Tupholme	84 Sawtry	136 Oxford
33 Thwaite	85 Rothwell	137 Littlemore
34 Stixwold	86 Irthlingborough	138 Thame
35 Spilsby	87 Huntingdon	139 Notley
36 Eagle	88 Hinchingsbrooke	140 Studley
37 Nocton	89 St Ives	141 Ashridge
38 Kirkstead	90 Higham Ferrers	142 St Margaret's
39 Revesby	91 Stonely	143 Redbourn
40 Tattershall	92 Melchbourne	144 St Albans
41 Catley	93 Bushmead	145 Sopwell
42 Temple Bruer	94 St Neots	146 Kings Langley
43 Haverholme	95 Northampton	147 Missenden
44 Kyme	96 Harrold	148 Dorchester
45 Boston	97 Catesby	149 Ewelme
46 Freiston	98 Lavendon	150 Goring
47 Swineshead	99 Canon's Ashby	151 Little Marlow
48 Grantham	100 Clattercote	152 Medmenham
49 Newbo	101 Sewardsley	153 Bisham
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51 Sempringham	103 Bedford	155 Eton
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## ABBREVIATIONS

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Full details of the manuscript or secondary sources will be found in the bibliography. Manuscripts are in the custody of the Lincolnshire Archives Office, the Castle, Lincoln (L.A.O.) unless otherwise stated.

<i>A.A.S.R.P.</i>	<i>Associated Architectural Societies Reports and Papers</i>
Bodl. Libr.	The Bodleian Library, Oxford
B.L.	British Library
Bucks. R.O.	Buckinghamshire Record Office
Emden, <i>Oxford</i>	A. B. Emden, <i>A Biographical Register of the University of Oxford to A. D. 1500</i> , 3 vols. Oxford, 1957–9
Emden, <i>Oxford</i> , n.s.	A. B. Emden, <i>A Biographical Register of the University of Oxford to A. D. 1500</i> , 3 vols.
Emden, <i>Cambridge</i>	A. B. Emden, <i>A Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to A. D. 1500</i> . Cambridge, 1963
Hunts. R.O.	Huntingdonshire Record Office
L.A.O.	Lincoln Archives Office
Leics. R.O.	Leicestershire Record Office (Leicester Museum, Department of Archives)
<i>L.P.</i>	<i>Letters and Papers Foreign and Domestic in the reign of Henry VIII</i> ed. J. S. Brewer, J. Gairdner and R. H. Brodie. London, 1862–1910
<i>L.R.S.</i> 5, 10.	<i>Lincoln Wills 1271–1530</i> , ed. C. W. Foster. Lincoln Record Society vol. 5, 1914; vol. 10, 1918
<i>L.R.S.</i> 12, 13.	<i>Chapter Acts of the Cathedral Church of St Mary of Lincoln</i> , ed. R. E. G. Cole. Lincoln Record Society, vol. 12, 1915; vol. 13, 1917
<i>L.R.S.</i> 33, 35, 37.	<i>Visitations in the Diocese of Lincoln 1517–</i>

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	<i>1531</i> , ed. A. Hamilton Thompson, 3 vols. Lincoln Record Society, vol. 33, 1940; vol. 35, 1944; vol. 37, 1947
Longden I-xvi	H. I. Longden, <i>Northamptonshire and Rutland Clergy</i> , 16 vols. Northampton, 1938–52
Northampton R.O.	Northampton Record Office
<i>O.H.S.</i>	Oxford Historical Society
P.R.O.	Public Record Office
<i>S.R.</i>	<i>Statutes of the Realm</i> , 11 vols. 1810–28
<i>Valor Ecclesiasticus</i>	<i>Valor Ecclesiasticus</i> , 6 vols. Record Commission 1825–34
Venn	<i>Alumni Cantabrigienses</i> , Part I, J. and J. A. Venn, 4 vols. Cambridge, 1922–7