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0521386551 - Church Courts, Sex and Marriage in England, 1570–1640 - Martin
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*Church Courts, Sex
and Marriage in
England, 1570–1640*

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*To my Father and
the memory of my Mother*

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Preface

This book is concerned primarily with the church courts; secondarily it deals with various aspects of sexual behaviour and marriage; more generally it tries to convey something about the nature of early modern English society, and what it was like to live in small-scale communities where many forms of personal behaviour were subject to legal sanction. My immense debt to the numerous scholars who have worked or are currently working in these fields will, I trust, be apparent from the notes and references. But during the long period of the book's gestation I have incurred many personal obligations which I should like to acknowledge here. Cliff Davies, who tutored me in early modern history at Wadham, originally suggested that I might study the church courts. The doctoral thesis on which parts of this work are based was supervised by Keith Thomas; I am deeply grateful to him for the stimulus he offered, for the vigilance with which he guided my work, and for his constant encouragement and kindness. My thanks are also due to Joan Thirsk, who acted as joint supervisor for a while and opened my eyes to many possibilities which I would otherwise have missed. I am grateful, too, to Patrick Collinson, who gave me much needed encouragement at a critical time. In addition I should like to register my appreciation of the assistance offered by the staffs of the various libraries and record offices which I have used; I owe a particular debt of thanks to Mrs Dorothy Owen of Cambridge University Library; to Mr K. H. Rogers, the Wiltshire County Archivist; and to Miss Pamela Stewart, formerly Assistant Archivist for the diocese of Salisbury. For many stimulating discussions, for valuable criticisms and suggestions and for other forms of assistance I should like to thank Ian Green, David Hempton, John Morrill, Jim Sharpe, John Walter and Keith Wrightson. My greatest debt of all is to my wife, Gill.

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Conventions and abbreviations

Dates are given Old Style, but the year is taken as beginning on 1 January. With the exception of a few well-known locations, all places mentioned in the text are or were in Wiltshire unless otherwise indicated. Reference to this and other counties, and to ecclesiastical jurisdictions, etc., is on the basis of boundaries as they existed in the period 1570–1640. In quotations from contemporary sources the spelling and punctuation have generally been modernised. The place of publication of books cited is London unless otherwise stated; some titles are abbreviated. For call numbers, means of reference, etc., to manuscript sources, see the appropriate section of the Bibliography. It should be noted here, however, that many items of the Salisbury diocesan records were unfoliated when I used them. Detailed reference to these volumes is generally by date of court day (e.g., 12/7/1623) and name of case, whether office (disciplinary) prosecution (e.g., *Office v. Bankes*) or instance (party and party) suit (e.g., *Kettle v. Cowdrey*). In addition the following abbreviations have been used in the notes:

<i>Agric. hist. rev.</i>	<i>Agricultural history review</i>
Archaeol.	Archaeological
B.L.	British Library
<i>Bull. Inst. Hist. Res.</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research</i>
C.U.L.	Cambridge University Library
East.	Easter session
<i>Econ. hist. rev.</i>	<i>Economic history review</i>
Ely D.R.	Ely Diocesan Records
<i>Eng. hist. rev.</i>	<i>English historical review</i>
Hil.	Hilary session
Hist.	Historical
<i>H.M.C.</i>	<i>Historical Manuscripts Commission</i>

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<i>Jl</i>	<i>Journal</i>
L.M.	Leicester Museums and Art Gallery, Department of Archives
Mich.	Michaelmas session
<i>Proc. Brit. Acad.</i>	<i>Proceedings of the British Academy</i>
P.R.O.	Public Record Office, London
<i>Rev.</i>	<i>Review</i>
R.O.	Record Office
ser.	series
Soc.	Society
S.T.C.	A. W. Pollard and G. R. Redgrave, <i>A short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland and Ireland and of English books printed abroad, 1475–1640</i> , 2nd edn revised and enlarged by W. A. Jackson, F. S. Ferguson and Katharine F. Pantzer, 2 vols. (1976–86).
<i>Trans.</i>	<i>Transactions</i>
<i>Trans. Roy. Hist. Soc.</i>	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>
Trin.	Trinity session
<i>V.C.H.</i>	<i>Victoria County History</i>
W.R.O.	Wiltshire Record Office, Trowbridge
W.S.R.O.	West Sussex Record Office, Chichester