

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>List of illustrations</i> | <i>page</i> viii |
| <i>Preface</i> | ix |
| <i>Abbreviations</i> | xii |
| Introduction: conceptualising archaism | i |
| 1 Within our own memory: Old English and the early modern poet | 32 |
| 2 Chaucer, Gower and the anxiety of obsolescence | 69 |
| 3 Archaic style in religious writing: immutability, controversy, prophecy | 105 |
| 4 Staging generations: archaism and the theatrical past | 138 |
| 5 Shepherds' speech: archaism and Stuart pastoral drama | 168 |
| 6 Archaism and the 'English' epic | 204 |
| Coda: looking backward, looking forward | 237 |
| <i>Notes</i> | 242 |
| <i>Index</i> | 299 |