Oxford-Borstal campus, and in his firm adherence to the Liberal and Liberal Democrat parties.

In addition to the autobiographical narrative, readers will find shrewd observations about Anglican identity, occasional criticism of the General Synod and also frank acknowledgement of his own part in decisions that he subsequently thought to be unwise. Most of all, readers will become aware that this remarkable range of activity and achievement has been motivated and sustained by deep devotion to our Lord and the Church, a devotion that on occasion receives touching expression. There is no trace of self-advertisement; rather, we read the record of a perceptive, charitable, unassuming servant of God and the Church, a record all the more impressive and eloquent for its being understated.

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The Foundations of Medieval English Ecclesiastical History: Studies Presented to David Smith

EDITED BY PHILIPPA HOSKIN, CHRISTOPHER BROOKE AND BARRIE DOBSON
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Professor David Smith is known to a generation of ecclesiastical historians for a number of reasons. For over three decades, he has been on the staff of the Borthwick Institute, now part of the University of York, of which he has been Director for a quarter of a century. For much of that period, since 1973, he has also been sole or joint editor of the British Academy's *English Episcopal Acta* series, an enterprise of inestimable worth not only to ecclesiastical historians generally but more especially to those with an interest in the history of canon law and ecclesiastical administration in the provinces of England. He has also acted as the general editor of Lincoln Record Society, to which in the year 2000 he contributed his own edition of *The Acta of Hugh of Wells*, the bishop of Lincoln who had formed the subject of his doctoral dissertation at the start of his career, and a subject which also celebrated his loyalty to his native cathedral city. He was also the founding editor of the *Monastic Research Bulletin*.

This Festschrift in Professor Smith's honour, produced shortly before his sixtieth birthday, brings together essays from eleven writers, together with two personal tributes to him for his achievements. The focal point of the work is summed up in the debt that historians owe to those who produce scholarly

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editions of primary sources, without which much original research and other scholarship could not be accomplished. Each essay therefore seeks to disclose how the availability of such scholarly editions serves not only to provide a basis upon which further research can be conducted but also to ground a proper understanding and appreciation of a multitude of issues that confront, in this particular case, the historian of the mediaeval Church, its administration and its law.

The volume opens with the two tributes to Professor Smith: one from Professor Christopher Brooke, the *doyen* of English church historians, to celebrate David Smith as a scholar; the other by Christopher Webb, a colleague at the Borthwick, who praises what David Smith has accomplished as an archivist. Both, to some measure, take as their *leitmotif* the remark that 'the archivist is not and ought not to be a historian'. Both are agreed that not only has the subject of their tributes 'trampled ... on the boundaries' raised by this comment, but that in doing so he has proved beyond doubt the falsity of the statement. It is clear that Smith's scholarship and personal research experience has played an immense and important role in his organisation of the archives of which he has been in charge, and also of the good archival practices that he has influenced more widely. Equally, his knowledge of the archival material, coupled with its uses, has provided a fertile repository of information, experience and skill, which has assisted the scholars who have come to him at the Borthwick in pursuit of their own projects. While eminent scholars pay tribute to the work of the Borthwick and its Director in this volume, there is a further dimension to the Institute's that deserves recognition. Generations of students – undergraduates as well as postgraduates – have also found the Borthwick to be an invaluable and friendly resource for their work. If your reviewer may be allowed a personal comment, when he was writing this review his wife recollected that she had used the Borthwick when researching her undergraduate dissertation on fifteenth-century wills and still recalled the experience with a warmth of affection. Important as scholarly research is, this other dimension of the Borthwick's good work deserves to be remembered too.

As might be suspected, the contributors provide papers that cover a range of topics relating to church history in the later mediaeval period. Some will be of more interest to the ecclesiastical lawyer than others, although there is much in the work of the other specialists that the canonist will find fascinating. Julia Barrow, for instance, explores the question of why episcopal *Acta* were forged, and, as well as her preliminary observations on the question, provides two appendices, usefully listing respectively the forgeries contained in published editions of *Acta* and the foundations which benefited as a result. Nicholas Bennett inquires into whether the records relating to north-east Lincolnshire in the period 1290–1340 support William Langland's strictures on the clergy as being foreign, unpriested, ill-educated and often absent, and discovers that these charges are scarcely accurate for the sample he has examined. Of interest

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to the canon lawyer in his paper is his finding that pains would appear to have been taken by Oliver Sutton, when bishop of Lincoln (1280–1299), to ensure that the terms of the constitution *Licet canon*, issued at the Council of Lyons in 1274 and requiring that clergy who were unpriested at the time of their presentation to a living proceed to the priesthood within a year, were enforced in his diocese. A similar concern with seeing that canonical reforms were implemented emerges from Christopher Harper-Bill's examination of the career of Walter Suffield, Bishop of Norwich (1244–1257), who is presented as 'a model diocesan' whose reputation has suffered from being a contemporary of greater luminaries, such as Robert Grosseteste and St Richard of Chichester.

The most interesting of the papers to legal historians is likely to be Professor Richard Helmholz's 'The law of charity and the English ecclesiastical courts', in which he examines the history of the law of charity in England prior to the Statute of Charitable Uses 1601. Finding nothing on the subject in Gratian's *Decretum* nor in the Decretals, and very little in Lyndwood, he nevertheless notes that the ecclesiastical courts did deal with what would today be accounted charitable matters. Among the interesting precursors of the modern law that he discovers are a liberal attitude to perpetuity and uncertainty of objects, together with the beginnings of what would one day become the doctrine of *cy-près*. Professor Helmholz concludes that the Church tribunals did indeed act to ensure that fiduciary duties were observed, and that the Court of Chancery later inherited the aforementioned concepts from its ecclesiastical forerunners.

It is neither possible nor perhaps desirable in a review of this length to attempt to engage with all of the papers in the volume. It is to be hoped that what has been said about the selected few will whet the reader's appetite for many that remain unmentioned. Suffice it to say that they are of a comparable quality and interest. More importantly, together they constitute a fitting accolade to Professor David Smith as both a scholar and an archivist.

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Portrayal of Religion: The Media and the Arts

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The fourteenth annual conference of the European Consortium for Church and State Research took place in Cardiff in November 2002. It was organised by the

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