The Early Stuart Church, 1603–1642

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The Early Stuart Church, 1603–1642

EDITED BY
KENNETH FINCHAM

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Preface

I have enjoyed editing this collection of essays. In part this is because early Stuart religious history is so lively a subject, and during the lengthy gestation of this book much new work has appeared, which has provided (in most cases!) occasion for reflection and reconsideration. In part also it is because my fellow-contributors have been so co-operative, listening to my suggestions and exhortations with exemplary forbearance, and then in every case beating me to the finishing-post. I am especially grateful to those amongst them who here offer a taste of their forthcoming monographs; to Peter White, for again entering the lists against the Tyackean consensus (if it exists!); and to Peter Lake, for agreeing, at the last moment, to revamp and extend a collaborative venture of a few years ago. It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the expertise and patience, in about equal measure, of the Macmillan team, above all Vanessa Graham and Sue Cope.

The essays which follow offer new thoughts and evidence on both familiar and relatively uncharted territory; there are some omissions – notably on the Catholic community, on which we must await the important research of Michael Questier – but the aim has been to examine a number of central themes across the forty years before 1642. The extent to which we have fulfilled this aim I leave to the tender mercies of the reviewers.

14.iv.92

K.F.

This book is dedicated to Alison, Liz and Sandy with
love and affection.