

STUDIES IN
CHURCH HISTORY

VOLUME 26

**THE MINISTRY:
CLERICAL
AND LAY**

EDITED BY W. J. SHEILS AND DIANA WOOD

For the Ecclesiastical History Society
BASIL BLACKWELL

STUDIES IN CHURCH HISTORY

Volume 26

The Ministry: Clerical and Lay

Edited by W. J. Sheils and Diana Wood

This book, containing almost thirty articles by leading scholars in the field, provides the most comprehensive examination to date of a key concept in Christianity, ranging from the fourth to the twentieth century. The volume looks at all levels of clergy within the medieval Church from bishops to parochial chaplains, and highlights the fact that within orthodoxy and the religious orders, the clerical/lay distinction was by no means clear cut.

From the third century onward, the sense of calling from above, through the Apostles, meant that the clerical/lay distinction did emerge, and was institutionalized in ordination. The Reformation sought to break down the gulf between clergy and laity, through Luther's doctrine of a priesthood of believers, and through the conception in Calvin and the Puritans of a reformed pastorate called and elected by the Church rather than ordained from on high.

'The Ministry' explores all these changing notions of ministry and how they were challenged by the Counter-Reformation. The book concludes with a consideration of missionary activity, and the new challenge it poses to ministry.

THE MINISTRY: CLERICAL AND LAY

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**PAPERS READ AT
THE 1988 SUMMER MEETING AND
THE 1989 WINTER MEETING OF
THE ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

EDITED BY

**W. J. SHEILS AND
DIANA WOOD**

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