

# Elizabethan Divinity



## Variety

### Official Religion:

Act of Supremacy, 1559

Act of Uniformity, 1559

‘Settlement Anglicanism’

### Non-Conformist Religion:

Roman Catholicism

‘Traditional’ religion

‘Recusants’ / ‘Recusancy’

‘Sects’

‘Radical’ / ‘Anabaptist’ religion

Familists, Freewillers (‘Dissenters’)

### Aspiring Religion

Puritans

Some Anglican

Some Non-Conformist



# Elizabethan Divinity



## Variety

### Non-Conformist Religion:

#### Roman Catholicism

‘Traditional’ religion

Recusant / Recusancy

From Latin *recusare*

“To refuse, to object”

Initial tolerance

Elizabeth desires outward conformity

No “windows into men’s souls”

External pressures

Papacy

Jesuit Mission

Mary, Queen of Scots

St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre

Protestants kill Catholics in Paris

Fears of Catholic reprisals

From early 1570s, greater focus on recusancy

Act Against Recusants, 1593



# Elizabethan Divinity



## Variety

Non-Conformist Religion:  
Recusant Families

The Howards

Catherine Howard

Fifth wife of Henry VIII

Elizabethans from Recusant Families

William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

(Later) John Donne (1572-1631)

William Allen's College at Douai

Founded in 1568

Training center for English Catholics

Expect martyrdom

Avoid politics; focus on the theological

Jesuit Missionaries

Edmund Campion

Robert Parsons



# Elizabethan Divinity

## Variety

Non-Conformist Religion:  
Recusant Religion

‘Undercover’ Mass Kits



‘Disguised’ Altars



‘Concealable’ Devotional Objects





# Elizabethan Divinity



## Variety

### Protestant Challenges to the Settlement:

#### Dissenters

Troublesome

Relatively few, but when visible, very visible

Obviously non-conformist

Eventually classed, prosecuted as recusants

#### Puritans

A couple of different kinds of challenges

Non-conformist Puritans: easier to deal with

Anglican Puritans:

Not outside of the Church of England

Not agents of foreign powers

Not politically opposed to Elizabeth's rule\*

Not easily disposed of!

Could hold positions in C of E (some did)

Dissatisfied with Settlement Anglicanism



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## Variety

### Protestant Challenges to the Settlement:

Anglican Puritans:

Settlement:

too much Rome

not enough Scripture (a la Geneva)

Many had embraced Calvinism in exile

If Knox could make Scotland presbyterian...

Steps toward further English reform

Abolish the episcopacy

Institute presbyterianism

Assemblies

Sessions

Liturgical renovations (a la Geneva)

Eliminate *Book of Common Prayer*

Gathered from 'the popish dunghill'

Sign of cross, laying on of hands, rings

Calendar, saints, bowing, kneeling

Music, singing

Toss vestments, ornaments, ceremonies



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## Variety

### Protestant Challenges to the Settlement:

#### Anglican Puritans:

##### Strategists

Thomas Cartwright (c. 1535-1603)

Cambridge theologian

‘New Testament church’

Regulative principle: worship & order

*An Admonition to Parliament* (1572)

Walter Travers (c. 1548-1635)

Cambridge educated

To Theodore Beza’s Geneva

Ordained in Antwerp by T. Cartwright

Lecturer, Temple Church (1581)

##### Strategies

BCP worship PLUS other forms

Calvinist accompaniments to episcopacy

Prophecyings & classis

Giving lip service & undermining order

Difficult to discipline



# Elizabethan Divinity



## Articulating Anglicanism

### Seeking a Positive Definition

Not Rome, Not Anabaptism. What is it?

‘Christ’s Holy Catholic Church’ (*BCP*)

Not *separated* from other Christians

Historically

Geographically

Not under papal jurisdiction

Not bound to all prior customs

Elizabeth’s Archbishops of Canterbury

Matthew Parker (1559-1575)

Scholarly, conservative (primitive), stable

Willing to disagree with Queen

Edmund Grindal (1576-1583)

Not committed to Elizabethan uniformity

Puritan sympathies

Wouldn’t suppress prophesyings

John Whitgift (1583-1604)

Calvinist theology, episcopal order

Enforced *BCP*: Court of High Commission



# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

### Seeking a Positive Definition

John Jewel (1522-1571)

Oxford educated (Merton College)

Elected to Corpus Christi, Oxford

Studied with Peter Martyr Vermigli

Fled to Continent during Mary's reign

Returned after Elizabeth's accession

Committed to Elizabethan reforms

Bishop of Salisbury, 1559-1560

Moderated his quasi-Puritan zeal

Opposed Romanist disputants

1559 sermon

1560-1562 *Apologia ecclesiae Anglicanae*

English translation, 1564

Catholic, not Roman

Scripture, Fathers, Councils

In time, distanced from Romans & Puritans





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

### Seeking a Positive Definition

Richard Hooker (1554-1600)

Reputable, but not wealthy family

Uncle, John Hooker

Studied on Continent with Vermigli

Connections with Bp. Jewel

Patronage of John Jewel

Provides for Hooker's education (& others)

Fellow, Corpus Christi (1577)

Ordained priest (Bp Sandys, London, 1579)

Tutor: Edwin Sandys, Jr., George Cranmer





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

### Seeking a Positive Definition

Richard Hooker (1554-1600)

1580: loses fellowship (gets it back later)

1581: St. Paul's Cross preacher

1584: Rector, St. Mary's Drayton Beauchamp

1585: Master (Rector), Temple Church,

By appointment of the Queen

May have been a compromise candidate?

1591: St. Andrew's Boscomb, Wiltshire

1591: subdean, Salisbury Cathedral

1595: Rector

St. Mary the Virgin, Bishopsbourne

St. John the Baptist, Barham, Kent

Died 3 Nov. 1600

Bishopsbourne Rectory

Buried in chancel





# Elizabethan Divinity



## Articulating Anglicanism

### Seeking a Positive Definition

Richard Hooker (1554-1600)

Public Conflict at the Temple 1585-1586 :

Controversial relationship with Deputy

Puritan Walter Travers

‘Inherited’

Succession and appointment

Travers: assist Dr Richard Alvey, Master  
Alvey’s death requires replacement

Travers nominated by William Cecil

Radically Puritan changes at Temple

Removed prayers & Scripture lessons

Allowed more time for lectures

Revised communion practice

Other nominees

Nicholas Bond (AbC Whitgift)

Richard Hooker (AbY Edwin Sandys)



# Elizabethan Divinity



## Articulating Anglicanism

### Seeking a Positive Definition

Richard Hooker (1554-1600)

Hooker: gets job, appointed by Queen

Hooker invites Travers to stay on

(Hooker secures stability for Travers!)

Who should give the first sermon?

Hooker, new Master

Travers

Insistent representative of old Master

Should present Hooker to congregation

Ensuing confrontation

Travers: obviously angered by Hooker

Encouraged to meet & address problems

Publicly criticizes Hooker instead

Hooker taught 'contrary to the gospel'

Knelt, prayed before sermon (after)

Didn't keep Travers' peculiar service

Hooker preaches in a.m.

Travers preaches against him in p.m.



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## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Richard Hooker (1554-1600)

Theological Disagreements

Hooker opposed Travers' Puritanism

Rejected supralapsarian doctrine of sin

Preaching

Scripture

Soteriology & Means of Grace

God saves; not perfection of church

Roman Catholics could be saved

Doctrinal deficiencies granted

Benefits can surmount ignorance

By the end, Travers seen as petty or inept





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

### Seeking a Positive Definition

Richard Hooker (1554-1600)

What's to be Done with Travers?

Returns to Temple; pink slipped

Hooker had asked for Travers to remain

Travers appeals; let me replace Hooker!

Travers will not give up his lodging

Travers will not worship anywhere else

Keeps returning to the Temple

Takes notes on Hooker's sermons

Complains

Asks Whitgift to act against Hooker

Appeals to Privy Council against Hooker

15 points against Hooker

Hooker patiently explains

Travers' misunderstands his positions





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

### Seeking a Positive Definition

Richard Hooker (1554-1600)

What's to be Done with Travers?

Travers loses support of other Puritans

Proposal to Parliament

Long shot

Replace BCP with T's liturgical texts

Flop

Remains at Temple to harass Hooker

Hooker to Whitgift: T's attacks helpful

Clarifies his own thought

Need: a carefully reasoned manual

Leads to *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Richard Hooker (1554-1600)

*Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*

Concept: a book in defense of episcopacy

Becomes much more extensive work

Defense of the Church of England

esp. vs. Puritan critiques

Re: priesthood & liturgy

Books I-IV pub. 1593-1594

Book V pub. 1597

Books VI-VIII posthumous

Uses philosophy, law, history of theology

Addresses controversies at root

Books I-IV: groundwork

Book V: Defense of Settlement religion





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Richard Hooker (1554-1600)

*Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*

Participation:

Nature & types of laws

Divinely intended order

As means of salvation

Relative to church & means of grace

Preeminence of Prayer

Sacraments

Preaching

Christian commonwealth (society)





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Caroline Divines

Assortment of thinkers, writers, *pastors*

Not a movement

Diverse personalities

Shared convictions

Similar 'projects'

Common elements:

Cambridge: Scholarship & Devotion

Holy Scripture & Prayer Book:

Hallmarks of 'Settlement Anglicanism'

Heirs of Jewel and Hooker

Holy Scripture

Authoritative (and Uniquely So)

Inspired and Inspiring

Interpreted with aid of

tradition (especially patristic)

reason (deductive)

No 'regulative principle' approaches





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Caroline Divines

Prayer: Theological Language & Practice

Personal

Public

Worship: Theological Language & Practice

Rather more ceremonial than Settlement

Far more ceremonial than Puritans

Not Puritan: aesthetics are appropriate

Not 'Romish': an alternative aesthetic

Politically Loyalist





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Caroline Divines

Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

Fellow of Pembroke College

Dean of Westminster

Bishop of Chichester, Ely, Winchester

Excelled as scholar, administrator, preacher

Exemplary pray-er; *Private Devotions*

Reputed 5 hrs/day (private!)

Inclined to order & uniformity:

personal religion

public religion





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

### Seeking a Positive Definition

Caroline Divines

John Donne (1573-1631)

Younger contemporary of L. Andrewes

Raised Roman Catholic

Studied law; bit of a rake

Never intended to become priest or divine

Ambitions fail; dabbles in theology

Friends urged him to consider orders

Feels unfit: past sins & present ambitions

King James approves theological writings

Ordained in 1615

Wife dies 1617; refocusing of vocation

Intensified thought about death

Chaplain to King James

Prof of divinity at Cambridge

Dean, St. Paul's, London

Emotional, poetic, 'witty' preacher





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Caroline Divines

Nicholas Ferrar (1592-1637)

Business man; Virginia Company

Reintroduces religious life, based on family

1626: Little Gidding

Mother

Brother, sister-in-law, 3 children

Sister, brother-in-law, 16 children

Servants

Restored church

Instituted a pattern of prayers & devotion





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Caroline Divines

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Remembered primarily for his poetry

Aristocratic family

Fellow of Trinity, Cambridge

Long journey to small country parish  
(Bemerton, Wiltshire)

Died after 3 years as rector

*The Temple*: poems on the church

*A Priest to the Temple*: prose work on the  
life of the country parson





# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Caroline Divines

John Cosin (1594-1672)

Dean of Peterborough

Survived Civil War

Became Bishop of Durham

Helped to reestablish the church

Scholar, historian, liturgical expert

Assisted with 1662 Prayer Book





# Elizabethan Divinity



## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Caroline Divines

Herbert Thorndike (1598-1672)

Scholar & clergyman

Patristics, rabbinics, oriental lang.

Canon of Westminster

Wrote: early church order, liturgics

*Epilogue*: (in Latin)

Goods of the Protestant Reformation

Needs primitive discipline & teaching

Later recommended return to penance

After Restoration participated in

Savoy Conference

Prayer Book revision 1662

Influenced Tractarians

highly regarded by J.H. Newman

*Library of Anglo-Catholic Theology*

6 vols. (1844-56)



# Elizabethan Divinity

## Articulating Anglicanism

Seeking a Positive Definition

Caroline Divines

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

Scholar of Caius College

Fellow of All Souls, Oxford

Chaplain to Charles I (arrested 1645)

Chaplain to Lord Carberry (Wales)

*Holy Living and Holy Dying*

*Ductor Dubitantium*: moral theology

Bishop:

Near end of interregnum

Down and Connor, Ireland

