

## CONTENTS

<i>Foreword by R. H. Helmholz</i>	<i>page vii</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Table of parliamentary statutes</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	<i>xv</i>
1 The ecclesiastical courts: structures and procedures	1
2 The business of the courts, 1500-1640	15
3 Tithe causes	23
4 Wills and testamentary causes	33
5 Defamation suits	40
6 Marital suits and marriage licences	47
7 Office causes	57
8 The roots of expansion and critical voices	64
9 Charting decline, 1640-1830	78
10 Explaining decline	95
11 The bills of 1733-1734	104
12 Snips and repairs: small steps to reform, 1753-1813	119
13 Royal commissions and early fruits, 1815-1832	129
14 Reform frustrated	145
15 Reforms thick and fast, 1854-1860	157
<i>Select bibliography</i>	174
<i>Index</i>	187