Two fine pieces noting Roman Catholic perspectives and contributions are by Tadhg Ó hAnnracháin on the Bellarmine and Whitaker debate, and Gordon Campbell on 'The Catholic contribution to the King James Bible'. Both are highly interesting and helpful.

'"Not the Word of God": varieties of antiscripturism during the English Revolution' by Ariel Hessayon presents ways in which different religious communities denied the truth and authority of Scripture. Among these are various Baptists, 'Seekers', Levellers, Diggers, Ranters, Quakers, Muggletonians and other 'blasphemers'. Sectarian attitudes toward the Bible were part of a broader, generally millenarian outlook that 'privileged the spirit over flesh, inner illumination over outward ordinances, divinely revealed knowledge over university-trained scholarship' (p. 182).

Hessayon's piece follows Gribben's fine discussion of 'Bible reading, Puritan devotion, and the transformation of politics in the English Revolution' which shows how political positions emerged from Scripture study and 'as the chaos of civil war gave way to the period of Cromwellian control, there developed an increasing diversity of opinion as to Scripture's political utility, which evolved into the rejection of Puritan biblicism that marked Thomas Hobbes's analysis of the context in his *Behemoth* (1679)' (p. 160).

Justin Champion's concluding piece on Hobbes shows how as Hobbes moved to subject the canon of Scripture to the civil powers, 'he made the Word of God contingent on political agency' (p. 205).

This sterling collection of pieces is a treasury of insights about ways in which the Bible was read and understood, as well as its impact in the early modern world. Issues emerging then are with us still in various ways.

GERMANTOWN, TENNESSEE DONALD K. MCKIM

Chichester Archdeaconry depositions, 1603–1608. By Peter M. Wilkinson. (Sussex Record Society, 97.) Pp. xlviii + 310 incl. frontispiece, 3 ills and 3 tables. Lewes: Sussex Record Society, 2017. £25. 978 0 85445 079 4

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Depositions from church court records have long been recognised as invaluable sources for an exploration of the socio-economic and cultural landscape of early modern England, whether it be the impact of plague (Wrightson), domestic interiors (Richardson), marriage practices (O'Hara) or gender relations (Gowing). Relatively few of the records themselves have been edited, usually in summary form or as selections. This volume is to be welcomed since it provides a full and meticulous edition of a single deposition book, supplemented by the accompanying instance act books and some libels, allegations and personal responses which survive in miscellaneous court papers. Other diocesan and parochial records as well as digital resources have been consulted to produce the broadest context in which to understand each case, and there is also a detailed introduction which explains the legal processes followed in instance jurisdiction. The volume contains forty-six disputes chiefly relating to tithe (34 per cent of cases), testamentary (28 per cent), defamation (26 per cent) and matrimonial (6.5 per cent) business.

These cases throw incidental light on a host of subjects, most of them indexed, including perambulation, agriculture, hospitality, church rights and parochial customs. As the editor notes, the biographical information about witnesses needs to be treated with caution, since some individuals appear more than once and give rather different statements about age, career and worth. Much careful work lies behind this edition, which is a model of its kind.

UNIVERSITY OF KENT KENNETH FINCHAM

The Puritans on independence. The First Examination, Defence, and Second Examination. Edited by Polly Ha with Jonathan D. Moore and Edda Frankot. Pp. xii + 434 incl. 3 ills. Oxford–New York: Oxford University Press, 2017. £120. 978 0 19 966482 5

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Among the notable strengths of Polly Ha's 2010 monograph *English Presbyterianism, 1590–1640* was the work's extensive utilisation of manuscripts that had gone largely unnoticed by historians of early modern religion. With the present volume Ha and her assistant editors have made these archival labours accessible to the rest of us by publishing critical editions of three such documents held in the library of Trinity College Dublin. The manuscripts present an early seventeenth-century polemical exchange between the Independent London minister Henry Jacob (1563–1624) and a panel of English Presbyterian 'examiners' led by Walter Travers (1548–1635). Jacob and his ideas featured prominently in Ha's *English Presbyterianism* and in reading the documents presented here it is easy to see why. For in defending his departure from the national Church, Jacob presented an ecclesiology far bolder and more radical than that articulated by other English Separatists. As Ha puts it in her introductory essay, 'Jacob not only justified his departure from the Church of England, but also the creation of an entirely new one based on a particular understanding of liberty as a status which guaranteed the absence of arbitrary interference' (p. 3). The documents here help to substantiate that claim by offering insight into the polemical context in which Jacob's ecclesiology developed. The first manuscript, 'The First Examination', plunges readers into the midst of a debate that had actually been going on for some time; that which is under 'examination' was a previous dialogue between Jacob and moderate Puritans, an interchange now believed to be lost. This is followed by Jacob's reply and 'Defence' of his position, and then finally a 'Second Examination' of the same. All told, the Presbyterian analysis of Jacob's ecclesiology represents over three-quarters of the primary source material reproduced here. The texts themselves are well presented and thoroughly annotated. Because the editors have largely followed the editorial conventions used by Chad Van Dixhoorn and others in *The minutes and papers of the Westminster Assembly* (Oxford 2012), readers of those volumes will immediately feel comfortable with the present work. In addition to commenting on the condition and layout of the manuscripts themselves, the editors' annotations define archaic terms, provide references to sources mentioned in the text, explain obscure references and, in the main, help to make the difficult source material as readable and accessible as possible. Given that Ha dates the 'Defence' to 1620 – four years after