

BOOK REVIEW

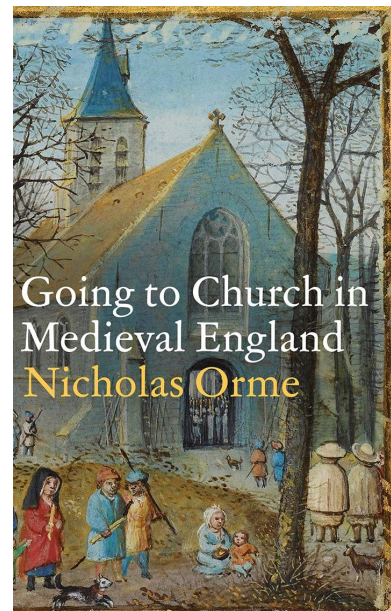
***Going to Church in Medieval England*, by Nicholas Orme**

Nicholas Orme is well-known for his medieval history research and, more recently, *The History of England's Cathedrals* (2017). In his latest book, published in 2021, Orme's focus is on the experience of churchgoers, both male and female, in the medieval and Tudor periods.

Going to Church in Medieval England is a deeply researched social history that takes readers away from the great men – the monarchs and bishops – and into the parish churches of England, local pilgrimages and all that made up everyday worship.

It is both scholarly and accessible to non-specialist readers, as well as being extensively illustrated. Its final chapter on the Reformation is a bridge into latter day Anglican worship which so many of us are familiar with. Much changed from medieval worship, but a lot was retained and carried into the *Book of Common Prayer*, which standardised services and worship across England and beyond.

Orme makes the point that for the first time since the English Church was re-established in 597, worship had been “turned on its head” as the *BCP* had been prepared for parishes, and cathedrals had to adapt to it. The end of ‘top-down’ worship was an unexpected outcome of the English Reformation.



Going to Church in Medieval England is published by Yale University Press with a list price of £20 but can be found online for less. It is highly recommended.