The English Reformation c1527-1590
How did state and people respond to religious change?

This is a full, but by no mean comprehensive, reading list for the Reformation, covering England, Wales and Ireland.

The material is mixed: some of the items are paperback books, most (though, unfortunately not all) of which are relatively reasonably priced. Many items, however, are journal articles which you will primarily find in, or via, a university library (it is possible to ‘rent’ or buy access to individual journal articles through the publishers’ websites, but this can be pricey). Many institutions now offer access to JSTOR (the main repository of journal articles online) to alumni for free; some institutions (like my own) also offer access to teachers in the local area. So it is worth exploring both of these options. Remember that JSTOR has a ‘moving wall’ of usually five years – in other words, you will only get access to articles that were published five or more years ago.

However, if you have full access to a university’s library, you can usually get access to more recent material through the journal’s publishers itself, e.g. Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press (although via the library catalogue). As with all things, what is available is dependent on what subscriptions the university has (and journal subscriptions are very expensive) and whether journals have digitised their back issues (most have by now).

Generally, these lists are organised with general/introductory material at the beginning of each section and then more specialised material later on. Some of the larger topics are broken down into subsections (organised on the same basis).

1. General books


   Susan Doran and Norman Jones (eds.), *The Elizabethan World* (London and New York, 2011) – expensive but very good. Like Tittler & Jones, above, covers more than just the Reformation.

   Christopher Haigh, *English Reformations: religion, politics and society under the Tudors* (Oxford, 1993) – really good for lots of evidence of what was happening ‘on the ground’.


Natalie Mears and Alec Ryrie (eds), *Worship and the parish church in early modern Britain* (Farnham and Burlington, VT, 2013), esp. essays by Ryrie, Willis, Marsh and Craig

**Sourcebooks and specific material on types of sources**


**Reference material**

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB)*

This contains biographies of many people involved in the Reformation, from monarchs and higher clergy to London preachers. It is always worth checking because, inevitably with this period, biographical information is weaved quite closely into the political, social and religious events of the period. Most public libraries in the UK subscribe to ODNB.

**Historiography**


**2. The Pre-Reformation Church**

Eamon Duffy, *The stripping of the altars* (New Haven, 1992), chs 1-10.


3. The Henrician Reformation

a) Reformation ‘at the top’


Christopher Haigh, *English Reformations: religion, politics and society under the Tudors* (Oxford, 1993), chs. 6-9 (primarily on change at the top)


Felicity Heal, *Reformation in Britain and Ireland* (Oxford, 2003), ch.4 (8 useful too)


b) Reformation on the ground


Felicity Heal, *Reformation in Britain and Ireland* (Oxford, 2003), ch. 6


Margaret Bowker, *The Henrician Reformation: the diocese of Lincoln under John Longland, 1521-1547* (Cambridge, 1981), (chapter 3 part 4; ch. 4)


Steven G. Ellis, *Ireland in the age of the Tudors* (London and New York, 1999), ch. 8


Brendan Scott, *Religion and reform in the Tudor diocese of Meath* (Dublin, 2006)

c) The Maid of Kent


d) The Lincolnshire Rising and the Pilgrimage of Grace


M L Bush, ”Up for the commonweal”: the significance of tax grievances in the English rebellions of 1536’, *English Historical Review*, 106 (1991), pp. 299-318


e) Propaganda


S W Haas, ‘Henry VIII’s *Glasse of Truthe*’, *History*, 64 (1979), pp. 353-62

Tracey A Sowerby, "All our books do be sent into other countreys and translated": Henrician polemic in its international context’, *English Historical Review*, 121 (2006), pp. 1271-99

4. The Edwardian Church

Christopher Haigh, English Reformations: religion, politics and society under the Tudors (Oxford, 1993), chs. 10-13


Felicity Heal, Reformation in Britain and Ireland (Oxford, 2003), chs. 4, 6

Glanmor Williams, Renewal and Reformation: Wales, c. 1415-1642 (1987), ch. 12

Steven G. Ellis, Ireland in the age of the Tudors (London, 1999), pp. 218-25


Eamon Duffy, The stripping of the altars (1992), ch. 14


Margaret Spufford, Contrasting communities: English villagers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Cambridge, 1974), ch. 10.

Eamon Duffy, The voices of Morebath: Reformation and rebellion in an English village (New Haven and London, 2001), ch. 6


Brendan Scott, Religion and reform in the Tudor diocese of Meath (Dublin, 2006)

South Western and Kett’s Rebellions, 1549

Barrett L. Beer, Rebellion and riot: popular disorder in England during the reign of Edward VI (rev. edn) (Kent, Ohio, 2005).


D MacCulloch, ‘Kett’s rebellion in context’, *Past & Present*, 84 (1979)


5. The Marian Church


Felicity Heal, *Reformation in Britain and Ireland* (Oxford, 2003), ch. 4, 6


Eamon Duffy & David Loades (eds.), *The church of Mary Tudor* (Aldershot, 2006), particularly intro, essays by Loades (both essays), Houlbrooke, Collinson, Duffy, Edwards & Wooding.


Elizabeth Evenden and Vivinne Westbrook (eds), *Catholic renewal and protestant resistance in Marian England* (Farnham and Burlington, VT, 2015)


Brendan Scott, *Religion and reform in the Tudor diocese of Meath* (Dublin, 2006)

6. The Elizabethan Church

a) General books


Felicity Heal, *Reformation in Britain and Ireland* (Oxford, 2003), ch.9 & 10


**b) The Elizabethan Settlement**


**c) Puritans and puritanism**

John Coffey, *The Cambridge companion to puritanism* (Cambridge, 2008), essays by Collinson and Craig

Peter Iver Kaufman, ‘The godly, the godlier and godliest in Elizabethan England’, in Doran and Jones (eds.), *The Elizabethan world*, pp. 238-53


Patrick Collinson, *The Elizabethan puritan movement* (Oxford, 1967), pp.243-88 and 291-329 [Though some parts of this book are a little outdated, it remains one of the most important and influential studies by the doyen of Elizabethan Puritanism and is well worth consulting generally]


Thomas S. Freeman, ‘As true a subject being prysoner’: John Foxe’s notes on the imprisonment of Princess Elizabeth, 1554-5’, *English Historical Review*, 117 (2002), pp. 104-16


d) Catholicism


John Bossy, *The English catholic community, 1570-1850* (London, 1975) [the classic account of English catholicism]


Alexandra Walsham, Church papists: Catholicism, conformity and confessional polemic (Woodbridge, 2009)


Peter Lake, *The Anti-Christ's lewd hat* (New Haven, 2002), chs. 6-8

**e) Reformation on the ground**


John Craig, *Reformation, politics and polemics: the growth of protestantism in East Anglian market towns, 1500-1610* (Aldershot & Burlington, VT, 2001), chs. 1, 3


f) The Northern Rising, 1569


M E James, ‘The concept of order and the Northern Rising of 1569’, *Past and Present*, 60 (1973), pp. 49-83.


7. Reformation in Wales and Ireland

a) Ireland

Steven G. Ellis, *Ireland in the age of the Tudors* (London, 1999)


Brendan Scott, Religion and reform in the Tudor diocese of Meath (Dublin, 2006)

b) Wales

Glanmor Williams, Renewal and Reformation: Wales, c. 1415-1642 (1987), pp. 276-96


8. A religion of the word?

a) Print and print culture


Elizabeth Eisenstein, The printing press as an agent of change (1979) (or the abridged edition: The printing revolution in early modern Europe (Cambridge, 1983)).


Felicity Heal, Reformation in Britain and Ireland (Oxford, 2003), ch.7
John Barnard, D.F. McKenzie and Maureen Bell (eds.), *The Cambridge History of the book in Britain, volume IV* (Cambridge, 1999-), chs. 1, 3, 14, 20, 26, 27, 32, 34, 35 [Covers a wide range of issues; reference only]

David McKitterick, *Print, manuscript and the search for order, 1450-1830* (Cambridge, 2003)


David Scott Kastan, 'Little foxes', in Christopher Highley and John King (eds.), *John Foxe and his world* (Aldershot and Burlington, VT, 2002) [plus other good essays on a number of topics]


Raymond Gillespie, *Reading Ireland: print, reading and social change in early modern Ireland* (Manchester, 2005)

M. Pollard, Dublin’s trade in books, 1550-1800 (Lyell Lectures, Oxford, 1989), ch. 2


b) ‘Manuscript publication’, script and oral culture


c) Censorship

Anthony Milton, ‘Licensing, censorship, and religious orthodoxy in early Stuart England’, Historical Journal, 41 (1998), pp. 625-51 [though seventeenth century, this article is reflects the current understanding of how censorship worked in this period]

Annabel Patterson, Censorship and interpretation: the conditions of reading and writing in early modern England (Madison, WI, 1984)


d) Images

Patrick Collinson, The birthpangs of Protestant England: religious and cultural change in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (New York, 1988), pp. 94-126


William A. Dyrness, Reformed theology and visual culture: the protestant imagination from Calvin to Edwards (Cambridge, 2004), ch. 4


University of Durham