Key Points[1]

- This spreadsheet lists the men from Devon and Cornwall and elsewhere who were ordained in the diocese of Exeter during the later medieval and early modern periods.
- The bishops' registers are the main source[2] but ordinations were also recorded in the registers of the archbishops of Canterbury when the see of Exeter was vacant or when a metropolitical visitation was being held.[3]
- Unfortunately the bishops' registers do not provide an unbroken record of ordinands. There are significant losses for the later medieval period. Almost a third of the years covered by the spreadsheet are affected. The losses are detailed in Table 1.
- I have created two versions of the spreadsheet. The first lists ordinands by surname, the second by date of ordination.[4]
- Over 43000 orders are recorded in the spreadsheet. Table 2 shows their distribution by year and grade whilst the line graph identifies trends over the period.[5]
- The vast majority of ordinands were seeking to become secular (or parish) clergy. In the pre-Reformation period 4057 orders were granted to regular clergy (or members of religious houses).
- Most men received more than one order. I have attempted to bring together the entries relating to these men whilst noting the variations in the spelling of surnames.
- Almost all ordinands came from the diocese of Exeter.[6] 2318 orders are recorded as having been conferred on men from other sees.[7] Almost half of these were granted to men from the neighbouring diocese of Bath & Wells.
- 1543 men are recorded as graduates in the registers. I have searched for them in Emden, Foster and Venn. Those that do not appear are marked with an asterisk.
- I have also searched in Emden for the men who received titles from Rewley Abbey, Osney Abbey and St Frideswide's Priory. These houses were close to

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[1] For ordinations in general see Neville pp. 34-38.

[2] I have relied on the published editions of the bishops' registers for the period to the mid fifteenth century. I have made random checks with the registers themselves to test the accuracy of the transcriptions. Only Hingeston-Randolph's edition of Stafford's register is problematic. This was the first of the Exeter registers that Hingeston-Randolph edited and the approach that he adopted – he produced an extended index rather than a calendar – led to errors which I have corrected.

[3] The records for many vacancies do not exist. *Sede vacante* ordinations performed outside the diocese appear in Database 1.

[4] I have retained the contemporary spelling of ordinands' surnames including those formed from placenames.

[5] The table begins in 1308 at the start of Bishop Stapeldon's rule when the first ordinations sub-registers were produced.

[6] There are many blank entries in the 'Diocese' column of the spreadsheet. This is because the scribes responsible for the ordination sub-registers did not begin to identify men from the diocese of Exeter until Bishop Lacy's episcopate (1419-55). Most of the blank entries are for ordinands from Devon and Cornwall.

[7] This total is understated. In the post-Reformation period scribes did not generally distinguish between locals and outsiders.

Oxford and so it is likely that the men they granted titles to attended that university. 253 ordinands are involved. Again those not found are marked with an asterisk in the degree column.

- Twenty-six men who are designated alumni of Oxbridge in the post-Reformation period are listed in the Notes column. Nine do not appear in Foster or Venn and are marked with asterisks.
- Table 3 lists the principal grantors of titles.[8] Over 18800 titles are recorded in the spreadsheet and monasteries supplied almost three-quarters of them.
- The dissolution of the monasteries ended the large-scale granting of titles bringing ordinations at Exeter to a temporary halt in the 1540s as candidates for major orders struggled to find alternative forms of title.[9]
- When ordinations resumed in the second half of the sixteenth century titles were no longer routinely recorded in the registers. There was now a shortage of clergy which enabled the newly ordained to obtain employment quickly as curates[10] or incumbents. There was no longer a pool of unemployed or partially employed clerics for the authorities to worry about.

Table 1: Losses[11] in the Later Medieval Ordination Records

Years affected	Comments
1258-91	Other than for a handful of individuals, Bishops Bronescombe and Quinils' registers do not contain the names of ordinands.[12]
1291-1307	Bishop Bitton's entire register is missing.[13]
1322-26	Bishop Stapeldon's ordinations sub-register ends in 1321.[14]
1327-69	Bishop Grandisson's ordinations sub-register is missing.[15]
1393-94	Bishop Brantingham's ordinations sub-register ends in 1392.[16]

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[8] For titles see the Key Points of Database 1. I have standardised the spelling of the grantors in the spreadsheet.

[9] See Table 1.

[10] I have taken the phrase 'about to serve' which appears occasionally in the ordination lists for Bishop Cotton's episcopate (1598-1621) to mean 'about to become curate of....'

[11] Either the fair-copy record of ordinations has disappeared or the scribes failed to copy the ordinations into the bishops' registers.

[12] It was not yet the practice to devote a separate section to ordinations in the bishops' registers (*Bronescombe 1*, pp. 215, 365).

[13] It is not mentioned in the 1641 inventory of episcopal muniments (Inventory, p.). Perhaps it disappeared at the time of Bishop Stapeldon's murder (see next note).

[14] Stapeldon, a close associate of Edward II, was murdered by the London mob in 1326. His register (and that of Bronescombe which Stapeldon had with him at the time of his death) fell into the hands of the mob (*Reg Bronescombe 1*, p. vii). Possibly the final folios of the ordinations register were removed or damaged at this time. The 1641 inventory mentions the sub-register but does not indicate how many folios it contained.

[15] There are references to it in the common registers of Grandisson and Brantingham (*Reg Grandisson*, p. 820; *Reg Brantingham*, p. 275). It had disappeared by the time of the 1641 inventory.

[16] The scribes failed to copy the remaining ordinations into the sub-register (*Reg Brantingham*, p. 877).

1465-78	Bishop Bothe's ordinations sub-register is missing.[17]
1481-87	Bishop Courtenay's ordinations sub-register ends in 1480.[18]
1625	Bishop Carey's ordinations end in 1624[19]

Table 2: Distribution of Orders by Year and Grade 1308-1646

Year	Tonsurati	Acolytes	Subdeacons	Deacons	Priests	Totals
1308	274	568	161	81	17	1101
1309	143	139	105	178	170	735
1310	69	98	69	96	126	458
1311	102	126	63	84	99	474
1312	77	39	19	27	21	183
1313	238	48	41	31	56	414
1314	523	119	73	88	68	871
1315	75	77	44	51	67	314
1316	82	44	33	32	34	225
1317	142	63	44	27	36	312
1318	221	169	54	62	49	555
1319	207	82	44	41	42	416
1320	74	27	32	34	24	191
1321	230	40	28	35	30	463
1370	163	131	36	39	45	414
1371	415	189	94	69	70	837
1372	357	79	60	71	61	628
1373	162	97	72	88	85	504
1374	148	63	50	59	89	409
1375	583	66	50	50	41	790
1376	82	74	68	64	47	335
1377	71	41	40	38	47	237
1378	151	34	54	47	48	334
1379	3	6	8	6	8	31
1380	104	55	16	13	21	209
1381	971	111	61	51	31	1225
1382	89	65	44	32	44	274
1383	105	37	27	33	27	229
1384	37	47	42	33	37	196
1385	136	44	9	20	16	225
1386	99	40	33	10	19	201
1387	65	30	29	25	38	187
1388	42	31	24	20	13	130
1389	31	28	7	21	23	110
1390	509	57	19	16	22	623
1391	30	53	38	35	34	190
1392	39	21	44	39	31	174
1395	23	12	11	9	14	69

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[17] It is unclear whether this is a disappearance or a failure to copy.
[18] This is probably a failure to copy.
[19] This is probably a failure to copy (Reg Ords, p. 1).

1396	2	57	46	35	55	195
1397		45	25	4	13	87
1398	15	10	3	10	15	53
1399	1	1	4			6
1400	227	64	36	43	34	404
1401		1	1	1	2	5
1402		9	11	5	11	36
1403	18	47	45	33	28	171
1404	150	49	31	43	26	299
1405	310	25	34	31	90	490
1406	22	32	33	18	12	117
1407	64	51	33	42	49	239
1408	110	46	39	32	43	270
1409	300	46	35	32	46	459
1410	64	29	32	28	17	170
1411	302	63	48	55	55	523
1412	43	63	35	38	48	227
1413	30	40	18	16	26	130
1414	227	58	46	44	41	416
1415	32	44	32	50	57	215
1416	307	51	33	25	33	449
1417	135	37	8	12	24	216
1418	65	44	34	28	20	191
1419	272	65	44	38	31	450
1421	119	41	10	9	5	184
1420[20]						
1422	22	85	37	48	36	228
1423	18	65	56	57	59	255
1424	22	58	35	48	48	211
1425	118	58	37	39	43	295
1426	35	69	51	42	39	236
1427	274	44	39	46	46	449
1428	31	39	50	47	46	213
1429	12	58	68	68	63	269
1430	22	55	37	41	49	204
1431	35	62	24	21	20	162
1432	9	31	23	28	41	132
1433	185	29	40	26	27	307
1434	157	40	25	27	24	273
1435	81	27	19	26	30	183
1436	8	27	19	19	27	100
1437	23	23	11	7	9	73
1438	31	43	37	35	35	181
1439	39	42	33	26	21	161
1440	157	40	30	26	33	286
1441	5	51	41	37	24	158
1442	189	32	36	37	31	325

[20] A *sede vacante* year in which ordinations were performed at Lambeth. They appear in Database 1.

1443	27	46	19	28	35	155
1444	126	48	33	35	38	280
1445	93	41	34	22	24	214
1446	11	46	33	37	45	172
1447	199	44	29	39	32	343
1448	73	55	44	36	34	242
1449	28	42	32	30	40	172
1450	199	35	30	35	33	332
1451	15	48	31	22	23	139
1452	89	23	27	39	24	202
1453	5	38	47	30	43	163
1454	4	35	34	40	40	153
1455	102	34	21	21	18	196
1456	93	83	52	36	29	293
1457	24	38	33	46	33	174
1458	8	22	17	17	22	86
1459	5	23	34	32	23	117
1460	45	27	11	14	16	113
1461	26	56	44	28	27	181
1462	1	26	30	12	15	84
1463	4	16	12	13	7	52
1464	8	41	41	25	21	136
1465	16	26	27	41	27	137
1478		5	13	9	8	35
1479	4	36	27	28	39	134
1480		22	17	19	16	74
1488		57	38	23	26	144
1489		59	41	38	31	169
1490		38	50	46	63	197
1491		18	28	46	37	129
1492		20	28	22	18	88
1493	6	19	4	15	23	67
1494	2	4	9	1		16
1495						
1496						
1497	5	8	3	5	5	26
1498	5	16	39	29	16	105
1499	9	13	21	20	33	96
1500	20	41	24	18	22	125
1501	6	9	22	9	11	57
1502						
1503	34	62	48	22	25	191
1504	5	26	40	41	38	150
1505	15	49	48	46	70	228
1506	30	47	66	60	62	265
1507	27	31	39	38	41	176
1508	45	56	64	65	60	290
1509	38	48	59	63	62	270
1510	45	46	81	68	64	304
1511	39	45	68	81	91	324

1512	49	49	63	67	67	295
1513	53	58	87	84	83	365
1514	45	43	80	77	87	332
1515	54	53	74	80	92	353
1516	53	56	51	35	46	241
1517	51	60	66	78	71	326
1518	33	32	46	57	59	227
1519	18	4	38	34	39	133
1520	43	40	70	72	76	301
1521	34	42	39	46	60	221
1522	28	29	49	33	45	184
1523	24	26	37	39	44	170
1524	24	17	44	45	35	165
1525	23	42	67	75	73	280
1526	45	50	35	49	38	217
1527	15	15	33	41	34	138
1528	28	32	43	46	50	199
1529	16	16	49	54	48	183
1530	31	34	54	48	41	208
1531	10	10	24	24	30	98
1532	31	32	62	64	61	250
1533	19	25	49	47	48	188
1534	29	29	52	49	55	214
1535	6	6	19	23	19	73
1536	2	3	10	11	9	35
1537	7	7	12	17	14	57
1538	10	10	7	8	18	53
1539	2	2	3	5	5	17
1540	1	2	2	5	4	14
1541	3	3	8	9	6	29
1542	4	3	3	5	8	23
1543	2	2	7	4	5	20
1544			1	3	1	5
1545						
1546						
1547						
1548						
1549						
1550						
1551				4	2	6
1552				4	1	5
1553				2	2	4
1554	6	7	7	3	2	25
1555						
1556						
1557	11	5	2	4	3	25
1558		5	9	4	5	23
1559						
1560				32	17	49
1561				17	23	40

1562				10	11	21
1563				25	16	41
1564				20	18	38
1565				21	17	38
1566				24	21	45
1567				23	22	45
1568				44	45	89
1569				40	35	75
1570				16	11	27
1571				42	41	83
1572				64	65	129
1573				71	69	140
1574				59	60	119
1575				61	56	117
1576				44	49	93
1577				56	44	100
1578				24	35	59
1579				18	18	36
1580				29	39	68
1581				42	40	82
1582				36	30	66
1583				16	21	37
1584				8	9	17
1585				3	3	6
1586				5	6	11
1587				13	13	26
1588				7	7	14
1589				14	7	21
1590				5	5	10
1591				24	18	42
1592				22	15	37
1593				14	12	26
1594				4	3	7
1595				3	3	6
1596				13	10	23
1597				9	23	32
1598						
1599				10	16	26
1600				18	20	38
1601				4	24	28
1602				20	19	39
1603				16	18	34
1604				20	20	40
1605				23	21	44
1606				20	28	48
1607				32	33	65
1608				29	29	58
1609				29	20	49
1610				18	19	37
1611				33	31	64

1612				24	30	54
1613				23	22	45
1614				25	35	60
1615				32	20	52
1616				21	18	39
1617				24	21	45
1618				23	35	58
1619				34	22	56
1620				30	24	54
1621				16	14	30
1622				5	6	11
1623				12	23	35
1624				24	20	44
1626						
1627						
1628				21	37	58
1629				30	33	63
1630				27	22	49
1631				18	25	43
1632				24	22	46
1633				21	15	36
1634				20	11	31
1635				35	27	62
1636				19	21	40
1637				27	22	49
1638				24	28	52
1639				11	1	12
1640						
1641				22	15	37
1642						
1643						
1644						
1645				2	4	6
1646						
Totals	13506	7663	6104	7867	7986	43126

Table 3: Grantors of Fifty or More Titles

1	Bodmin Priory Cornwall	1658
2	St Nicholas' Priory Exeter	1515
3	Launceston Priory Cornwall	1231
4	Buckfast Abbey Devon	966
5	Tavistock Abbey Devon	680
6	Plympton Priory Devon	645
7	Dunkeswell Abbey Devon	619
8	St German's Priory Cornwall	573
9	Tywardreath Priory Cornwall	554
10	Torre Abbey Devon	487
11	Frithelstock Priory Devon	473

12	Hartland Abbey Devon	444
13	Friars Minor Exeter	411
14	Montacute Priory Somerset	381
15	Friars Preacher Exeter	373
16	Newnham Abbey Devon	370
17	Barnstaple Priory Devon	340
18	Buckland Abbey Devon	338
19	St John the Baptist's Hospital Exeter	321
20	Glasney College Cornwall	260
21	Forde Abbey Devon	242
22	Barlinch Priory Somerset	229
23	Carmelites Plymouth Devon	216
24	Exeter Dean & Chapter	185
25=	Rewley Abbey Oxford	154
25=	Taunton Priory Somerset	154
27	Cleeve Abbey Somerset	133
28=	Canonsleigh Abbey Devon	117
28=	Ottery St Mary College Devon	117
30	Cowick Priory Exeter	92
31	St John the Baptist's Hospital Bridgwater Somerset	74
32	St John the Baptist's Hospital Wells Somerset	66
33	Friars Minor Bridgwater Somerset	62
34=	Margam Abbey Glamorganshire	59
34=	Muchelney Abbey Somerset	59