
The Diocese of Chester is a Church of England diocese in the Province of York covering the pre-1974 county of Cheshire and therefore including the Wirral and parts of Stockport, Trafford and Tameside. Before the sixteenth century the city possessed a bishop and a cathedral, though only intermittently. Even before the Norman conquest the title “Bishop of Chester” is found in documents applied to prelates who would be more correctly described as Bishop of Mercia, or Bishop of Lichfield. After the Depositions in trials in the Bishop's court, Chester, concerning 1. Child-marriages, divorces, and ratifications. 2. Trothplights. 3. Adulteries. 6. Wills. 7. Miscellaneous matters. 8. Clandestine marriages. Also entries from the mayors' books, Chester, A.D. 1558-1600. Title: Child-marriages, divorces, and ratifications, &c. in the diocese of Chester, A.D. 1561-6. Depositions in trials in the Bishop's court, Chester, concerning 1. Child-marriages, divorces, and ratifications. 2. Trothplights. 3. Adulteries. Court held in Penrith, Wigton, Carlisle and Appleby, under the presidency of the vicar-general (latterly the chancellor) or his surrogate. Standard format, predominantly sexual and matrimonial cases, recorded in a mixture of Latin and English. Until 1725, the court books also include calls (clergy and others); thereafter, calls are recorded separately. The earliest volume (DRC 5/1) also includes brief details of episcopal visitation charges and examinations of unlicensed clergy. The early eighteenth-century court books are discussed in Mary Kinnear, “The Correction Court in the Diocese of Carlisle, 1704-1756”, Church History, 59 (1990), pp 191-206. [Back to the top]. Other records. DRC 3/61. divorce and dissolution divorce (marriage) dissolution (civil partnerships) judicial separation understand the historical and social context of divorce. Notes from lectures and the book. University. University of Leicester. Module. Family Law (LW2250). Uploaded by. Ali Farhan. “Depositions in trials in the Bishop's Court, Chester, concerning 1. Child-marriages, divorces, and ratifications. 2. Trothplights. 3. Adulteries. 8. Clandestine marriages. Also entries from the mayors' books, Chester, A.D. 1558-1600.” Reprint. Originally published: London : Published for Early English Text Society by K. Paul, Trench, Trübner, 1897.