

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910828690503321
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Titolo	The Church in an age of danger : parsons and parishioners, 1660-1740 // Donald A. Spaeth
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, U.K. ; ; New York, : Cambridge University Press, 2000
ISBN	1-107-11151-X 0-511-49607-9 0-511-05239-1 1-280-15167-6 0-511-15268-X 0-511-32764-1 0-521-35313-0 0-511-11594-6
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 279 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in early modern British history
Disciplina	283/.42/09032
Soggetti	England Church history 18th century England Church history 17th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 260-269) and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Clerical profiles -- 3. Arenas for conflict -- 4. The management of disputes -- 5. Pastoral care -- 6. Tithes and religious conflict -- 7. The nonconformist threat -- 8. Popular observance -- 9. Matters of life and death -- 10. Singing and religious revival -- 11. Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	This book explores popular support for the Church of England during a critical period, from the Stuart Restoration to the mid-eighteenth century, when Churchmen perceived themselves to be under attack from all sides. In many provincial parishes, the clergy also found themselves in dispute with their congregations. These incidents of dispute are the focus of a series of detailed case studies, drawn from the diocese of Salisbury, which help to bring the religion of the ordinary people to life, while placing local tensions in their broader national context. The period 1660-1740 provides important clues to the long-term decline in the popularity of the Church. Paradoxically, conflicts

revealed not anticlericalism but a widely shared social consensus supporting the Anglican liturgy and clergy: the early eighteenth century witnessed a revival. Nevertheless, a defensive clergy turned inwards and proved too inflexible to respond to lay wishes for fuller participation in worship.

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