

# The Church and Childhood

Edited by Diana Wood

Boy bishops, Holy Innocents, child saints, martyrs and prophets, choirboys and choirgirls, orphans, charity-school children, Sunday-school children, privileged children, deprived, exploited and suffering children – all these feature in this exciting collection of over thirty original essays by a team of international scholars. The overall themes are the development of the idea of childhood and the experience of children within Christian society – the often ambiguous role of the child both as the passive object of ecclesiastical concern and as active religious subject. The authors consider theological and liturgical issues and the social history of the family, as well as art history, literature and music. In its interdisciplinary scope the work reflects the manifold ways in which children have participated in the life of the Church over the centuries.

The subjects under discussion range from the girls of fourth-century Rome to missionary activity in nineteenth-century India; from the unbaptized babies of Byzantium to the Salisbury choirgirls of the 1990s. Adopting a broad, ecumenical approach, the collection includes perspectives on Greeks, Latins, Catholics, Protestants, Anglicans and Dissenters.

*The Church and Childhood* will be welcomed by those interested in ecclesiastical history and in the history of childhood and family in Christian societies.

**Diana Wood** is Lecturer in History at the University of East Anglia.

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