Note on editorial conventions used

All the texts have been translated into modern English from their original form. Frequently this is Latin, but in some instances it is French or Middle English. This I have indicated in the headings. In the majority of cases, and even where the edition used contains a translation, I have created my own. This is indicated by the heading ‘translated from’. Where the edition used does not reproduce the original text, however, I have used an existing translation. In these instances the heading reads ‘translation by/in’, although I have sometimes made minor changes in order to modernise or clarify the text. I have tried at all times to strike a balance between communicating the sense of the original, whilst at the same time retaining something of the original language or structure. The texts have been dated as closely as possible. Minor editorial comments and, in the case of some of the lengthier church court depositions, synopses of omitted text are contained within square brackets. Also so indicated, viz. [ ] and [ … ], are blanks and gaps due to damage within the manuscript respectively, although where the reading can be guessed at, this is contained within square brackets. Occasionally doubtful readings are indicated by a question mark. Where matter has been omitted from my edition of the text, this is indicated by three or four dots according to the position within the sentence. First names have been modernised and standardised so far as possible, but surnames etc., including place name bynames, have been left in the form found in the source. (Where the same name is repeated under several forms, a common spelling has been adopted.) Occupational bynames, however, have been translated wherever it is apparent that these indicate actual occupations. The Latin prefix ‘Dominus’, a courtesy title for ordained clergy, has here been rendered as ‘Sir’ as this represents conventional contemporary usage.