

Baptism and the Anglican Reformers Thomas Cranmer, Theologian G. W. Bromley G. W. Bromley
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writing in the middle of the twentieth century g w bromley was acutely aware of the renewal of debates surrounding baptism taking place within the anglican church and elsewhere these debates which are still the cause of denominational division can be best understood by tracing them back to their origins in the sixteenth century analysing the anglican reformers views on baptism s sacramental status its liturgical format and its theological substance bromley places the current diversity of positions in its proper context the legitimacy of infant baptism the authority of ministers and the efficacy of grace are all discussed whether a scholar of ecclesiological and doctrinal history or of the current debate within and between churches this study is essential reading on the question of baptism past and present

in his important evaluation of the theological leader of the english reformation g w bromley charts cranmer s doctrinal views scriptural interpretation and liturgical composition his nuanced position on various controversial issues of the day not least baptism is articulated with clarity and care and his ecumenical sensitivity is foregrounded while arguably more adept as a scholar than as a creative theologian in his own right cranmer s writing nevertheless formed the cornerstone of future anglican theology through his articles of religion 42 later reduced to 39 and the book of common prayer he set the

parameters within which the church of england was to operate perhaps most significantly as bromiley shows his extensive citation of patristic sources established a precedent for his successors that continues today written by one of the great ecclesiastical historians of the twentieth century thomas cranmer theologian is the essential starting point for understanding cranmer s influence and legacy in the anglican church

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