

Liz

**What subjects did you study prior to arriving in Durham?**

I studied History, English, Religious Studies and Latin for 'A' level. Latin proved useful as in those days it was required to at least 'O' level to get a place to study history.



**What were the highlights of studying at Durham?**

I loved Durham – my college St Mary's gave me some good friendships and the collegiate system is worth maintaining over any other. I loved the city with all its quirky nooks and crannies, the cathedral and castle and surrounding countryside. I found the local people really friendly and down-to-earth. The biggest highlight was the subject itself for although it was very traditional it gave me a wonderful overview of English history from the end of the Roman Empire to the end of the Second World War. I felt I had a framework to make sense of the way Britain and Europe had developed politically (eg the evolution of parliament) and socially. The history of the Church was especially interesting to me as it had been so influential in European history in general. We had a series of lectures by Professor Offler who always began his first lecture by outlining what he intended to cover and ended his introduction with the words: 'And so ladies and gentleman, I propose to inform you about sheep and sin.'

**What was the topic of your third-year dissertation?**

In my 3<sup>rd</sup> year I wrote a dissertation entitled 'The education of Edward VI' as part of my special subject 'The Tudor Court' taught by David Loades (now deceased). That led on to my doctoral studies on the Tudor Court and the impact of the English reformers there.

**What are you doing now and how did your degree help prepare you?**

I continue to enjoy history and incorporate it into the subject I teach at Wycliffe Hall, a theological college in Oxford which prepares men and women for ordained ministry in the Church of England. I teach a course on prayer in different Christian Traditions from the Early Church to the present.

I also value history whatever subject is under discussion as it is always relevant to know what went before and how we got to here from there. Studying history led me to sift evidence, attempt to understand where sources are coming from and select and assemble an argument to present.

**What advice do you have for prospective applicants to History at Durham?**

For anyone thinking of applying to Durham to study history I would encourage them to go ahead. Durham has changed a lot but I continue to meet people of all ages who loved their time there, made friends for life and were encouraged to study their subject in a supportive and friendly environment.