

**Admin Tim**

June 19, 2015 - 11:27 pm

Top 'o the mornin' to you.



**sharonc**

June 19, 2015 - 11:28 pm

Hi Gareth.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:28 pm

Haha! Thank you. And hello from an intensely muggy Belfast. It feels as if it needs a good thunder storm to clear the air! I'm somewhere between feeling like a character in a Tennessee Williams play and Tudor England - not a bad place to be, I suppose!



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:28 pm

Hi Sharon. How are you? Thanks so much for being here, and for the welcome, Boleyn.

**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:28 pm

Haha! Thank you. And hello from an intensely muggy Belfast. It feels as if it needs a good thunder storm to clear the air! I'm somewhere between feeling like a character in a Tennessee Williams play and Tudor England - not a bad place to be, I suppose!



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:28 pm

Hi Sharon. How are you? Thanks so much for being here, and for the welcome, Boleyn.



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:29 pm

I wish it would thunder gareth, I feel like I'm being pushed through the floorboards at the moment



**Admin Tim**

June 19, 2015 - 11:30 pm

Well, thank you so much for coming this evening. Welcome Gareth and thanks so much (again!) for spending some time with us in the Chatroom. Your video was excellent and we really enjoyed it. So --- please feel free to ask your questions for Gareth!



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:30 pm

It's so awful when the weather feels that oppressive, isn't it? I was in Qatar when I filmed the talk on Christianity for the Society and it gave me a fresh appreciation for how much of a role weather must have played at the time, and the difficulties people like the Crusaders would've experienced!



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:30 pm

Thank you, Tim.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:31 pm

It's such a pleasure to be here.



**Bill1978**

June 19, 2015 - 11:31 pm

Hello everyone



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:32 pm

Why was Mary tudor so obsessed with her faith.



**olgah**

June 19, 2015 - 11:32 pm

Hi guys! Hello Gareth, nice to meet you



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:33 pm

I know it underpinned her whole life but surely she could see just how much it annoyed those around her



**Claire Ridgway**

June 19, 2015 - 11:33 pm

Hello everyone! Feel free to bombard Gareth with your questions



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:33 pm

It's a great question. I think for her, and many people like her, it was a question of logic. Heresy was a sin, the Bible says to flee from sin and to 'pluck out the right eye that offends thee'. That was the heresy problem in Mary's kingdoms, and that was how her government chose to respond to the problem - by plucking it out. In her defence, it's also how every English government from Henry



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:33 pm

had chosen to respond to the problem, too.



**rolandh**

June 19, 2015 - 11:33 pm

Would you say that Jane Grey was a 'fanatical' Protestant?



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:33 pm

I believe even the her strongest allies got fed up with her burnings



**sharonc**

June 19, 2015 - 11:34 pm

I loved your video. I was thinking of KOA while listening to you. It helps to understand how these people felt about their religion. It also confirms my belief that KOA was not being just stubborn. I always felt she was a true believer in her faith, and was put in a horrible position.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:34 pm

For Mary and people around her, the religious changes of the Reformation had also led to a brutal assault on Catholic culture, churches, art and worship. So, I don't think initially they had much sympathy for the Protestant victims of the Marian counter-reformation.



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:34 pm

My personal opinion is that even those who tolerated her religious views, felt the burning of Thomas Cramner was going too far



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:35 pm

but he was a dead man from the time he divorced her parents anyway



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:35 pm*

No, there were many who supported Cranmer's burning. But generally, those who criticised her didn't do it on humanitarian grounds but because they thought it was a public relations problem - which brings us back to your question. She was simply quite a bit more religious than many of her advisers. And who can say why some people are more religious than others?



**rolandh**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:36 pm*

I read that Cranmer had opportunities to flee abroad, yet he chose to stay in England (when Mary became Queen)



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:36 pm*

Which is why I think your question is so interesting - it intersects what makes them people of their time with questions that we could also be asking about people today!



**Boleyn**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:36 pm*

I think that would have been unlikely to have happened Roland even if he could have



**lindas**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:37 pm*

Hi Gareth, You mentioned that Anne Boleyn felt she was meant to be queen, and was inspired by Queen Ester. When did this become evident?



**LadyMichelle**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:37 pm*

Hello Gareth, hello everyone. Gareth I was wondering what your thoughts are on King Henry VIII and his change of religious beliefs? Did he really become a reformer? Did he change just to have another wife?



**Boleyn**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:37 pm*

remember the country was in absolute uproar, with the 9 days quenn bit, and the chances of Cramner even making it to the coast would have been very slim



**olgah**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:37 pm*

I think we have to avoid trying using modern ideals Bo. Mary was no more zealous than her father, or her brother. And Mary's situation was unique.



**LadyMichelle**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:38 pm*

Good question lindas.



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:38 pm*

Hi LadyMichelle. To answer Roland's question on Cranmer - yes, I think he toyed with the idea of going abroad. But Cranmer had helped stitch his own shroud by devoting a large part of his career to the belief of caesaropapism; the monarchy's supremacy in spiritual affairs. By insisting on that, he found himself in an impossible bind when Mary I used the same belief to restore Catholicism



**Boleyn**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:38 pm*

You are quite right Olga, easy to forget that we are talking about 16th century ideas



**olgah**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:40 pm*

Well it is easy to do, and the thought of burning people alive can make us rather emotional.



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:40 pm*

On the Anne and Esther front, it's difficult to say with precision. But by 1530/1531, her confidence and her belief in (for want of a better phrase) her 'manifest destiny' seems to have been in the ascendant. As with most queens, her coronation procession harnessed religious imagery like the usual odes to the Virgin Mary and the virtues, but also spiritual symbols relatable to the new Queen



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:40 pm*

In her case, biblical heroines or her patron saint, the Virgin's mother, Saint Anne.



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:40 pm*

Henry VIII's spiritual beliefs... Well!



**chmac**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:40 pm*

Haven't had a chance to watch the video, so this question might be way off topic, but how long would it have taken the "change in religion" to work its way out to the rural people outside of London? How was the information spread that the religion of the country had changed (again)



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:40 pm*

He was an excellent second-rate theologian



**LadyMichelle**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:41 pm*

LOL



**Boleyn**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:41 pm*

Henry is not one of my favourites Gareth I have some very choice names for him, as many of members know



**sharonc**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:41 pm*

LOL



**Boleyn**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:42 pm*

Hypocrite and liar being just 2 of the milder words



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:42 pm*

By which I mean, he was superb at discussing and analysing the ideas of others, but he had a great fear of ordinary people doing the same. He had no real ideas of his own and feared theology being discussed, as he put it, in ale houses - i.e. by the masses. A large part of the early English reformation was therefore driven by a man with developing spiritual interests that wax and waned



**Bill1978**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:42 pm*

I've always viewed Henry after the Great Matter to be a pick and choose Catholic. Basically he was a Catholic but ignored all the parts that didn't suit his needs.



**LadyMichelle**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:42 pm*

So Henry never really committed himself to his new Church of England?



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:42 pm*

As he grew older and responded to his own changing lifestyle, but also as he reacted to a rapidly changing society bursting at the seams with new ideas and theories.



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:43 pm*

Oh, he very much committed himself to it. It was the great passion, the foundation, of the latter half of his reign



**rolandh**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:43 pm*

About Mary and Elizabeth - both interestingly enough used the same motto - Truth is the daughter of time - Mary on her coins, and E. in one of her coronation pageants. Both religions (Catholicism and Protestantism) claiming to be the true faith,



**Claire Ridgway**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:43 pm*

Why do you think that authors, and some historians, downplay or ignore the religious aspect of these historical characters?



**lindas**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:43 pm*

How did the daily religious practices change with the reformation?



**Boleyn**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:43 pm*

I rather think Henry was committed to the idea of the new church... well his own idea of what the church should be



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:43 pm*

The problem was, that what that church was kept changing and evolving, with Henry often punishing papists and radical protestants alike.



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:44 pm*

Lindas, they changed significantly. 1536 saw the first serious liturgical changes with the reduction in the number of saints' days, which later spread to include reform of the parish church - the local centre of worship where changes seem to have inspired the greatest response from ordinary people.



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:45 pm*

The Great Bible was placed in the churches, then taken out. So there was a chop-and-change feel that added to a sense of cultural insecurity. The number of chantries, prayer houses for the repose of the souls of the dead, decreased and were capped after 1529, though they survived in part until the reign of Edward VI.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:45 pm

Veneration of the Virgin Mary remained throughout Henry's reign and, like prayers for the dead, that veneration proved some of the hardest elements of Catholicism to jettison, from Protestants' viewpoints.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:46 pm

But the really enormous changes took place under Edward with the new prayer book, iconoclasm and the introduction of English services instead of Latin.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:46 pm

\*introduction



**Bill1978**

June 19, 2015 - 11:46 pm

Do you think that if Edward lived to a ripe old age or that Jane reigned longer, that England would have experienced something like Cromwell Era Puritism a lot earlier?



**lindas**

June 19, 2015 - 11:46 pm

It must have been confusing and difficult to keep up, especially since there was so little tolerance for error.



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:46 pm

I believe he still worshipped in the Catholic form only not as rigorously. He still considered himself Catholic



**Bill1978**

June 19, 2015 - 11:47 pm

lindas - I can imagine kids waking up everyday asking their parents what religion they have today



**sharonc**

June 19, 2015 - 11:47 pm

I agree Linda.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:47 pm

Exactly, Lindas. That was the feeling of frustration and confusion that plagued a lot of people in the 1540s.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:47 pm

I don't know about the rise of Puritanism earlier, though what a fascinating question!



**rolandh**

June 19, 2015 - 11:48 pm

Henry VIII still 'crept to the Cross' on Good Fridays into the 1530's, but he think he might've banned that later.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:48 pm

Edward was still a very 'glamorous' king - expensive clothes, high expenditure on jewels, masques, hunts, etc. So, while I think a more radical Protestantism would have flourished under him or Queen Jane, it's difficult to know if the monarchy would ever have regarded Puritanism as anything other than a threat to the social order, which the Crown both represented and surmounted.



**rolandh**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:49 pm*

Henry also went on pilgrimage to Walsingham, and then be suppressed the shrine



**Boleyn**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:49 pm*

I feel that one of Henry's unforgivable crimes, apart from smashing the monastery's apart was desicrating the tomb of Thomas a becket. I don't know if it is true, but Henry is said to have worn a ring that that once adorned the boney finger of Thomas a becket



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:51 pm*

Becket represented a subject choosing Rome over his king, which may have been why the shrine was selected for particularly public vandalism. The legend of the ring is macabre, though I can't say for certain whether it's true or not. A variation claims the ring was made from a ruby that adorned the exterior of the saint's resting place.



**Boleyn**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:51 pm*

I have a little story about one of the monastery's that Henry Smashed up.



**Boleyn**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:52 pm*

I'll put it on the forum later for our members to read



**Bill1978**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:53 pm*

Thanks for the reply gareth.



**garethr**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:54 pm*

Many people around Henry in the 1530s seemed to struggle with swings between conservatism and reformism; it's worth remembering that this was the religion of their childhood and they had no hindsight. No one knew how it was going to end; I think hopefulness spurred a lot of them on in the hope that it would result in a better kind of Christianity



**rolandh**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:54 pm*

yes, Henry VIII especially hated Becket. Henry ordered all images of Becket in prayer books to be defaced



**Boleyn**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:55 pm*

Again how true it is I don't know but Henry order that becket's bones were to be thrown on a dung heap.



**olgah**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:55 pm*

I'm with Claire, I'm curious about why some authors and historians don't discuss religion in their books.



**LadyMichelle**

*June 19, 2015 - 11:55 pm*

Edward VI went all in for Protestant religion, Mary I was full the other way, Catholic, and Elizabeth I was a Protestant and I think she didn't really care what religion her subjects were. Very confusing time for all I think.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:55 pm

You can see hesitation, and swings from conservatism to reformism, from many people who we often imagine as being 'protestant' or 'papist' - Stephen Gardiner, Anne Boleyn, the Duke of Norfolk, Mary I, etc.



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:56 pm

The other thing that really frosts my cookies about Henry, is his murder of Margaret Pole.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:56 pm

Yes, it must have been a time of cultural pain and high anxiety, I think, which is why it's so important for historians and writers to treat religion seriously. It really mattered to our ancestors.



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:56 pm

That was just sadistic and totally unnessecary



**Admin Tim**

June 19, 2015 - 11:56 pm

When do you think Protestantism with a big P was properly established?



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:56 pm

My spelling has gone squirrels



**rolandh**

June 19, 2015 - 11:56 pm

yes - poor Margaret was in her 60's!



**lindas**

June 19, 2015 - 11:57 pm

About the authors and the religious beliefs of the time; I would imagine it is really, really difficult to wrap one's mind around the beliefs of the time.



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:57 pm

I would say by the 1570s or '80s, Tim.



**Bill1978**

June 19, 2015 - 11:58 pm

My gut re: fiction authors and religion is that they don't want to upset today's churches. I see it all the time with movies, as soon as a bit of religion is thrown in church groups go nuts about how they are misrepresented and how it pplaces blame on them for something else.



**Admin Tim**

June 19, 2015 - 11:58 pm

Thanks - helps with a book I'm currently editing. definitely "religious reform", not "Protestant" in the 40's



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:58 pm

I think the generation born with no living memory of being Catholic, and also those who grew up regarding Catholicism as an alien 'other'. A foreign entity that represented a threat, or at least an opposition, to England. In that process, Pius V's excommunication of Elizabeth, the association of Mary Queen of Scots with Catholicism, and Elizabeth's longevity played a big part.





**olgah**

June 19, 2015 - 11:58 pm

Why do you think Anne is sometimes viewed as a Protestant martyr Gareth? Was Foxe perhaps trying to encourage Elizabeth to keep the country Protestant?



**garethr**

June 19, 2015 - 11:59 pm

No, it would be reform in the 40s, definitely. Protestants, at a stretch, in other countries where it was firmly established - like Denmark or some of the German principalities.



**Boleyn**

June 19, 2015 - 11:59 pm

I am inclined to agree with you there Gareth, I feel that with the death of Mary QoS, the Catholic England of yesteryear was gone forever



**Admin Tim**

June 19, 2015 - 11:59 pm

Venice?



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:00 am

@olgah: I think there was an element of that, definitely! Mixed with the fact that for a devoutly religious man like Foxe, the events of the last 30 years must have seemed like God's plan, the forces of good against evil, as he saw them. In that view, I don't think it would've taken much for him to see Anne Boleyn as a pre-cursor for Elizabeth and a martyr in God's plan to "free" England



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:01 am

the defeat of the Spanish armada in 1588 rubber stamped the rule (loosely worded) of a protestant England once and for all



**Claire Ridgway**

June 20, 2015 - 12:01 am

Yes, he was looking at it all with hindsight.



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:01 am

@Claire Ridgway: absolutely. I said in my recent book "A History of the English Monarchy", that if we were to apply contemporary religious standards to Anne Boleyn's faith, she'd be far closer to Catholicism than Protestantism. But I think so many people in her generation were like that.



**olgah**

June 20, 2015 - 12:02 am

I was just reading Schofield again last month, he got quite hot under the collar at the thought of Anne being Protestant.



**Claire Ridgway**

June 20, 2015 - 12:04 am

@Gareth, yes, I agree. Jacques Lefèvre d'Étaples was definitely more into reform of the church as it was, going back to scripture as the authority, and he influenced Anne. I love reading his book, "Epistres..", it helps me to get an insight into what Anne believed.



**lindas**

June 20, 2015 - 12:04 am

Do you think they accepted death easier than we do, because of their religious beliefs, or because, e.g..

childhood mortality was so high and the average life expectancy was so low. I've seen references to grief almost being sinful, and questioning the will of God.



**rolandh**

June 20, 2015 - 12:04 am

Anne was interested in Reform, but she still believed in traditional things such as confession, pilgrimages, doing good deeds to go to Heaven, and in the Eucharist.



**Claire Ridgway**

June 20, 2015 - 12:05 am

G W Bernard of course went the other way. Anne doesn't fit the Protestant label therefore she was a Catholic and everything the Boleyns did was really for political motivation, because it suited them, and not because they had a true faith.



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:05 am

Many people who were close to one another at one point in Henry VIII's lifetime ended up on a different side of the religious divide a few years later - Mary Tudor helped Katherine Parr translate religious commentaries on the New Testament, which are generally considered reformist texts. So I think there was a great deal of confusion and exploration, which neat religious labels don't do justice



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:05 am

I think that when Henry was alive Cramner's vision for the future was kept under control, and Henry tolerated or allowed only the views he agreed with.. Once old face ache Henry died, Cramner was more or less given carte Blanc, to mould Edward into the views that he had long suppressed.



**Claire Ridgway**

June 20, 2015 - 12:06 am

Perhaps "evangelical Catholic" suits Anne Boleyn!



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:06 am

@lindas: I think they did, yes. Excessive grief was often taught as something faintly disobedient, though as with many theories, people often gave a certain leeway to its practice. Elizabeth I's letter to a mother who had lost 5 of her sons shows that they understood that grief was a normal human reaction. But yes, I do think they could approach death with the confidence of the faithful



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:07 am

Even if that confidence didn't always mean an absence of fear.



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:07 am

I think Edward's England would be similar to that of what Olly Cromwell's was.. not a commonwealth as such, but certainly very prudish and staid



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:07 am

@Claire Ridgway: I think that's a great way to put it! A non-papal Catholic, or Catholic without the Roman.



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:07 am

It's so hard to know what to describe her as, but evangelical Catholic gets across so many of the

complexities!



**olgah**

June 20, 2015 - 12:07 am

Gareth do you think there were many religious skeptics in the middle and early modern age?



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:08 am

@olgah: No, I don't. When they are discussed in contemporary records, the tone of either shock, revulsion or both, is so clear that it conveys how unusual atheism or agnosticism were.



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:10 am

Anyone who didn't believe in God I think was viewed as being in league with the devil



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:10 am

Atheism was certainly viewed as something morally terrifying - the clue is in the name. Without theism; without God. Therefore, without morality. And that, to the Tudors, equated with something satanic and horrifying



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:11 am

And that was a view of atheism that lasted, with varying degrees of intensity, right the way down to the 18th century



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:11 am

the trouble with that view is that in order to be in league with the devil so to speak, one had to accept that there was a god in the first place



**lindas**

June 20, 2015 - 12:11 am

They did believe in supernatural prophesies though... how did they justify that? Or was it that the prophesies came from the clergy?



**olgah**

June 20, 2015 - 12:11 am

Oh I didn't mean atheists in particular, more deists.



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:12 am

@Boleyn: But they would have argued that the devil can use you for his purpose, even if you aren't aware of it. And by rejecting Gods



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:12 am

morality, you opened yourself up to being a \*\*\*\* of Satan



**Admin Tim**

June 20, 2015 - 12:13 am

Spell it out and I'll unblock it ...



**lindas**

June 20, 2015 - 12:13 am

Interesting. Maybe you could do a video about Tudor superstitions?



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:13 am

@olgah: Deism is really a phenomenon of the Enlightenment and 18th century. And anyone who questioned the truth of Christianity as the revealed Word of God was rare, shocking and unsettling



**olgah**

June 20, 2015 - 12:13 am

So what do you think Enlightened ideals about religion were based on Gareth? I have a rather large gap between the Reformation and the Age of Reason I am trying to fill LOL



**LadyMichelle**

June 20, 2015 - 12:13 am

@lindas: that would be interesting.



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:13 am

It was the little piece beginning with 'p' on a chessboard. I promise, not obscene!



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:14 am

Good point.



**Bill1978**

June 20, 2015 - 12:14 am

Anyone else playing guess the word? LOL



**sharonc**

June 20, 2015 - 12:14 am

Yes, I think I got it



**LadyMichelle**

June 20, 2015 - 12:14 am

Yes, not sure what it is.



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:15 am

Prophecies have a Biblical precedent though. In the Gospel according to Saint Luke, Simeon hails the Holy Family with a prophecy about the impending sorrows of the Virgin Mary. And the Old Testament is full of prophecies, like Isaiah's and Jeremiah's. So, I don't think they saw a contradiction in believing in signs and prophecies as being indicators of God's plan.



**lindas**

June 20, 2015 - 12:15 am

I'm totally confused now. Maybe its time to read Eric Ives's book about the reformation.



**Admin Tim**

June 20, 2015 - 12:16 am

Pawn ... unlocked.



**lindas**

June 20, 2015 - 12:16 am

Frozen screen?



**LadyMichelle**

June 20, 2015 - 12:16 am

LOL Tim



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:16 am

Sorry! My last answers didn't seem to go through!



**Admin Tim**

June 20, 2015 - 12:16 am

I'm just not brave enough to remove all the blocking, even though everyone on this site is so nice and it's a private chatroom. Maybe one day.



**LadyMichelle**

June 20, 2015 - 12:17 am

no worries, it puts an interesting twist on the live chat.



**Admin Tim**

June 20, 2015 - 12:17 am

Guess the \*\*\*\*



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:18 am

Only right though Tim, but all of us on here are adult enough to know that swear words are unnecessary



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:18 am

I'm glad I could unintentionally add a little sauce



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:19 am

It's certainly a fascinating period - Eamon Duffy's 'Stripping of the Altars' presents a predominantly negative view of the English Reformation, while Ives's work is more positive. So they both certainly add something to a great debate.



**LadyMichelle**

June 20, 2015 - 12:19 am

Gareth when did religion settle down? When did they stop killing people for their beliefs?



**Claire Ridgway**

June 20, 2015 - 12:19 am

@lindas, Diarmaid MacCulloch's book is excellent too.



**Admin Tim**

June 20, 2015 - 12:19 am

Ok. We're bad-word-filterless. Please be nice!



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:20 am

You are right there gareth, but I also find the deeper one digs the more obscure and fascinating things you find



**lindas**

June 20, 2015 - 12:20 am

@LadyMichelle: Religion has yet to settle down, and people are still killing in the name of religion.



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:21 am

Again Tim we are all adult enough, to know which words are acceptable in polite company



**LadyMichelle**

June 20, 2015 - 12:21 am

ah true, sorry



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:21 am

which swear words



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:21 am

@LadyMichelle: In some sense, I don't know that they did. But in terms of Western or British Christianity, sectarianism that didn't automatically equate with a high body count seems to have become settled in law by the time of the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.



**LadyMichelle**

June 20, 2015 - 12:22 am

thank you Gareth that's was more of what I meant.



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:22 am

After that, punishments on non-Anglicans were legally penalising, not a matter of life and death. Though it could be said that under Charles I, an attempt was made to move away from executions on the grounds of faith - a move no doubt encouraged by the Catholicism of his French wife, Queen Henrietta-Maria.



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:22 am

Sadly Linda that is true.. but perhaps one day, (not in our lifetime that's for sure) we can all learn to tolerate each others religions and ways of life



**lindas**

June 20, 2015 - 12:23 am

That would be wonderful.



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:23 am

Elizabeth I and James I didn't want Catholic executions, but they were enshrined in law, which meant executions of Catholics did take place in horrific circumstances in both reigns.



**olgah**

June 20, 2015 - 12:23 am

A list of book recommendations on the Reformation would be really helpful Claire. I know you're busy, so just a thought.



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:24 am

it would indeed Linda. A peaceful Utopian society



**Claire Ridgway**

June 20, 2015 - 12:24 am

@olgah, I can certainly do a book list and add it to the resources.



**LadyMichelle**

June 20, 2015 - 12:24 am

@olgah: great idea but yes Claire is very busy.



**olgah**

June 20, 2015 - 12:25 am

Awesome, thanks Claire



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:25 am

I think the executions of King Jimbo's reign were far more bloody and brutal than those of Elizabeth's



**Claire Ridgway**

June 20, 2015 - 12:25 am

Never too busy for you guys!



**rolandh**

June 20, 2015 - 12:25 am

Gareth - what are your next books?



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:25 am

Poor old Guido, was brutally put to the question



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:25 am

@Boleyn: Well, the manner of executions weren't. The method proscribed by law for recusancy - hanging, drawing and quartering - remained. There was more a sense of shock, certainly, because many Catholics had expected leniency from the new regime.



**Admin Tim**

June 20, 2015 - 12:25 am

Just 5 minutes to go on the official time for the live chat. Get your final questions in now while Gareth is around.



**LadyMichelle**

June 20, 2015 - 12:26 am

Claire you are awesome. Thanks again for helping us.



**lindas**

June 20, 2015 - 12:26 am

The brutality is maddening. I still can't believe Henry never mentioned Anne, or the men that were executed with her.



**Claire Ridgway**

June 20, 2015 - 12:26 am

That's ok, thank you for being a part of the society @LadyMichelle.



**garethr**

June 20, 2015 - 12:26 am

The execution of the Gunpowder conspirators were grotesque, but given that they had tried to blow up parliament and half the royal family, they were being punished for attempted regicide, rather than religion. As Leanda de Lisle said in a recent BBC biographer, despite their religious faith, Guy Fawkes and his men were lethal would-be killers



**Boleyn**

June 20, 2015 - 12:28 am

I totally agree Guido knew that if he failed to kill the king his goose and everything else was cooked



**Admin Tim**

June 20, 2015 - 12:28 am

Tonight's winner of the book give-away is .... Bill1978 ... who has won a copy of Gareth's book "A History of the English Monarchy". Congratulations Bill.



**Boleyn**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:28 am*

The Gunpowder plot was a suicide mission of sorts



**lindas**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:28 am*

Thank you so much Gareth, Claire and Tim. I am so grateful for all the wonderful information you have made available. Keep it coming! Much love!



**olgah**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:28 am*

I'm going to get back to work, thanks so much Gareth, it's been a really interesting chat

Night everyone!



**Boleyn**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:28 am*

Well done Bill happy reading



**Claire Ridgway**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:28 am*

Congratulations Bill!



**garethr**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:29 am*

Thank you so much for being here and for your great questions! It's been so much fun and a real pleasure.



**garethr**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:29 am*

Bill, I so hope that you enjoy the book!



**Boleyn**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:29 am*

I hope you can visit us again soon Gareth.



**Claire Ridgway**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:29 am*

Thank you, Gareth, and thank you everyone for joining us, it's been fun.



**LadyMichelle**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:29 am*

Thanks Gareth, congratulations Bill1978. It's been a great chat. Thanks everyone. Night



**Bill1978**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:29 am*

Wow! Thank you so much for the 'win'



**garethr**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:30 am*

Good night everyone, and I shall @Boleyn. It's been wonderful! Thank you so much for a superb chat!



**sharonc**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:30 am*

Congrats Bill. Thank you Gareth for a brilliant session. Come back soon. Good Night everyone.





**Claire Ridgway**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:30 am*

Night night everyone!



**lauried515**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:30 am*

Looking forward to your next books, Gareth!



**Admin Tim**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:30 am*

Feel free to keep chatting "after hours". It's 1:30 in the morning here so we'll be off to bed. Transcript will be online over the weekend.



**Boleyn**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:30 am*

Feel free to pop into our forum and make any comments on any posting that tickle you fancy.. Xxx



**Admin Tim**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:30 am*

Thanks gareth!



**Bill1978**

*June 20, 2015 - 12:31 am*

Good night everybody and have a great day fellow southern hemipshereans