

Talking of Tudors - Royalty & Religion

Henry VII

Henry VII did not have a very strong claim to the throne so he told everybody that God wanted him to be King. He had been banished to France during the 'War of the Roses' between Lancaster and York but, not wanting to be held down by the unpopular King Richard III, he landed in Wales and got local support, particularly by promising to marry Elizabeth of York and uniting the two houses of Lancaster and York. He defeated Richard at the Battle of Bosworth and was crowned King. Once parliament had recognised his title, he did indeed marry Elizabeth of York.



Henry VIII

Henry VIII was the second son of Henry VII and much more of a party animal than his Dad! There was much rejoicing when he became King. Henry VIII famously had six wives, some of whom he had executed and his desire to divorce his first wife Catherine led to the Protestant church dramatically splitting from the Catholic Church. In later life Henry became massively overweight and was plagued with painful ulcers.

Mary I

Mary was the only child of Henry and Catherine of Aragon to survive, she was the first ever child in Britain to have parents who divorced! She eventually became Queen at the ripe old age of 37 and she made Catholicism the official religion of England again, making friends with the Pope and burning Protestants at the stake. She managed 300 burnings in her four year reign.

Elizabeth I

Elizabeth was one of England's most famous and impressive monarchs. In her 45 years as Queen she managed to officially establish the Church of England, defeat the Spanish Armada, set up colonies in America and murder her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots.

The Tudors were a family of Kings and Queens who reigned from 1485-1603. During Tudor times, the Protestant churches split from the Catholic Church. Many people on both sides were burned, hung or beheaded because of this. Many explorers found new ways of travelling the world during this time. William Shakespeare began writing plays towards the end of the Tudor period.