

25 July 2018

The Foundation of St Matthias
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Dear Trustees,

Thank you so much for the kind and generous grants you have offered me the last two year, towards my study of Theology & Religion at Durham University. Your support has been invaluable in helping meet the financial demands and requirements of university, and thus helping me further my education. I have now completed my degree with a 2:1; what a fun three years it has been!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Durham, and feel so grateful for the place and people under whom I have studied. My modules this year covered a broad range of theology; from biblical studies, to the study of Jesus throughout the Twentieth Century, to the way science interacts with theology, and finally an exploration into religion, media and popular culture. My favourite part of this year has been undertaking my dissertation, the title of which was 'John Wimber: Assessing his Theology, Practice and Legacy within the British Charismatic Movement.' I found this an incredibly edifying project to undertake, and one I learnt a lot from. It stretched and challenged me intellectually in the task of writing 12,000 words, as well as personally as I explored the history of the British Charismatic movement that I have grown up in, understanding its history, roots, and formation.

There are many parts of this course that I felt preparing me for the Church vocation to which I feel called, increasing my knowledge, passion and breadth of understanding. The dissertation, for one, enabled me to interview influential church leaders, many of whom have themselves pursued a Church vocation within the Church of England, and have a passion for enhancing education. It was an honour to talk with these people, and gain insight from their personal experiences. To prepare for a possible Church vocation after university, I decided to take another module this year with Cranmer Hall, giving me an opportunity to study and engage with those further on in this process, studying for ordination. I found this module (Further Biblical Studies) incredible interesting, thought-provoking, and enlightening, as we grappled with some important biblical texts and analysed their significance both historically and in the

present day. I scored my highest marks throughout my three years in this module, which I think reflects my enjoyment of it!

Outside of my course, I have loved getting heavily involved with my local Church, Durham's Christian Union, and living with girls who don't (yet) love Jesus. It has been a privilege to journey their questions and intrigue in faith over the years. From this point on, I am back home in Bath and looking ahead to the next season, with no plans as of yet. I definitely hold in my heart a calling to Church ministry, of which will most likely require further education. However, I feel this is not the next step straight out of university, but one to reconsider in a few years. As such, I am currently praying about what this initial step is.

What I do know is that the last three years at university studying theology has been an incredibly enriching experience, that has marked my life for ever, and the impact of which will continue to bear significance in my life. I feel the academic, personal and spiritual development that has taken place through my studies is essential for the places I am going and the vocation to which I feel called.

Thank you again for your invaluable support, and for making my university education possible through your financial generosity. I am so grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Natalie Nash