

**Charlotte Riley**

**Doctor of Letters**

**Durham Cathedral, 31 March 2022**

Chancellor, I present to you Charlotte Frances Riley for the award of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*.

For many in our audience today and watching Congregation ceremonies around the world, Charlotte will be familiar name and face.

In a successful and diverse professional acting career spanning two decades, she has applied her talents on both stage and screen, enjoying popular and critical success.

more recently

playing the mysterious May Carleton across from Cillian Murphy in global smash hit *Peaky Blinders*, also starring her husband, Tom.

Stockton on Tees, proudly from the North-East, Charlotte came to Durham in 2000 she

Society in 2003.

During her time at Durham, time outside of the classroom was spent honing her skills in playwriting and acting in The Assembly Rooms theatre here at the University where she joined the star-studded alumni ranks of the Durham Revue comedy group. Having sharpened her nascent talents here at Durham, Charlotte would later study at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, graduating in 2007 shortly after which her TV and film career began in earnest.

Away from screen and stage, Charlotte has been an ambassador for a number of national and regional charities dedicating her philanthropy to areas including Bowel Cancer UK and the Butterwick Hospice.

Her most rece

since established the first mobile childcare and educational facility to support those working on location.