

Charter of Foundation of Henry VIII, on April 3rd in the 33rd year of his reign, in the year of our Lord 1542.

Henry the Eighth, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and Supreme Head on Earth of the Church of England and that of Ireland, to all those whom the present letters have reached, greeting. May you know that for the advancement of knowledge, the arts, learning and virtue, the increase of good studies and morals, and for the particular sake of and at the most humble suit of our most beloved and faithful councillor Thomas Audeley, Knight of our most noble Order of the Garter, Lord of Walden, and our Chancellor of England; by our special grace, from our certain knowledge and by our own mere motion, according to the wording of the present letter we found, bring into existence, set up, create and establish a College to the glory and honour of Saint Mary Magdalene, to exist in perpetuity, in the estate, land, or neighbourhood and precinct of that place lately called Buckingham College, situated and existing in the nurturing academy, or university, of Cambridge: namely [one composed] of one Master and eight Fellows who are to be nominated by the aforementioned Lord Chancellor, his heirs and assigns, to celebrate divine office every day, and to carry out and fulfil all the other specific duties according to the ordinances, dispositions, stipulations and statutes, which will have been ordained, arranged and provided for in that regard by our said Chancellor, his heirs, executors or assigns. Indeed this College shall in perpetuity be named, called and designated the College of Saint Mary Magdalene, as we wish this College to be so named, called and designated in perpetuity. In addition we grant that the said Master and Fellows, so nominated by the

aforementioned Lord Chancellor or his executors and successors, shall be named and called the Master and Fellows of the College of Saint Mary Magdalene in the academy or university of Cambridge; and may they be a single corporate body in fact and in name. We create, make and establish the same Master and Fellows to exist in perpetuity; we declare, accept and approve them as a single body; and that they might have a perpetual succession. They shall be named and called in perpetuity by the name of Master and Fellows of the College of Saint Mary Magdalene in the nurturing academy of Cambridge. By our highest royal authority we grant that the said College, its Master and Fellows, and their successors, may and will in perpetuity be a member of the body of the aforesaid academy or university; we unite and consolidate the said College, and the aforesaid Master and Fellows, and their successors, to the body of the University, we wish them to be united and consolidated, and we make, create and establish the College, its Master and Fellows, and their successors, as and for a member of the aforementioned university; so that the said Master and Fellows, and their successors in perpetuity, may deal with all matters in all respects and may enjoy and make use of all the liberties and privileges regarding that university, as a member and part thereof. We wish and grant that the said Master and Fellows, and their successors in the aforesaid name, assigned by us according to the wording of the present letters, are and will in perpetuity be competent persons and capable in law of acquiring, receiving and accepting lands, tenements, revenues, reversions, services, advowsons, rectories, tithes, liberties, franchises, privileges, immunities, and other emoluments, possessions and hereditaments both spiritual and temporal; and that they can plead and be impleaded in the said name, and to pursue all manner of causes, complaints, actions real, personal and mixed, of whatever kind and

nature they are, and claim liberties and franchises, and answer and be answered, and defend themselves under the aforesaid name in the same causes, complaints and actions; and whatever else should be undertaken for the benefit and rights of the said College, to undertake these before ecclesiastical and secular judges, and before ourselves as much as before any judges and justices in any courts and tribunals of our heirs and successors, Kings of England, and in any other court; and let the said Master and Fellows have a common seal to use and furnish for their business and affairs.

And besides, by our abundant grace we have given and granted, and by these presents we give and grant, to the aforementioned Master and Fellows of the said College an estate, land, site, neighbourhood and precinct of the said College lately called Buckingham College, and all the buildings of the same, and those two gardens or parcels of land with ponds in them called Two pond-yards, lately belonging to Buckingham College; and the revenues, rents and reversions of the said gardens and ponds, with all their appurtenances, to hold by their own hands or by [the hands of] paying tenants of the aforesaid gardens and ponds; the Master and Fellows and their successors are in perpetuity allowed by ourselves, our heirs and successors, Kings of England, to have and to hold the said estate, land, site, neighbourhood, precinct, buildings, gardens, ponds, revenues, rents, reversions, and other premises with their appurtenances in free, pure and perpetual alms in perpetuity. We grant also to the said Master and Fellows that they and their successors by the authority of the present letters may have the power and ability to acquire and receive, for themselves and their successors, manors, lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, revenues and any other hereditaments to the clear annual value of 100 pounds from any

person or any persons wishing to give those to them; and they shall be allowed to hold the same manors, lands, tenements, rectories, tithes, revenues and other hereditaments or any other parcels of land of them from us as tenants in chief or otherwise. In addition we grant to the said Lord Chancellor that as often as the office of Master of the said College is vacant through death, retirement, resignation or through any other cause, that then the said Chancellor, his heirs and assigns, Lords of the late Monastery of Walden in the County of Essex, he or they shall nominate another Master by means of a letter composed under their Seal. And as often as the office of one of the Fellows of the said College is vacant [through] death, retirement, resignation, or any other cause; then the Master and the remainder of the Fellows of the said College, or the majority of them, shall elect another Fellow or Fellows according to the statutes, ordinances and provisions which are to be made and instituted by the said Lord Chancellor, and his heirs and executors. We have also granted to the said Master and Fellows that they may have the ability and power from time to time to make and grant rules, ordinances and statutes for the good management of the said College, and of the said Master and Fellows and anyone else residing and studying in the said College, according to their sound discretion, just as it seems best to them to accomplish.

And this without rendering or paying a fine or fee great or small to us in our Chancery or in the Hanaper of our Chancery in return for the foregoing premises or any of them, or for the having of our letters patent, their being created or deliberated, returned or dissolved;

The statute about not placing lands and tenements in mortmain, or any other statute, act, ordinance, provision or restriction made, declared, ordained or stipulated to the contrary, or any other thing, cause or matter whatsoever in any way notwithstanding.

In witness of this matter we have instructed these Letters Patent to be drawn up.

Witnessed by me myself at Westminster on the 3rd day of April, in the 33rd year of our reign and in the year of our Lord 1542.