

[GOVERNMENT OF ENGLAND, 1544]

[36 Henry 8]

Translation of Letters Patent containing the Grant and
Establishment of St. *Bartholomew's* Hospital; 23d
June, 1544.

Rot Pat
36 Hen VIII.
pars 2
mem 41 [1]

**Confirmation for the Master and
Chaplains of St. *Bartholomew*, West
Smithfield.**

THE King to all to whom, &c. greeting:
Whereas a certain late hospital which, whilst
it existed, was commonly called the hospital of
Saint *Bartholomew* the Less in West *Smithfield*
near *London*,

which same hospital is now vacant and altogeth-
er destitute of a master and all fellows or brethren,

and therefore the same hospital and all and sin-
gular the manors demesnes messuages lands
tenements hereditaments donations and posses-
sions of the same hospital have fallen into our
hands,

and we are at present in full right seised in our
demesne, as of fee, of the site inclosure and
precincts of the same late hospital and of all and
singular the manors demesnes messuages lands
tenements endowments and possessions afore-
said,

and we being of the same so seised, and, divine
mercy inspiring us, desiring nothing more than
that the true works of piety and charity should not
be abolished there but rather fully restored and
renewed according to the primitive pattern of their
genuine sincerity, and the abuses of the foundation
of the same hospital, in long lapse of time lamen-
tably occurring, being reformed, we have endeav-
oured as far as human infirmity will permit that
henceforth there be comfort to the prisoners, shel-
ter to the poor, visitation to the sick, food to the

hungry, drink to the thirsty, clothes to the naked,
and sepulture to the dead administered there, and
that other works of piety be performed there to the
glory of Almighty God and the common utility
and happiness of our subjects;

therefore, within the aforesaid site inclosure
circuit ambit and precincts of the said late hospi-
tal, to the glory and honour of the holy and undi-
vided Trinity, Father Son and Holy Ghost,

we determine to create erect found and estab-
lish a certain hospital, to consist of one master
a priest, and four chaplains priests, to serve
Almighty God there, of whom the first shall be
called the vice-master, the second, the curate, the
third, the hospitaler, and the fourth, the visitor of
the prisoners in *Newgate*; and

the same hospital, to consist of one master a
priest, and four chaplains priests, with other
ministers necessary to perform divine worship
and the aforesaid works of charity, by the tenor
of these presents we do really and fully create
erect found establish and by these presents
order to be established and for ever inviolably
observed.

And that the hospital aforesaid may be supplied
and adorned in all its places and degrees by fitting
persons, we by these presents make appoint and
constitute our beloved

William Turges, Bachelor of Divinity and our
chaplain, the first original and now master of the
hospital aforesaid, and

Thomas Hickeyn vice-master, and

Robert Harpyng curate, and

John Arley hospitaler, and

Ralph Cooke visitor of prisoners in *Newgate*,

of the aforesaid hospital.

[1]

[2]

[1] The original text is in Latin and obtainable from the UK National Archives only in person; so, to be researched. This translation is in *Memoranda, References, and Documents relating to The Royal Hospitals of the city of London* (London: Re-printed by Benjamin Pardon, 1863) Appendix No II, pp 4-7; downloaded from <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/k9j5g89a>. There it is shown as one dense block of text, so for ease of reading this edition is broken into paragraphs with clause numbers in the margin.

[3] We will moreover and ordain and to the same master and four chaplains grant by these presents that the aforesaid master and four chaplains henceforth for ever

be of themselves in deed and in name a body corporate, and

have perpetual succession, and

conduct behave and occupy themselves by and according to ordinances rules and statutes to be specified and declared in a certain indenture to them by us hereafter to be made. And

that the same master and chaplains and their successors shall be for ever called and named, and at present be called and named, the *Master and Chaplains of the Hospital of Saint Bartholomew in West Smithfield near London*. And

that the aforesaid master and chaplains of the hospital aforesaid and their successors be and henceforth for ever shall be a body corporate in deed and in name, and we do make declare ordain and accept them for a body, and that they have perpetual succession. And

that the same master and chaplains and their successors,

by the name of the Master and Chaplains of the Hospital of Saint *Bartholomew in West Smithfield near London*, may be able to prosecute claim and plead and be impleaded, and defend and be defended, answer and be answered, in all our courts and halls of law and elsewhere soever in and upon all and singular causes actions suits and demands, writs and plaints, real spiritual ecclesiastical personal and mixt, and in all other things causes and matters whatsoever; and

by the same name may be able to take receive and acquire, give alienate and demise, manors demesnes lands tenements possessions hereditaments profits and emoluments, as well spiritual or ecclesiastical as temporal, and other things whatsoever, by us, by the letters patent of us our heirs or successors, or by any other person or persons soever, to them or their successors, or otherwise according to the laws of us our heirs or successors, to be given or granted; and

that they may be able to take receive acquire, give grant alienate and demise, and do and

execute generally all and singular things which any other hospital whatsoever within this our realm of England has been accustomed to or can take receive acquire, give alienate and demise, do or execute, in any wise. And

that the aforesaid master and chaplains of the said hospital of Saint *Bartholomew in West Smithfield near London* and their successors for ever may and shall have a common seal to seal all their causes evidences and other writings or deeds to be made, in any wise touching or concerning them or the hospital aforesaid, by which they may be able to bind or oblige themselves and their successors, for a term or for ever, according to the tenor of the same writing so by them sealed.

And because we wish the said hospital of Saint *Bartholomew in West Smithfield near London* to be honourably endowed to the praise and honour of Almighty God, we of our more abundant grace have given and granted and by these presents do give and grant to the aforesaid master and chaplains of Saint *Bartholomew in West Smithfield near London*

[4]

the whole of the aforesaid site inclosure circuit ambit and precincts of the abovesaid late hospital, with all canals aqueducts and antient privileges liberties and free customs whatsoever of the same late hospital, and the whole church there,

together with all chapels bells belfreys closets dormitories leaden pipes cemeteries messuages houses buildings covered ways curtelages gardens orchards lakes fishponds, and all other places lands and territories

within the same site inclosure circuit ambit and precinct of the aforesaid late hospital, and which as part parts or parcel of the same late site were commonly reputed or esteemed,

which lately belonged to *John Breerlon*, Doctor of Laws, last master, and the brethren of the same, in right of that late hospital,

together with all and all manner of vases jewels ornaments goods chattels and implements of the same late hospital, with all their appurtenances,

To have hold and enjoy

the aforesaid site inclosure circuit ambit and precinct of the abovesaid late hospital, together with all antient privileges liberties and free customs abovesaid, and

with the aforesaid church chapels bells belfreys closets dormitories leaden pipes and cemeteries messuages houses buildings curtelages gardens orchards lakes fishponds lands and territories within the said site inclosure circuit ambit and precinct of the aforesaid late hospital,

together with the aforesaid vases jewels ornaments goods chattels and implements of the same late hospital, and

with all and singular other the premises above specified, with their appurtenances,

to the aforesaid master and chaplains of Saint *Bartholomew* in *West Smithfield* near *London* aforesaid and their successors for ever, of us our heirs and successors, in pure and perpetual alms.

[5] We will moreover and by these presents grant to the aforesaid master and chaplains of the said hospital of Saint *Bartholomew* in *West Smithfield* near *London* aforesaid and their successors for ever, that

the master of that hospital for the time being shall from time to time for ever, as case or cause may require, make constitute admit and accept all and singular the inferior officers and ministers of the same hospital and all other persons whatsoever of the aforesaid hospital;

and them and every of them, so admitted, may, on legitimate cause, not only correct but also displace and remove and expel from the same hospital, according to the manner and form in our statutes thereof to be made delivered and declared.

Saving to us our heirs and successors the title right and authority of nominating assigning and appointing the masters from time to time, whensoever and as often as it shall happen that the hospital aforesaid be vacant of a master, anything in these presents abovementioned to the contrary notwithstanding.

We will moreover and by these presents grant to the aforesaid master and chaplains of the said hospital of Saint *Bartholomew* in *West Smithfield* near *London* aforesaid, that they for themselves and their successors may and shall have these our letters patent under our great seal of England in due form made and sealed, without any fine or fee great or small to us in our Hanaper or elsewhere to our use in any wise to be rendered paid or made. So that express mention &c. whereof &c.

[6]

Witness the King at *Westminster* on the twenty-third day of June

By Writ of Privy Seal, &c.

The foregoing is a true translation of the office copy of the Grant and Establishment of the Hospital of Saint *Bartholomew* in *West Smithfield, London*, in the thirty-sixth year of the reign of King *Henry* the Eighth.

THOMAS D. HARDY.

Record Office, Tower,
24th August, 1836.