

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
Cambridge

FOUNDATION LICENCE

Edward [III] by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland to all to whom these present letters may come, greeting. Know that, for the honour of God and the increase of divine worship, and also at the request of our beloved and faithful kinsman Henry Duke of Lancaster, we have granted and given licence for us and our heirs inasmuch as in us lies, to our well-beloved the Alderman and Brethren of the Gild of the Precious Body of Jesus Christ and the Glorious Virgin Mary his mother in Cambridge that they may, in a certain messuage and its appurtenances, which they hold in fee in Cambridge, establish and found for all time a house of scholars, chaplains and others, under the name of the House of the Scholars of Corpus Christi and of the Virgin Mary at Cambridge, to be governed by a Master according to the ordinances of the same Alderman and Brethren, and that the same Alderman and Brethren may give and assign the said messuage and its appurtenances to the said Master and scholars to hold for him and his successors as their habitation for ever, saving to us and to others the due and customary services for the said messuage.

And we have also granted and given licence for us and our heirs inasmuch as in us lies to the said Alderman and Brethren that they may give and assign to the said Master and Scholars the advowson of the Church of St Benedict with its appurtenances to have and to hold from them and their successors for ever; such that the said Master and scholars may appropriate that church and hold the church so appropriated to their own uses and hold the messuage as a means of support for them and their said successors for ever and [we grant] to the said Master and Scholars that they may received the said messuage and advowson from the said Alderman and Brethren, and appropriate the church, and hold the church so appropriated to the own uses along with the said messuage for them and their said heirs as is aforesaid. And likewise, by the tenor of these present letters we have given special licence, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding, it not being our wish that the said Alderman and Brethren or their heirs, or the said Master and Scholars or their successors, should not be challenged by us or our heirs under that Statute, nor be in any way molested or harmed. In testimony of which we have made these letters patent, witness myself at the Tower of London, on 7 November, the 26th year of my reign in England, and the 13th of my reign in France [1352]