



The New Charter of 1547



Thanks to prompt and efficient action on the part of the rulers of Norwich, the pre-Dissolution hospital of St Giles escaped the fate that lay in store for most medieval English hospitals. By December 1546, detailed plans for the newly constituted 'Godes Howse' had been finalised and simply awaited Henry VII's final approval. The king's death in January 1547, just as the documents were about to be sealed, caused a temporary delay, but on 8 March following the city entered a tripartite indenture, or three-part contract, with the young Edward VI, his 'governor', the duke of Somerset, and King Henry's executors. The lengthy document, transcribed below, describes the hospital's transformation from a religious institution, focusing upon the commemoration of the dead, to a 'house of the poor' and school for the education of local boys in Latin grammar. Such reforms would have appealed to the young monarch and Protector Somerset, both of whom were zealous Protestants.

The Grant of the Hospitall of St Giles

This Indenture trypartited indented made the Eight day of March in the First yeare of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lord Edward the Sixt, by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Kinge, defender of the faith & of the Church of England & Ireland in earth the supream head, **Betweene** the same Kinge, on the first party, and the right honorable prince Edward, duke of Sommerset, uncill and Counsellor to our said Sovereigne Lord, Governor of his gracious person and Lord protector of his highnes Realmes and dominions, The reverend Father in God Thomas, Archbishoppe of Canturbury, Sir William Pawlett, Knight of the most honorable order of the garter, Lord St John and greate Master of the Kings most honorable howsehould, Sir John Russell, Knight of the same most honorable order of the garter, Lord Russell and Lord privy seale, Sir John Dudley, Knight of the same most honorable order of the garter, Earle of warwicke and great Chamberlyn of England, Sir Thomas Wryothesley, Knight of the same most honorable order of the garter, Earle of Southampton, The Reverend Father in God Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishoppe of Duresme, Sir Anthony Browne, Knight of the same most honorable order of the garter and Master of the Kings horse, Sir William Paget, Knight of the same most honorable order of the garter and cheife Secretary to the Kings highnes, Sir Anthony Denny, Knight, Sir William Herbert, Knight, Sir Edward Mountague, Knight, cheife Justice of the Comon place, Thomas Bromeley, Knight, one of the Justices of the please before our Sovereigne Lord the Kinge to be houlden, Sir Edward North, Knight, Chancellor of the Kings Court of Th'augmentacions and renews of his highnes Crowne, Sir Edward Wootton, Knight, and Nicholas Wootton, doctor of Lawe, Executors in the last will and Testament of the most noble Kinge of Famous memory, Kinge Henery the eight, late diseased, of the second party, And the Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty of the Citty of Norwich, of the third party, **Wittnesseth** that, where the said late Kinge Henery the eight by his said last will and testament, amongst divers other things, willed that all such grantes and gifts as his highnes had made, given or promised to any which ben not yet perfected under his gracious Signe, or any his highnes seales as they ought to be, And all such recompences for exchanges, Sales or any other thinge or thinges as ought to have bene made by his highnes and ben not yet accomplished, should be perfected in every point towards all mannor of men for discharginge of his gracious Conscience, Charginge his gracious executors and all the rest of his Counsalors to see the same done, performed, finished and accomplished in every point,

Foreseinge that the said guiftes, promises & recompences should appeare to his said Executors, or to the most part of them, to have ben made, granted, accorded and promised in any manner of wise; **And further**, his Majesty willed that, for because the variety and number of things, affaires and matters are, or may be, such as his highnes, not knowinge the certenty of them before, could not conveniently prescribe a certeyne order or rule unto his said Counsellors for ther behavors and proceedings in this Charge, which his grace hath and doth appoint unto them about his graces sonne duringe the tyme of his minority, **his highnes** therefore, for the spetiall trust and confidence which his grace had in them, did, by the said last will and testament, will and grant full power and auctorite unto his said Counsellors that they all, or the most part of them, beinge assembled together in Councill, or, if any of them should fortune to dye, the more part of them as is aforesaid, should and might make, devise & ordeine what things soever they, or the most part of them, as is aforesaid, duringe the mynority of his highnes said Sonne thinke meete, necessary or convenient for the benefitt, honor and surety, or the wele, **proffitt** or comodity of his said sonne, his Realmes, dominions or Subiectes, or the discharge of his conscience; **And the same things devised**, made or ordeyned by them, or the more part of them, as is aforesaid, should, or might lawfully doe, execute and accomlishe, or cause to be done, executed and accomplished, by ther discretions, or the discretions of the more part of them, as is aforesaid, (f. 81r) in as large and ample mannour as his highnes had, or did, expresse unto them by a more spetiall Comition under his great seale of England, every particuler cause that might Chaunce or occurr duringe the tyme of his said sonnes minority, And the selfe same mannour of proceedinge which they should for the tyme thinke meet for to use and followe, Willinge and charginge his said sonne and all other which should hereafter be Councillors to his said sonne that they never charge, molest, troble nor disquiet his said Councillors, nor any of them, for the devisinge or doinge, nor any other person or persons for the doinge of that they should devise, or the more part of them devise or doe assembled, as is aforesaid, As by the same last will and testament, amongst many other things, more at large doth and may appeare; **And forasmuch** as it is manifest to the said Lord protector and other his Coexecutors that the said Last Kinge **Henery the Eight** did intend and was fully minded and resolved to have assured and taken into his hands and possession the late Hospitall of St Gile within the Citty of Norwich, and also all and singuler the Mannours, Landes, tenementes, hereditamentes, Church Lead, bells, timber, Iron, glasse, Tile, stone, ornamentes and all other possessions and

things of the same late Hospitall, and all other Hereditamentes hereafter in this present Indenture expressed and declared, for and to the intent and purpose to have given and granted the same to the Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty of his said Citty of Norwich and to their Successors for ever, [and] to have clerely discharged & exonerated the same of all first frutes and tythes for the Causes and consideracions hereafter in this present Indenture spetified and conteyned; And also further intended for the same causes & consideracions to have given and granted Lycence to the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and their Successours to have had, received and taken to them & their Successours, aswell of his highnes, his heires and successours, as of any other person or persons, bodyes politike or Corporall, Mannours, Lands, tenementes & hereditamentes to the cleare yearly value of two hundred poundes or under, aswell within the said Citty of Norwich as else wher within the Realme of England or other his graces dominions; **And**, forasmuch also as the said late Hospitall, Mannours, Landes, tenementes, hereditamentes & other things so purposed and minded to have bene given by the said late Kinge to the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and ther Successours wer not assured and taken into the hands & possetion of the said late Kinge, nor wer assured to the same Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty and ther Successours in the life tyme of the same late Kinge, ne none other of his said Intentes accomplished or performed accordinge to his graces godly will and purpose in that behalfe, **Therefore the** Kings highnes that nowe is, mindinge the Accomplishment and performance of the will, premise, godly intent and purpose of his said most dere & intirely beloved father in that behalfe, And to the intent the said Maior, Sheriffes & Commonilty and ther Successours should have and enjoy the said late Hospitall Lands, rentes, Hereditamentes and other things, accordinge to the will and intent of his said Father, with the consent of the said Lord protector and other his Coexecutors before rehersed, Mindinge also, accordinge to ther most boundinge dutyes, the very true accomplishment and performacon of the said will and testament, hath not onely assumed and taken into his ~~said~~ hands the said late Hospitall, with all the possessions & hereditamentes of the same, of the giftes, grantes and Surrender of the Master of the same late Hospitall & other havinge interest in the same, But also his Majesty is contented and pleased that the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty shall have to them & ther Successours for ever the said late Hospitall, and all and singuler the Lands, tenementes, hereditamentes and other things hereafter in his Indenture spetified and conteyned, in like mannour & forme & for the same intentes and purposes as the said late Kinge **Henery the Eight**

intended, And as hereafter in this present Indenture is expressed and declared; Whereupon the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty, yeilding most humble thankes to the Kings Majesty, and prayinge dayly for the increase of his honer and continuance of his health, and for the Soule of the said Kinge Henery the Eight, his gracious Father, Mindinge also the accomplishment of all & every the said Godly Acts & ordinances which the said late Kinge intended to have prescribed, limited and appointed to have bene executed, performed and done by the said Maior, Sheriffes, (f. 81v) Cittizens and Commonilty and ther Successours, and in this Indenture hereafter expressed and conteyned, **The same Maior**, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty most humbly besechinge the Kings Majesty that it may please his highnes to give & grant unto the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty the said late Hospitall & all & singuler the Lands, tenementes, hereditamentes & other things hereafter in this Indenture spetified and conteyned, And that it may be ordained, promised, Covenanted, granted & agreed betweene his highnes the said Lord protector & his said coexecutors And the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty in manner & forme hereafter ensuinge:

In consideracion whereof, and for and in Accomplishment of the said will and Testament of the said late Kinge Henery the eight, Our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinge that now is, with the advise and consent of the said Lord protector & other his said coexecutors, Is pleased and contented to promise and grant, and by these presentes promiseth & granteth, and the said Lord protector and his said Coexecutors covenauten, & by these presentes graunten, to and with the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and ther Successours that the same our Sovereigne Lord the Kinge, by his graces Letters pattents in due forme to be made under his great Seale of England before the feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist [24 June] next ensuinge the date hereof, will and shall give and grant unto the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty all that Site, Circuit, Compasse & precinct of the said late Hospitall of St Gile within the Citty of Norwich in the parishe of St Ellen next the Bishoppe gate ther [*margin*: The Grant of the Hospitall of St Giles], And all the Church of the same late Hospitall and the said Belles, Timber, Iron, glasse, tyle and stone of the same Church and late Hospitall, & all the ornamentes of the same Church and late Hospitall, And all plate, stuffe of Howshould & other things to the same Church & late Hospitall, or to eyther of them, belonginge or apperteyninge

And also all & singuler howses, buildinges, gardens, meadowes, mannours, messuages, lands, tenementes & all other his graces possessions and Hereditamentes within the Site, circuit, compas or precinct of the said late Hospitall, And also all & singuler his graces mannours, parsonages, messuages, Mylles, Howses, buildings, lands, tenementes, meadowes, feedings, pastures, woodes, underwoods, rentes, revercions, services, Courts, leets, perquisites & proffittes of Courtes & leetes, vewse of frankplege, Advousions, tythes, obligacions, pencions, porcions, wayves, strayes, wardes, marriages, releifes, hariots, escheates, warrens, fold courses, and all other his graces Hereditamentes, with all and singuler ther appurtenaunces, aswell spirituall as temporall, of whatsoever kind or nature they bin of, or by whatsoever name or names the same bin knowne, reputed or taken, scituate, lyinge or beinge in the said City of Norwich and in the Countyes of Norffolk, Suffolk, Essex & City of Norwich, or any of them, or else wher within the Realme of England, to the said late Hospitall of St Gile lately belonginge or apperteyninge, or which at the tyme of the disolucon of the said late Hospitall wer knowen, reputed, taken, used, occupied or letten as part, parcell or member of the same late Hospitall, or of any of the possessions thereof, And also all that the parishe of Church of St Ellen in Holmestreet within the said City of Norwich, And the rectory and parsonage of the same parishe Church of St Ellen in Holmestreet aforesaid, or by whatsoever other name, or names, the same Church is called or knowen, And the steple, bells, lead and site of the same Church, and all the tithes, oblacions, obventions and offerings of the Inhabitants of the same parishe from henceforth for the tyme beinge, And all Messuages, Lands, tenementes, hereditamentes, pencions, porcions and other proffittes, renewes, comodities and possessions, as well spirituall as temporall, of the same parishe Church of St Ellen, or to the same rectory, parsonage or parishe Church, or to the parson of the same in the right of the same Church belonginge, or in (f. 82r) any wise apperteyninge, **To have and to hold** the said Site of the said late Hospitall and the said parsonage of St Ellen, and all & singuler the said Mannours, Messuages, Lands, tenementes, tythes, oblacions and all other the premisses with all & singuler ther appurtenaunces to the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and ther Successours for ever, To hould of our said sovereigne Lord the Kinge, his Heires & successours in **Socage** by fealty onely and not in cheife, And yeilding yearly unto our said sovereigne Lord the Kinge, his heires and successors nyne poundes of lawfull money of England to be paid yearly at the feast of St Michaell the Archangell [29 September] in the Court of Augmentacions and revenue of our said sovereigne Lord the Kinges Crowne for all mannur of other rentes, services and demands therefore to our said sovereigne Lord the Kinge, his heires or successours to be yelden, done or paid.

And alsoe our said sovereigne Lord the Kinge, for and in further accomplishment of his said Fathers will & testament, is further pleased, and by the advise & concent of the of the said Lord protector & his said coexecutors is contented, and by these presentes willeth, comandeth & ordeineth that the said late Hospitall of St Gile shalbe from henceforth a place and howse for the releife of poore people, and shalbe called **Gods howse**, or the howse of the poore in Holmestreet within the City of Norwich, of the foundacon of Kinge **Edward** the sixt & Kinge **Henery the eight**, his most noble father [*margin*: The Title or name of the Hospitall of the foundacon of Edward the Sixth, King of England & cetera], And that the Church ther shalbe the parishe Church of St Ellen, as heretofore it hath bene used for divine service, with all mannur of Sacramentes & Sacramentalles to be from henceforth said, songe & ministred ther, aswell to the parishe of St Ellens parishe [*sic*] in Holmestreet aforesaid for the tyme beinge and to the Inhabitants within the Site of the said late Hospitall for the tyme beinge, As also to the poore people, officers and Ministers from henceforth to be resident or commorant within the precinct of the said late Hospitall, And that all howses, buildinges, ground & soyle within the said site of the said late Hospitall shall hereafter be called gods howse, or the howse of the poore, as is aforesaid, And from henceforth shalbe accepted & taken to be part & parcell of the said parishe & parishe Church of St Ellen in Holmestreet aforesaid, and of none other parishe, Any thinge heretofore used to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstandinge.

And our said sovereigne Lord the Kinge is also further pleased and contented, & by the said advice & consent of the said Lord protector & his said coexecutors further willeth & ordeineth, that ther shalbe from henceforth for ever in the said parishe Church of St Ellen one Preist suffitiently learned to serve the cure ther [*margin*: A Priest], which shalbe called the Curate, or Chapleyne, of the parishoners of St Ellens in Holmestreet next Bishopps gates & to the poore of Gods howse, or the howse of the poore aforesaid, And shall have for his yearely stipend or pencon Six poundes thirteene shillings fower pence, and a suffitient mation howse for his habitacon within the Site & precinct of the said late Hospitall.

And that ther shalbe for and in the same parishe Church one other preist suffitiently learned, which shalbe called the Visitor of the Guildhall in Norwich aforesaid, who shall attend to visitt the prisoners of the Guildhall aforesaid within the Citty of Norwich, [*margin*: The Visitor to Accompany such a goe to Execucon] and from tyme to tyme to say and doe devine service and Masse in the Chappell of the said Guildhall, and to minister Sacramentes to the prisoners ther, as hereftore hath bene accustomed, And also shalbe confessor to the said prisoners & accompany such as shall goe to execucon, and shalbe allwayes resident ther for the same purpose, And shall have for his yearely stipend or pencion Six pounds, and a suffitient mantion howse for his habitacon with in the said Site & precinct of the said late Hospitall.

And also that ther shalbe from henceforth for ever at the said late Hospitall one scholemaster [*margin*: one Scholemaster] & one (f. 82v) Usher under him, suffitiently learned in the Lattin tonge & meete & able for ther Lerninge, discretion and other vertuous qualities to teach and Learne Children the art or scyence of Grammer, which Scholemaster and usher shalbe attendant ther for the Instruction and teachinge of the said Children, ther by them to be instructed and taught the said Art & science of Grammer from tyme to tyme freely without any reward other then ~~they~~ ther Stipends and Salarys, And shall have for ther salaryes or stipends yerely xvj^{li} xiiij^s iiij^d [£16 13s 4d], That is to say to the Scholemaster for his yearely stipend Tenne poundes, And the said Usher for his yearely stipend six pounds xiiij^s iiij^d [£6 13s 4d], and convenient mantion howses for ther habitacions & dwellinges within the said site of the said late Hospitall.

And also our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinge is further pleased and contented, & by the said advise and consent of the said Lord protector & his said Coexecutors promiseth and granteth, & the said Lord protector & his said coexecutors Covenanten & granten by theise presentes, to & with the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty that the same our Sovereigne Lord the Kinge shall by his graces said Letters pattentes, in due form to be made under his great Seale of England, give & grant lycence to the said curate, or Chaplin, & the said Vis[it]or, Scholemaster & Usher & every of them [that they] may have, receive and take of the gift & grant of the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty & of their Successours from tyme to tyme severall gifts and grantes to be made in writinge under ther Common Seale to the said Chapline, visitor, Scholmaster and Usher & every of them for the tyme beinge of their said severall stipendes & manciones,

To have and to hold the same Stipendes & manciones to them & every of them so longe and duringe such tyme as the same Chaplin, Visitor, Schoolemaster & Usher shall demeane them selves well & to be of good and honest behavior and conversacon, and shall dilligently execute and doe their office [*margin*: To continue soe Long as the afore mencioned officers shall demeane themselves well].

And over this our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinge is further pleased & contented, and by the said advice and concent of the said Lord protector & his said coexecutors promiseth and granteth, And the said Lord protector & his said coexecutors Covenanten & granten, & by theise presentes to and with the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty & ther Successours, that the same Maior & his Successours, Maiors of the said Citty for the tyme beinge, with the Assent of the most number of the Aldermen of the said Citty for the tyme beinge, shall from tyme to tyme have the nominacon and appointment of the said Chapline, Visitour, Scholemaster & Usher, and of every of them, And of all other the officeres & Ministeres of the said late Hospitall, Hereafter named, & of every of them [*margin*: The Maior & Maior part of the Aldermen to have the nominacon of the said officers & of all other officers and Ministers of the same].

And also that it shall and may be lawfull to the said Maior of the said Citty for the tyme beinge & his successours, with the assent of the most number of the Aldermen of the said Citty for the tyme beinge, to amove, expell and put out from ther roomes & offices the said Chaplin, Visitor, Scholemaster and Usher and every of them & ther Successours, & the Successours of every of them, And all other Ministers and officers which shalbe in the said howse of the poore, and every of them and ther Successours, & the Successours of every of them, [*margin*: The Maior & Maior part of Aldermen for good cause to Displace any officer or Minister] for any notable crime, offence or negligence to be comitted by the said Chapline, Visitor, Schoolemaster and Usher, and other the said officers & Ministeres of the said late Hospitall, or by any of them, or for disobeyinge or not doinge & performinge of such good & reasonable rules, ordinances and preceptes as shalbe hereafter prescribed, assigned or appointed to them, or to any of them, by the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty or ther Successours to be done, executed or performed.

And the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty, for them and their Successours, Covenanten and by theis presentes graunten to and with our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinge, the said Lord protector & his said coexecutors that they, the same Maior and his Successours, maiors of the said Citty for the (f. 83r) tyme beinge, with the assent of the greater number of the Aldermen of the said Citty for the tyme beinge, shall within the space of two monthes next after any of the persons aforesaid shalbe amoved from any of their said roomes or offices, as is aforesaid, name, assigne & appoint one other able, meete & convenient person to the same roome, office and promocon from which any such person shalbe soe amoved, expelled or put out.

And also the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty for them & ther Successours covenanten and granten by theise presentes to and with our said sovereigne Lord the Kinge, the said Lord protector & his said coexecutors that they, the same Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and ther Successours, shall, within the space of six months next after the date hereof, [*margin*: To make graunts & assureances under the Common Seale to the said Officers] make, or cause to be made, to the said Chapline, Visitor, Schoolemaster and Usher, and to every of them, severall and suffitient giftes, grantes & assurances by wrytinge under the Comon Seale of ther said severall stipends & mantions to be severally given and granted to them out of the possessions of the said late Hospitall within the said Citty, with suffitient Clauses of distresse for the non payment of the same Stipendes, **To have and to hold** the said Stipendes to them & every of them so longe & duringe such tyme as they and every of them shall demeane themselves well & byn of honest & good conversacon & shall diligently execute, performe & done ther said offices.

And also that the same Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and ther Successours shall from tyme to tyme make like grantes and assurances to every of the same officers within the space of one month next after any such officer shalbe named & appointed to any of the same offices.

And also the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty, for them & ther Successours, further Covenanten & granten by theise presentes to & with our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinge, the said Lord protector & other his said Coexecutors that they, the same Maiors, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and ther Successours, at their proper costes and charges, shall from and after the end of Six months next after the date hereof provide, find & mayneteyne continually & for ever at the said site of the said late Hospitall of St Gile, hereafter to be called Goddes howse, or the howse of the poore, suffitient and convenient lodginge, meate, drinke, beddinge, wood & all other thinges necessary for Forty poore persons to be resident lyinge, abidinge and found from tyme to tyme in the said late Hospitall, **And** fower women to make the beddes, washe and attend upon the same poore persons, And shall pay yearely to every of the same fower women thirty thre shillings & fower pence for ther wages and apparrell, The same Fourty poore persons & every of them to be all waies removable from day to day, weeke to weeke, month to month and tyme to tyme, And other to be taken and received into their roomes & places, at & by the discretion of such person and persons as shalbe named & elected from tyme to tyme by the Maior of the said Citty for the tyme beinge, with the assent of the most part of the said Aldermen for the tyme beinge, to omit, receive, take & remove in to & from the said Howse of the poore, or goddes howse, the said Forty poore persons.

And also that they, the same Mayor, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and their Successours, shall at ther like costes and charges continually and for ever provide and find at the said late Hospitall to be called Goddes howse, or the howse of the poore, as is aforesaid, one convenient & suffitient person to be cater, or steward, of and for the provision of the poore ther [*margin*: A Steward], And shall give, pay and allowe unto him yearely one coate, or gowne, of the price of x^s [10s] for his Livery, Forty shillings for his wages and suffitient meate & drinke in the said Howse, **And also** shall at their like costes and charges continually and forever provide and find ther one other Suffitient and convenient person to be the rent gatherer, [*margin*: A Collector of the rents] or Collector of the rentes and revenues of such possessions as shalbe given to & for the sustentacon of the said poore persons and other the premisses, And shall give & allowe yearely unto him for his office iij [blank]; (f. 83v)

And also shall at their like costs and charges continually and for ever provide and find ther one other sufficient ~~person~~ and convenient person to be Porter and Butler of the said late Hospitall, [*margin*: A Porter & Butler] and shall give, pay and allowe unto him yearly one Coate, or gowne, of the price of Tenn Shillings for his Livery, xxvj^s viij^d [13s 4d] for his wages & sufficient meate & drinke in the said Howse, And also shall at ther like costes and charges continually and for ever provide & find ther on other sufficient and convenient person to be Baker and br[e]wer of the said late Hospitall, [*margin*: A Baker and Brewer] and shall give, pay and allowe unto him yearly one gowne, or coate, of the price of x^s [10s] for his Livery, xxvj^s viij^d [13s 4d] for his wages and sufficient meate and drinke in the said howse.

And our said sovereigne Lord the Kinge, in consideracon of the great Charges which the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty and their Successours shall susteyne and beare yearly for the Cawses above remembred, is pleased and contented, and by the said advise and consent of the said Lord protector and his said Coexecutors promiseth and granteth, & the said Lord protector Covenanten and granten by theise presentes to and with the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty that the same our Sovereigne Lord the Kinge, by his graces said Letters patentes, shall give & grant to the same Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty lycence, full power & authority to take and receive to them & their Successours for ever to the use, sustentacon and mayntenance of the premisses by purchase, bargaine, sale, alienacon, gift, grant, Legacy, bequest or otherwise, aswell of his highnes and of his heires and successours, Kinges of this Realme, As of any other person or persons, bodyes politique and corporate, Mannours, parsonages, Lands, tenementes, tythes, rentes, revercions or other revenues, possessions or hereditamentes to the yearly value of two hundred powndes or under, over and above the Mannours, Lands, tenementes & hereditamentes abovesaid, Aswell within the City of Norwich as els wher with in the Realme of England or in Wales or in any other the Kinge his dominions, Although the same Mannours, parsonages, Lands, tenementes, tythes, rentes, revercions, revenues, possessions or Hereditamentes be or shalbe houlden of the Kinge his Majesty, his heires or successors in cheife or otherwise, The Statute and Statutes whereby it is provided and enacted that Landes & tenementes should not be putt to mortmayne, or any other Act or statute heretofore made or hadd to the Contrary, or any other Lawe, Custome, provision, matter or cause in any wise to the Contrary notwithstandinge.

And the said Mayor, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty doe Covenant, promise and grant for them and ther successours to and with our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinge, his heires and Successours that the hole yearlye proffittes and revenues of the said Mannours, Lands, Tenementes, tythes, possessions, Hereditamentes and other the premisses appointed to be given and granted to the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and ther Successours, And which the same Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty shall buy & purchase, or that shalbe given to them by reason of the said Lycence, over and besides the findinge of the said Chaplin, Visitor, Schoolemaster and Usher & other necessary Ministers & officers as are before appointed to be found by the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty, And over and besides the maynteyninge of the necessary reparacions and buildinges of the said late Hospitall and of other the premisses, shall holly be bestowed, employed and goe to the releife & sustentacon of the poore.

And our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinge is further pleased and contented, and by the said advise and consent of the said Lord protector and his said coexecutors promiseth and granteth, And the said Lord protector and his said coexecutors covenanten & granten by theise presentes, to and with the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty that the same our Sovereigne Lord the Kinge, by his graces said Letters pattendes, shall acquitt (f. 84r) and discharge aswell the same Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty and their Successours, as the said Chapline, visitor, Schoolemaster & Usher, and other the said officers and Ministers of the said late Hospitall, and every of them and their Successours & the Successours of every of them, And all & every their pencions, Salaryes and Stipends, **As also** the said Mannours, parsonages, Landes, tenementes & other the premisses to be given and granted to the same Mayor, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and their Successours by the Kinges highnes in forme aforesaid, And all other Mannours, Landes, tenementes and Hereditamentes which the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty or their Successours by reason of the said Licence or otherwise shall hereafter have by the gifte, grant, bequest, bargaine or sale of the Kinges highnes, his heires or Successours, or of any other person to the use and intent aforesaid, of all & all manner of tenthes and First fruites, And of all and singuler somme and summes of money for and in the name of tenth, or yearlye tenth part, or for, or in, the name of First fruites of the said late Hospitall, mannours, parsonages Landes, tenementes and other the premisses to be given & granted by our said Sovereigne Lord

to the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and their Successours by the said Letters pattentes, or of any other Mannours, Landes, tenementes or hereditementes or [sic] which the same Mayor, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty or ther Successours shall hereafter have and obteyne by guift, grant, will, legacy, bequest, bargaine or sale of any person, or persons, by vertue of the said Licence to be granted in fourme aforesaid, due and payable, or to be due or paid, to our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinge, his heires or Successours by the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty or their Successours, or by the said Chapline, Visitor, Schoolemaster, Usher & other the said officers & Ministers of the said late Hospitall, or by any of them, or by their Successours, or by the Successours of any of them, by reason of the Act of parliament made and provided in the xxvjth yeare of the reigne of the said late Kinge Henery the eight for and concerninge the grantinge or payment of tenthes and first fruites to his highnes, his heires and successours, or by reason of any other Act, provision or lawe made for the payment of first fruites and tenthes, And that aswell all and singuler the premisses, as also the said Mannours, Landes, tenementes and Hereditamentes, And that the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and their Successours, And the said Chaplin, Visitor, Schoolemaster, Usher and all the said officers & Ministers of the said late Hospitall, and every of them and ther Successours, & the Successours of every of them, shalbe by the said Letters pattentets clerely and fully discharged, pardoned & acquitted of, and for, all and all manner of Intrusions comytted, or to be comitted, And of, & for, all manner of fines, forfeitures, paynes and sommes of money lost, due or forfeated, or to be lost, due or forfeated, to our Sovereigne Lord the Kinge, his heires or Successours by, or for, the not findinge of suertyes for the true payment of the said first fruites, or by, or for, the non payment of the said first fruites and tenthes, or any parcell thereof, made in the said xxvjth yeare of the reigne of the said late Kinge, The same Act, or any other Statute, Act, provision or Lawe heretofore had or made to the contrary in any wise, notwithstandinge, And that the said Letters pattents under the great Seale of England shalbe unto the Chancellor of the said Court of First fruites and tenthes, And to all other officers and Ministers of the same Court for the tyme beinge, a sufficient warrant and discharge for the exoneracon and allowance of the said first fruites and tenthes in manner & forme above written.

And over this our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinge is further pleased and contented, and by the said advise and consent of the said Lord protector & his said Coexecutors promiseth & granteth, And the said Lord protector & his said Coexecutors Covenanten & granten, by these presentes to and with the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty and their Successours that the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty and their Successours shall from henceforth be Masters, rulers and governors of the said late Hospitall oredeyned nowe for the poore, And that they and ther successours for the tyme beinge shall have the order, rule and governance of the same late Hospitall, hereafter to be called Gods howse or the Howse of the poore as is aforesaid, and of the people ther, And shall have full power and authority to see & cause the rentes, revenues and profittes of the Landes and possessions of the same late Hospitall to be employed & bestowed to the releife of the poore people ther & of other the Charges above remembred, accordinge (f. 84v) to the meaninge of the foundacon of the same, or otherwise as it shall please the Kinges Majesty for better orders to devise for the same.

And to the intent the said good and godly perpose may have good successe, to the honor and glory of God & to the aid, helpe and releife of the poore, The Kings Majesty is further pleased and contented, & for him, his heires and Successours, by the said advise and consent of the said Lord protector & his said Coexecutors, promiseth and granteth, And the said Lord protector & his said Coexecutors Covenanten & granten, by these presentes to and with the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and their Successours that our said Sovereigne Lord Kinge, his heires & successours from tyme to tyme at all times hereafter shall do & suffer to be done at the proper costes and Charges of the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty and their Successours all and every such Act & Actes, thinge and thinges, be it by Letters pattents, confirmacon or otherwise, for the better or more profit, assurance and makinge sure of the said Mannours, parsonages, tythes, Landes, tenementes & all & singuler the premisses appointed, or to be granted and made sure to the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty & to their Successours, and for the sure erecton, foundacon & establishment of all & singuler other the purposes and effectes afore expressed in fourme aforesaid, As by the Learned councell of the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty and ther Successours from tyme to tyme shalbe devised or advised, And that the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty, by vertue of these presentes,

shall freely have the one part of this Indenture Sealed with the greate Seale of England without any fine or fee, lyttell or great, to be paid for the same in the Hamper of the Chancery or else wher.

In Consideracion whereof, the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty for them and their Successors Covenanten & granten by theise presentes to and with our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinge and the said Lord protector and his said Coexecutors that the same Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens & Commonilty and ther Successours shall yearely from tyme to tyme well and truly content and pay, or cause to be contented and paid, to our said Sovereigne Lord the Kinges bayliffes of the Hundreds of Humlyerd [Humbleyard] blowfeild and Loddon, in the said County of Norffolk, and to every of them to his highnes use, All such rentes and sumes of moneyes as by the late Master of the said late Hospitall, or any of his predecessours, masters of the same Hospitall, have bene used or accustomed to be paid to the same Bayliffes of the said Hundredes, or to any of them.

In wittnes whereof to the one part of these Indentures remeyninge with the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty the Kinges Majesty that now is hath caused his greate Seale of England to be putt, And the Lord protector & other his Coexecutors have putt to their Seales; **And to the** second part of these Indentures remeyninge with the said Lord protector & other his Coexecutors the Kinges Majesty that now is hath caused his greate Seale of England to be putt, And the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty have also putt to ther Comon Seale; **And to the** third part of this Indenture remeyninge with the Kinges Majesty that now is the said Maior, Sheriffes, Cittizens and Commonilty have put to their said Comon Seale the day and yeare first above written (NCR, 17B, Liber Ruber Civitatis, ff. 80v-84v).