



450th
Anniversary

**PARTIAL TRANSLATION OF THE FOUNDATION CHARTER
OF JESUS COLLEGE
27 JUNE 1571**

Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. To all those to whom these present letters shall come, greeting. Know that in commemoration of the immense goodwill of God towards us and our realm of England, which to extend and propound the sincere truth of the Christian religion in our kingdom and strenuously to defend it as much against crime, enormities and nefarious abuses as against the malignant and noxious impieties of heretics the Divinity we are helped and advised by God in whose hand are the hearts of kings.



Lest we should appear unworthy of the grace with which God has so generously deigned to endow us, but declaring our gratitude for the outstanding benefits of God, we also confirm our hope for the future to the high and almighty glory and honour of God, for the spread and establishment of sincere Christian religion, the extirpation of errors and false beliefs, to the increase and continuity of the cult of holiness, to the spread of all kinds of good literature, to the understanding of languages, to the education of the young in piety, virtue, discipline and science, to the relief of the poor and those suffering want, so that for the common utility and happiness of the Christian church in our realm and of our subjects, and From our particular grace and our certain knowledge and

[mero motu], a certain College for learning in the sciences of Philosophy, the good arts, and the knowledge of the Greek, Latin and Hebrew languages, with the object of professing sacred Theology, shall last for ever on the sole foundation, site and precincts of our former Hall commonly called Whitehall with its appurtenances, situated and being in our city or dear Academy or University of Oxford, that is to say:

'for all future times'
Jesus College Charter, 1571

We decree that it shall be created, erected, founded and established with one Principal, eight fellows and eight scholars, and by the tenor of these presents we truly and entirely create, erect, found, ordain, make, constitute and establish the said College of one Principal, eight fellows and eight scholars to endure for all future times to come, and we desire and order that its perpetual establishment shall be inviolably observed. By these presents we desire and decree that the said College shall be for ever called and known as Jesus College within the City and University of Oxford of Queen Elizabeth's foundation, or in English [in original] Jhesus Colledge within ye City and University of Oxforth of Quene Elizabethes foundation.



And further that the various positions within this college shall be filled, provided and honoured with suitable individuals. By these presents and the tenor of these presents we appoint, ordain and constitute our well-beloved David Lewes, Doctor of Laws, as the first, initial and present principal of our said College; Thomas Huycke, Doctor of Laws, John Cottrell, Doctor of Laws, John Lloyd, Doctor of Laws, William Awbrey, Doctor of Laws, Robert Laughher, Doctor of Laws, Robert Johnson, Bachelor of Sacred Theology, Thomas Huyt, Master of Arts, and John Higginson, Master of Arts, as the said eight fellows; and Gregory Downehall, Lancelot Andrewes, John Wilford, Francis Yeomans, William Platt, Thomas Dove, John Osmonde and William Garth, as the said eight Scholars. Desiring first of all [insuper] that the said principal, eight fellows and eight scholars named above, and that all others who shall in future be associated with, elected, or joined to this said body of a principal, eight fellows and eight Scholars, shall in

all things and through all things conduct themselves, show themselves, converse and be chosen in accordance with....