

Translated from the Latin by Dr Betty Knott (University of Glasgow, ret) on behalf of  
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The Following Work Represents the First Complete English Translation of Dr Morton's Will

Will of John Morton, Cardinal, Archbishop of Canterbury (c.1420 – 15 September 1500)  
Made 16<sup>th</sup> June 1500  
Proved 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1500

In the Name of God, Amen

I, John Morton, by the mercy of God, Cardinal priest of the titular church of St Anastasia in the most holy church of Rome, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England and Legate of the Apostolic See, being well in body, praise be to God, and of sound mind, being put in remembrance that for all men death is inevitable and that there is nothing more certain than death, even if the hour and mode of death are uncertain – and nothing can be more horrible than giving no thought to God and one's own death, seeing that the sinner, who during his life gave no thought to God, on his deathbed often has no consciousness of self – desiring therefore, while my body still has health and strength, to dispose of the resources and goods, which our Redeemer of his goodness has deigned to bestow abundantly upon me in this vale of tears, in a manner pleasing to him and for the discharging of my conscience, I make my testament as follows:

- 8 First, I revoke and annul all wills and testaments in any way concerning my goods and chattels previously made by me, and further I wish and by these presents declare that all wills and all testaments of this sort on my part, in so far as and to the extent that they are contrary to this my testament, shall without contradiction be of no force or effect, and that this my testament, subscribed in my own hand, shall be and be considered and observed as my true, complete and last will and as my true, complete and only legitimate testament.
- 12 ITEM: I most humbly and with the most heartfelt emotion beseech Almighty God, our Lord Jesus Christ, that by the merits of his glorious passion and by the merits of the most Blessed Virgin, the Apostles St Peter and St Paul, the martyrs Thomas and Christopher, and St Etheldreda<sup>i</sup>, St Katherina and St Mary Magdalene, and by the prayers and intercessions of all the saints, he may of his compassion deign to receive my wretched soul into his grace and mercy.
- 15 ITEM: I will and dispone that my body be buried in my Cathedral Church of Canterbury, specifically before the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary commonly known as Our Lady of Undercroft, and that my perishable remains be there covered with a plain flat marble slab, without any other extravagant expenditure.
- 18 ITEM: I will dispone and ordain that two of my brethren and fellow monks of my Church of Christ, Canterbury, shall celebrate and say daily, beginning immediately after my death and for a term of twenty years, two masses before the aforesaid image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and shall pray for the salvation of my soul and the souls of my parents (or relations), benefactors and friends; and specifically that one of them shall every day celebrate and say a Requiem Mass, and the other shall on Sundays say the Mass of the Trinity, on Mondays the Mass of the Holy Spirit, on Tuesdays the Mass of St Thomas, on Wednesdays the Mass of Peace, on Thursdays the Mass of Corpus Christi, on Fridays the Mass of the Name of Jesus, and on Saturdays the Mass of the Blessed Virgin;
- 23 and in all these Masses he shall say the Collect, *Deus cui proprium*<sup>ii</sup> saying at the end, *Propiciare anime famuli tui Johannis animabusque parentum benefactorum et amicorum suorum*<sup>iii</sup> etc. And each of them in every one of the aforesaid Masses, after the gospel and before he proceeds to the laver, shall say the psalm *De profundis*,<sup>iv</sup> and shall ask of all those

present that every one of them say *Pater noster* and *Ave Maria*, for my soul and the souls of my parents, benefactors and friends; and in addition that these same brethren of mine shall say every day *Exequies* and *Commendations*<sup>v</sup> for the salvation of my soul and of the souls aforementioned. And that each of them shall on that account have every month twenty pence.

- 29 ITEM: To my brother [in religion], the Sub-Prior of the same church, I leave 20 shillings.
- 30 ITEM: To each of my brethren and fellow-monks of the aforesaid church, if they are ordained priests, I leave thirteen shillings and four pence, and to each of my fellow-monks of the same church who are not ordained priests, I leave six shillings and eight pence, that they may pray for my soul and for the souls of my parents, benefactors and friends.
- 32 ITEM: I will and dispoise, with reference to my funeral, that on the day of my burial, on the same day one month later and on the anniversary, there shall be distributed and dispersed specifically in providing alms for the poor and in other activities appropriate and proper to such a work one thousand marks more or less, as shall seem to my executors or to the majority of them most expedient, for the salvation of my soul, ensuring that the one thousand marks, or a smaller or greater sum as specified above, are expended honestly and decently and without ostentation.
- 36 ITEM: I give and bequeath to the Cathedral Church of Ely my best cross of silver gilt and my mitre, which I received from the executors of my lord William Grey of blessed memory, lately Bishop of Ely, my immediate predecessor in the church of Ely, provided that the prior and convent of the same church undertake to find a priest from among their community of brethren to celebrate every day for the twenty years immediately following my death a Requiem Mass for my soul and the souls of my parents, benefactors and friends, and that this celebrant in every one of his Masses, after the Gospel and before he moves to the laver, shall say the psalm *De profundis*, asking all present that every one of them shall say *Pater noster* and *Ave Maria*, for my soul and for the souls of my parents, benefactors and friends.
- 43 ITEM: I leave to the Prior of the Cathedral Church of Ely sixty-six shillings and eight pence, and to the Sub-Prior of the same church thirteen shillings and four pence, and to each of the fellow monks of the same church of Ely who is an ordained priest six shillings and eight pence, and to each monk of the same community not an ordained priest three shillings and four pence.
- 45 ITEM: I will and dispoise that a priest celebrate mass in the church of Beer<sup>vi</sup> in the county of Dorset for the next twenty years immediately following my death, for my soul, the souls of my progenitors buried in that church, and the souls of all my benefactors and friends, and that he receive for his salary six pounds every year, on condition that every day he says *Exequies* and *Commendations*, and on Sundays he says the Mass of the Trinity, and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays he says a Requiem Mass, on Tuesdays the Mass of St. Thomas, and on Thursdays the Mass of Corpus Christi, within the aforesaid church of Beer; and on every Saturday he says the Mass of the Blessed Virgin in the chapel of the same Virgin of Wudebury, close to the aforesaid vill of Beer; and that in these Masses he says the Collect *Deus cui proprium*, and that in every one of the aforementioned Masses, after the Gospel and before he proceeds to the laver, he says the Psalm *De profundis* and asks of all those present that every one of them say *Pater Noster* and *Ave Maria*, for my soul and the souls of my parents, benefactors and friends.
- 54 ITEM: I give and bequeath to the illustrious and most dear lord, my Lord Henry, King of England and France, my best portuary [ a small portable breviary].
- 56 ITEM: I give and bequeath to the Most Excellent Lady, Queen Elizabeth, my best psalter.
- 57 ITEM: I give and bequeath to the Most Serene Lady Margaret, mother of the same illustrious Lord King, my round image of the blessed Virgin Mary made of gold.

- 58 ITEM: I give and bequeath to the Most Serene Lady Margaret, my most beloved god-daughter and eldest daughter of the same illustrious Lord King, a gold basin with (?) ladles, together with forty pounds.
- 59 ITEM: I bequeath to the noble Lord Giles Daubeney, Chamberlain to the King's Majesty, a gold goblet.
- 60 ITEM: I give and bequeath to Robert Turberville, over and above what I gave him earlier and for which he still owes me, twenty pounds; and I remit his debt.
- 61 ITEM: I bequeath to William Brounesop the Elder forty shillings, and to John his son ten pounds, and to Walter, younger son of the same William, ten pounds.
- 62 ITEM: I give and bequeath to John Talbot and his wife thirteen pounds, six shillings and eight pence.
- 63 ITEM: I give and bequeath to John Perham sixty-six shillings and eight pence, and to each one of his children forty shillings.
- 64 ITEM: I bequeath to Thomas Perham sixty-six shillings and eight pence, and to each of his children forty shillings.
- 65 ITEM: I give and bequeath to Robert Perham one hundred shillings, and to each of his children forty shillings.
- 65 ITEM: I give and bequeath to Laurence Perham sixty-six shillings and eight pence, and to each of his children forty shillings.
- 66 ITEM: I give and bequeath to Edithe Coker, formerly wife of my brother Richard Morton, ten pounds.
- 67 ITEM: I give and bequeath to Thomas Morton, son of my brother William Morton, ten pounds.
- 67 ITEM: I bequeath to Robert Morton, son of Robert Morton, son of William Morton, ten pounds.
- 68 ITEM: I bequeath to Richard Dolyng twenty shillings, and to William Dolyng twenty shillings, and to Thomas Machyn' twenty shillings.
- 68 ITEM: I give and bequeath to Thomas Laurence ten pounds, and to John Buttry forty shillings.
- 69 ITEM: I bequeath, will and dispone that all my lay servants who shall be at the time of my death of my house and household shall receive and have their wages for the whole year immediately following my death, so that they may meantime make the best provision for their future employment; and that every yeoman shall have one bed, viz. one mattress, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets, and one *coopertorium* (in English, 'a coverlet'); and every gentleman among them shall have a feather bed, a *cervical* (in English, 'a bolster'), a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets and one *superlectile* (in English, 'a coverlet').
- 73 ITEM: I will that all the priests, each and every one, serving at the time of my death in my chapel or in my household, to whom I have left nothing in this testament and who does not receive wages from me, is to have sixty-six shillings and eight pence.
- 75 ITEM: I will that every one of my servants shall have a gown of black cloth as soon after my death as may conveniently be done.

- 76 ITEM: I will, bequeath and dispo[n]e that my executors shall provide and expend from my goods, every year for the twenty years immediately following my death, the sum of one hundred and thirty-three pounds, six shillings and eight pence, for an exhibition for poor scholars sufficiently instructed in Grammar and desiring to study in any Faculty in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and that they shall be at least thirty in number. I will that two thirds of these poor scholars and of that number shall study in the University of Oxford and one third in the University of Cambridge, so that, out of thirty, twenty shall study in Oxford and ten in Cambridge, and that the same proportion be observed in a larger number beyond the aforesaid thirty, if there be a larger number.
- 81 I will also that of those who are to study in Oxford, two shall be monks and my fellow-brethren of my Church of Christ, Canterbury, above and beyond the six other fellow-monks of the same church who are obliged and committed to study continuously in the aforesaid University of Oxford at the expense of the Priory of the same church of Canterbury; and I will that each of the two monks studying there at my expense shall receive annually from my goods, during the term of the aforementioned twenty years, six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence; and that each one of the other aforementioned scholars studying in either Oxford or Cambridge, if they are not attached to a college, shall receive and have every year, during the aforesaid period, four pounds and no more; if they are attached to a college, each of them shall receive and have every year forty shillings and no more.
- 87 In addition, I will that if there be educated persons amongst my family or of my household, they shall be given preference in the specified exhibition and election, if they are seen to be suitable in character and morals.
- 88 And I will that the aforementioned scholars, each of them individually, who are to be nominated and admitted to this my exhibition in either University, shall be nominated, elected and admitted by my executors or the majority of them. And if there shall arise any disagreement among my executors in the matter of the nomination, election and admission of the specified scholars, then it is my wish that if my executors then living disagree in unequal numbers, the decision of the majority shall take effect; and if they disagree in equal numbers in the specified nomination and admission, then I wish that the decision of the party including the Prior of my Church of Canterbury shall take effect.
- 93 If it should happen that all my executors should die before the end of the aforementioned twenty year period, then I will that my aforesaid scholars who are to study in Oxford should be nominated and admitted by the Prior of my aforesaid Church of Christ, Canterbury, together with the counsel and agreement of the Warden of All Souls College in Oxford<sup>vii</sup>, and of a Doctor or Bachelor, either of Theology or of Canon Law, who is to be nominated and assigned by the aforesaid Prior, and is to be of good repute and doctrine in the University and born within the diocese of Salisbury. If any disagreement should arise among these three in the matter of the specified nomination and admission [of scholars], then the nomination and admission shall be decided by two of them, with the proviso always that any who are of my family and from the dioceses of Canterbury and Salisbury shall be given preference, if, that is, they are seen to be suitable for this purpose in character and morals.
- 99 Also, after the death of my executors as specified above, my aforesaid scholars in the University of Cambridge are to be nominated and admitted by the Prior of my Church of Christ, Canterbury who shall be in office at that time, together with the counsel of the Master of Peterhouse<sup>vii</sup>, Cambridge, with the proviso that any born within the dioceses of Canterbury and Ely shall be given precedence in the specified nomination, if they are suitable for this purpose.
- 102 I will however that if any of my aforementioned scholars who is so selected for an exhibition does not apply himself to his studies or does not progress sufficiently in his Faculty or is involved in scandal because of his misdeeds, he shall be removed by my executors during their lifetime, and after their death, by the abovementioned prior, and another desirous and eager to learn shall take his place.
- 104 I further will that no one shall be in receipt of my exhibition for more than twelve years, nor anyone who has a benefice of a hundred shillings per year nett, or has a patrimony worth forty shillings a year.

- 106 ITEM: In the case that I should not have enough money for my executors to be able to pay my aforesaid legacies in ready cash, I will and dispone that my legacies be given and paid to my specified legatees and to each of them individually from my other goods, according to their value as assessed and appraised in my inventory subscribed in my own hand, and according to what my executors consider the best course of action.
- 108 If any said legatee is not prepared to accept such a payment and satisfaction in place of his legacy, then it is my will that his legacy becomes of no power or effect, indeed in that case I remove, revoke and annul that legacy of whatever sort it was.
- 110 ITEM: I will and dispone that each and any of my executors and subscribers of my will shall have and receive from my assets forty pounds, if they are prepared to undertake the task of executing this my testament. Otherwise, if any one or more of them is or are not prepared to undertake this task, then I will that no one who so refuses shall receive from the legacy left to him by me in this my testament more than thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence, and the residue of that legacy shall be of no power or effect.
- 114 The residue of my goods not specifically bequeathed above I grant and leave to my executors named below and commit them to their good faith, so that they may dispose of those my assets for the salvation of my soul, specifically to my poor relations and the poor boys who were or are of my chapel, also to the poor tenants of my church, and in other works of charity as may seem best to those same executors, with the proviso that no one of my executors may in any way acquire or have anything out of my possessions beyond what is left to him in this testament, unless he first pays for it what anyone else would be prepared to pay.
- 119 For the true execution of this my Testament and Last Will, I ordain, make and constitute as my executors: My brother the Prior of my Church of Christ, Canterbury, whoever shall be in office at that time; John Fyneux, Chief Justice of the King's Bench; Master Hugh Pentwyn, Archdeacon of Canterbury; Sir Henry Ediall, Archdeacon of Rochester and Provost of Wingham; Masters Thomas Maddeis and John Camberton, Doctors of Theology, and John Rise, clerk<sup>viii</sup> entreating and beseeching these same my executors by the bowels of Christ, as they are prepared to answer for the same before the Highest Judge, that they well and faithfully, according to what is written above, execute or cause to be executed this my last Will, and that for my sake and for the salvation of my soul, they act as gladly in this matter as I would do to the utmost of my ability for them, each and every one, and in similar case would wish to do.
- 126 In confirmation and affirmation of all and each of the above, I have in the presence of these persons in my own hand subscribed my name.

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- 128 **This is the last Will** of me, John Morton, Cardinal and Archbishop of Canterbury, relating to and touching all manors, lands and tenements in any way appertaining to me, as written below:
- 129 **First**, I will, dispone and ordain that Thomas Morton, son of my brother William Morton, should have all the manors, lands and tenements which I have or some other person has at present for my use, within the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex, to have and to hold for himself and the male heirs of his body, legitimately begotten, excepting the lands which I acquired from Lord de Rivers, which are included within the park of Mote near Maidstone, and except the mill adjacent to the said park, which I acquired from the Lord Marquis of Dorset. This mill and the lands lying within the aforesaid park, which I acquired as set out above, I wish to remain to my Church of Christ, Canterbury, and to my successors there as Archbishops in perpetuity, on condition that my aforesaid successors, all and singly, shall annually and in perpetuity pay to the Prioress and the nuns of the Priory of the Holy Sepulchre near the city of Canterbury eight marks of legal English currency, for a chaplain to celebrate mass in perpetuity

within that same priory, according to the foundation deed of a chantry founded in the same priory by a certain Master John of Bourne, formerly parson or rector of the church of Frankenham (unidentified), in the time of William Whittlesey of blessed memory, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury.<sup>ix</sup>

- 139 And if the said Thomas Morton should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that all the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements, except for the exclusions given above, should remain to John Morton, son of my brother, Richard Morton, and the male heirs of his body, legitimately begotten;
- 141 And if the said John Morton, son of my brother, Richard Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that all the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements, except for the exclusions given above, should remain to William Morton, brother of the said John, and son of my aforesaid brother Richard Morton, and to the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 144 And if the said William Morton, brother of the said John, and son of my aforesaid brother Richard, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, it is my will that all the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements, except for the exclusions give above, should remain to Robert Morton, son of Robert Morton, and to the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 146 And if the aforesaid Robert Morton, son of Robert Morton, should die without male heirs of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that all the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements, with the exception of the above exclusions, should remain to my right heirs in perpetuity.
- 148 ITEM: I will, ordain and dispone that the aforesaid John Morton, son of my brother, Richard Morton, should have all the manors, lands and tenements which I have or another has at the present time for my use, within the counties of Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire and in the city of London, in demesne or in reversion, except for the manor and lordship of Swyre in the county of Dorset, which I lately acquired from the Lord of Ormond, to have and to hold for himself and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 152 And if the aforesaid John Morton should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements, with the exception of the above exclusion, should remain to Robert Morton, son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, son of my aforesaid brother William Morton, and to the same Robert's male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 155 And if the aforesaid Robert Morton, son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements should remain to William Morton, brother of the aforesaid John Morton and son of my brother, the aforesaid Richard Morton, and to the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 158 And if the aforesaid William Morton, brother of the said John Morton and son of my brother, the aforesaid Richard Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements, except for the abovementioned exclusion, should remain to John the Elder, brother of the aforesaid Robert and son of the previously mentioned Thomas Morton, and to the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 161 And if the aforesaid John the Elder, brother of the aforesaid Robert and son of the previously mentioned Thomas, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements, except for the abovementioned exclusion, should remain to John the Younger, brother of the aforesaid John the Elder, and to the male

- heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 164 And if John Morton the Younger, brother of the aforesaid John the Elder, and son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements, except for the above exclusion, should remain to the aforesaid Thomas Morton, son of my brother William Morton, and to the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 166 And if Thomas Morton, son of my brother William Morton, should die without heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements should remain to the aforesaid Robert Morton, son of Robert Morton, and to the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 169 And if the aforesaid Robert Morton, son of Robert Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors, lands and tenements should remain to my right heirs in perpetuity.
- 170 ITEM: I will, settle and dispo<sup>n</sup>e that the aforesaid William Morton, son of my brother Richard Morton, should have the said lordship<sup>x</sup> and manor of Swyre situate in the county of Dorset, and the manor of Atherstone in the county of Warwick, with all their appurtenances and adjuncts which in any way appertain to me or to another for my use, to have and to hold for himself and the heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 174 And if the aforesaid William Morton, son of my brother Richard Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors and lordships of Swyre and Atherstone with their appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to the aforesaid John Morton the Elder, son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, and the heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 177 And if the aforesaid John Morton the Elder, son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors and lordships of Swyre and Atherstone with their appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to the aforesaid John Morton, brother of the aforesaid William Morton and son of the aforesaid Richard Morton my brother, and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 180 And if this same John Morton, brother of the aforesaid William Morton and son of the aforesaid Richard my brother, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors and lordships of Swyre and Atherstone with their appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to the aforesaid Robert Morton, brother of the aforesaid John Morton the Elder and son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 184 And if this same Robert Morton, son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors and lordships of Swyre and Atherstone with their appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to the aforesaid John Morton the Younger, brother of the same Robert and son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 187 And if this same John the Younger, son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors and lordships with their appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to the aforesaid Thomas Morton, father of the same John the Younger and son of my brother William Morton, and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 190 And if this same Thomas Morton, son of my brother William Morton, should die without male

- heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors and lordships of Swyre and Atherstone with their appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to the aforesaid Robert Morton, son of Robert Morton, and his male heirs of the body legitimately begotten;
- 193 And if this same Robert Morton, son of Robert Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manors and lordships of Swyre and Atherstone with their appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to my right heirs in perpetuity.
- 195 ITEM: I will, ordain and dispone that the aforesaid John Morton the Elder, son of the aforementioned Thomas Morton, son of my aforementioned brother William Morton, should have my manor of Goosehays in the county of Essex with all its appurtenances and adjuncts, which pertain in any way to me or to any other person for my use, to have and to hold for himself and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 198 And if this same John Morton the Elder, son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manor with its aforementioned appurtenances and adjuncts, should remain to the aforesaid William Morton, son of my previously mentioned brother Richard Morton, and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 201 And if the aforesaid William Morton, son of the above-mentioned Richard Morton my brother, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manor with its aforesaid appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to the aforesaid John the Younger, son of the aforementioned Thomas Morton, and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 204 And if the aforesaid John the Younger, son of the aforementioned Thomas Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manor with its aforesaid appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to the aforesaid Robert Morton, son of the same Thomas Morton, and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 206 And if the same Robert Morton, son of the aforesaid Thomas Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manor of Goosehays with its appurtenances and adjuncts, should remain to the aforesaid John Morton, son of the aforementioned Richard Morton my brother, and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 210 And if the aforesaid John Morton, son of my brother Richard Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manor of Goosehays with its appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to the aforesaid Thomas Morton, son of my brother William Morton, and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 212 And if the abovementioned Thomas Morton, son of the aforesaid William Morton my brother, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manor of Goosehays with its appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to the aforesaid Robert Morton and the male heirs of his body legitimately begotten;
- 215 And if this same Robert, son of Robert Morton, should die without male heir of his body legitimately begotten, then I will that the aforesaid manor of Goosehays with its appurtenances and adjuncts should remain to my right heirs in perpetuity.
- 217 **The aforesaid testament and last will** were written and given and read and declared by me, the aforesaid John, Cardinal, as recorded above, in the presence of the witnesses recorded



below, in the inner room of my palace of Canterbury, on the sixteenth day of June, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Five Hundred, in the third indiction<sup>xi</sup> and the eighth year of the most holy lord, our Lord Pope Alexander the Sixth, and the fifteenth year of the rule of King Henry the Seventh, and the fourteenth year since my translation. Present at that time and place my fellow-brother and Prior<sup>xiii</sup> of my Church of Christ, Canterbury; John Fyneux, Chief Justice of the King's Bench; Master Hugh Pentwyn, Archdeacon of Canterbury; Sir Henry Ediall, Archdeacon of Rochester and Provost of Wingham; and Master Thomas Maddeis, Professor of Theology. And in affirmation and testimony of all and singular of the above I have to these presents in my own hand subscribed my name.

- 225 **The above written testament** was proved on the twenty-second day of October in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Five Hundred, in the presence of the Venerable Master William Barons, Doctor of Laws, Administrator of the prerogative Church of Christ, Canterbury, and Commissary of the venerable and religious men, the Prior and Chapter of the same (to whom, as is well-known, appertains, now that the see is vacant, all and every kind of spiritual and ecclesiastical jurisdiction which appertained to the Archbishop of Canterbury while the see was occupied), fully and legitimately appointed as their representative, on the oath of the executors named in this same testament; and confirmed and registered;
- 228 And the administration of all and singular of the goods and debts of the aforesaid deceased was committed to the reverend father in Christ, Sir Thomas, Prior of the Church of Christ, Canterbury, and the Venerable Masters, Hugh Pentwyn and Henry Ediall, Archdeacons of the Archdeaconries of Canterbury and Rochester, and John Camberton, Professor of Sacred Theology, and John Rise, clerk to serve as executors<sup>xiii</sup>, swearing on the Holy Gospels of God that they would well and faithfully administer with unanimous consent and agreement, and compile a full and faithful inventory of all and singular of these goods and debts, and present it before Easter next, and also render a clear and true account; reserving the power of appointing a similar commission to Sir John Fyneux, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, named also as executor in the above written will, when he comes to accept the commission in legal form.

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<sup>i</sup> Patron saint of Ely Cathedral

<sup>ii</sup> Collect in English: O God whose nature and property is ever to have mercy...

<sup>iii</sup> In English: Be merciful to the soul of Thy servant John and the souls of his parents, benefactors and friends.

<sup>iv</sup> Psalm 129: Out of the depths have I cried unto thee...

<sup>v</sup> Offices commending the souls of the dead and commemorative offices for the dead

<sup>vi</sup> See *The will of John Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury, c.1420-1500* in *The Ricardian Bulletin*, June 2018.

<sup>vii</sup> The College of All Souls, Oxford, was founded in 1438 by Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Peterhouse, Cambridge (see below 100) was founded in 1284 by Hugh Balsham, Bishop of Ely. John Morton presumably chose persons from these two institutions because of his own association with both Ely and Canterbury. He was Bishop of Ely from 1479 until his translation to Canterbury in 1486 (see 36 and 220). He himself was a graduate of Balliol College, Oxford, in Civil and Canon Law, and became chancellor of the University in 1495.

<sup>viii</sup> Hugh Pentwyn, Henry Ediall and Thomas Maddeis were also present to witness the will (see paragraph below beginning 218). Maddeis was himself taken ill shortly afterwards, making his testament on 28 July and appointing Pentwyn, Ediall, Camberton and Rise as his executors (TNA PROB 11/12/179). (Note supplied by Marie Barnfield)

<sup>ix</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury 1365-74

<sup>x</sup> See 148 above.

<sup>xi</sup> *Indiction* relates to a civil system of reckoning time in recurring cycles of fifteen years. Originally instituted by the Emperor Constantine in AD 312 as a declaration or imposition (*indictio*) of tax due for the succeeding period of fifteen years (subdivided into three five-year periods), the fifteen

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year cycle eventually became one available method of dating, in which the years were given as first, second, third etc. indiction. It was adopted by the papacy under Alexander III (Pope 1159-81). The third indiction of the relevant cycle began in the year September 1499-September 1500. I.e. the eighth year of Alexander VI.

See *Handbook of Dates for Students of British History*, ed. C.R.Cheney, revised ed. by Michael Jones (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) 2000, 2-3.

<sup>xii</sup> Named as Thomas, 229 below

<sup>xiii</sup> The testament of Thomas Maddeis was also proved before Master Williams Barons at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on that same day; only Peyntwyn, Ediall and Camberton were sworn in as Maddeis' executors, John Rise refusing the commission. See note viii above. (TNA PROB 11/12/179) (Note supplied by Marie Barnfield)

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