

Royal Charter, 1955

Elizabeth the Second by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith. To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting!

Whereas by a Royal Charter under the Great Seal, bearing date at Westminster the fourteenth day of May in the fifty-first year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria and in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight (hereinafter referred to as the Original Charter) "The Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem in England", was incorporated for the objects and purposes declared in the original Charter and in the Statutes set forth in the Schedule thereto :

AND WHEREAS by a Supplemental Charter bearing date at Westminster the twenty-second day of May in the seventh year of the Reign of His Majesty King Edward the Seventh and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and seven certain alterations were made in the provisions of the original Charter :

AND WHEREAS by a further Royal Charter under the Great Seal bearing date at Westminster the twelfth day of June in the seventeenth year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Fifth and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six (hereinafter referred to as "the Charter of 1926") the provisions of the Original Charter and the said Supplemental Charter were amended, consolidated and superseded and in particular it was declared and ordained that the name, designation and title of the said Order should from the date of issue of the Charter of 1926 be "the Grand Priory in the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem" :

AND WHEREAS by a further Royal Charter under the Great Seal bearing date at Westminster the first day of August in the first year of the reign of His Majesty King Edward the Eighth and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and

thirty-six (hereinafter referred to as "the Charter of 1936") the Charter of 1926 was amended and superseded and it was ordained that the Charter of 1936 was and should be the sole Charter of the Grand Priory aforesaid:

AND WHEREAS it has been represented to Us by Our most dear and entirely beloved Uncle and most faithful Counsellor Henry, Duke of Gloucester, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, who is now the Grand Prior of the Grand Priory aforesaid, that the Charter of 1936 should be amended and superseded by a further Charter granted by Us AND WHEREAS it is considered expedient to amend and supersede the Charter of 1936 by the grant of a further Charter being these Presents:

Now know ye that We, having taken the premises into Our consideration, by Our especial Grace Certain Knowledge and Mere Motion for Us Our Heirs and Successors, by this further Charter, under the power by the Charter of 1936 reserved to Us Our Heirs and Successors and every other power Us hereunto enabling, do DECLARE AND ORDAIN as follows:

Clause 1.—Amendment and Supersession of the Charter of 1936—

We do hereby amend and supersede the Charter of 1936 and grant to the Grand Priory aforesaid this further Royal Charter superseding the Charter of 1936 and We Ordain that this Our Royal Charter is and shall be the sole Charter of the Grand Priory aforesaid.

Clause 2.—Title—

We do hereby further ordain that the name, designation and title of the Grand Priory aforesaid is and shall continue to be "the Grand Priory in the British Realm of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem", and we further Declare that the same usually shall be styled and designated for brevity "The Order of St. John" and shall in this Charter be referred to as "the Order".

Clause 3.—Rights and Privileges—

We do hereby further ordain that the Order shall have a Common Seal and have perpetual succession, and that it may by and in the said name and style, sue, implead and answer,

and be sued, impleaded and answered in all Courts whatsoever, whether of Law or Equity, and be competent to do all other acts, matters and things incidental or appertaining to a body politic and corporate, and to enjoy all rights and privileges lawfully appertaining to bodies politic and corporate.

(Clauses 4, 5 and 6 were revoked by the provisions of the Supplemental Royal Charter of 1974.)

In Witness whereof We have caused these Our letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourselves at Westminster the fifteenth day of March in the fourth year of Our Reign.

By Warrant under the Queen's Sign Manual.

COLDSTREAM.



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