

**Letter of the prior and convent of Winchester concerning the church of Morden**

[1300]

To all sons of holy mother church, to whom these present letters shall have come, brother Henry, by divine permission, prior of the church of Saint Swithin, Winchester\*, and the convent of the same place, greetings in the Lord eternal. Know all of you that we have inspected the letters of the venerable father lord John, bishop of Winchester, in these words.

J., by divine permission the humble minister of Winchester church, to the beloved sons in Christ, by grace of God the abbot of Westminster and the convent of the same place, greetings in the Lord eternal. Your tearful petition, which has been exhibited to us, contained that it is permitted that, although your aforesaid monastery, which had formerly been founded by the kings of England with a copious abundance of temporal things had been accustomed to flourish, nevertheless, it has notoriously fallen into the misfortune of poverty and the pressure of extreme want, both from the malice of days and men and from the fire, which lately originated accidentally from the royal palace and which destroyed your noble monastery, as if from the foundation. According to the sanctions of your house, unless the Lord looks at you from high with eyes of divine mercy, this so miserable a fall will not be possible to be repaired in any way, nor can the same monastery increase, so that it resurges. Therefore, as regards the premises being both public and notorious as if we are mercifully laying open the bowels of mercy and compassion, and considering that your monastery, situated in a public and solemn place next to the city of London and next to the king's palace, to which a countless multitude of poor and infirm visitors frequently flock, for whom it is both proper and reasonable for you to administer the necessities of life, on behalf of us and our successors we appropriate the church of Morden of our diocese, next to Merton, in which you hold the right of patronage, to the relief and repair of the fall of your monastery and to the more fruitful maintenance of the visitors and the infirm, to be possessed by you and your aforesaid monastery forever, granting to you and your successors that on the retirement or death of the now rector of the same church, you can freely convert all the fruits and proceeds of the same church to your own use and that of your monastery thenceforth. Saving to the vicar in the said church after the death of the said rector a suitable portion from the fruits and proceeds of the same church for all and singular the ordinary charges and other incumbencies to be supported by us and our successors, to be assessed at the sum of nine marks, and always saving the right and dignity of the church of Winchester and the archidiaconal right in all matters. In testimony of which matter our seal is affixed to these presents. Dated at Dover on the morrow of St John before the Latin Gate, AD 1300 and the eighteenth of our consecration. We therefore, having ratified this deed of our aforesaid lord bishop John, so far as is in our power, we unanimously confirm it, saving the right and indemnity of our aforesaid church to us and our successors forever. Dated in our chapter of Winchester on Thursday on the eve of the nativity of St John the Baptist AD 1300.

*Green seal - two tiny fragments*

Endorsed: *Confirmacio Appropriaciam Ecclesie de Mordon per Priorem et Conventum Wynton. Infirmit. Registrat in Mordon.*  
Confirmation of the Appropriation of the Church of Morden, by the Prior & Convent of Winchester. Infirmary.  
Registered in Morden.

marginal note: "Infirmary. First chest as above."

Differences between these two versions are shown as:- {not in WAM 1854, but in WD} {{not in WD but in WAM 1854}}

\* Winchester is omitted from WD fo.172a