

William Wither of Dummer, clerk, 1656

Ref: Hants. RO 312M87/E10/6

In the name of God Amen, I William Wither clerk and Fellow of St Mary's College near Winchester in the county of Southampton being sick in body but of good and perfect disposing memory (praised be God), do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. **In the** first place I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God hoping to be saved by the only merits of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **And** my body I bequeath to the earth to be buried in a decent manner in full assurance of the resurrection thereof at the last day. **And as** concerning the estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me I make disposition as follows. **That** is to say, I give and bequeath unto the warden, fellows and scholars' clerks of St Mary College near Winchester the sum of five pounds to be bestowed in books for the library there. **Item** I give to the poor of the parish of Dummer the sum of three pounds. **Item** I allow for funeral expenses three score and ten pounds. **Item** I give and bequeath to my sister Cooper the sum of fifty pounds (forty pounds whereof she now owes me). **Item** I give and bequeath unto my brother Mr George Wither and his wife twenty marks for mourning. **Item** I give and bequeath to my nephew Mr George Wither the sum of ten pounds. **Item** I give and bequeath to my sister Knight ten pounds. **Item** I give and bequeath to my godson William Knight, son of my sister Knight, ten pounds. **Item** I give and bequeath to my godson William [Dinch] the sum of ten pounds. **Item** I give and bequeath to my goddaughter Mary Cooper, one of the daughters of my sister Cooper, the sum of ten pounds. **Item** I give and bequeath to my kinswoman Anne Pine, the wife of Henry Pine, the sum of ten pounds. **Item** I give and bequeath to my cousin Mr George Yate of North Waltham the sum of forty pounds (thirty pounds for whereof he owes me for three year's interest of two hundred pounds). **Item** I give and bequeath unto my cousin Anne Underwood, the wife of Mr Richard Underwood, the sum of ten pounds. **Item** I give and bequeath to my goddaughter Marye Belchamber, the wife of Mr William Belchamber, the sum of ten pounds. **Item** I give and bequeath to my late servant Anne Pudsey, the wife of John Pudsey, the sum of three pounds. **And** also I give and bequeath unto my other two servants Alice Speeringe, the wife of Richard Speeringe, and Elizabeth Bartlett, the wife of Thomas Bartlett, to each of them forty shillings apiece. **And** lastly, all the residue of my goods and chattels (my debts and legacies and funeral expenses being first paid and discharged), I give and bequeath to my loving nephew Mr Gilbert Wither, son of my brother Henry Wither deceased, whom I hereby make, constitute and appoint my sole executor of this my last will and testament. **In witness** whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal with the seventh day of August in the year of Our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty six. William Wither.

Signed, sealed and published by the above named William Wither in the presence of John Richards Owen Phillips

Oliver Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland and the Dominions thereto belonging. **To all** whom these present shall come greeting, know you that upon the one and twentieth day of November one thousand six hundred fifty six before the judges for probate of wills and granting Administrations lawfully authorised the last will and testament of William Wither, clerk late Fellow of St Mary's College near Winchester in Hampshire deceased was at London in common form proved which will is to these presents annexed and Administrations of

all and singular the goods chattels and debts of the said deceased which may anyway concern him or his said will granted and committed to Gilbert Wither gent., the nephew sole executor named in the said will. He having first taken his oath well and truly to administer the said goods, chattels and debts according to the tenure of the said will, and to make a true inventory of all and singular the goods, chattels and debts of the said deceased which have, may or shall any way come to his hands. possession or knowledge and also a just account in and concerning his said Administrations when he shall be assigned or lawfully called for to do with touching an inventory was presently assigned to perform at or before the last day of January next ensuing. Given under the seal of the Court of Probate of wills and granting Administrations the day and year above written.

[*Three signatures illegible*]