
FRANCIS COALES CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



In celebration of
50 YEARS
1975-2025



FRANCIS COALES CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



Foreword

by

H. Martin Stuchfield, M.B.E., J.P., D.L., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

John Coales in a letter to Sir Colin Cole, Garter Principal King of Arms, dated 11th June 1982, wrote in connection with his family arms that he was “an only child and a bachelor. I am aware that these arms will become defunct on my decease. But I have established a Charitable Foundation”. The Charity to which our Founder refers was capitalised from the family business that ceased trading in 1974.

What significant progress from those humble beginnings enshrined in the initial Trust Deed of 31st December 1975, with its very clear objectives to assist with grants for the structural repair of old buildings (built before 1875) in the counties where the family mostly conducted its business (Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire) together with the interests that John Coales held close to his heart (monuments and monumental brasses). He would be immensely gratified to realise that his Foundation has given approximately £3,500,000 to worthy causes and in the process has made a very tangible difference. His ethos was not to award “one-off grants” but to continually support and encourage a continual programme of conservation, restoration and maintenance. Our Founder was never happier than inspecting the outside of a rural church in inclement weather to determine whether the rainwater goods were effective. In his very quiet and unassuming manner he developed strong relationships and an extended family who owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. As Trustees in succession it is our bounden duty to perpetuate his good name and works. This fiftieth anniversary is an important and significant milestone towards fulfilling the vision of our revered Founder – John Coales.

Pentlow Hall
October 2025

H. Martin Stuchfield
Chairman



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THIS TRUST DEED is made the 31st day of December
One thousand nine hundred and seventy five BETWEEN JOHN COALES
of The Elms 90 High Street Newport Pagnell Buckinghamshire (hereinafter
called "the Founder") of the one part and the Founder HUGH KEITH CAMERON
of 31 Porson Road Cambridge HENRY GERARD MATHER LEIGHTON of 9 Bathwick
Hill Bath and ANDREW GUY HARDING of The Old Manse Newport Pagnell
Buckinghamshire (hereinafter called "the Trustees" which expression shall
include the trustees or trustee for the time being hereof) of the other
part

WHEREAS

(A) The Founder is desirous of establishing a Charitable Foundation to
be known as The Francis Coales Charitable Foundation (hereinafter called
"the Foundation") for the purposes hereinafter declared

(B) The Founder has transferred the sum of one hundred pounds into the
names of the Trustees and it is anticipated that the Founder and other
persons may transfer from time to time to the Trustees further stocks funds
securities investments freehold and leasehold property for the purposes of
the Foundation and the assets so held by the Trustees for such purposes
are hereinafter called "the Charity Funds" which expression shall include
any investments and property for the time being representing the same

(C) The Founder is desirous of declaring such trusts of the Charity
Funds as are hereinafter contained

(D) The Founder is desirous that the Charity hereby created shall be
governed by the rules set out in the Schedule hereto and such rules have
been submitted to and approved by the Trustees

NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH as follows:-

1. THE Trustees shall stand possessed of the Charity Funds after the
same shall have been transferred to them respectively upon trust that the
Trustees shall allow the same to remain in the present state of investment
thereof for so long as they shall in their absolute discretion think fit or
shall at such discretion sell call in and convert the same or any part
thereof into money and invest or lay out the net proceeds of such sale
calling in or conversion in the names of the Trustees or any two or more
of them as nominees or of the Official Custodian for Charities or any other
corporate nominee in or upon any stocks funds securities or investments
for the time being authorised by law for the investment of trust funds
or in the purchase of freehold or leasehold property in Great Britain or
in or upon the debentures (as defined by the Companies Act 1948) or

*First page of Trust Deed made on 31st December 1975 and signed by John Coales,
Keith Cameron, Gerard Leighton and Guy Harding as Founding Trustees.*

Introduction

When John Coales, Keith Cameron, Gerard Leighton and Guy Harding signed the Trust Deed to establish the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, on 31st December 1975 they could hardly have imagined that grants totalling approximately £3,500,000 would have been awarded during the fifty years of the Foundation's existence.

The current Trustees are:

Martin Stuchfield (1999 – Chairman since 2006)

John Barker (2021)

Matthew Saunders (2008)

John Vigar (2024)

Brian Wilcox (1988)

The Founder, John Coales, died in 2007. His sterling service is commemorated in the Benefaction of a Chalice engraved with the achievement of arms of the Foundation and is awarded annually to a church that has demonstrated a sustained record of completing restoration/repair projects having received multiple grants. The arms also appeared in volume VII (Corby and Great Oakley) of the Northamptonshire Victoria County History ("V.C.H.") published in 2013. Such a unique dedication in a V.C.H. volume is in recognition of the significant support given over the years under the aegis of John Coales' chairmanship of the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation.

Main object

A main objective of the Foundation is to assist with grants for the structural repair of ecclesiastical buildings (built before 1875) which are open to the public. Grants are given to churches located in the pre-1974 counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire (including the Diocese of Peterborough) where most of the business of Francis Coales and Son was carried on. Applications for the conservation of wall paintings are considered as these are deemed to be part of the fabric of a building. There is no territorial restriction in respect of conservation of monuments and monumental brasses. It is a requirement that the conservator is ICON accredited.

Grants are occasionally made towards publication of architectural and archaeological books and papers; towards the purchase of documents or items for record offices and museums; and for archaeological research and related causes.

Formation of the Trust

In 1885, Francis Coales retired from farming at Chicheley, near Newport Pagnell, in Buckinghamshire and jointly with his son, Walter John Coales, they purchased the established corn merchant's business of Hives & Son in Newport Pagnell.

Trade was carried out under the name of Francis Coales and Son and over the years expanded by acquiring similar businesses at Bedford, Olney (Buckinghamshire) and Tring (Hertfordshire).

In 1973, the main mill at Newport Pagnell suffered a major fire. At this time of industrial uncertainty and with major changes in the trade, the decision was taken, with regret, not to rebuild but to close down the business. From the winding up was established the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation.



*John Coales at his investiture by H.M. The Queen at Buckingham Palace
(O.B.E. – Civil Division) on 28th February 2007.*

The Founding Trustees

John Coales, O.B.E., F.S.A. (1931-2007)

In 1948, John Coales joined the family corn-milling business of Francis Coales and Son, founded by his great-grandfather, Francis Coales (1821-1909), and his second son, Walter John Coales (1860-1927), by means of the acquisition in 1885 of an established firm of corn merchants, Hives & Son of Newport Pagnell.

The business flourished under the custodianship of John's father, John Leslie Coales (1896-1976), his uncle Francis William Coales (1859-1949), and an astute businessman, Tom Page of Bedford, together with Gerald Agnew, a highly committed and successful salesman-cum-representative. The business of Albert Gudgin & Son Limited was acquired in 1929 and with it the Cowper Mills at Olney. Further acquisitions at Bedford and Tring also took place as the direction of the business was manoeuvred from that of flour millers to a supplier of balanced animal feeds for farmers. Further expansion and modernisation of the Newport mill followed during the early 1960s. However, at its zenith a series of disasters befell the business. Firstly, the Tring mill was destroyed by fire in 1964, a similar fate befell the Olney mill a year later and in December 1973 an explosion took place in the boiler room of the Newport mill. The resultant fire destroyed a considerable part of the premises. Coinciding with these unfortunate events was the political turmoil of the Edward Heath government, culminating in the country being crippled by the effects of the miners' work-to-rule, which led to a three-day working week and regular power cuts. With John Leslie now aged 77 and John himself facing the herculean task of resurrecting the business, especially without any heirs, the decision was taken reluctantly to close down and liquidate the assets.

Conscious of his lineage, and in a desire to perpetuate the family name, John utilised a considerable proportion of the proceeds to establish the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation at the end of 1975. The Foundation celebrated its coming-of-age in 1996 at Milton Keynes, whose church had received financial support from the Foundation.

John took the decision in 1977, shortly after closing down the business and establishing the Foundation, to move from Newport Pagnell to The Mount at Somerton (Somerset) where he diligently served as Chairman of the St. Andrew's Conservation Fund and as a member of the Wells Cathedral Fabric Fund.

In 1956, he was encouraged to join the Monumental Brass Society serving as Honorary Secretary from 1966-74. He was rewarded with a Vice-Presidency and election as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London upon retirement. He edited *The Earliest English Brasses: Patronage, Style and Workshops 1270-1350* which was published in 1987 to mark the Centenary of the Society and, following an interregnum, was appointed as Patron in 2002 in succession to Dr. Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Elsewhere he served on the council of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and was a founder member of the Church Monuments Society. He became an honorary member of the Northamptonshire Record Society and also the Wolverton & District Archaeological Society (Buckinghamshire). He was a Vice-President of the British Archaeological Association and appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the 2007 New Year's Honours List for services to Conservation.



Dr. H.K. Cameron, as President of the Monumental Brass Society, lecturing in the Beauchamp Chapel at St. Mary's, Warwick on 15th September 1973.

Gerard Leighton, M.A., F.S.A. (1932-2015)

Gerard Leighton had been a member of the Monumental Brass Society since 1953 and a member of the The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for a period of 65 years. He served as Treasurer of the latter for 45 years and as President from 2004-5. He also enjoyed a long association with the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society and was associated with a number of archaeological and record societies predominantly with a West Country focus. He was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1961 and served as a Trustee of the Foundation for 31 years prior to his resignation in 2006. He wrote shortly before his death: "I first met John Coales through the Monumental Brass Society. Our friendship developed over the years and he asked me to be a founding member of the Francis Coales Charitable Trust. I greatly admired John's generosity in placing in the Trust a substantial proportion of the proceeds of winding up his family business and his policy of conserving churches in the East Midlands, the area in which the company had traded and made its profits".

H.K. Cameron, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.A. (1907-85)

Hugh (Keith) Cameron was educated at Colfe's Grammar School, Blackheath before going on to University College, London where he obtained a B.Sc. in Chemistry. He followed his degree with research into physical chemistry and chemical engineering. In 1930, he received a Ph.D. for this work and started his career in the same year with the General Electric Company ("G.E.C.") at its Research Laboratories at Wembley.

During World War II he worked on research into carbon and searchlights, and was particularly engaged in a project to develop high intensity searchlights with which night fighter aircraft might locate and identify enemy bombers. In 1960, he was appointed to the Erith Works of G.E.C. as Manager of the Simon Carves Atomic Energy Division. Among his responsibilities was supervising the construction of two nuclear power stations, one of them at Hunterston on the Clyde, the other in Japan. In 1962, he became Director for Development to G.E.C. (Engineering) Limited. He held several other directorships within the Group and was also Managing Editor of the *G.E.C. Journal of Science and Technology*. Work interests included membership of several societies, including the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Institution of Chemical Engineers, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and the Society of Chemical Industry. He was Chairman of the London Section (1951-3) and Vice-President (1954-5) of the latter.

On retirement from G.E.C. he moved to Cambridge and became Manager of the Control Engineering Section of the Cambridge University Engineering Department (1966-72), running a large analogue computer. Over the same period he supervised the building of Clare Hall and became that college's first Bursar. He also became curator of the Cambridge Collection of rubbings.

When the Monumental Brass Society was re-formed in 1934 he was a founder member, becoming a member of the Executive Council in 1937. In 1961, he was appointed a Vice-President of the Society and succeeded to the Presidency in 1969. He remained President until his death on 13th May 1985.

He was a member of the Victoria County History Committee (1956-82). From 1943 he was a member of the Royal Archaeological Institute serving on the Council (1970-4) and as a Vice-President (1975-9). He was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1955 and served as a Trustee of the Foundation from 1975 until his death in 1985.

Andrew (Guy) Harding, LL.B. (1946-2022)

Guy Harding was Buckinghamshire born and bred. He spent seven years as a solicitor with Lawrence Graham and Co. in Lincoln's Inn before leaving as a partner in 1975. He subsequently joined the firm of Bull, Durbridge and Astley (later renamed Bull, Astley and Harding).

The Coales family and companies were longstanding clients (and related to the Bull family). Guy was enlisted by John Coales to assist in the creation of the Foundation as a charitable trust and invited to become one of the original Trustees.

He retired as a solicitor in the late 1990s, after many years as the senior partner and a consultant giving freely of his legal expertise. For many years the Trustee's meetings were held in his office at Newport Pagnell.

Guy, who died 2022, served the Foundation for 40 years. He retired after the 40th Anniversary of the Foundation held at Lamport Hall in 2015 and was presented with an engraved decanter. The Chairman and Brian Wilcox attended his Memorial Service that was held at Olney parish church in January 2023



Guy Harding

Trustees in succession

Elliott Merriam Viney, D.S.O., M.B.E., T.D., D.L., M.A., F.S.A. (1913–2002)

Elliott Viney was the eldest of four sons and grew up in the family home in Walton Street, Aylesbury (Buckinghamshire). After completing his education at University College, Oxford, he joined Hazell, Watson and Viney – the family printing and bookbinding company which operated in Aylesbury from 1839 until c.1991. His father, Colonel Oscar Vaughan Viney was a Director of Hazell, Watson and Viney (1920–59) and Chairman (1950–4).

Colonel Viney joined the Territorial Bucks Battalion shortly after its creation in 1908. Elliott also joined in 1932 (when his father was in command) and commanded the Aylesbury ('B') Company from 1938.

In January 1940 the 1st Bucks Battalion was sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force which tried to help the French army prevent Hitler invading France. Until May they spent most of their time in Belgium digging defences and repairing roads, but once the German armies crossed into Belgium the British and French armies began to retreat. After several days of continual forced marching the 1st Bucks Battalion reached the town of Hazebrouck which lay at a strategic point on a major road through Belgium. The battalion's job was to defend it in the hope of delaying the oncoming German troops. They took up positions at key points in the town on 26th May prior to the German army arriving in strength the following day. They fought the tanks and a large number of soldiers with little more than hand grenades and rifles. Their heroic defence bought the British army a vital 48 hours, but the battalion was virtually destroyed. Their commanding officer, Major Heyworth, was killed in the fighting. Elliott took over command and only surrendered to the Germans once they had completely run out of ammunition. The warrior spirit of the Bucks Battalion was even acknowledged by the enemy, when a broadcast on a German radio station commented that the battalion defended the town magnificently as befitted 'crack troops', forcing them to take it 'house by house'. Less than half the battalion managed to escape to England. He and the troops with him spent the rest of the war as prisoners in camps in Germany and Poland. Elliott was awarded the D.S.O. in 1945 for his role in the final defence of Hazebrouck and an M.B.E. for organising education and the camp newspaper.

Elliott's activities and interests were as numerous as they were varied. He possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of churches in Buckinghamshire and had served as Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust. He was a long-standing member of the Bucks Record Society having served as Assistant Editor (1947–74), Hon. Secretary (1954–79) and President (1979–98). He followed in his father's footsteps and held the office of High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1964. He was Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, a Governor of the Museum of London, Master of the Worshipful Company of Grocers and was President of the British Federation of Master Printers. He was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1966 and served as a Trustee of the Foundation from 1985 until his death in 2002. In 2003, the Foundation made a major grant to the Society of Antiquaries of London in his memory. "Above everything else Elliott Viney was a Scholar and a Gentleman".

Ian Gordon Barnett, M.A.(Oxon.) (1940-2025)

Ian Barnett was a retired solicitor who was a Partner with Hewitson's of Northampton and Cambridge and predecessor firms (1969-2007). He was senior Partner (1995- 2005) and specialised in landed estates, rural property and charities. He was Undersheriff of Northamptonshire (1973-2005) and was Chairman of Trustees of the Finnis Scott Foundation.

Ian served as a Trustee of the Foundation from 2006 until his retirement in 2021 giving freely of his legal expertise and extensive knowledge of Northamptonshire churches. He was heavily involved in organising the Foundation's 40th anniversary celebration at Lamport Hall in August 2015. Sadly Ian died in June 2025. A Memorial Service in thanksgiving for Ian's life was held at East Haddon church on 18th August 2025.

Pamela Joan Ward, M.B.E., B.A.(Arch.), R.I.B.A.

Pamela Ward is a Chartered Architect living in Bedfordshire who ran her own practice specialising in work to churches and historic buildings. She has been a member of the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (E.A.S.A.) since 1980, a Past President and made an Honorary Life member in 2015. She was a member of the St. Albans D.A.C. and a founder member of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust. Pam is an active church member and has been a churchwarden. She was a Trustee of Whipsnade Tree Cathedral (National Trust) and currently serves as a Trustee of Whipsnade Village Hall and Field. Pam was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the 2024 New Year Honours List for services to the community in Whipsnade, Bedfordshire.

She served as a Trustee of the Foundation from 2015 until her retirement in 2024.



Pamela Ward

Current trustees

Howard Martin Stuchfield, M.B.E., J.P., D.L., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S. (Chairman)

Martin Stuchfield is a retired businessman and a trustee of numerous registered charities concerned with archaeology, heritage and history.

He is the co-author of the *County Series* established in 1992 to publish a comprehensively illustrated list of monumental brasses, indents and lost brasses in the United Kingdom. He is a Vice-President of the Monumental Brass Society having served as President (2011–22) and Hon. Secretary (1994–2007 and 2009–11). He is also the Society's Conservation Officer and is a consultant on monumental brasses to the Chelmsford, Norwich and St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocesan Advisory Committees ('D.A.C.').

He is a Vice-President of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History having served as President (2008–11) and is Chairman of the Friends of Essex Churches Trust. He is a former Chairman of the Victoria County History of Essex Trust.

He was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 2000 and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the 2014 Birthday Honours List for services to Heritage, Charity and the Community in Essex. He was also appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Essex and a member of the Court of the University of Essex in 2015.

He has served as a Trustee of the Foundation since 1999 and Chairman since 2006.

Brian Howard Wilcox

Brian Wilcox was ordained in the Diocese of Peterborough in 1973 and was curate at St. Peter and St. Paul, Kettering (Northamptonshire). He was appointed vicar of Eye (Cambridgeshire) in 1978 and subsequently became rector of Clipston, Naseby, Kelmarsch and Haselbech (Northamptonshire). He was also a member of the Peterborough D.A.C. He was vicar of Hornsea with Atwick in the East Riding (Yorkshire) and served on the York D.A.C. from 1990–7. From 1997 he was rector of Uckfield, Isfield and Horsted Parva (Sussex) in the Diocese of Chichester and served on the D.A.C. until he retired in 2011.

He has served as a Trustee of the Foundation since 1988.

Matthew John Saunders, M.B.E., M.A., F.S.A.

Matthew Saunders was a member of the Historic England Advisory Committee until August 2025 and remains a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for London and the Church Buildings Council. He has written extensively on architectural history and conservation – particularly churches. He is a Vice-President of the Ecclesiological Society.

He was Secretary of the Ancient Monuments Society (1977–2018) and Director of The Friends of Friendless Churches (1993–2018). He was a Trustee of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Heritage Memorial Fund (2005–11).

He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1987. He was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the 1997 New Year Honours List for services to the Ancient Monuments Society and to Architectural Conservation.

He has served as a Trustee of the Foundation since 2008.



Martin Stuchfield (Chairman)



Brian Wilcox



Matthew Saunders



John Barker



John Vigar

John Barker, M.R.I.C.S.

John Barker has practised as a chartered building surveyor specialising as an ecclesiastical and historic buildings consultant for a considerable number of years and has been involved with work on over 160 churches and chapels.

He gained conservation accreditation status through the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and has been involved with quinquennial inspections of churches in the Dioceses of Peterborough and St. Albans over a significant period of time.

John has been recipient of national awards including the King of Prussia's Gold Medal Award for greatest aesthetic and technical challenge in a scheme for church repair, and surveyor to a project which won the John Betjeman Memorial Award for exemplary repairs to churches. In 2024 he was awarded the Canterbury Cross by the Archbishop of Canterbury for Services to the Church of England.

He was formerly a consultant surveyor to the Churches Conservation Trust dealing with redundant churches in various counties.

John is a member of the Peterborough Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, and Trustee and Vice-Chairman of the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust.

He has served as a Trustee of the Foundation since 2021.

John E. Vigar, M.A., F.S.A.(Scot.), F.R.S.A.

John has worked as a professional ecclesiastical historian for over 45 years, having been personally encouraged in his career by Sir John Betjeman. He is the author of eighteen books, several hundred church guidebooks, and frequently appears in the broadcast media.

For many years John taught at the University of Kent and he was a member of the academic board of the Centre for Parish Church Studies. In 2012 he was project coordinator for the Medway Valley Survey for the Victoria County History and subsequently contributed to its publication. He was also a contributor to the Historical Atlas of Kent.

John leads church tours for groups and individuals across England and Wales and has personally visited and recorded over 13,000 parish churches. For 35 years John was History Tutor at Denman College, specialising in churches of the Cotswolds, and still speaks at meetings across Britain as an accredited Arts Society lecturer.

For 12 years John was Regional Development Manager in the south east of England for the Churches Conservation Trust where he developed greater access for church visitors and formed support organisations to help keep historic churches open. Most recently he was invited to contribute to the Diocese of Ely's REACH project to assist in the better promotion of historic churches.

John has served on many heritage-based church charities, notably the Friends of Friendless Churches where he has been a Trustee for over 40 years and currently serves on the Advisory Council of the Norfolk Churches Trust with special responsibility for three redundant churches.

He has served as a Trustee of the Foundation since 2024.



F.A. Greenhill

The Greenhill Fund

Mr. F.A. Greenhill, following his death on 2nd February 1983, left the residue of his estate jointly to the Founder and Malcolm W. Norris, a Vice-President (1982-92) and subsequently President (1992-5) of the Monumental Brass Society with the request that it be used in connection with incised slabs. John Coales gave his share (£8,267.64) to the Foundation where it has always been separately accounted for as The Greenhill Fund. An inaugural grant of £500 was awarded to the Redundant Churches Fund (subsequently The Conservation Churches Trust) for the conservation of the incised slab commemorating Sir Gerard Sothill, 1410, at Redbourne, Lincolnshire; considered to be one of the finest examples in the country.

In 1986 the Foundation posthumously published the *Monumental Incised Slabs in the County of Lincoln* to which the Founder and Malcolm Norris had contributed. Norris was also utilising Greenhill's manuscripts to work on companion volumes covering the counties of Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire until his premature death in 1995.

Frank Allen Greenhill, M.A., F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot. (1896-1983)

Frank Greenhill was an assiduous and painstaking researcher studying medieval incised slabs for over sixty years. He was the first such scholar to seriously pursue this specialised area. Greenhill was born at St. Pancras, London and educated locally before going up to Exeter College, Oxford to read Modern History in 1914. Following the outbreak of World War I he volunteered for the army serving throughout as an officer in the Royal Field Artillery. After demobilisation, he returned to Exeter College and proceeded Bachelor of Arts in 1920 and Master of Arts in 1922.

He married Dorothea Clementina Turvey in 1922 but his very happy marriage was ended less than five years later by her tragic death in an accident at their home in Nuneaton.

Greenhill joined the Inland Revenue as an Assistant Inspector, serving in various locations before prematurely retiring from the Dumfries office in 1946 with the rank of Senior Inspector.

His interest in monumental brasses began while still at school and soon developed into the field of incised slabs largely influenced as a consequence of producing a rubbing from the fine slab commemorating Alice Tyrell, 1442, at East Horndon, Essex. With the ending of hostilities in 1918 he resolved to search England for incised slabs and in this task was ably assisted by his great friend, H.A. Beetlestone; some 6,000 churches had been searched by the outbreak of World War II. In 1958, the Leicestershire Archaeological Society published *The Incised Slabs of Leicestershire and Rutland*; the first of two major works. In 1961, he was elected President of the Monumental Brass Society but relinquished this position in 1964 realising that the duties of the office were preventing him from what he saw as his *raison d'être* – the seeking and recording of incised slabs. Greenhill immersed himself in arranging all the information collected over the previous forty-five years and preparing it for publication. This resulted in his *magnum opus* entitled *Incised Effigial Slabs* that was published in two volumes on his 80th birthday in 1976.



Trevor Parker

Administration

John Coales took on the Secretarial role with Guy Harding who “offered to assist with clerical work as and when required”. Jenny Turner and Barbara Wooster helped John Coales at his home (The Mount, Somerton, Somerset) as the number of grant applications increased.

Trevor Hubert Parker, A.C.I.B. (1941-2025)

Trevor Parker was appointed as Administrator in 1994 having retired from a career in banking. He worked for the Westminster, National Westminster and finally The Royal Bank of Scotland Group. His career commenced in Somerset where he worked in a number of branches before moving to Devon gaining his first managerial role. Further appointments followed before moving back to Somerset where he retired.

He had a keen interest in vintage and classic cars, which he took to many overseas rallies, and also preserved steam locomotives.

Trevor retired as Administrator in 2017 following 23 years distinguished service to the Foundation. His retirement was marked by a lunch at Clevedon in June 2017 and the presentation of an engraved decanter. Trevor had been steadfastly supported by his wife Sarah and so a bouquet of flowers was also presented in recognition of her service over the years.

Trevor Parker passed away on 27th April 2025.

David William Edworthy, B.Sc.

David Edworthy commenced his training as a Chartered Accountant in the Bristol office of Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co. (now part of Ernst & Young, or EY as they currently style themselves) in 1976, qualifying in 1979. The training was largely audit-based, including running the audits of The Wrigley Company Limited and Intel Corporation (U.K.) Limited, and assisting with the preparation of the first accounts of the newly-formed Hargreaves Lansdown.

He left Arthur Young in 1986 to become a partner with Albert Goodman in Taunton before moving again in 1990 to join Butterworth Jones & Co. in Burnham-on-Sea. In 1994 he became a sole practitioner with a client base that mainly comprised small family companies to whom a full accountancy and tax service was provided.

David became a member of the South Western Technical Advisory Committee in 1987. The committee reports to the main committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales about proposed accounting and auditing standards, and also on certain taxation matters.

David performed the role as Auditor and subsequently Independent Examiner from 1987 until completion of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015. Following his retirement from practice he succeeded Trevor Parker as Administrator in 2017.

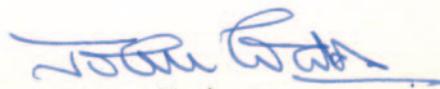
FRANCIS COALES CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Minutes of First Meeting of the Trustees held at the Athenaeum, London, on Thursday April 29th 1976 at 2 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr J.Coales, F.S.A. Founder - in the Chair
Dr H.K.Cameron, M.A., B.Sc.,
Ph.D., F.R.I.C., F.S.A.
Mr A.G.Harding, LL.B.
Mr H.G.M.Leighton, M.A., F.S.A.

1. SECRETARY. It was agreed that Mr Coales be Secretary to the Foundation in accordance with clause 3(c) of the Trust Deed, and Mr Harding offered to assist with clerical work as and when required.
2. BANKERS. It was resolved that Barclays Bank, Newport Pagnell, be appointed bankers to the Foundation and that they be instructed and authorised to honour and comply with all cheques and other negotiable instruments provided same bear the signatures of any two trustees.
3. INVESTMENTS. It was agreed that Mr Coales and Mr Leighton be the two trustees empowered to vary the Foundation's investments in accordance with clause 1 of the Trust Deed.
4. PRESENT STATE OF THE FOUNDATION. The Founder reported that of the original £100 cash deposited, £33.48 had been spent on special cheques and notepaper; no more cash was yet available. The freehold of the house, buildings, and adjoining paddock of Grange Farm, Willington, Bedford, had been conveyed to the Foundation at a value of £39,500; part of this was let and part vacant, the present income being in the region of £900 and fixed outgoings about £170; agents, W.&H.Peacock of Bedford, were seeking tenant(s) for the vacant buildings. The Founder expressed the view that one day the site may be suitable for development for which a scheme had been prepared by Hamnett Raffety of High Wycombe in advance. It was anticipated that in due course quoted investment to the value of approximately £35,000 would be transferred to the Foundation to bring in a gross income of some £2,200 per annum.
5. OFFICIAL CUSTODIAN FOR CHARITIES. It was agreed that the investments of the Foundation be registered in the name of the Official Custodian for Charities. Mr Harding was asked to advise the Custodian of this fact.
6. OBJECTS OF THE FOUNDATION. A draft of a document to be made available to parties likely to apply for grants was considered. It was decided that grants for repairs to buildings would have to be carefully monitored; it was likely that all available income could be expended in grants towards publications and assistance to libraries. All trustees agreed to consider this document and send their comments to the Secretary who would prepare and circulate a second draft. Dr Cameron produced an offprint entitled "Sources of Financial Help for Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest" reprinted from the transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society, New Series, Vol.16, 1969, which it was agreed would be of assistance.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.


Chairman
APR 29th 1976

*Minutes of the first meeting of Trustees held at the Athenaeum, London
on Thursday, 29th April 1976.*

Trust meeting venues

The first meeting of the Trustees was held at The Athenaeum Club, Pall Mall, London on Thursday, 29th April 1976. Subsequent meetings have been held at The Travellers Club at Pall Mall, London SW1; the Tyndall Group at Imperial House, Kingsway, London WC2; at the Express Company London; at the home of Elliott Viney at Quainton, Buckinghamshire; the offices of Bull, Astley and Harding in Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire; Home Farm, Warrington, Buckinghamshire; The Art Workers' Guild at 6 Queen Square, London WC1; and at the Founder's home in Somerton, Somerset.



The first meeting of the Trustees was held at The Athenaeum Club on 29th April 1976.

In recent years the Trustees have met at the offices of Investec Wealth and Investment Limited (Rathbones Investment Management Limited since 2023) in Gresham Street, London EC2. Since August 2015 meetings have also been held at Lamport Hall in Northamptonshire where the 40th anniversary of the Foundation was celebrated on 15th December 2015. Microsoft Teams (subsequently Zoom) video conferencing platforms were first deployed during the Covid-19 pandemic and continue periodically.



The Trustees summer meeting was held at Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire for the first time on 5th August 2015.

Record of the Foundation

The Trustees have assisted with grants totalling approximately £3,500,000 for the structural repair of ecclesiastical buildings (built before 1875) which are open to the public during the first 50 years of the Foundation's existence. Grants are given to churches located in the pre-1974 counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire (including the Diocese of Peterborough) where most of the business of Francis Coales and Son was carried on. Applications for the conservation of wall paintings are considered as these are deemed to be part of the fabric of a building. There is no territorial restriction in respect of conservation of monuments and monumental brasses. However, it is a requirement that the conservator is ICON accredited.

Grants are occasionally made towards publication of architectural and archaeological books and papers; towards the purchase of documents or items for record offices and museums; and for archaeological research and related causes.

In pursuit of the objectives of the Foundation grants have been awarded as follows:

Bedfordshire	=	£411,329
Buckinghamshire	=	£869,349
Hertfordshire	=	£181,470
Northamptonshire (Diocese of Peterborough)	=	£1,119,397
Miscellaneous grants	=	£836,912
		<hr/>
		£3,418,457

In specific areas of repair and conservation work grants have been awarded as follows:

Hatchments	=	21,500
Monumental Brasses	=	111,028
Monuments	=	329,307
Royal Arms	=	7,700
Wallpaintings	=	37,400
In respect of learned publications and for the purchase of books, papers and documents for record offices and museums	=	177,545

Significant grants have been made for the conservation of the hatchments at Stanford-on-Avon church; for work to the tower of Lowick church and at the churches of Ashby St. Ledgers, Easton Maudit and Kettering (St. Peter and St. Paul) all located in Northamptonshire.

The Founder was of the view that a grant, particularly for a small rural church, could be the key to stimulate further fundraising. The Trustees have maintained this ethos by repeatedly giving grants for phased repairs and supplementary support in cases where the commencement of works has revealed more extensive or drastic problems than were originally known. Indeed the Coales Memorial

Chalice is awarded annually to a church in recognition of a proven track record of care and conservation.

In 1985, the vicar of Naseby in Northamptonshire (population 500) was faced with the daunting task of raising £10,000 for major repair work to the tower. An application to the Foundation resulted in the award of a £750 grant. The same clergyman having faced similar appeals for dry rot infestation work at Clipston (population 500); major stonework repairs to the tower and a lead theft at Haselbech (population 50); and the replacement of Collyweston slates at Kelmarsch (population 50). He was subsequently invited to become a Trustee – a position he holds to this day.

In 1989, the Trustees were invited to the Bodleian Library to view conservation techniques using additive free leather following a phased grant. Following lunch at Rhodes House, the Trustees toured the Library stacks housing every book published in the United Kingdom. Among the priceless volumes and precious manuscripts a random opening of authors whose name began with ‘C’ the Trustees discovered just how many books Barbara Cartland had written!

In 1990, the level of grants exceeded £500,000 and have consistently risen each subsequent year reaching approximately £3,500,000 during the 50th anniversary year.

The Foundation has consistently supported the The William Morris Craft Fellowship (an advanced training scheme run by The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (S.P.A.B.)) in support of teaching students in architectural and conservation techniques.



Conservation of the reredos at Geddington church, Northamptonshire completed in 2024.



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Dear Trustees,

It is with great pleasure that we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation ("F.C.C.F"). An organisation, which has for many years helped a considerable number of parishes meet fundraising targets to repair their churches. It is now, as much as ever, that we need our churches and need to keep them in good order. However through these difficult times many small parishes struggle with limited regular attendance and reduced income from direct gifts within the community. The availability of grants from the F.C.C.F is typically an invaluable step forward to make an otherwise impossible task possible.

One of the Churches in my care at Wrestlingworth was recently in receipt of a grant for essential repairs to the stair turret on the Tower. The turret is a particularly fine and prominent feature at this church but the clunch stonework was deeply fissured and had become dangerous. With the churchyard used for routine access to the adjacent school it had been identified for urgent repair. Consequently, the P.C.C. had been diligently working to raise the money for the project when a significant lead theft demanded immediate replacement of both the nave and aisle roofs and used up all available church funds.

The Churchwarden approached the F.C.C.F for help who were fortunately able to step in and provide a significant contribution to the project that enabled the work to go ahead. Although good building Clunch is now almost unobtainable the stonemasons were able to select like for like replacements direct from the quarry and have been able to reinstate the turret to its former glory. Proper and timely maintenance of these fine historic churches is an on-gong challenge for those charged with their upkeep. Most of the churches with which I am involved have a long list of repairs to do but a limited amount of funding with which to do it.

In recent years the parish at Tilbrook have been active in the proper repair and maintenance of their church and a substantial investment in their tower was followed by a need for urgent repairs to stonework and glazing on their north windows. The F.C.C.F were able to assist with grant funding toward those repairs that have now been completed to keep the church fabric in good order.

Some villages are 'blessed' with especially large and fine churches, in some cases disproportionate to the size of the local community. Northhill Church near Bedford is a typical example with a grand ironstone church of cathedral like proportion in a relatively small village. These buildings and the Churchwardens managing them need particular support. When as at Northhill a significant project to re-lead the roofs and parapet gutters on both aisles needed to be done it is organisations like the F.C.C.F that can provide a meaningful level of financial assistance to enable essential restoration to be completed. At Northhill where the roofs are exceptionally high and hard for thieves to access we were able to recover the aisles with new lead sheet to best practice all as original.

It is through the financial support of grant providers like the F.C.C.F that it is possible to maintain quality, investing the money necessary to keep our fine collection of historic churches correctly maintained to the high standard they deserve.

On behalf of the parishes for churches in my care I offer great thanks to the F.C.C.F for their previous generosity and hope the next 50 years proves to be as beneficial as the last.

Yours sincerely

David Llewellyn
for and on behalf of Priory Heritage Limited

Proprietor D. Llewellyn Ba Arch Dip Proj Man MRICS MCIOB
Website www.prioryheritage.co.uk

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Dear Trustees

Firstly, congratulations on your 50th anniversary. I found an article online celebrating 40 years of the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation. In the document there were two letters from what I consider to be eminent professionals dealing with the care for our historic church buildings. John Barker is someone I know quite well and is now a trustee of 'The Foundation' and Pam Ward as a respected architect and former EASA stalwart. Their words are as relevant today as they were in 2015, and perhaps even more so with the uncertainty of future grant funding opportunities and the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

My personal view about working with all historic buildings is that identifying what work is necessary, how and when it needs to be done, preparing drawings, specifications, schedule of works, obtaining tenders and even a Faculty is the easy bit. Finding funds to execute the works is much more difficult, particularly when so many church finances are stretched to the limit and functioning as a place of worship is also difficult. Keeping churches dry, safe and warm is essential, but other basic needs such as a toilet and even a tea making facility are minimum requirements not only to bring people into worship, but also for people to engage with their heritage and the church as a wider community benefit.

These special heritage assets need to evolve and embrace change to remain viable. However, the building fabric needs to be dry, safe and welcoming which normally means urgent repairs need attending to quickly and others need planning over a longer period of time. In most cases this is only possible with grant funding. The Francis Coales Charitable Foundation has made significant contributions to many of our church projects over a long period of time. Applying for some grants can be time consuming and overwhelming, but in the case of The Francis Coales Charitable Foundation that process is much simpler. In my experience churchwardens or PCC members make the application and we as architects simply submit the supporting construction documentation before a grant is awarded. Without generous Francis Coales Charitable Foundation grants essential works would have to be delayed or not even started resulting in even more expensive repairs. All churches in need should be encouraged to submit a grant application.

It is not only church members that value the importance of these grants, but also Architects and Surveyors alike. I hope The Francis Coales Charitable Foundation continues to support those churches in need for a long time to come. Below I have listed some of our projects which have benefited from the grants.

- St Mary Wollaston 2015 – Georgian screen refurbishment
- St Leonard Rockingham 2018 – Collyweston roof repairs
- St Mary Grafton Regis 2018 – Tower roof repairs, improved Tower roof access, drain improvements
- St Nicholas Kimble 2018 – Fabric repairs to facilitate reordering
- All Saints Lamport 2019 – Lead roof repairs
- All Saints Sutton Bassett 2022 - Collyweston roof repairs
- St Mary the Virgin Southwick 2022– Lynn monument and associated fabric repairs
- St Nicholas Stretton 2022 – Roof and ceiling repairs
- St Katharine Irchester 2022 – Lead roof repairs
- St Botolph Helpston 2025 – Church floor repairs to facilitate reordering

Yours sincerely

Adrian Ringrose

Managing Director: Adrian Ringrose BA (Arch) DipArch RIBA AABC

Architectural Consultant: Aaron Freebody BA (Hons) Arch

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1964-2024



Grant of Arms

By Letters Patent of the three Kings of Arms (Sir Colin Cole, K.C.V.O., T.D., F.S.A., Garter; John P. Brook-Little, C.V.O., K.St.J., F.S.A. signing for Clarenceux; and John P. Brook-Little signing for himself as Norry and Ulster) dated 1st March 1989 arms and a crest were granted to the **Francis Coales Charitable Foundation**. The grant was made pursuant to a Warrant dated 15th November 1988 issued by the Earl Marshal, an Office which has been hereditary in the Dukes of Norfolk since the late 17th century. In the case of all new grants of arms a Warrant has to be issued by the Earl Marshal instructing the Kings of Arms to make the grant. The Warrant was issued in response to a Memorial or Petition by John Coales, gentleman, F.S.A., a Trustee of the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation that recited the history of Foundation commencing with the Trust Deed dated 31st December 1975.

Since the 15th century in England the Sovereign has delegated power to grant new arms to the three senior Heralds or Kings of Arms and the earliest surviving grant by an English King of Arms is that of 1439 to the Worshipful Company of Drapers of the City of London. The grant to the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation is part of that sequence that stretches back almost six hundred years. The arms granted are blazoned *Gules two Chevrons between in chief as many Lions Heads erased and in base three Ears of Wheat banded all Gold* and the crest *Upon a Helm with a Wreath Or, Gules and Sable a demi Griffin Sable armed and its forelegs Or holding between the claws a Key, the ward downwards and outwards also Or enfiling a Mural Crown proper*. A motto is shown on the patent of REÆDIFICAMUS.

The Arms are based on those granted by Letters Patent dated 11th June 1946 to John Leslie Coales (1896-1976), whose grandfather, Francis Coales (1821-1909), and his son, Walter John Coales (1859-1949), founded the corn and agricultural milling business at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, in 1885. John Coales, O.B.E., F.S.A. (1931-2007), the only child of John Leslie Coales, was great-grandson of Francis Coales in whose memory and after whom the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation was named. As it is not possible to transfer personal arms to a charitable foundation unless having made a successful application by Royal Licence authorising such a transfer it is necessary to difference the arms by minor variation. In this instance the arms contain two Chevrons instead of one with the demi-griffin on the Crest continuing to support a key but this enfiling a Mural Crown. The Crown, being an allusive reference to a fortified place symbolising the object of the Foundation and its interest in antiquarian research and archaeology generally.

Mottoes do not technically form part of a grant of arms as legal property cannot be granted over a group of words. They may however appear on a patent and the motto which might be translated as “rebuild or we rebuild”.



The Coales Memorial Chalice awarded annually to a parish/applicant who has successfully completed a restoration/repair project which has met the Foundation's criteria.

The Coales Memorial Chalice

Brian Wilcox, in order to commemorate our Founder proposed that a silver chalice should be made bearing the Foundation's achievement of arms together with an inscription *Remember before God – John Coales – Founder of the Francis Coales Foundation*. The Chalice was made by Barry Whitmond at his workshop at Burghley House, Stamford (Lincolnshire).

The Chalice is awarded annually to the parish/applicant who, in the opinion of the Trustees, has demonstrated a sustained record of completing restoration/repair projects receiving multiple grants from the Foundation. The chalice is intended for use in celebration of the Holy Communion.

Since its inception the Chalice has been awarded to:

2012 – Cockayne Hatley (Bedfordshire)

2013 – Stewkley (Buckinghamshire)

2014 – Helmdon (Northamptonshire)

2015 – Cranfield (Bedfordshire)

2016 – Lathbury (Buckinghamshire)

2017 – Wallington (Hertfordshire)

2018 – Everdon (Northamptonshire)

2019 – Titchmarsh (Northamptonshire)

2022 – Wrestlingworth (Bedfordshire)

2023 – Barby (Northamptonshire)

2025 – Aston Clinton (Buckinghamshire)

The first presentation of the Chalice took place on Sunday, 28th October 2012 where the Chairman and Trustees were welcomed to the church at Cockayne Hatley by Rev. Gill Smith and the indefatigable fundraiser, the late Gloria Crossley, B.E.M. The Chairman made the Presentation to the incumbent, Rev. Gill Smith. A former vicar preached with the Rev. Brian Wilcox invited to celebrate the Holy Communion, using the Chalice for the first time. Cockayne Hatley church has a stunning interior. Pevsner states that “what makes the church unique in the county (Bedfordshire) is its Baroque woodwork, brought from Belgium, by the squarson”. A continuous programme of restoration and repair had been under the expert supervision of the architect – Pamela Ward.

The second presentation took place on Sunday, 22nd September 2013 at Stewkley, Buckinghamshire. The Chairman who gave an address presented the Chalice. The incumbent, Rev. Philip Derbyshire, celebrated Holy Communion with Rev. Brian Wilcox invited to lead the intercessions. Pevsner describes Stewkley church as “the most splendid piece of Norman parochial architecture in Buckinghamshire, and in addition exceptionally complete and unaltered”.

The third presentation took place on Sunday, 12th October 2014 at Helmdon, Northamptonshire. The Trustees were welcomed by the Bishop of Peterborough, Rt. Rev. Donald Allister. The Chairman made the Presentation to the rector, Rev. Carole Peters, and Rev. Brian Wilcox spoke of the Foundation. The programme of restoration and repair has been under the direction of the architect, John Barker, who was present at the service together with many of the Friends of Helmdon Church. The church dates from the 13th century and contains an important glass panel of c.1313 depicting the stonemason, William Campiun. This panel was exhibited at *The Age of Chivalry: Art in Plantagenet England 1200-1400* held at the Royal Academy of Arts from 6th November 1987 to 6th March 1988.

The fourth presentation took place on Sunday, 25th October 2015 at Cranfield, Bedfordshire. The Trustees were welcomed by the rector, Rev. Hugh Symes-Thompson, to whom the Chairman presented the Chalice. Rev. Brian Wilcox delivered an excellent sermon. Daniel Hanbury, Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire; Michael Clews, the current architect; Pamela Ward, the former architect; and the Friends of Cranfield Church attended the service.

The fifth presentation took place on Sunday, 2nd October 2016 at All Saints, Lathbury. The Rector, Rev. Nick Evans led the Service and the preacher was Rev. Brian Wilcox. The Chalice was presented by the Chairman, Martin Stuchfield.

The sixth presentation took place on Sunday, 15th October 2017 at St. Mary's, Wallington. The Service was led by the Vicar, Rev. Fiona Wheatley and the sermon preached by the Archdeacon of Hertford, Ven. Janet Mackenzie. The Presentation was made by the Chairman, Martin Stuchfield. Major the Rev. Edward Faure Walker, Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and the church architect, Mrs. Pamela Ward were in attendance.

The seventh presentation took place on Sunday, 7th October 2018 at St. Mary's, Everdon. The Service was led by the Archdeacon of Northampton, Ven. Richard Ormston and the preacher was Rev. Brian Wilcox. The Chalice was presented by the Chairman, Martin Stuchfield and received by the Churchwarden, Hon. Charles Coaker. The Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, David Laing, the Mayor of Daventry, Councillor Lynn Jones and the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Kevin Nichols were in attendance together with John Barker the church architect.

The eighth presentation took place on Sunday, 6th October 2019 when the Chalice was presented at St. Mary the Virgin, Titchmarsh at a service led by the Bishop of Brixworth, Rt. Rev. John Holbrook with the sermon preached by Rev. Brian Wilcox. The Chairman, Martin Stuchfield made the Presentation which was received by the Churchwardens.

The Chalice was not presented in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The ninth presentation took place on Sunday, 9th October 2022 at St. Peter's, Wrestlingworth. The Service was led by the Archdeacon of Bedford, Ven. Dave Middlebrook and the Rector, Rev. Liz Lavelle. The Preacher, Rev. Brian Wilcox dubbed the Churchwarden, Mick Bister as "Mr. Indefatigable"

for the way in which over many years he had steered successive repair and restoration projects. The Chairman, Martin Stuchfield presented the Chalice. The Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Mrs. Susan Lousada was in attendance as was the church architect, Bruce Deacon.

The tenth presentation took place on Sunday, 8th October 2023 at St. Mary's Barby with the Service led by the Bishop of Brixworth, Rt. Rev. John Holbrook. The preacher was Rev. Brian Wilcox with the Chalice presented by the Chairman, Martin Stuchfield and received by the Churchwarden, Prof. Bart Springer. John Brownhill, Deputy Lieutenant of Northamptonshire was in attendance.

The Chalice was not presented in 2024.

The eleventh presentation took place on Sunday, 12th October 2025 at St. Michael and All Angels, Aston Clinton. The Service was led by the Bishop of Buckingham, Rt. Rev. Dave Bull and the Rector, Rev. Sally Bottomer. The Chalice was presented by the Chairman, Martin Stuchfield and received by the Fund-Raising Co-ordinator, James Adam.

At each presentation the Foundation defrayed the cost of providing a buffet lunch to celebrate the occasion recognising the generous involvement of congregations, donors and many Friends in fund raising for the repair and restoration of their respective church buildings.



*Presentation of The Coales Memorial Chalice
at Everdon, Northamptonshire on 7th October 2018
Left to right: John Barker (Trustee), David Edworthy (Administrator),
Martin Stuchfield (Chairman), Rev. Brian Wilcox (Trustee),
Ven. Richard Ormston (Archdeacon of Northampton),
Cllr. Lynn Jones (Mayor of Daventry), Hon. Charles Coaker (Churchwarden)
and David Laing (H.M. Lord-Lieutenant for Northamptonshire).*

This volume is dedicated to the memory of John Coales, O.B.E., F.S.A. (1931–2007).

*Founder of the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation which has generously
supported the Victoria County History of Northamptonshire*



For many years the Foundation has supported the research and publication of the Victoria County History. In 2008 the Trustees agreed to a major Grant for the Corby Volume published 2013 which has a dedication to John Coales, a unique distinction since all other volumes are dedicated to Queen Victoria.

20th anniversary

The Foundation's 20th anniversary was marked with a celebratory luncheon held in Milton Keynes village hall. The occasion was catered for by Margaret Moore and her helpers from a local technical college. Invitations were sent to architects and recipients of grants during the first 20 years of the Foundation's existence.

40th anniversary

The 40th anniversary of the Foundation was celebrated with a reception held in the Tall Room at Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire. Invitations were sent to architects, clergy and recipients of grants during 40 years of the Foundation's existence.

Future thoughts

In recent years the Foundation's brochure has been completely revised and rewritten and will be reviewed continually in the coming years. Since the Foundation's 40th Anniversary the Trustees have welcomed online applications as well as the digital submission of documents and drawings.

The Trustees have been asked to help increasingly with the recent spate of lead thefts from churches. Rainwater goods and "disturbed" stonework have also been a major problem. Taken together with the provision of minimal settlements by the insurance industry this has left many churches in a very difficult position. Wherever possible, the Trustees have supported professional advice in the use of theft deterrent measures and the provision of roof alarm systems.

Aware that the conservation and repair of monuments and monumental brasses are usually low on the list of priorities for a Parochial Church Council the Trustees have been anxious to help with a grant wherever possible.

Invariably in considering all grant applications the Trustees take into account several factors including the amount of other financial assistance obtained and locally raised funds which a particular applicant is able to demonstrate as being available for use.

The Trustees have honoured the Founder's wish that applicants are welcome to apply regularly and that phased programmes of conservation, repair or restoration should be supported wherever possible.

The Foundation has been well served by its Trustees who freely give of their time, expertise and experience and who are ably supported by their Administrator.

At the time of writing the Trustees are very concerned about the proposed discontinuance of V.A.T. relief for Listed Buildings in 2026. This will have a deleterious effect on parishes fundraising to pay for vital repairs and restoration projects by adding 20% to the costs involved. The total sum involved is minimal in terms of Government expenditure but has been seen as a contribution to the upkeep of the National Heritage.

Such are these reflections on the Foundation's 50th Anniversary. There can be no doubt that the vision of the Founder, John Coales, which together with the commitment of the Trustees have been amply fulfilled. The motto *Reaedificamus* has served the Foundation well in restoring and rebuilding so much over 50 years and long may it continue to do so.



*Masonry repairs at Wrestlingworth church completed in 2022.
The Foundation awarded grants in 1985, 1988, 1996, 2001, 2019 and 2021
resulting in the award of the Coales Memorial Chalice in 2022.
The cover photograph shows repairs in progress.*

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