

Painting your Church

If you have any questions please contact the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC):

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For more information about the care of churches visit the DAC pages on the Diocese of Manchester's website: www.manchester.anglican.org



Introduction

Before commencing a paint contract it is always advisable to carry out careful investigations.

If the wrong paint is used, if a surface is not properly prepared, or if paint is applied to damp walls then blistering and flaking can occur and the life of the paint will be shortened and a new paint job required at more expense.

It is always worthwhile to consult your architect before undertaking redecoration of your church.

Issues for consideration

The following issues require consideration and discussion with your architect and/or contractor:

- What is the sub-base (what is the surface being painted - eg. plaster - what type? [new lime plaster requires 12 months to dry before it can be painted] Cement? Wood - varnished/stained/painted?
- Is this the original paint finish or has, for example, original distemper/emulsion been overpainted in the past by oil or vinyl based paint?
- What preparation is going to be done (scraped, cleaned, etc.)? Does this accord with the manufacturer's recommended specification?
- What type of paint (manufactures, type [e.g. emulsion, vinyl emulsion, eggshell, gloss, stain etc.], colour, specification). Please provide colour samples.
- Number of coats. e.g. primer - undercoat - topcoats? Does this fully accord with the paint manufacturer's recommended specification? If not why not?
- How is the paint to be applied, e.g. brush, roller, or spray?
- Do any areas require special protection during painting, e.g. organ, altar?
- Will scaffolding be required to access higher levels?
- Has lime wash been considered as an alternative to paint?

Finally, don't forget: you need a faculty - unless the Chancellor's guidelines state otherwise.

See DAC leaflet: **Faculties - General Guidance from the Chancellor** (formerly the '*de minimis*' rules)