

# Painting your Church

## 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 over painted 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 (manufacturer, 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, eg 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.**