

From: [Tracy Manning](#)
To: ["Consultees@bathwells.anglican.org"](mailto:Consultees@bathwells.anglican.org)
Subject: Porlock, St Dubricius (Bath & Wells): altarpiece
Date: 01 September 2025 13:52:00
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Dear Jacqui

Thank you for consulting the Church Buildings Council regarding the proposals at Porlock, St Dubricius. This advice, for the proposed conservation of the altarpiece only, is given under the Council's delegated advice policy.

The proposals, which affect the surface of the painting only, with no structural work, by an accredited conservator, are acceptable. The Council would only make the following comments:

- It would be helpful if the cause of the extensive mould growth were more closely examined, as it is likely to be driven by a high relative humidity within the church. This may well be improved during the course of the wider improvements to the church, but the Council recommends that a close eye is kept on whether it returns, and whether further remedial measures may be necessary.
- The use of tri-ammonium citrate (TAC) is common, but the Council would urge caution in its use on an unvarnished painting, as it may affect the paint layer. Alternatives should be considered.
- The proposed varnish can be friable and the conservator may wish to consider Laropal A81 which may be more durable. However, it raises the issue of whether a previously unvarnished painting should be varnished – and the conservator is certainly aware that a matt surface is desirable – so it is important to be clear why this is being done and justify it fully in the proposal.

With kind regards,

Tracy Manning ACR FIIC
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From: Tracy Manning <tracy.manning@churchofengland.org>
Sent: 08 October 2025 10:54
To: s.horler@jonathan-rhind.co.uk; Jacqui Carreira-White <Jacqui.Carreira-White@bathwells.anglican.org>
Subject: Porlock, St Dubricius (Bath & Wells): altarpiece

Dear Simon and Jacqui,

Just a quick note to let you both know that I've been in conversation with Ruth McNeillage about the altarpiece at Porlock, as the CBC had a few minor comments and queries around the treatment process. There were some aspects that needed to be clarified (from her side and ours) but on the whole the Council is fully supportive of the proposed treatment, and I wished to confirm that.

Do let me know if anything else is needed; we are now content to defer to the DAC.

With kind regards,

Tracy

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Senior Conservation Officer

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