

Twyford Chapel, St Michael's Church, Derbyshire



An external view of the chapel, the troublesome shallow pitch lead roof can just be seen

Discussions with parishioners identified that the lead roof above the ceiling had been replaced 20 years ago.

Data loggers were installed inside and outside the church to establish a pattern to the humidity and temperature within the church—was condensation a problem?

A boroscope was used to look behind loose wooden panels and see that there was no hidden rot evident in the timber.

Paint samples were taken to identify the paint type used—to aid understanding of the decay mechanisms involved and to assist the specification for the cleaning and consolidation regime as well as the paint used for restoration.

As project leader with Cliveden Conservation Workshop, I saw this project through a two year period from initial consultation, through understanding the issues in hand and to a point where the conservators had restored the ceiling to a fine condition.

Rob Thomson, September 2006

A Victorian decorative paint scheme was added to the timber ceiling of this medieval chapel but had suffered over recent years. The paint was flaking everywhere and much of the paint on the ceiling appeared to have been damaged by water ingress.

The task was to restore the ceiling but first to define exactly what the problems were.

We needed to know exactly what was wrong with the ceiling and why. We called upon a range of analytical techniques to build up a picture of the issues in hand.



The poor condition of the decorative scheme—a data logger (circled) is installed at ceiling level.



A programme of cleaning, consolidation and inpainting was possible, once the environmental conditions were understood and we knew that the restored decorative scheme would last.