



DIOCESE OF TRURO
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR NEW ALTAR FRONTALS

- 1) We would advise the church which is commissioning (rather than buying off the peg) to look around for a good textile designer who could also either undertake the work or supervise it. Good design is the starting point.
- 2) Give designer a clear brief -i.e. purpose of frontal or vestment including any liturgical parameters - colour constraints and practical requirements such as budget and time frame.
- 3) When the design is at finished sketch stage and fabric swatches are available - designer talks to the PCC to see that it is what is wanted. (may need to delegate to sub committee). Look for clarity in any symbols used and ensure the iconography is Christian. If the work is abstract - look for integrity in design and colour. Avoid cliché and blandness. Ask the question - will this look good in the environment in which it will be seen? (a photomontage will help PCC members who are not used to visualisation.)
- 4) When PCC is content -submit sketches and samples to the DAC for initial advice/ approval and also photographs of the environment. Do not start to fabricate at any stage before the granting of the faculty. The DAC might well appoint one of its members to liaise with the parish and meet the designer/craft-worker to discuss fine points.
- 5) PCC petitions for faculty.
- 6) When design/colour/fabric is agreed and faculty approved - commission the work in writing. Agree how and when it will be paid for and by whom - and how it will be reviewed in the making process for quality of finish etc. Staged payments are usual. Set out delivery dates and acceptance details in the letter.
- 7) When considering a design, will it look dated after a few years?

It seems a slow process - but the more thought and planning the better the outcome!