

OBITUARY - MRS. EVE BAKER

Mrs. Eve Baker, who carried out the first conservation work on the Templecombe panel painting during the mid 1950s, died on August 18, at the age of 84. With her husband, Professor Robert Baker, Eve Baker travelled the length of the U.K. in an estate car piled high with bags of lime, different coloured sands, and other accessories, enthusiastically working on the conservation of mediaeval paintings. She was passionate about the use of the most authentic materials and techniques, and roundly disapproved of any restoration verging on the conjectural. Among the cathedrals where she worked were Canterbury, Chichester, Durham, St. Albans, Salisbury, and particularly notably Winchester, where she brought back to life the deeply moving, and arguably Shroud-related paintings of the Holy Sepulchre Chapel. Eve Baker's death sadly leaves unanswered certain questions relating to the Templecombe panel, most notably a curious and possibly significant protrusion or nib which although evident in the earliest photos of the panel (BSTS Newsletter no. 17), had disappeared by the time the panel was handed back to the Templecombe Church on Easter Sunday, 1956.