

Figure 6. Ellinge Church. A contemporary painting by the artist Sven Havsteen-Mikkelsen inserted into the altar frame in 1994. © National Museum, 2008.



Since the nineteenth century, when heating was introduced in churches, the conditions for the preservation of objects of cultural heritage have changed radically and the growing demand for comfort has become a serious threat to both furniture and wall paintings. Not only is the average temperature during ceremonies rising (climate change), but also the occasional heating of parish churches is often changed because of continuous heating.

Heating is a necessity, and our mission is to support systems which can be installed with minor interventions and adapted to the preservation of the cultural heritage. Research excavations, as well as the uncovering of wall paintings, are usually limited to work done for technical reasons. Floor heating systems might, therefore, be rejected to avoid extensive archaeological excavations. Usually the expenses connected with archaeological works deter church councils from such action. However, in a few cases, funding is found, as was the case in Hedensted Church, in eastern Jutland. The church council insisted