

Chris's Reordering Blog – Week 2

A rather shorter report this week since I am now away on holiday in Cornwall.

Firstly, I have a favour to ask. Despite signs saying the Church is closed people are still wandering in. Now that most of the floor within the Church has been taken up it's not a safe thing to do, so please don't. Apart from the safety aspect it's taking up quite a lot of Wrencon's site supervisor's time answering questions, which is also not a good idea.

The memorials in the Nave and North Aisles seem to be just that and have been moved there from the Churchyard. However, in the south-west corner of the Nave the top of a vault has been uncovered with a brick arched roof. We are not expecting to disturb this as there is room above it to lay the new floor, but advice from a structural engineer is being sought to ensure it will withstand the additional weight of the stone floor. This is the Pool family vault, a memorial to Captain Pool is in the Churchyard with information on his exploits, including sailing with Captain Cook. If you haven't seen it it's just to the north of the Porch behind the toilet.

This picture shows the south side of the Nave. You can see the holy water stoup in the top left, it's now been covered to protect it since it has been there since the very early days of the Church, when there was an outside door beside it. You can also clearly see where the pews have been resting against the Nave wall.

In the Sanctuary, the Altar had been standing on a large block of stone and once this was removed the original red and black tiles have been exposed which are still in good condition. You can see them in the picture below. Once all the tiles in the Sanctuary have been exposed then a decision can be taken if they can be left on show or covered with carpet as before.

The work will enlarge the Sanctuary and bring the Altar further forward. The blank area below the oak panelling then exposed will be filled in with a matching



'linen-fold'

pattern of oak work to that above.

As an interim measure the Font has been covered to protect it but the contractor has arranged for it to be removed by a specialist and safely stored until the new floor is in place. The Font was part of the last major refurbishment of the Church undertaken in 1857 and when it returns it will be moved away from the wall a little for it to be easier for the Rector to stand behind and the true beauty of this piece can be fully appreciated.

