

Chris's Reordering Blog – Week 24, 13 to 17 November

My last but one report hinted at the concerns I have had on completing the project in time to reopen at the beginning of Advent, Sunday 3rd December, and the last report gave much stronger signs that this was becoming unlikely. It has now been confirmed that the first Sunday service will be the 8:00am service on Sunday 17th December followed by the Service of Lessons and Carols at 6:30pm on 17th December.

Wrencon have been diligent in trying to keep to their work programme but we knew this was a very tight completion schedule.

Work on The Sanctuary was left until late on in the project since this was the only area that could be used for storing items that could not easily be moved out of the Church, such as the pulpit. We knew that the Victorian tiles in the Sanctuary had to be re-laid but when the tiles were lifted there was unexpectedly, (and inexplicably!), a layer of bricks underneath. To get the levels right the bricks had to be removed and a much thicker layer of screed needed to be laid to reset the tiles to the correct level. In addition, the under-floor heating could not be started until several weeks later than expected. The heating needed to be on as the weather got colder to allow the Sanctuary screed to dry. With the tiler unable to start work in the Sanctuary until 27th November, this has left insufficient time for the work to be completed in time for the 3rd December 'Re-entry Celebration Service'.

As I said last time it is more important to get the project right rather than completed on time. Wrencon have assured us that further delays are unlikely, but completion in time to hold services on the 17th December is dependent on the screed drying sufficiently for the tiles to be laid.



As you can see from this picture the Pulpit has returned and the steps are now on the north side leaving a clear opening under the Chancel arch. There is still some work to be done to clean up the panel which has been against the wall and some of the trim on the steps is missing, but this is easy to solve.

The lectern needs moving as well. The legs of the pulpit were designed to stand on the

wooden floor, which was not level, so there are some shims being put in under them to get the levels right again.

Today, wax is being put on the oak cupboards and the colour of the finished oak looks great! The new furniture is due to be delivered in just over a week.

Chris Young, 20th November 2017