

Chris's Reordering Blog – Week 27, 4-8 December



Here's a picture of most of the Steering Group, Paul's behind the camera, and Richard the Project Architect as well as Steve the Site Supervisor and Craig the Contracts Manager, from Wrencon.

This was last Friday (8th), when it was agreed that there were only a few outstanding items to be addressed and we are now on target for Wrencon to hand the Church back to the PCC on Wednesday next (13th). So, there will be a lot to get done between Thursday and Sunday to get everything back in place for the reopening. The first service will be the 8:00am on Sunday 17th, followed by the Carol Service at 6:30pm.



Here you can see the Victorian tiles back in place in the Sanctuary with the new tiles set in a diagonal pattern. The colour match is quite extraordinary since there is about 160 years between the manufacturing dates. The Steering Group had reservations about the way the Sanctuary would look but all now agree that the effect is quite spectacular.

The Altar was delivered during the week and placed in the South Transept until the plumbers had finished installing the radiators in the Sanctuary. The pew ends look good in their new role and to think that the top is made from the pew seats that were the same colour as the pew ends is difficult to believe. Richard Donkersley is a true craftsman. His renovation work on the pew ends to make new sections to replace the parts that had been cut for the 1930s heating pipes are well crafted.





I wasn't at all sure that the organ console would be back in time for the organ to be in use for the Carol Service but here it is, on the left, being assembled in the South Transept by the organ builders team, and on the right installed under the arch between the South Transept and the Chancel. Once the connections were made it was soon working and Lesley Clark our organist came in to give it a test run. She is now getting to grips with the additional potential provided by the new electronics in the console.

So here we are at the end of a long and sometimes inexorably slow process to reorder our Church. Everybody who has seen the work so far has been very pleased with the result and I hope you will be too. In the coming months we will learn how this changed building can achieve its full potential. To paraphrase a famous quote 'this is not the end, it is not the beginning of the end, but it is the end of the beginning of a new chapter in our Church's long history' – enjoy!

Chris Young, 10th December 2017