

## Chris's Reordering Blog – Week 7 – 17 to 21 July



The whole of the floor in the Nave, North Aisle and the South Transept has now been levelled, the geotech membrane is in position and the net to which the heating pipes will be fixed has been laid throughout, apart from over the 'Pool' vault, which will have a thin layer of screed and the stone surface on top. The architect is still in discussion with Westford Mechanical, the heating engineers,

to agree the final layout of the pipework and as soon as that's been agreed then the under-floor heating pipes can be laid and the lime screed put down, hopefully this will start later this coming week.

This picture shows the work going on to extend the Sanctuary further into the Chancel. Up to now the Sanctuary has been very cramped and it has always been very difficult to administer the elements. In addition the Celebrant will now be able to stand behind the Altar preparing for communion. The curved line of the Altar rail will also make it easier for communicants to receive. The bricks are laid on a concrete base and there will be stone steps, in a curve, on top. There will be under-floor heating in the Chancel, but not in the Sanctuary, instead there will be a radiator on the wall on each side on the same heating circuit as the under-floor heating in this area.



In week 2 I showed a picture of the Victorian black and red tiles that had been exposed when the Altar was moved. The rest of the tiles have been covered with red carpet for many years and this has been left in place to protect them so it's not certain what condition these tiles are in. At the moment this area is being used to store the Pulpit, the Nave doors and other items. If the tiles are in good condition and we can find new or reclaimed tiles that form a good match then we may be able to extend them into the

enlarged Sanctuary area. The Victorian Society was consulted in 2015 when we were seeking our faculty from the Diocese to carry out the work and they have requested that the tiles remain, but that will be a decision to be made further down the line.

Iona and I were walking the Ridgeway a few weeks back, this is an ancient path that links Avebury in Wiltshire to Ivinghoe Beacon near Tring in Hertfordshire. The path goes past St Mary's Church in Wendover, a small town just south of Aylesbury. St Mary's is a Church that has very recently been reordered and we were interested to find that the flooring was Purbeck limestone, the same as we are having, also with under-floor heating. It was good to see that the Victorian red and black tiles in the Chancel, which had also been retained at the request of the Victorian Society, blended surprisingly well with the new floor.



This is a photo of a sample of this flooring that I have here at home. From this it's difficult to see what it really looks like, but it's a light ivory colour with a certain amount of flecking in it that gives it a bit of interest.

There was a lady in the Church who was very enthusiastic about how easy the floor is to keep clean. They also have Treske oak-framed furniture as we will have. An additional aside; she said the children love sitting on the warm floor!

I asked the lady in the Church what problems they had had while the reordering was carried out. She told me that they had found two vaults they didn't

know were there and that they were surprised at how poor the quality of the Victorian building works turned out to be. All spookily similar to our experience.

*Chris Young - 25 July 2017*