

Chris's Reordering Blog – Week 22 & 23, 30 October to 10 November

My last report hinted at the concerns I have had on completing the project in time for our planned first Sunday service on 3 December. Although the contractor is still planning to complete by then it is looking increasingly unlikely that this will be achieved. My view is it is more important to get the project right rather than completed on time and I know the Rector and the Churchwardens agree. However, if the opening date is delayed I am confident the Church will be open again for our Christmas services, but do keep an eye on the 'home' page on this website for more up-to date information.

The decorators have been working over the last two weeks painting the walls and ceiling. The paint being used is an oil-based distemper, a traditional finish that is 'vapour permeable' that allows the walls to 'breathe'. Now this work is nearing completion it is clear that it will take some time to fully dry and the colour is changing as it dries which makes it still look a little patchy, but this will soon change.

These pictures show the font being returned and reassembled.



It's good to have it safely back in place! However, although the pulpit has moved from the Sanctuary to a position under the Chancel arch, it will be a little longer before it actually returns to its place in the Nave. The good news is that the carved panel that has been up against the wall for nearly 80 years seems to be none the worse for this experience and we are now confident that we will be able to





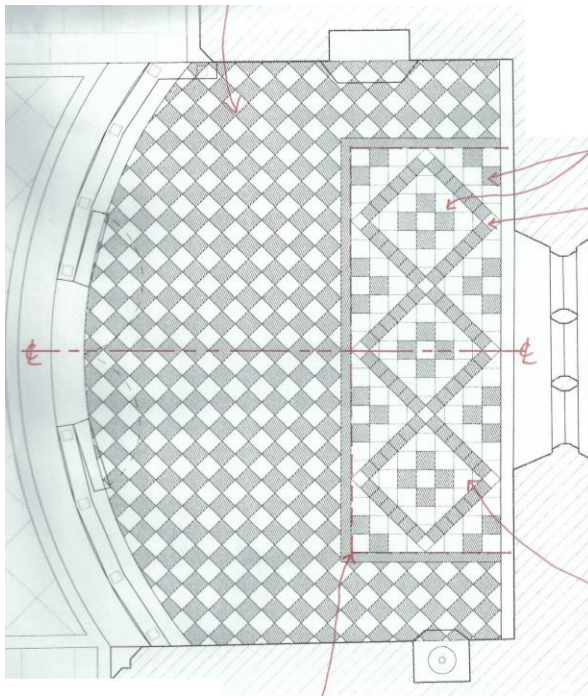
turn it around so that the steps are on the north side and no longer encroaching into the Chancel.

This picture shows the new oak cupboard in place on the west wall of the South Transept, (up against the Bell-tower), and the reason for the memorial being moved that I spoke of last time. There are shelves at a higher level and space to store a trolley with additional chairs at the lower level. As you can see it has not yet been treated and when that is done it will take its place well in this location

To the right of the cupboard you might just make out a thermostat that controls the underfloor heating in the South Transept. There is

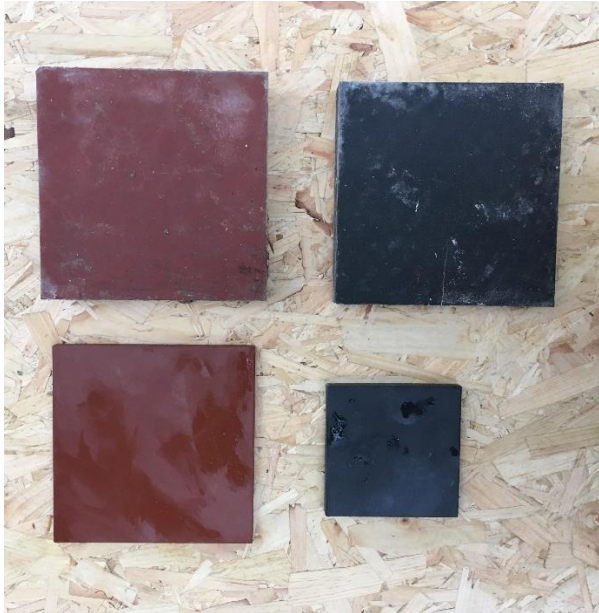
another one at the back of the North Aisle that will control the under-floor heating in this area and the Nave. A couple of days ago the under-floor heating was turned on and the warmth is starting to gently spread throughout the whole of the Church.

Today the radiators were also turned on. These will give additional top up heat when needed and I'll explain a little more on how the heating will work next time.



The picture on the left shows how the tiling in the Sanctuary will look when completed. I explained in a previous progress report that there were difficulties in the Chancel because of sections of the floor not being level and we have had to accept that the Victorian tiles in the Chancel would have to be lifted and re-laid.

Although there are a good number of these original tiles that are in very good condition sadly quite a few were damaged in the lifting process, but there are sufficient good tiles to be laid in the original pattern to the area shown in the plan.



The rest of the Sanctuary will be laid with new tiles which are amazingly similar. In this picture, the top two tiles are the Victorian ones and the ones below are some samples of the modern ones that are to be used, (apologies for the quality of the picture, it was outside and it was raining).

The new ones are much thinner which causes some additional problems, and are slightly different in size but this can be accommodated by laying them on the diagonal in the pattern shown in the plan. There are

enough good tiles to set out an area between the Reredos, that's the oak panel at the window end of the Sanctuary, and the new position of the Altar. In this way we will have a section of the Victorian tiles immediately behind the Altar with the new ones in front and around it. We will then be conforming to the agreement with the Victorian Society, made as part of our faculty permission from the Diocese, to keep as many of the original tiles as was possible, laid to the original pattern.

The problems in relavelling the Chancel and providing a solution to the relaying of the tiles is the main reason that we might not meet our planned completion date. At the moment the screed has been laid for some time, ready to take the tiles, but it has to dry out to an acceptable moisture content before the tiles can be laid and with no heating until very recently, and the colder weather setting in, this is taking longer than hoped.

Chris Young, 14th November 2017