

17.7.20

St Edmund's ceiling repair and redecoration

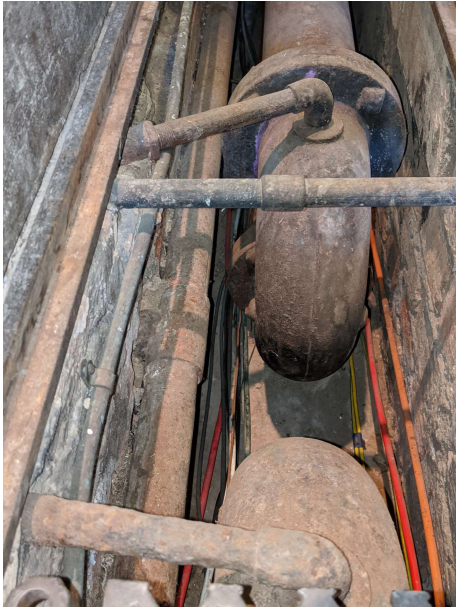
Update 7

This week we achieved Practical Completion of the ceiling contract following a visit by our Architect on Monday who expressed himself satisfied that all the specified work has been carried out to an adequate standard of workmanship. The contractor still has the responsibility to rectify any defects that appear in his work over the next 12 months, but in practical terms we are now back in full possession of our building.

At the beginning of the week Deborah came in to re-paint some of the decorative ironwork on some of our older doors and David Halliwell took over the brush to continue with his mammoth task of painting the north fence of the churchyard.

We have continued with various investigations, further cleaning and with returning our furniture and contents back to their usual positions. The major job achieved this week was to very thoroughly clean out around the heating pipes in the ducts under the floor gratings. Richard Flatman and I worked for the best part of three days on this to get into every corner of the ducts using a hired industrial vacuum cleaner combined with hand brushing. We removed five big sacks of debris and retrieved numerous pens and pencils, a lost brooch and about fifteen pounds, mainly in superseded coinage, some of it pre-decimal. Clearly we got into some long-forgotten corners!





Jill has continued to work on the choir vestry sink and cupboard, breaking out the rotten wood at the back of the cupboard and the water-damaged plaster on the wall behind and then reconstructing it all in stages ready to receive the new waste pipe. Already the musty smell has gone and the adjacent cupboards are steadily drying out.

Our new 'smart' gas meters were installed in the church and hall as planned, a job that took the fitter rather longer than expected. It seems the smart meters are larger than our old ordinary meters and so they did not fit easily into the existing housings. The brick meter shelter in the churchyard will need an additional course of bricks sometime so that the concrete slab roof can be re-set at a slightly higher level. We also called in our own heating engineers to service a leaking stopcock and advise us about some of the smaller pipes on our system which (after around 150 years of service) are somewhat corroded. We don't expect to have to do any work on this immediately. The main large pipes remain in good condition and, now relieved of their insulating jackets of accumulated dust thanks to Richard's efforts should work more efficiently when the cold weather returns in the autumn.

Steve and Jane returned the items they have been cleaning at home and you will soon see the results of their magnificent work on the crucifix, yew tree certificate and the Advent candle stand.

We finished the week with a good session of furniture polishing and vacuuming of hassocks and cushions. Thanks to Pam Highman and to Mary and David Bennett and for their efforts on this today and also to David for assisting with re-erecting the wall hanging in the north aisle. In the afternoon we started the high and low level cleaning of the tower area and of the porch, and we will continue vacuuming and polishing over the weekend and beyond as we gradually return our interior to normality.

Geoff, 17.7.20