

St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond

## ***REFURBISHMENT UPDATE***

*November 2018*

**Thank you** for bearing with us as we carry out our refurbishment works. We know it is cramped in the South Aisle – especially noticeable for Alan’s farewell service - but we hope that you’ve taken the time to admire our new Purbeck stone floor – which is now warm! Here is a brief update to take us through to Christmas.

**Paving of the Nave** is in progress and it will be complete in mid-November. The temporary screens will need to be removed to allow paving around the columns – this will mean a little more disruption until we’re ready to open the whole church. This will be



followed later in the month by the removal of the Chancel scaffolding, and the installation of temporary lighting in the aisles and high-level lighting in the Nave. The sound system and permanent lighting will follow in early 2019.

**The bench pews** will be delivered on 29 November, and a further delivery of chairs in early December.

**Delivery and installation of the catering facilities** will start at the beginning of December as will the joinery for the back of church – welcome tables are currently being made at the workshop in Hereford.



**The font** will be installed in its permanent new home at the west end of the Nave after the scaffolding has been removed.

So, in summary, much of the work will be completed in time for us to use the Nave for services on Advent Sunday 2 December, though with building work continuing in the North Aisle through to 21 December.

**Christmas** has the prospect of looking festive! We'll have the whole church back, with the main areas heated, and with bench pews and chairs. The catering facilities will be operational, as will be the first toilet (the 'accessible' one has to await the fitting of the automatic doors). The chandeliers will be back temporarily in the Nave and will be dimmed to candlelight brightness for our evening services and used alongside candles in the window recesses. We look forward to worshipping, celebrating the birth of Christ and welcoming members of the community into our wonderful new building!



**Phase 3** will commence in 2019, once the necessary approvals have been received. In addition, with recent generous financial support, we'll be able to design and commission new altar and other liturgical furniture – there will be more consultation to follow on this important centre piece of our church. Until our new altar table is with us, we'll continue to use the current oak and steel altar.