

ST COLUMBA'S BUILDING NEWS



January 2023

Just before the Christmas break, we made the decision to move the Church Office from its current home at Henry Fry to St Columba's as soon as possible.

After returning in the New Year, we got the ball rolling. The timetable was set mostly due to Vodaphone's availability to connect the premises with a super-duper fibre-optic phone/internet line, which will be mid-February.

The removal man and his team are now booked for Monday 13th February, so work is now continuing apace to have one room ready for our temporary office and hopefully a slightly larger room ready to be used for smaller meetings before too long.



Our temporary office

The office room, which is the one half-way up the stairs, has now been completely stripped out and replastered (see photos above). Once this has completely dried, it will be painted with the special paint for new plaster, then the lights and a new carpet will be fitted. We're holding fire on choosing a colour for the walls until we know what this room will become once it isn't our temporary office.

If you are around in the daytime during the week commencing Monday 6th February and would like to come and help us pack up at Henry Fry, please get in touch with Faith. We have LOTS of books - this is just one side!



Other work in progress

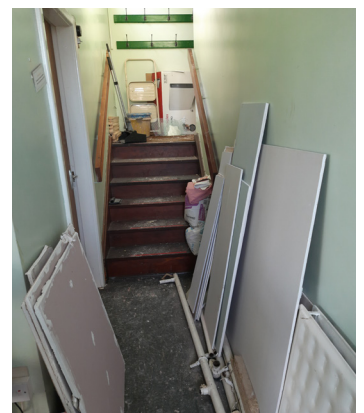
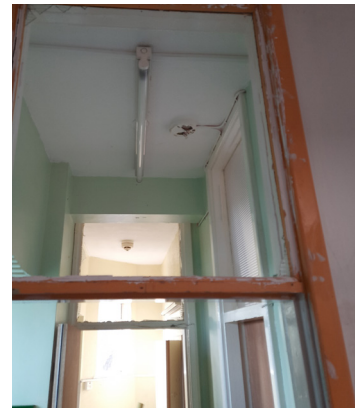
James and Andrew are currently working on St Columba's two days every week. Here are some of the things they've been getting up to recently:



The old toilet in the disabled toilet has been removed. The room will be painted, new flooring laid and then a new toilet plumbed in.

This will be our one and only loo during renovations!

The window lights (little windows at the top of the doorways) upstairs have been removed, as some had been covered by plasterboard. These will be replaced once this area has been repainted.



It all got a bit messy!

There have also been little jobs, like replacing the exterior drain pipe from the upstairs sink, which had completely disappeared...

Buried Treasure?

Last week, one of our team of building specialists dug some test pits in the main hall for us, to help us decide whether we can dig down, rather than level up the floor in there. Once he had pulled up some of the floorboards he found three Pepsi cans from 1964! We were able to date them because the offer for a natty record carrying bag expired in 1965. Thankfully the cans were empty, so no one was tempted to open and drink them! He said he'd seen a film where buried treasure was located under a church, so was a little disappointed that our "treasure" wasn't as valuable as the trove Tom Hanks found!



What's Next?

The next jobs are to refurbish one of the other upstairs rooms (the one with the chessboard-style carpet tiles) and the "vestry" downstairs, so that we can then start to use them for smaller meetings and one-to-ones. We'll be painting and decorating these rooms in the near future - keep an eye out for more information on when (or request to join the St Columba's DIY WhatsApp group).



We are currently waiting for the heating specialists, builders and electricians to spec and quote for work that needs undertaking. This includes restyling the current toilet configuration, refurbishing the smaller hall at the rear (including the serving hatch) and the main hall floor.

Our communications plan is to publish updates on a monthly basis via Jubilee News - the next edition will be during the last week of February.

If you would like to be more involved in any aspect of our refurbishment of St Columba's, please get in touch with Faith Miller in the church office on office@jubileechurchcoventry.org