

Footprint Newsletter, December 2020

As we draw nearer to Christmas and the end of a challenging year, all of us here at Bath Abbey would like to wish you **comfort and joy** for the festive season.

We are always so grateful for your support, but especially during the challenges we have all experienced this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

We truly hope that you and your loved ones have a wonderful Christmas



In this issue of the Footprint Newsletter, we're delighted to let you know that great progress has been made in all areas of the Footprint Project. Our specialist teams continue to work diligently and sensitively, always being compliant with COVID-safety guidance. We're hugely impressed by all that the Footprint specialist teams have achieved this year, and we hope that you are too!

None of this remarkable progress would have been possible without your support, so **thank you once again** for your encouragement and your dedication to the inspirational future of Bath Abbey that is being created through Footprint.

Footprint Focus

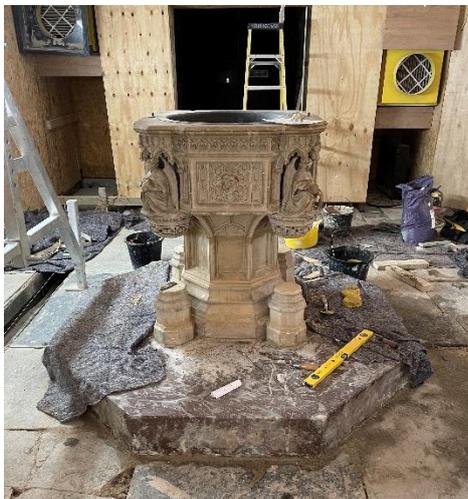
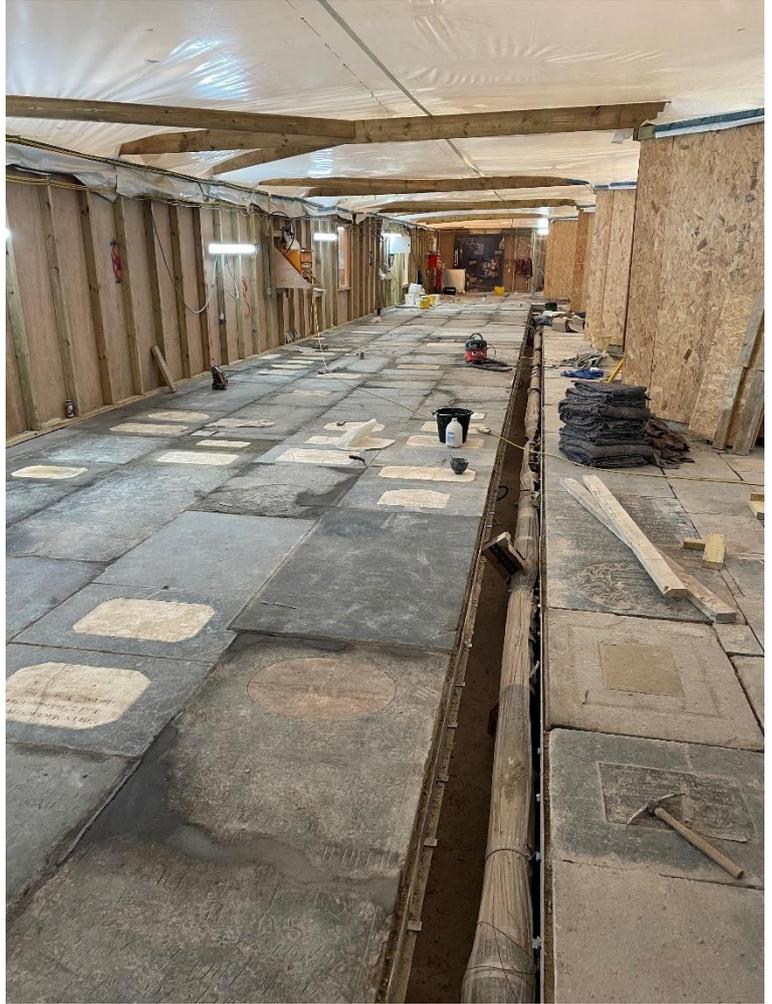
The Abbey Floor: Restoring and Re-Laying the Historic Ledgerstones

The intricate work of re-laying the Abbey's historic ledgerstones continues throughout the South Aisle and will be completed before Christmas.

We're delighted that the South section of the Nave floor is now fully laid, pointed and cleaned (as shown in the image to the right)

After an 8-week delay to resolve urgent and unexpected structural issues with the Lady Waller Tomb, work in the South Transept will resume after Christmas, where the remaining electrical work and radiator installation will be completed, prior to the re-laying of the ledgerstones.

The Abbey Font, located by the South West Door, is being sensitively reconstructed and is shown in the image, below



Hoarding Boards Come Down: A Clear Abbey Floor from February

We are planning to remove Footprint's interpretive hoarding boards (shown right) from inside the Abbey in early February, and we aim to have a clear floor throughout the Abbey later that same month.

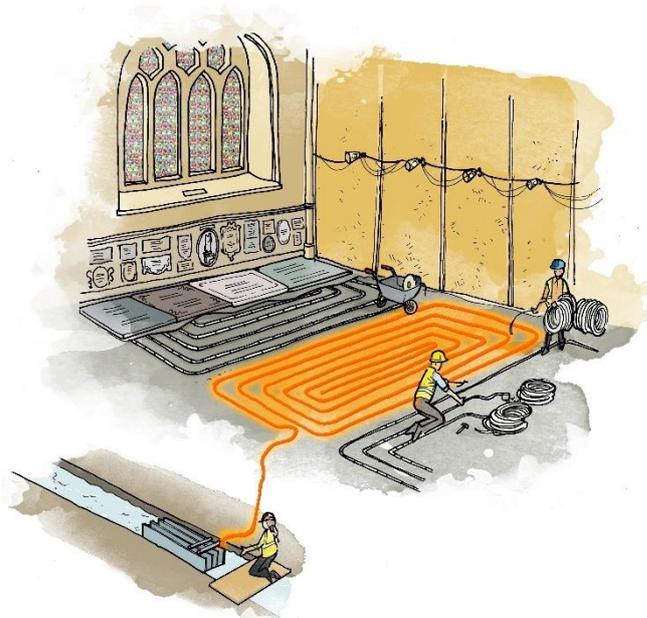
The Abbey Shop and Visitor Reception will remain in place, with some adaptation work to allow us to remove the hoarding boards with minimal disruption whilst still allowing our Visitor Operations to continue.



A New Eco-Friendly Heating System for the Abbey

The innovative underfloor heating pipework has now been fully laid, representing an exciting key milestone in the Footprint Project and marking the completion of the internal heating installation work. We are due to begin the commissioning of the heating system in January.

Whilst the new underfloor heating pipes have now been fitted, the Abbey's new heating system, which utilises the spring waters from the Great Roman Drain, will not be fully active until Spring 2021. We are working with Bath & North East Somerset Council on the details of the access and installation of this visionary new system and aim to begin installation in January.



The new trench radiators which sit beneath the original cast-iron grates will be the first element of the new heating system to be commissioned, providing space heating throughout the Abbey from February.

The Abbey Vaults: New Learning Space

The Abbey's Vaults, which house the new Learning Space, are being prepared for installation of the new stone flooring. These historic vaults – shown in the image, below - have been fully opened up and the stonework arches cleaned. There are two large windows being installed to enclose the vaults whilst maintaining good natural light into these basement levels.



The Abbey's Jackson Extension: Discovery Centre and Abbey Shop

The new steel mezzanine structure, which forms the floor of the new Abbey Shop, has now been fully installed in the Abbey's Jackson Extension.

The installation of this mezzanine structure provides level access between the Abbey and the shop, which includes a lift to the basement vaults facilities. This new floor has allowed us to divide the Jackson Extension over two levels - the Abbey Shop at street level, and the new Discovery Centre at basement level. Fitting out of the new Abbey Shop and Discovery Centre is due to begin in the Spring.

Kingston Buildings: The New Song School and Abbey Offices

Work in the Song School is ongoing and we are progressing well with fitting out these exciting new spaces ready for occupation by the Abbey Choir, Music Department and visiting musicians.

Installation of the oak wall-panelling and flooring is now being completed throughout the Choir Practice Rooms in the new Song School (shown in the image, below)





The image, left, shows the corridor in the new Song School, looking east. As seen in the image, the masonry repairs are now complete and rooflights are now installed, allowing a good supply of natural light. The floor structure is in place, ready to receive the beautiful new oak flooring

In other exciting updates for Kingston Buildings, the new offices are largely completed. There have been some delays due to complications over the commissioning of the heating system, but we hope to resolve these to allow occupation of the building in early 2021.

Kingston Parade

The damp-proofing works to the paving of Kingston Parade are almost finished. The reinstatement of the stone paving is due to be completed in early 2021, re-opening the pedestrian route between Kingston Parade and Orange Grove.

The image, right, shows the paving in front of Kingston Parade, which has been re-laid to include new pavement lights through to the Song School corridor below (seen on left of image)

Other Footprint News

New Lighting Throughout the Abbey

- New lighting has now been installed throughout the Abbey, including some installation of data and AV cables. Once the interpretive hoarding boards are removed, we will be able to complete this work and commission the new AV Turret at the West End of the Abbey's Nave.

Corporation Stalls

- The final design for the adaptation of the Corporation Stalls is still to be confirmed and we are in discussions with the Diocesan Advisory Committee. It is our intention to increase accessibility, whilst also minimising interventions to these historic stalls.



The Footprint Vision for Our Community

The Footprint vision has become even more necessary in these challenging times we are all facing.

Bath Abbey – reimagined through Footprint – will embrace everyone within the inspirational Abbey Family, be they local, national or international, extending a warm welcome to all and an invitation to engage with exciting education opportunities and accessible learning spaces, encounters with dynamic interpretations of the Abbey’s rich heritage, stimulating opportunities to volunteer, and a commitment to environmental innovation and stewardship – all taking place within a vibrant hub for Christian worship and mission.

Footprint is transforming Bath Abbey, and a transformed Bath Abbey is vital for the renewed future of our community

Thank you for your support of this visionary project

Supporting Footprint

In these challenging times, we must continue fundraising to make sure we deliver the ambitious Footprint vision and develop all the wonderful opportunities Footprint can bring to our community.

If you are able to consider supporting Footprint with a monetary gift, we would deeply appreciate your generosity. All donations will be acknowledged by personal letter and, if you so wish, your name will be added to the Benefactors’ Book which will be displayed in the new Discovery Centre.

The Brownsword Charitable Foundation is matching donations up to a total of £17,500, which is the amount remaining in the £500,000 match-fund, so any gift you make will be doubled and have twice the impact on Footprint.

For a confidential discussion about supporting Footprint, get in touch with Cath Foxwell, our Development Manager, using cfoxwell@bathabbey.org. Alternatively, you can donate securely through the Bath Abbey website via this link: www.bathabbey.org/donations/footprint/



Photo Credit: Daz Smith

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