

Great Gransden Church Bell Ringers (GGCBR)

TOWER CLEANING

The tower should be cleaned throughout at least every two years to prevent excessive accumulation of dust, leaves and twigs. The tower is bird proof but inevitably debris is blown in and could become a problem if allowed to build up in areas which are difficult to access.

SAFETY WARNING

All the bells must be in the down position.

Great care should be exercised in ensuring a firm footing in all areas of the tower. There are some loose and insecure timbers on the floor of the old bell frame.

Use of overalls, gloves and dust mask is advisable.

If working alone always tell someone where you are. Keep a mobile telephone with you in case of emergency.

OLD BELFRY

Shutter doors and top of old bell frame. **1.75 hours**

Sweep both sides of shutter doors

Sweep and vacuum the boarding on top of the old bell frame

Sweep the ladder (access to roof), and board used for foot of ladder when in use.

Safety Warning - ensure loose laid boarding is in place before commencing work.

Old Bell Frame. **2.25 hours**

Sweep the frame and floors.

Extricate all twigs and pushed through the bird wire by the jackdaws debris at the base of the louvres

Vacuum the frame and floors

Safety Warning - care when accessing bell pit to No3 bell, and make sure footing when clambering from one pit to another.

BELFRY 2.75 hours

Sweep the bell frame from top to bottom.

(When necessary, wipe bearings with rag and white spirit to remove any traces of oil and dust. Use same rag to wipe painted parts of the bell frame).

Vacuum the bell frame where necessary and the belfry floor taking care not to tread on, trip on, or damage the clock wires.

Safety Warning - use of ear defenders advisable when the clock chimes.

CLOCK ROOM 1.5hrs

Sweep or vacuum the clock gantry. Remove artefacts and vacuum the windowsills. Wipe artefacts and replace. Vacuum the floor ensuring all items moved for cleaning and replaced. Dust surfaces as applicable. Thoroughly vacuum the floor.

Safety Warning - care when using vacuum on the clock gantry - danger of falling from height. Care when cleaning under and around the chiming apparatus when it is in operation (3, 6, 9 and 12 o'clock) - moving parts could cause injury.

TURRET STAIRS 15min

Vacuum from top to bottom. It is recommended not to sweep due to excessive levels of dust.

Safety Warning - care when handling the vacuum working down the stairs backwards!

RINGING ROOM 15min

Vacuum carpet, dust surfaces, remove cobwebs from ceiling joists.

Ringling Room - High level / Walls 1.5 hrs

Safety Warning - ladder required. For safety reasons, two people should carry out this cleaning.

Brush and vacuum ledges. Remove cobwebs from ceiling. As required remove and clean light shades. Remove all pictures and frames, dust and sweep behind.

All Areas

Inspect condition of louvres, bird wire, clock and bells installations.

Record cleaning in tower log book and advise churchwarden(s).

Cleaning Equipment

The Henry hoover is the main piece of cleaning equipment and should be kept in good condition.

After use:

Change the waste bag if necessary and dispose of safely.

Wipe down the cleaner and vacuum hose accessories with a damp cloth, inspecting them for any damage.

Store Henry in the clock room under the gantry and cover with plastic bag.

Note: Henry belongs to the ringers but is part of the church's periodic electrical test schedule.