

St George's Church, Great Bromley

The Ringers' Project (2020–2021)

May 2021 update on the project to improve St George's tower and bell chamber: The Ringers' Project.

Good news! We have raised all the money needed to finish the project.

The work to the stone steps has been carried out in Spring 2021 so:



Completed items as at May 2021:

- emergency lighting for the stairs and ringing chamber
- new leaded windows in the ringing chamber
- electrical upgrade to allow electric heating
- repairs to stone steps on the tower stairs

Items awaiting work in Summer 2021:

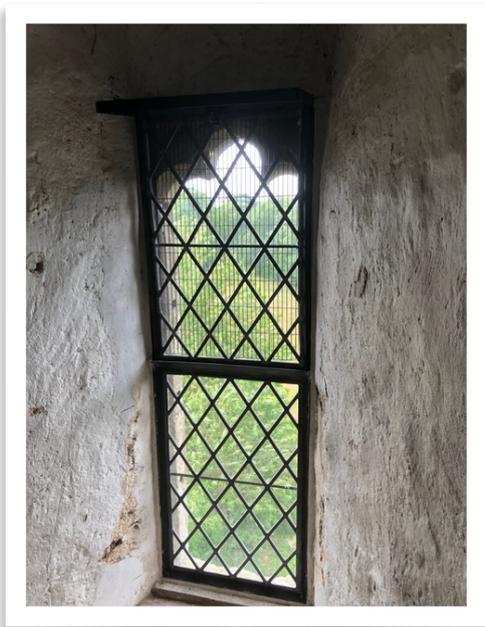
- painting the steel bell frame
- replacing the acoustic flooring in the bell chamber

Many thanks to GCG Environment Trust, who generously funded the work to replace the windows and to repair the stone steps (completed May 2021). Now with the generous donations from the bellringers, the Stone Family USA (Society for the Preservation of Ancient Churches) and recent memorial donations, we can complete the whole project.

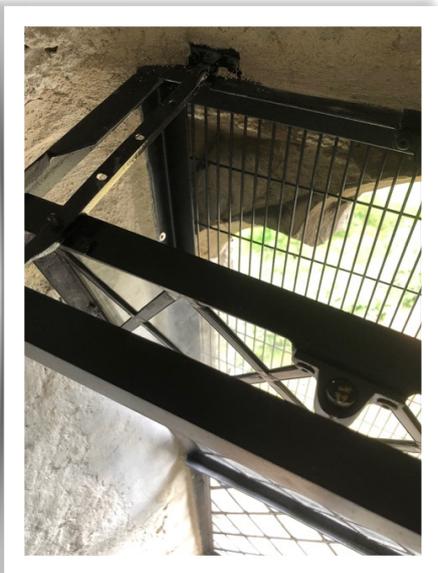
Our ringers are usually out of sight but they are not out of mind! We look forward to completing the refurbishment of the ringing chamber, the bell chamber, and the tower steps, to mark our appreciation of our bellringers.



Two of the three new windows in the ringing chamber



One of the new casements



Close-up of the new opening mechanism, showing a range of positions to ventilate the chamber.



The tower stairs are over five hundred years old. Twelve of the steps were very worn and needed to be cut out by skilled stonemasons and replaced with new stone. We now have the funds thanks to GCG Environment Trust and work was completed in Spring 2021.



... and here are two of the refurbished steps which the ringers will soon be using!

Part 2 : Bell frame and floor

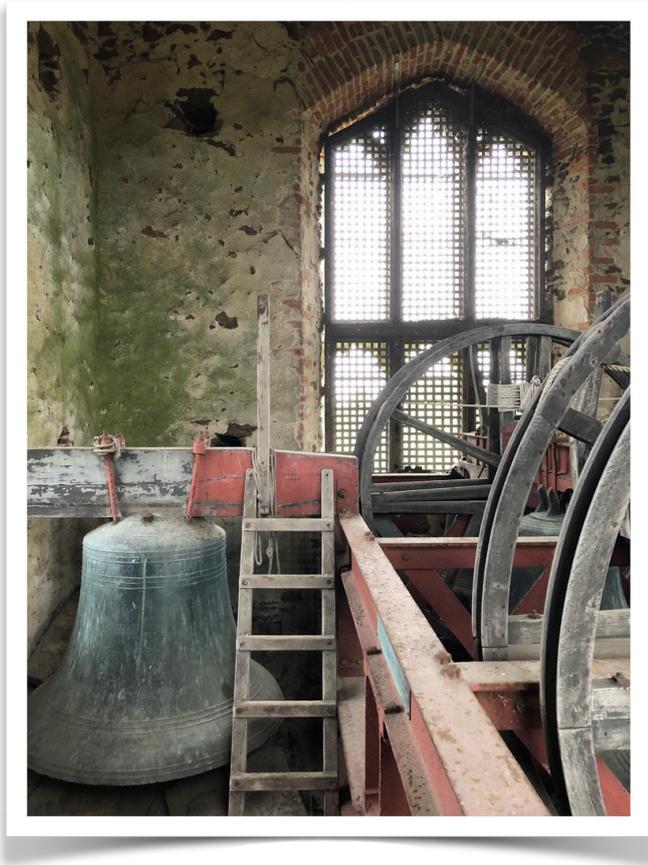
The bell frame (installed in the 1930s) is starting to rust. The insulated floor beneath it is worn and no longer fit for purpose. As at May 2021 we are ready to go ahead and are awaiting the necessary permission from the Archdeacon.



The floor of the bell chamber



The bell frame from the 1930s



The bell frame and on the left is the old, cracked tenor bell, now used only for tolling

We hope to be posting photographs of the finished work to the tower and bell chamber very soon! Thanks to all those who have contributed to make this essential work possible. We hope our ringers will be comfortable and safe at St George's for years to come.

PCC Secretary
May 2021