



Bristol Rural Branch

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# Maintaining the Almondsbury Spire

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## Just Another Saturday Morning

You may have looked up to see that all was well with the clock, on your journey back from the shop, but instead noticed that all was not well with the spire. There was a man up there, on a long rope, what was he doing? The clock was showing more or less the right time so it couldn't be that. Maybe the spire was being repaired or the twist in it was getting worse and he was



Climbing the spire



Almost there!

trying to fix it. No, it wasn't that. He had something in his hand and a large bucket between his legs, what could he be doing? Maybe the spire was going to be painted. No, it wasn't that. Slowly, he lowered himself down below the gutter at the base of the spire and started painting it.

The Architect had told us that the wet weather gear at the base of the spire had to be checked, refurbished & painted and these 2 steeplejacks had driven down from London to do just that. More preparatory work followed in the afternoon and the first coat of paint was to be applied the next day. Weather permitting. Weather got in the way on the 3rd and although the prep work had been done, the 1st coat applied the following day, a 2nd coat applied the day after that, no more work could be done until Saturday.

Saturday came & although the weather looked menacing, Jake & Mark arrived bright & early ready to finish the job. The final gloss top coat needed to be applied and the 10 ladders that were fitted to the tower to be taken down, the spire leadwork plumbed and the rubble stonework made good. This was

done and by 1.30pm they were on their way home for some time off with their children and onto the next job in Cambridge on Monday.



Mark in his safety regalia



Painting the gloss coat