

## Use of Hazardous Substances in Church

Where possible, the use of hazardous substances has been eliminated.

The following hazardous substances are in use within the church complex:

- Cleaning materials in the tea point area and toilet
- Food hygiene materials (surface cleaner) in the tea point area
- Dishwasher tablets

All of the substances used in cleaning are openly sold in supermarkets. The materials that are in use have been reviewed and manufacturer's instructions are followed as outlined on the packaging product information.

These substances are kept out of sight in a cupboard in the North Transept or in the tea point area. Minimum quantities are stored. The toilet cleaner (with a child-proof cap) is stored on a shelf in the toilet.

If a cleaner has a sensitivity or allergy to products used it is advised they wear their own gloves when working and use separate cleaning materials for different rooms (e.g. there are separate materials for the toilets) to reduce the chances of bacterial transfer.

The above materials are of low hazard level (with bleach requiring more care than other materials) and require only the use of gloves as protective clothing and their potential for personal harm by accident can be ameliorated by using copious amounts of water on the affected area. Skin sensitivity or irritation to the eyes can be caused by any products in use displaying the Hazard symbol (black exclamation mark inside red diamond). If this occurs instructions on the product should be followed. An accident form should be completed for any reactions requiring medical assessment and/or treatment.

Products are chosen with the environment in mind (eg ecover products).

Products for cleaning the toilet are chosen with the septic tank in mind.

All chemicals required for the churchyard are provided by and used by the contracted groundsman.

*Reviewed Sept 2026*

### Bird droppings

Scraping up dried bird droppings can cause harmful particles to be spread into the air and in quantity these particles when inhaled can lead to respiratory diseases.

It is therefore recommended that:

All cleaners wear gloves and masks when clearing up any mess.

The bird droppings should not be scraped up dry but sprayed with a disinfecting solution until the droppings are softened and of the consistency of wet cement.

The softened bird droppings should then be wiped up with paper towel and disposed of in the ordinary household waste.

Gloves and masks should then be binned, and hands washed before eating.

*Nov 2020 reviewed Sept 2026*