



**PROTECT YOUR  
CHURCH  
FROM METAL  
THEFT**

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**Congregational**

Protecting the things you value since 1891

# SAFEGUARD YOUR CHURCH

To help protect your church, refer to the following checklist to assess and improve your security measures.



Check your church premises and identify the location of materials that may be attractive to thieves. If you are unsure speak to an architect, quantity surveyor or other professional for advice on this. Examples of items desirable to thieves include lead, copper and stainless steel roof coverings, copper lightning conductors, lead and copper water pipes, metal statues, iron gates and church bells.



Have the church roof regularly checked to make sure that it is intact. Unnoticed theft of lead from the roof can lead to extensive water damage at a later date.



Engage with the local community; consider using flyers and newsletters. Make sure church neighbours know of any authorised work at the church. They will be in a better position to report any suspicious behaviour or the presence of unauthorised workmen to you or the police.



Restrict vehicular access to the church.



Restrict access to the roof by removing items such as waste bins, water butts and tall trees located near the building. Make sure ladders are kept in a locked building when left unattended and be especially careful when building works are being undertaken. You should contact your insurance providers if any such work is being undertaken as this may have an affect on your cover.



Make sure that items such as wheelbarrows or wheelie bins are locked away at night as these items may be used to transport materials away from the church.

# FROM METAL THEFT



Review church security - e.g. lock gates and consider removal of large or overgrown bushes which may obscure the view of neighbours.



Secure areas of the roof which are easily accessible and consult a crime prevention officer for advice.



Consider planting defensive shrubs or bushes, such as the Common Gorse or Sea Buckthorn. Visit [www.spow.co.uk](http://www.spow.co.uk), and select the 'Securing the grounds' page in the 'Prevention and security section' for more planting suggestions.



Consider using anti climb paint on drain pipes and on the metal itself in situ. In each case suitable warning notices should be posted. Always follow health and safety regulations when applying any paint substances. Visit [www.spow.co.uk](http://www.spow.co.uk), and select the 'Securing the grounds' page in the 'Prevention and security section' for detail on suppliers of this paint.



Ensure all outside lighting is in good working order and consider installing security lighting, particularly at roof level. "Dusk till Dawn" security lighting is more cost effective than motion sensors as they give an even spread of light and avoid dark areas. Also, white light is better than yellow as this distorts colour.



Consider installing an alarm system. Alarm systems should be installed and maintained by an NSI or SSAIB approved company. To find details of approved installers visit [www.spow.co.uk](http://www.spow.co.uk) and navigate to 'Deterring intruders' in the 'Prevention and security' section of the site.



Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) can be installed as a deterrent. This may be an expensive option and would require a commitment to monitor.

# IN THE EVENT OF A THEFT



Immediately report the incident to the police and obtain a crime reference number.



Ensure temporary repairs are undertaken to prevent further damage such as that caused by water or unauthorised access to the buildings.



Contact Congregational on 01274 700 700 or your insurance intermediary to register your claim.



You may also be required to report the incident to your church's central body.



Where appropriate consider replacing stolen materials with suitable alternatives which may be less attractive to thieves and will help deter a further incident.



Urgently review your security, as statistics show that thieves often return very quickly. There is a 1 in 3 chance of being targeted again.



Advise the local community of the theft and encourage anyone with information to call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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