

# Safer places of Worship

## Inner Secure Areas

The public area of any place of worship should be limited, so that one "official" is able to observe all visitors.

Areas containing valuables or safes should be kept locked, even when the building is in use. It is important that security is sufficient to deny access to people who are prepared to force internal doors or climb over partitions.

This creation of internal secure areas provides the opportunity to store items of medium value such as kettles, heaters and vacuum cleaners. Robes and vestments may also be kept there but additional security within these areas is likely to be necessary for the keeping of other valuables such as current parish registers, brassware and other items of value. Sometimes it is possible to alarm these inner areas at little cost.

If an interior door is not substantial it is better to ensure that NO item of value is kept inside the room. If the door remains unlocked it should prevent the inconvenience and expense of repair if forced by a criminal. A notice marked 'PRIVATE' will serve to keep out most casual visitors, but be warned that this could attract walk-in thieves.