

National Churchwatch

Security Advice for Churches

Always

Tell someone where you are and when to expect you back

Tell that person if you change your plans

Agree what to do if you do not appear when you are expected

Have some means of calling for help from the church.
I.e Phone, mobile, panic button

Look at potential problems in the your church, carry out a risk assessment

Ask for help if you need it when carrying out a risk assessment

Always put your Personal Safety and that of other Churchworkers first

- Look at your church as a criminal would. What could you easily steal? Is it easy to get it out of the church? Can you drive a vehicle right up to the church?
- Are there any obvious points of entry? Could you funnel any intruders towards an alarmed area?
- If you have a particularly valuable item, are they listed by any outside agencies, i.e. V&A, NADFAS, guide books
- Have you spoken to your neighbours and asked them to ring the police if anything suspicious happens? Reassure them you will not mind if it is a false alarm.
- Is there anything in your church that would be a significant loss to your church if it was stolen? If so, how are you protecting it?
- Have you carried out a general risk assessment in relation to both churchworkers and volunteers, and building security?
- Put security as a fixed item in your church's budget. Every church needs extra security and to increase it over a few years will ensure that when the time comes for you to suffer from crime you will have done everything practical to limit the offence.

Never

Give money to people, no matter how genuine there story is. Be practical in your help

Get into an argument over any subject when on your own in a church.

Disturb the scene of a crime if you find one.

Forget, or not bother to report a crime to the police, no matter how trivial it may seem

Enter the church if you have any suspicion that there may be someone inside committing a crime.
Call the police!

Get security advice from a security company you do not know. Contact Nick Tolson for advice first