

Combating metal theft with the new roof security alarm

Case Study: Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

Villages are not immune

St. Giles Church has stood for centuries at the centre of the pleasant village of Cropwell Bishop: a Nottinghamshire village whose claim to fame is its eponymous Stilton cheese. In 2010, the church community was rocked by a series of lead thefts that continued into 2011, causing a great deal of stress and work for the Churchwardens in particular. Instead of being able to focus on the church's core work, the PCC was constantly diverted to concentrate on maintenance and repair on the roofing. The ongoing problem was costly too. Although the cost of each individual incident of theft was within the annual claim limit set by Ecclesiastical, the cumulative effect was that, for two consecutive years, the church had to contribute towards the repairs.

They couldn't afford *not* to install an alarm

St. Giles was obviously vulnerable and the PCC realised that they couldn't risk having to pay for a larger-scale theft. They decided to install an alarm system, not least because this would mean they would benefit from increased metal theft cover once the alarm was installed.

The PCC were impressed by the alarm company staff, who modified and added to the initial plan for sensors following a couple of incidents that occurred between ordering and installing the alarm system. The rain was incessant during the day of the installation, but the staff worked hard all day to complete the work.

Within a few weeks the alarm proved its worth. Two men had managed to get up onto the roof and had started to try to prise up some lead, but at the sound of the alarm they fled the scene. A neighbour of a church member saw them and the police were called.

St. Giles was saved by the alarm, suffering inconsequential damage rather than any significant theft that would have



exposed the church to more costs and further potential damage. Now the congregation and the PCC are free to focus efforts more productively on the mission of the church.

For more information about the new electronic roof security system, or to arrange a free,* no-obligation site survey, please call **0845 600 9659**. You can also download an alarm fact sheet at www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters.

For expert advice tailored to your church, please contact your local Insurance Consultant and Surveyor (IC&S) who will be pleased to help. You can also speak to our customer services team on **0845 777 3322**.

*UK mainland only – travel expenses may be applicable offshore.

Pictures: (Top) St. Giles. (Bottom and right) A typical alarm installation: Alarm sander and blue strobe in church tower, and infrared motion detector.



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