

Combating metal theft with the new roof security alarm

Case Study: Diocese of Bradford

Roof security alarm, a sound investment

St. Andrew's Church in Keighley had a terrible ongoing problem with lead thieves. Over a period of three years they had half a dozen instances of lead being ripped from the roof, causing water damage and expense.

Reverend Peter Mott told us: *"They started over the vestry and worked their way along and up the church roof. The problem was so bad that we replaced the areas of stolen lead with reinforced felt, thinking this would put the thieves off. But they ripped that up as well thinking it was the real thing!"*

Costs going through the roof

It became a financial problem as well as a structural one. Not only did the church have to pay the excess on their insurance each time, but because the thefts were so frequent they exceeded the amount they were allowed to claim in a given year. This left them several thousands of pounds out of pocket.

As their insurer, we realised that this was a situation where we could be of some assistance. We asked Reverend Peter if he would consider being part of an initial trial set up by Ecclesiastical that was looking at the effectiveness of roof alarms. The Reverend jumped at the chance.

An effective deterrent

The system was designed to provide comprehensive protection for the roof, and is linked to a strobe light in the tower and a 'voice' alarm to deter the metal thieves.

"Since we had the roof alarm installed we have had no further thefts of lead from our roof, so it has proved a really worthwhile investment," said Reverend Peter. *"It is easy to operate, the support service is excellent and it lets me sleep soundly at night, without worrying. I would say that I am a very satisfied customer."*



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. Andrew's Church, Keighley. (Bottom left and right) A typical alarm installation: Alarm sander and blue strobe in church tower, and infrared motion detector.



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