

# Case Study: St Bartholomew, Colne

## The Circumstances

Due to the high value of scrap metal, churches remain under constant threat of lead or copper being stolen from the exterior of the building. Ecclesiastical over the years have seen a shift from these attacks being undertaken by lone, opportunistic individuals to more organised gangs. These gangs are more prepared and, if successful, often remove large amounts of lead as well as causing substantial damage in the process.

E-Bound and Ecclesiastical are continually working with churches to try and reduce the risk of these attacks from occurring,

A potential very positive solution to this is being adopted by many churches in the UK, is to install a roof alarm system.

Below is the story of St Bartholomew in Colne, which highlights how a roof alarm system can reduce the risk of these type of incidents from occurring. The Church installed a monitored approved roof alarm from E-Bound AVX Ltd.

## The Story

On the morning of the 6th May, the alarm monitoring centre (ARC) received alerts indicating that there was movement on the roof of the church.

The ARC immediately alerted the previously agreed contact points at the church to warn them of the potential attack.

In the meantime, a neighbour who called the police, resulting in the thieves being arrested on site with tools in hand, heard the sounding of the alarm. Whilst the intruders had lifted some of the lead flashing in areas, they were unsuccessful in actually removing any lead from the church building.

On the morning of the 12th May, the church unfortunately suffered a further attack. It is unclear if these were the same intruders as the previous incident.

Again, the E-Bound alarm activated with the intruders being deterred and fled. No damage was caused to the Church.



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On the morning of the 15th May, the church suffered a third attack. Similar to the two previous attacks, alerts were received by the ARC and the church were made aware. The alarm activated again resulting in the intruders fleeing site.

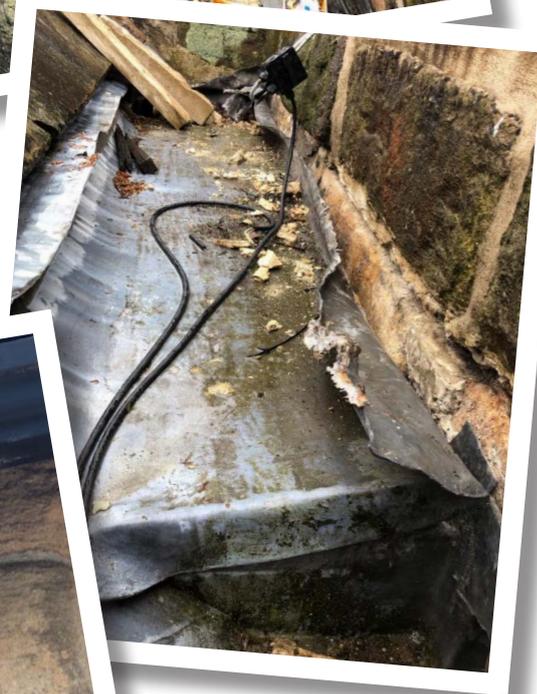
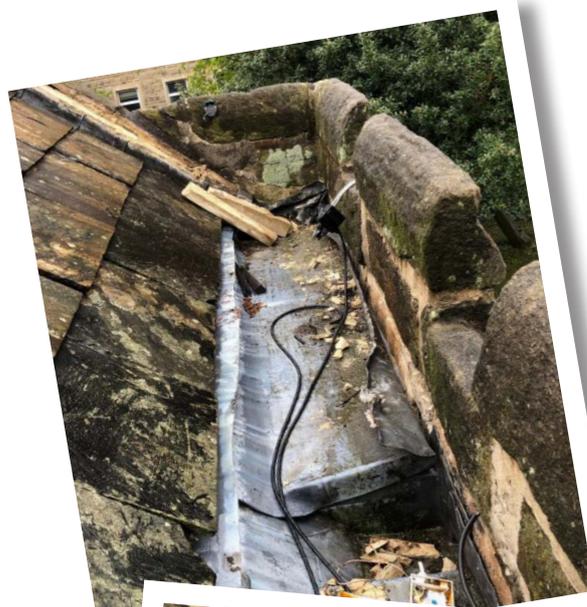
E-Bound engineers visited the church the next day and discovered that one of the sensors had been physically tampered with and this was the cause of the initial alerts that they had received.

## The Conclusion

The main purpose of a roof alarm is to deter intruders from stealing the lead, detect intrusion at the earliest opportunity and reduce the risk of a significant loss occurring. Whilst St Bartholomew's did suffer repeated attacks over a short period of time, the damage suffered was minimal and the intruders were not successful in removing any lead from the site.

Pictures: (Top right) Shows the uplifting of the lead flashing and external lighting cables which had been ripped up. (Bottom right) Close up photograph of the above. (Bottom centre) Camera installed following the three incidents to provide extra security.

For more information about the E-Bound Roof Alarm System, visit [www.e-bound.co.uk](http://www.e-bound.co.uk) or call us on 01733 843341



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