

# CHURCHES: KEEPING METAL SAFE

DO NOT PRINT

RELENTLESS ON...



METAL THEFT



# Relentless on metal theft



If you live near a church or historic building, please watch out for people acting suspiciously – particularly if they have lorries, trucks or any vehicles. There are other things churches can do to help minimise the risk of falling victim to metal thieves:

- External lighting can deter thieves who prefer dark and unlit corners. We recommend photoelectric (dusk 'til dawn) lighting, which uses energy-efficient bulbs to keep electricity costs down.
- If possible, install a roof alarm. Passive infrared (PIR) motion detectors work wirelessly: when the alarm is triggered, a voice-enhanced sounder and blue strobe lights activate in order to deter intruders from trespassing further, alerting security firms and the police as well as people in the near vicinity. National figures show that they are very effective in decreasing lead thefts.
- Think about covering drainpipes and other items that could give thieves access to the roof in anti-climb paint (You will need to display warning signs.) Place prickly or spiky plants at the bottom.
- Sheath or cover any copper taping used for lightning conduction at ground level and up to approximately 2.4 metres.
- Keep the church locked at night and busy with groups and events during the day.
- Remove or lock away items such as ladders, bins or water butts to stop thieves easily climbing on to your roof.
- Lock away items that opportunist thieves could use to transport stolen metal such as wheel barrows and restrict vehicle access at night.
- If lead is stolen from the roof, consider alternative materials as a replacement to prevent further crimes. Speak the Diocesan Advisory Committee for advice on replacement materials.
- Ask people living near the church to look out for suspicious activity or vehicles in the area and report it to police.
- If you see anyone, including workmen, working on churches or community buildings at any time of the day or night, please contact your local police who will confirm whether they're legitimate.

Please tell us if you're approached by anyone offering cash for scrap metal. You can either call 101 or email us through the website [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk). Alternatively, you can call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. They never ask your name or trace your call.