

Prevent - Watch - Report

A guide to reducing metal theft from church buildings



Metal theft could wipe your church reserves

Insurance companies can no longer cover the full cost of claims for lead theft from your church.

You may have to find thousands to replace and repair.

Developed exclusively for Manchester Diocese, this guide will help you to keep hold of your roof and other metal on church buildings.

It includes advice on theft prevention, a Church Watcher scheme and a Diocesan e-mail alert system.

Just follow the three steps in this guide:

Prevent - Watch - Report

www.BeatMetalTheft.org

 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

How to use this guide

Just follow the checklists in 3 steps:
Prevent - Watch - Report

New policy rules for lead theft claims

With EIG, claims for theft of metal will be £5000 maximum (for any one period of insurance), sequential damage claims £5000, both subject to SmartWater being used and registered with the company.

If SmartWater is not used or registered, both the above claims are reduced by 50% (if scaffolding is on site, additional cover must be bought, subject to conditions).

If external roof alarms are installed, EIG will look at discounts.

CCTV information and other suppliers can be found at www.BeatMetalTheft.org

Prevent

Here is an essential to do list which could save you thousands if you have to claim (see new policy rules to the left of this list).

1. Essential (and FREE!)

Use SmartWater on the roof. To stop insurance claims being reduced by 50% you must register your SmartWater using the registration form that came with it. Notify your insurer if any building work involves scaffolding.

2. Buildings and grounds (low cost)

Remove items that aid climbing or lead removal such as wheelie bins and ladders. Lock gates and prevent access to cars and vans. Cut hedges and trees (check if planning permission is needed). Use anti climb paint on down spouts and lightning conductors (consult your architect). Place 'We are all watching you' posters in your porch and outside, check your roof regularly.

3. Worth considering (cost effective)

Investigate CCTV (details at www.BeatMetalTheft.org), consider installing an intruder alarm (EIG may give discount).



Register to stop claims being reduced by 50%

Each church in Manchester was sent a sample of SmartWater by EIG with its own unique DNA code. To stop insurance claims being reduced by 50% you must use SmartWater **and** register it using the form supplied with the kit. If you have lost your SmartWater you can purchase more (from £33 plus VAT) from the Churches Purchasing Scheme. Call 0845 4584584.

About SmartWater



In 2007, EIG Insurance launched SmartWater, which allows churches to DNA-code metal on churches.

SmartWater is a non-hazardous liquid which contains a forensic code. This means marked items can be irrefutably traced back to the owner, and criminals coming into contact with SmartWater can be linked with the crime scene.

The solution is invisible under normal light, but glows brightly under UV light making it easily identifiable by the police.

Visit www.BeatMetalTheft.org for more information on SmartWater.

"We dabbed SmartWater on the accessible sections of lead on our roof and then we registered it."

Incumbent: St Margaret's Church, Burnage

We are all watching you

The metal on the nearby church is being protected by TV cameras, Smart-Water and a team of church watchers. The police will be called.

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111
Ecclesiastical
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Manchester
www.BeatMetalTheft.org

Download this general 'We are all Watching You' poster at www.beatmetaltheft.org

Download material from
www.BeatMetalTheft.org

Neighbours want to be 'Church Watchers'

A survey by YouGov found that 86% of the public would call the police if they saw someone attacking a church. 24% said they would shout or approach thieves. So, the public want to help us protect our churches.

The Church Watch scheme involves asking a number of people, who live close to your building, to become Church Watchers by keeping an eye out for thieves and alerting the church.



Watch

There are two aspects to this 'Watch' section; Church Watch, and Diocesan Metal Theft Alerts. Get these elements right and you could well catch the thieves or deter them.

Church Watch

This involves encouraging neighbours, living near to or overlooking your church building, to become 'Church Watchers'. You identify and ask them to keep an eye on the church and report any suspicious activity. The website www.BeatMetalTheft.org has advice on who to ask and a single-side A4 explanation leaflet to give to your 'Church Watchers'. There is space on the sheet for you to enter local numbers for them to call. In order to explain the scheme to the congregation and wider community, parish magazine articles and adverts can also be downloaded.

What you need to do:

1. Sign up to receive the regional alerts at www.BeatMetalTheft.org
2. Identify six people who live close enough to your church to make them ideal 'Church Watchers' (the identity of the Church Watchers will be known only to the churchwardens).
3. Download and print the guidance sheet for your 'Church Watchers'.
4. Decide which local people your 'Church Watchers' should call and add these details to their explanation sheet.
5. Ask your identified neighbours to become 'Church Watchers' giving them the guidance sheet, taking their phone number and email so you can pass on 'thieves at work in the Diocese' alerts.

Diocesan Metal Theft Alerts

Once the police, clergy or insurance companies have notified the diocese that thieves have moved into the area the diocese will:

1. Issue a press release asking the media to warn the public that thieves are targeting church buildings and encouraging 'Church Watchers'.
2. Release a poster to the media which warns that thieves are active and asking people to call specified numbers (this will also be available to parishes via www.BeatMetalTheft.org).
3. Issue warnings to those who should receive alerts and those who have signed up to receive the Beat Metal Theft e-newsletter.
4. Produce, as necessary, an e-newsletter to inform and warn.

Useful numbers

If you spot thieves contact:

1. **Police** - If you discover a crime being committed or have just witnessed a crime dial 999. To report a non-emergency incident dial 0161 872 5050 if your church is in Greater Manchester, or 08451 253545 if it is in Lancashire.

2. **Crimestoppers** - 0800 555 111.

Report

If you suffer lead theft then it is important that you report the crime (see below) and evaluate your prevention and watching helpers. The DAC will advise on a suitable replacement material which will be less attractive to thieves. English Heritage and the Chancellor are working together to provide effective planning exemptions.



What you need to do if metal is stolen:

1. Notify the police.
2. Notify your insurer.
3. Call your Archdeacon for an emergency faculty to begin repairs.
4. Call your architect.
5. Call 07836 224444. This may trigger a 'thieves at work in the Diocese' alert, allowing others to warn their 'Church Watchers' that risk has increased.
6. Let your 'Church Watchers' know there has been a theft by calling them (a letter and poster can be downloaded at www.BeatMetalTheft.org).
7. Inform your Area Dean.
8. Inform the DAC Secretary.
9. Evaluate your metal theft prevention.

In an hour they could wipe your church reserves

Insurance companies can no longer cover the full cost of lead theft from your church.
You will have to find thousands to replace and repair.

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www.BeatMetalTheft.org

Logos for The Church of England, Ecclesiastical, and other organizations.

Common objections

It wont happen to us

We have to face the fact that metal theft is an enormous problem which costs the country £360 million each year. The Home Office formed a National Metal Theft Crime Unit in January 2009. EIG pays out over £1m *each month* on metal theft claims to churches. One visit from the thieves could wipe out your reserves. Assume it will happen.

It's too difficult to do

Applying SmartWater to accessible areas is not difficult and is free if you use the sample you were sent. Other measures, such as keeping wheelie bins and ladders locked away and using anti climb paint, can make a big difference to your church's vulnerability.

It does not work and is expensive

Prevention, watching and reporting works. Smartwater is a proven crime reduction strategy. There have been 500 successful prosecutions in the UK as a result of SmartWater and it has a 100% conviction rate. If you have lost your FREE SmartWater sample you can purchase more from the Churches Purchasing Scheme from as little as £33 plus VAT.

Putting notices up attracts thieves

They are already attracted as your building is covered in metal (flashings, soakers, low-pitched roofs, gutter linings, downspouts and lightning conductor). Putting up notices let thieves know that you have taken measures to protect your building. The more barriers to an easy theft the less likely they are to target your building.

Haven't we got more important things to do?

Taking preventative action now can release your church to do what it would rather be doing instead of dealing with time-consuming insurance claims. Any claim will be reduced by 50% if you have not used and registered SmartWater.

The public are generally happy to help you tackle this problem, and getting to know your neighbours, who could act as Church Watchers, could be a mission opportunity.

About us

The Diocesan of Manchester Communications Office has identified metal theft as a major issue that could divert resources from church growth. This initiative tries to offer help and is made possible through sponsorship from EIG.

Feedback is always welcome.
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Stealing metal from churches leads to...



Download this general 'Stealing leads to Hell' poster at www.beatmetaltheft.org

How big is the problem and why?

Not since Henry VIII closed the monasteries has so much lead been stripped from so many church roofs.

Metal theft is a growing issue, driven by the rise in demand for the likes of lead, copper and titanium.

In April 2008 church insurer, EIG, received nearly 350 lead theft claims, with the total bill for theft of metal from churches running at around £14m since the beginning of 2007.

In Manchester there has been an explosion of thefts:

2005	5 claims costing £5000,
2007	26 claims costing £350,000
2008	122 claims costing £385,000

The low risk of getting caught and the fact that stealing metal from churches is relatively easy has made churches a target for criminals. Controls to prevent scrap merchants from buying stolen metals are weak and difficult to enforce.

Although UK policing has recognised the problem and a task force is operating across the country, it is resource-intensive work.

Register for Diocesan Metal Theft Alerts at www.BeatMetalTheft.org



EIG has been lobbying MPs and the police to move the issue further up their agenda.

The Church of England is concerned about the extraordinary rise in this type of crime, but there is a lot we can do ourselves to combat the problem.

Following the Prevent-Watch-Report rule is one way of beating the thieves.

For the EIG and English Heritage guidance notes on metal theft, visit www.BeatMetalTheft.org.