

Simon Willcock – Keeping Churches Open & Safe



Open Churches



STATISTICS

- 4,000 Church related crimes a year
- 1 in 4 Churches will suffer theft, vandalism or arson every year
- 10 Anglican churches suffer loss or damage every day
- 30 places of worship suffer a loss every day

Things to consider when thinking of leaving your church open

- Location
- Past history
- Local experience
- Police advice
- Insurer advice
- What's the worst that can happen



What to consider when opening a church

- Personal Safety
- Theft
- Malicious Damage
- Arson

Personal Safety

- Lone Workers
- Stewards
- Visitors

Risks to people unfamiliar with the building

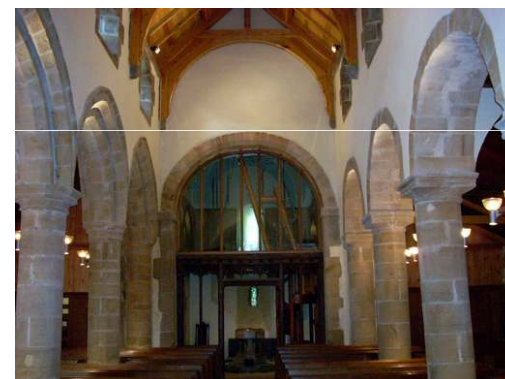


Risk Assessments

- Lighting
- Trips and Slips
- Access to all areas
- First aid
- Emergency services



Security



If it can be moved to a secure area, do it.

- Vulnerable items:- Lecterns
- Alter Brass
- Furniture
- Works of Art
- Memorials
- Donation Boxes



Protecting property on display

- Bolt, Screw, Chain, high tensile steel wires, cabinets and screens.
- PIRs
- Pressure pads
- Loop Alarms
- CCTV
- Smartwater

Photographic records

- Helps identify loss has taken place
- Helps trace
- Helps replace

Vandalism

- Fire Extinguishers
- Paints, chemicals
- Frontals
- Candles and matches

Fire Extinguishers - St Mary & St Nicholas, Spalding





Reducing risk of arson

1. Remove matches
2. Remove petrol, lamp oil etc.
3. Waste bins moved away from buildings
4. Regular visits

Any Questions

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