

## Churches need Guardian Angels

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This man walked into Waltham Abbey with 2 axes in 2003  
Would you know what to do if he came into your church?

## Session Aims & Objectives

- **Aim** –to assist churches to consider some of the main security issues when they open
- **Objectives**
- To look at the minimum physical security standards that churches need to have in place when opening
- To look at solutions that significantly reduce the risk of violence to volunteers

## Minimum Security Standard for churches



## SACRILEGE - £50 REWARD

On Wednesday or Thursday last the vestry was forcibly entered and various articles of plate stolen. The above reward of £50 is hereby offered by the Churchwardens to any person or persons who will give such information as may lead to the apprehension and conviction of the offender or offenders.

## Notice in St Mary the Virgin Chard, Somerset

Notice dated 21 January 1842

Articles still not recovered!

## FELONY - £20 REWARD

On Wednesday night or early Thursday morning some evil disposed person or persons did feloniously or maliciously cut off the tops of a quantity of young fir trees.

Whoever will give such information as may lead to the conviction of the offender or offenders shall receive the above reward of twenty pounds.

## Notice in St Kenelow Church Sapperton, Gloucestershire

Notice dated 20 February 1835

Theft and malicious damage is nothing new!

### Basics for churches

An open church has half as much crime as a locked one

A busy church is a safe church

All churches should have a burglar alarm

You do not need stewards on duty all the time

Keeping churchworkers safe is the top priority

## Churches need guardian angels to be aware!



## Situational Clues

*(Key elements of communication)*

Words	7%
Voice tone	30%
Body Language	63%



## Conflict Management

*The Control Trilogy*



### The Control Trilogy

**Calming**

**Reaching**

**Controlling**

### Routine Activity Theory

A motivated offender

A suitable target

Absence of a guardian or protective device

### Guardian Angels

Informal Guardians

Formal Guardians

### Informal Guardians

Do not have to be aware that they are acting as guardians

Churchworkers have to be aware that the guardian is there

The offender has to be aware that the guardian is there

Churchworker must react if informal guardian leaves

### Formal Guardians

Police / Security Guards / body guards

Can be partner, clergy, verger, churchwarden, steward, parishioner

Formal guardian must be aware of their role

The offender has to be aware that the guardian is there

Guardian must know when to intervene (*i.e. interrupt or call for assistance as required*)

Dogs are not formal guardians

### Solutions to protect volunteers

Always arrange formal guardian angels - No lone working unless a suitable protective device is available (*including opening and closing building*)

Training in dealing with identifying situational clues and dealing with confrontations

Effective communications available

Formal support network to record incidents and support victims

Any relevant questions?



### Contact details

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**All seminars are provided free of charge**

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