



# Help and Advice

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## Bulletin 58: CHURCH SECURITY

The Help & Advice Group was set up by Synod in 2009, to support local churches in being informed and effective in their life and mission. The group was disbanded in 2014, as part of a simplification of Synod committees, and its work continues through the Trust Officer, under the oversight of the Trust. We are willing to try to provide specific advice on particular topics. Please get in touch if you have questions or suggestions.

This article is part of a series giving an overview of particular subjects of interest for local churches. We also circulate general updates from time to time. Bulletins will also be posted on the website <http://urc-northernsynod.org/help-advice-bulletins>, with direct links to other websites.

Where readers are directed to web-based resources, the Synod Office is willing to respond to reasonable requests for printed out information for readers without web access, although they may find it more satisfactory to follow up their interest through their local library's web access.

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### Church Security

Churches are recommended to review their security from time to time (both in the light of terrorist attacks against clergy and church premises in France in 2016, and in response to any perceived risks of vandalism, burglary, drunkenness or other undesirable behaviour locally). You may find it helpful to consult your local police crime prevention advisor.

National Churchwatch recommends installing CCTV. The Home Office has produced some basic guidance on the things to consider. Although it is aimed at small shops, the principles are similar for churches. It also points out the need to comply with data protection requirements.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/142684/cctv-small-business-guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/142684/cctv-small-business-guidance.pdf)

You should be able to find certified installers from the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board <https://ssaib.org/security-provider-search> or the National Security Inspectorate [www.nsi.org.uk/directory](http://www.nsi.org.uk/directory).

It is also well worth consulting your insurer regarding security, such as:

[www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters/images/pdf%20-%20church%20insurance%20guidance%20notes%20-%20security.pdf](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters/images/pdf%20-%20church%20insurance%20guidance%20notes%20-%20security.pdf)

[www.spow.co.uk/prevention-security/deterring-intruders.php](http://www.spow.co.uk/prevention-security/deterring-intruders.php).

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