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"Proclaiming the Word and Work of God"

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To: All Churchwardens
Incumbents (by e-mail)

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Over the last few weeks we have seen a sharp increase in the number of churches reporting the theft of lead or copper from the premises.

So what can you do about it? Here is some advice from EIG.

- Ask friends and neighbours to keep an eye on the church. To help them, ensure that any overgrown trees or vegetation are cut down to improve visibility.
- Consider prevention measures including anti-climb paint, CCTV, intruder alarms or security lighting if your church is particularly at risk (subject to any faculty requirements). Anti-climb paint should only be used over 2 metres in height and warning notices should be displayed.
- Restrict vehicle access and remove ladders – make the thieves' job harder.
- If you do sustain a loss, it's important you report this to the police, Diocesan Office DAC, and your insurers.
- Where possible, replace metals with less expensive materials to discourage thieves from striking again. Remember to consult your Archdeacon and DAC before making changes.

We would ask clergy/churchwardens to highlight the problem to their congregations and ask for extra vigilance at this time and to report anything suspicious.

Geoff Marsh
Assistant Diocesan Secretary