



SUFFOLK  
CONSTABULARY

POLICE **C**ONNECT

*Keeping you informed, keeping your community safe*

Suffolk Police are calling on local communities to help tackle incidents of lead theft from churches.

The advice follows reports of attempted theft in Ipswich and Woodbridge in recent weeks; however there are concerns that some incidents are not being reported which limits the Constabulary's ability to take action.

Police work in close partnership with churches to help detect and deter crime, and encourage all to consider the installation of lighting, CCTV and/or roof alarms.

Rural churches, in particular, are often targeted due to their isolated locations so members of the public are asked to report any suspicious activity they see. Stealing a large amount of lead takes time and a reasonably large vehicle to transport it, so any early reports will assist police in locating the offenders.

Chief Inspector Stuart Grimsey said: "We are asking local people to take an interest in their local church whilst they are out and about. If you take the dog out for a walk, or go for a stroll, don't ignore anything that you think looks out of place - report anything you think may be suspicious to the police.

"Communities can act as our eyes and ears, and by pulling together to note suspicious activity, we can deter thieves and help keep these historic buildings safe."

Further security advice can be obtained via the Suffolk Police link <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-z> choose Church Security

Help us keep our communities safe by reporting any suspicious activity.

Please use the following link to pass useful information to Suffolk Police about any incident.

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/report-crime>

**DO NOT USE THIS LINK IN AN EMERGENCY OR IN A SITUATION THAT REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE POLICE RESPONSE WHEN YOU SHOULD RING 999.**

To report information anonymously on any crime, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Crime reduction advice can be accessed via the Suffolk Constabulary website <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-z>

Police Connect Team