

# Safer places of Worship

## Engaging the Community

As many church buildings are often open only on selected days throughout the week, it is important to engage with the local community. Neighbouring houses and businesses are in the best position to keep a friendly eye on church premises and report any suspicious behaviour.

To do this places of worship can create an official Churchwatch scheme whilst others have included the place of worship within a "Neighbourhood Watch" Area.

If you set up a scheme, make sure your local community prevention officer is aware and knows who is co-ordinating this effort. Also, ensure a notice is displayed to show any would-be villain that the building is looked after and under the watchful eye of those who care.

**Click here for further advice on preventative measures you can take to protect your church buildings**  
[www.churchalert.co.uk](http://www.churchalert.co.uk)

