

# Peterborough DAC

## Autumn newsletter 2007

### Metal thefts



Metal thefts in the Peterborough Diocese have reached alarming levels. By the end of October 50+ church buildings had been attacked, several repeatedly.

Nationally, Ecclesiastical Insurance reports that it received 1,348 claims to the end of September at a total cost of about £4.4 million for Anglican church buildings alone.

The Chancellor of the Diocese has agreed that Archdeacons may authorise like for like repairs to damaged roofs up to a value of £5000, excluding VAT and scaffolding. This has helped many parishes where smaller roofs on boiler rooms, vestries and porches have been attacked. Faculties are still required for larger jobs and where the work is not to be done on a like for like basis.

**Northamptonshire Police** have responded to the challenge posed by the current problems and invited all churchwardens to a seminar in Police HQ in Northampton to explain what progress was being made with "Operation Pilfer". Full details can be accessed through the Police website

[www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk)

Anyone in Northants who sees anything suspicious should ring 999 if the crime is in progress or 08453 700 700 to report other activity.

The DAC has not yet been informed of any similar schemes in Rutland or Cambridgeshire but parishes throughout the Diocese could benefit from the helpful checklist and security advice on the Northants website.

**Ecclesiastical Insurance** has also produced useful guidance which has been developed after conversations with English Heritage, SPAB, the CCC and Peterborough DAC. It can be accessed on the website [www.ecclesiastical.com](http://www.ecclesiastical.com) although copies will be sent to all parishes insured by Ecclesiastical by mid November. Ecclesiastical have also published external signs asking neighbours to alert the police, copies of which can be downloaded from [www.ecclesiastical.com/metaltheft](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/metaltheft).

Please take a look at these notes and encourage PCCs to consider the advice in them, especially the use of Smart-water and other ways of making stealing lead from churches much harder.

# EIG note on Insurance during works

With effect from 1 July 2007 the cover provided under all Group Schemes and Parishguard Policies (but see below regarding Options) is as follows:

Theft of External Metal - Limit £25,000 during any one period of insurance. (includes damage in the furtherance of theft - e.g. broken tiles and costs incurred in replacement - e.g. scaffolding)

In addition:

Subsequent damage arising as a result of the theft of external metal (e.g. water damage) - Limited to the sum insured on the Building.

Exclusions - specific to this cover

Any loss occurring when scaffolding is erected at the premises.

Any policy excess.

If the Options policy has been taken and the parish have elected not to insure against theft then they will not have any of the cover provided for the theft of external metal as detailed above.

It should be noted that the exclusion of the theft of external metal has always applied whilst scaffolding is erected and that this is not a new exclusion.

## DAC advice to PCCs

PCCs insured with Ecclesiastical are reminded that under the "parishguard" contract the theft of metal whilst scaffolding is erected is excluded. Therefore it is even more important that churches improve security whilst scaffolding is in place. Each parish needs to check it's insurance cover to determine the level of cover they will have whilst scaffolding is erected and work in progress. This applies whether or not the project is related to re-roofing after a theft—any works that require scaffolding are involved. The DAC is reminding PCCs of this by including advice on all DAC Certificates, drawing PCC's attention to the terms of their cover and suggesting additional security measures that should be considered when using scaffolding, including;

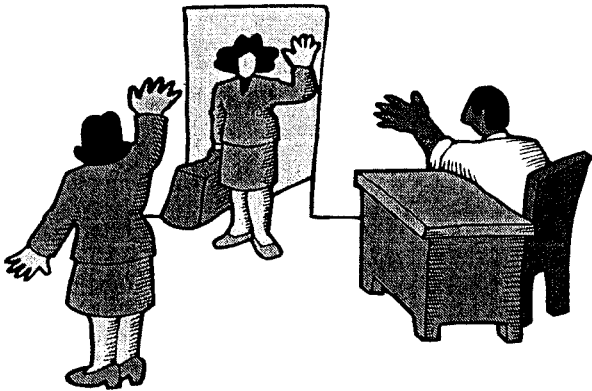
- Try to only erect scaffolding where it is needed for a particular phase of work
- Corrugated iron sheeting or solid timber boarding should be bolted to the base of the scaffold to a height of 3.5 metres to deter climbers
- Remove ladders from scaffolding to a secure place at the end of each day
- Erect 'Heras' fence panels around the work site at a height of at least 2 metres
- Only hold enough roofing material for that days work on site
- Advise the local police
- Ask local people to keep an eye on the property
- Fit intruder alarm protection to the scaffolding
- The use of security patrols or manned guarding, undertaken by National Security Inspectorate (NSI) approved and licensed security personnel. For details of NSI approved companies in your area please visit [www.nsi.org.uk](http://www.nsi.org.uk)

The text of this advice has been agreed with Ecclesiastical, so that parishes get the same information from all sources; architects and surveyors can download the Parishguard policy in full and summary from

<http://www.ecclesiastical.com/ourproducts/insurance/churchinsurance/index.aspx>

## DAC Secretary leaving...

After thirteen years as DAC Secretary Diana Evans is leaving Peterborough to take up a new post as Head of Places of Worship Policy at English Heritage. She starts work on 2nd January 2008 and a successor is now being sought.



## January deadline brought forward

To minimise the inevitable delays caused by the change of Secretary the agenda deadline for the January DAC meeting has been brought forward to **December 10th** so that the agenda can be finished and distributed well ahead of the January 9th meeting. Please be patient if it takes a little while for "normal service to be resumed"!

## 2008 meeting dates

(Deadlines for submissions in brackets)

January 9th	(December 10th)
February 20th	(February 4th)
April 2nd	(March 17th)
May 14th	(April 28th)
June 25th	(June 9th)
August 6th	(July 21st)
September 17th	(September 1st)
October 29th	(October 13th)
December 10th	(November 24th)

## Advisors & Members

Canon Giles Godber has resigned from the DAC. The Committee is very sorry about this as Giles brought fresh perspectives and thoughtful insight into many discussions. His short time with the Committee has been much appreciated.

The DAC specialist advisors are a very important source of expertise. Two have recently retired: Mike Thomas, who has dealt with lighting (inside and out) and John Smith, the clocks advisor who also offered skills in respect of sculpture and a range of other matters.

Mike had served the Committee since retiring from the Church Floodlighting Trust and the origins of John's appointment go back to beyond any DAC records—at least 20 years of dedicated service.

The DAC will miss their valuable insights and the amusing notes in which their comments were encased! If any architects or surveyors know of any individuals who could give advice on lighting, electrical or sound system projects, please let the DAC office know. Remember, advisors have to be up to date in their knowledge, free to share their views with the DAC impartially and be prepared to do a lot of work—including site visits—on a voluntary basis!

## DAC Guidance notes

Please remember that DAC guidance notes can all be accessed through the Diocesan Registry Website. This site also provides lots of useful facts about churchyards and is a nationally respected source of information about ecclesiastical law, including faculty jurisdiction.

[www.peterboroughdiocesanregistry.co.uk](http://www.peterboroughdiocesanregistry.co.uk)

## Review of QIRs

Following the Peterborough DAC Study Day, at which the future of the quinquennial inspection system was discussed, the conversation has continued at national level. The latest edition of the EASA magazine printed the full text of the Archdeacon of Oakham's 2007 Charge to Churchwardens, which included a major section on the role of inspecting architects and surveyors. The same publication included the sketch written for the day, based on verbatim quotes from QIRs in the DAC office.

In September the CCC conference devoted two workshops to the subject, lead by Russell Hanslip and Andrew Shepherd, chaired by Diana Evans. There was a lot of comment on fees, content and the "family doctor" approach. Reports from these sessions have been fed back into the EASA/CCC conversations.

At the EASA AGM on 1st November Russell Hanslip, in his President's speech, stressed that the reform of the QI system would be a priority for his year of office. It seems that there is a general consensus that it is time for the present arrangements to be reviewed and new life (and realism) brought to bear.

## Peterborough Scheme

Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance has realised that the £30 grant given to PCCs towards the cost of their QI is not sufficient. Consultation around the Diocese has shown that the majority of parishes would like to contribute more per year towards the annual parish share so that the DBF would pay the QI fee when it becomes due. In addition PCCs would like the cost of a QI to be set by the Diocese, rather than each parish negotiating individually; however, this development will take place alongside national discussions with EASA in due course.

The Diocesan Board of Finance has therefore agreed that a first step be taken by increasing the grant towards the cost of QIs in 2008 to £150. This figure will be increased in each of the following four years so that in year 5 the grant should be sufficient to cover the total costs of each inspection and the associated electrical and lightning installation tests.

Please encourage PCCs to send a receipted invoice to the Diocesan Office to claim the grant. However, the grant is dependent on the parish share being paid in full.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

CHURCHCARE



*Churchcare* will be re-launched by the end of November. The new site will include core sections on caring for church buildings, church contents, churchyards and developing church buildings for wider use. Legal matters, archaeology and funding issues will be highlighted. Take a fresh look at [www.churchcare.co.uk](http://www.churchcare.co.uk)