

The E-Bound Voice

December 2023



Criminal gang using explosives to blow up church safes across country making off with thousands of pounds worth of treasure



E-BOUND ENERGY

Solar launches

2023 UK Church Crime Spree



E-Bound Energy & Solar power

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www.e-bound.co.uk



E-Bound AVX Limited is a private limited company registered in England. Registered number 6930086. Registered Office: Southgate Hub, Southgate Park, Bakewell Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough, PE2 6YS

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Whilst E-Bound has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication, please note: (a) the information is not intended to constitute a definitive or complete statement of the law on any subject, (b) the information may over the course of time become incorrect or out of date; and (c) neither E-Bound AVX Ltd nor its subsidiaries can accept any responsibility or liability for action taken or losses suffered as a result of reliance placed on the information provided in this newsletter.



It is my great pleasure to write a short note to you as we rapidly approach Christmas. It's at this time of year (which seems to have come all too quickly), where we reflect on what has happened in 2023 and today, I share with you news that marks a significant chapter in the story of E-Bound AVX. One of our directors is embarking on a well-deserved journey into retirement.

Lynne has been instrumental in directing and building the company. Her dedication, leadership and vision have played a crucial role in our growth and success over the years. We want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support you've shown Lynne and, by extension, our entire team.

As we bid farewell to Lynne, we do so with mixed emotions; gratitude for the incredible contributions she has made and excitement for the new possibilities that lie ahead for both her and E-Bound.

Her impact has been felt not only within our organisation but throughout the relationships we've built with valued customers like you. We want to assure you that, despite this transition, our commitment to delivering excellence remains unwavering. The values instilled by Lynne will continue to guide us as we move forward. We are dedicated to maintaining the high standards of service and quality that you have come to expect from E-Bound. We are grateful for the trust you have placed in us and we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

We extend our warmest wishes to Lynne for a retirement filled with joy, relaxation and new adventures.

On behalf of all of us at E-Bound AVX, thank you for your excellent support and may I wish you, your family and friends a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing in 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus Brown".

Angus Brown
Managing Director, E-Bound AVX Ltd

2023 UK Church Crime Spree

This year the country has been seeing an upward trend in not only lead thefts from church roofs, but also in the number of general break-ins and thefts experienced by places of worship.

2023 has seen an unprecedented spate of break-ins and thefts at over sixteen churches spread over ten counties of the UK. The perpetrators seem to have an obvious and disturbing modus operandi. Churches are being targeted for their silver ware and other precious and irreplaceable ecclesiastical items such as lecterns, furniture, clothes and money. The highly organised thieves have now started to use explosives to gain access to safes and have started cutting the churches electricity supply to bypass any alarm systems as their modus operandi becomes more sophisticated. St John's Church in Patching, near Worthing, Sussex even had pipes from their £12,000 organ stolen and damaged in a break-in in May this year. This is on top of leading church insurers stipulating that lead theft related insurance claims are up by 26% already in 2023, compared to 2022. Below is a list of some of the churches targeted so far and the items that have been stolen from them:

St Mary's, Stainforth, Yorkshire -
Cross, collection and music system taken.

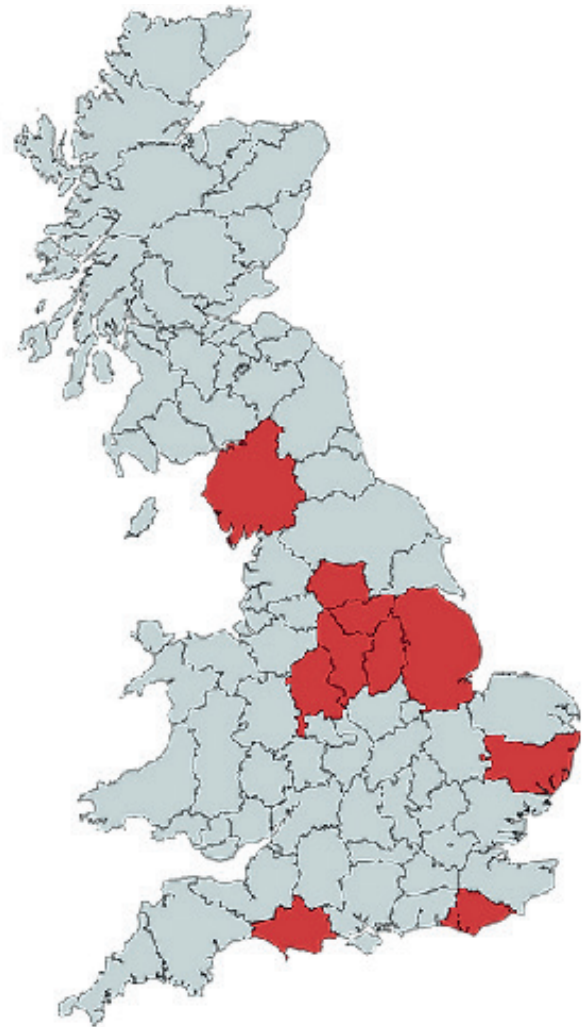
St Gregory's, Hemingstone, Suffolk -
Lectern taken

St John's, Keswick, Cumbria -
Silverware & money taken.

St Wilfred's, Wilsford, Nottinghamshire -
Silverware taken

St Nicholas, Grainsby, Lincolnshire -
Carved chairs, book stand and clothes taken

St Mary's, Wareham, Dorset -
Silverware taken



Map showing the counties hit so far in 2023

Det Chief Supt Neil Taylor head of Opal, the National Intelligence unit for Organised Acquisitive Crime, said the following

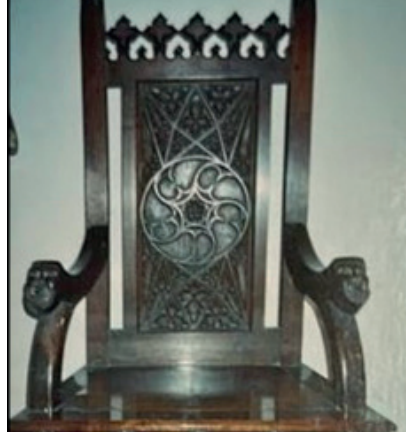
"The impact of this type of crime is significant. Not only does it result in the loss of the metal and the subsequent cost of replacement but also causes upset and disruption to members of the community at their place of worship."

Operation Dastardly Group guilty of lead thefts

May 2023 also saw the sentencing of a Trio of lead thieves who caused havoc across the country between April and November 2016. Lead was stolen from a great number of churches up and down the country.

“They cut the electrics in case the church had CCTV cameras and then broke into every locked door inside the church before finding the safe in a store room.”

St Mary’s Church, Wareham, Dorset - 14th April, 2023



Above - Some of the items stolen from UK churches in 2023. Left to right. Gold and silver chalice’s taken from St Mary’s church in Wareham, Dorset. The silver chalice alone is 450 years old and worth £30,000. A carved chair and brass book stand taken from St Nicholas’ Church in Grainsby, Lincolnshire.

Why Churches?

There are several reasons why churches may be perceived as easy targets for theft:

- Open and welcoming spaces: Churches are often open and welcoming spaces that encourage people to come in and spend time there. However, this also makes them vulnerable to theft, as there may not always be someone monitoring who comes in and out.
- Valuable items: Churches may have valuable items, such as religious artefacts, artwork, or antique furnishings that may be tempting targets for thieves. These items may not always be adequately secured or protected.
- Limited security: Many churches may not have the same level of security measures in place as other institutions, such as banks or museums. This may make them more vulnerable to theft.
- Trusting nature: Churches are often built on the foundation of trust, forgiveness, and generosity. Unfortunately, this trusting nature may make it easier for thieves to take advantage of the situation.

What can you do?

Overall, it is important for churches to take steps to ensure the security of their spaces and valuable items. This may include installing security cameras, installing a roof alarm, or keeping valuable items in secure locations. The church of England and E-Bound advises the following:

- Lock your church after dark unless there is a service or someone present.
- Lock any gates after dark to prevent vehicles from getting close to the building.
- Keep keys safe with an official or in a secure place away from the church. Maintain a list of keyholders.
- Protect high-value items. Secure items to the floor or wall or replace items with cheaper alternatives when services are not taking place.
- Lock away valuables and money. Keep money, silver, brass and pewter items in a safe or secure area such as the vestry or a church officer’s home.

Further information is available on our website www.e-bound.co.uk

Faith and Sustainability: Solar Panels for your church

by Angus Brown



In an age where environmental responsibility intersects with community values, the installation of solar panels on church roofs emerges as a powerful expression of commitment to both faith and sustainability. We believe there are compelling reasons for fitting solar panels on church roofs. This is not only a responsible choice but a transformative step towards a greener, more sustainable future grounded in shared beliefs.

Churches symbolise places of spiritual enlightenment and installing solar panels on the roof aligns with the concept of harnessing that divine energy. Sunlight, a boundless and renewable resource, becomes a tangible representation of the harmony between faith and environmental stewardship.



“Churches, often run on tight budgets and can benefit hugely from the long-term cost savings offered by solar panels”

Churches, as places of worship, often emphasise the responsibility of humans to care for the Earth. By adopting solar power, congregations actively contribute to the stewardship of God’s creation, minimising their ecological impact and preserving the environment for future generations. In addition, churches serve as community hubs and by installing solar panels, they set an inspiring example for their congregations and the broader community. This visible commitment to sustainability encourages others to consider the environmental impact of their energy choices and fosters a collective effort towards a greener lifestyle.

On a more practical note, churches, often run on tight budgets and can benefit hugely from the long-term cost savings offered by solar panels. Once installed, solar panels generate electricity at minimal ongoing costs, allowing churches to redirect precious funds towards community and global charitable initiatives and other vital programs.

Solar panel installations on church roofs also provides unique educational opportunities. Congregations can engage in discussions about the environmental and economic benefits of solar power, fostering a deeper understanding of sustainable practices among their members and the community at large. By embracing solar power, churches position themselves as environmental leaders within their communities. This leadership role extends beyond the spiritual realm, demonstrating a commitment to tangible actions that contribute to a cleaner and healthier planet.

For example, earlier this year enough capacity was generated by solar photovoltaic panels across the globe to power over 30 million households. That's a saving of more than 53 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, proof that the expanding industry is helping combat global warming and helping to reduce our negative effect on our environment. Research has shown that the average carbon payback period for solar panels is between 1 and 4 years*. This means that over their lifetime, typically 40 years, each panel will generate zero-carbon and zero-pollution electricity for decades after any carbon emitted in its production has been paid back.

The installation of solar panels on church roofs is more than simply a practical energy solution; it is a profound demonstration of faith in action. Churches, by embracing solar power, not only align their operations with sustainable principles but also serve as beacons of inspiration for their communities. In the convergence of faith and environmental stewardship, solar panels on church roofs illuminate a path towards a brighter, cleaner and more sustainable future for all.

*<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy04osti/35489.pdf>



Our new website is now live, head over to:

www.e-boundenergy.co.uk



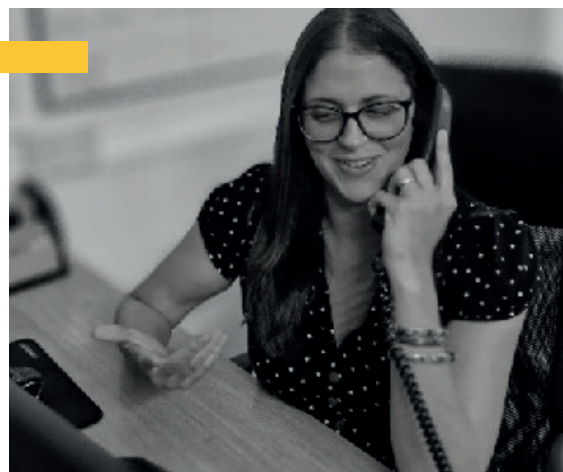
5 Reasons to choose the E-Bound Solar system

1. Cost Saving
2. Environmentally friendly
3. Energy independence
4. Investment in the future
5. Generate income for the church



Staff Profile: Hannah

- **Name?** Hannah Goodley-Jones
- **Age?** 36
- **Home Town?** Theddlethorpe nr. Mablethorpe
- **Role at E-Bound?** Operations Director
- **How long have you been with the company?**
Since the beginning, 2009



- **Has your role evolved over time?**
I am no longer building the alarms as well as arranging the work. I now get to oversee the operations side.
- **Do you have an office nickname?** Not that anyone admits to calling me
- **Do you recall any embarrassing moments at work?** Sending an email about an issue with the staff and the waste bin to an architect accidentally, he replied that he was glad he didn't work for me.
- **What was the most unusual or interesting job you've had besides E-Bound?**
I am a qualified Acupuncturist
- **What are 3 words to describe E-Bound?** Caring; Passionate and Committed
- **What do you like the most about E-Bound?** We are a small enough company to still be able to offer the personal approach to business
- **How would you describe the company culture?**
Committed to providing solutions
- **One thing about you people might not know or surprise them?**
I was born in the house that I live next door to now
- **What piece of advice would you give to your younger self?**
Don't worry about not knowing what you want to do with your life, it will all work out in the end
- **Any random facts you could share with us?**
American football teams have a maximum 11 players on the field at any one time.
- **What is the first concert you attended?** Nickleback
- **Favorite book/song or poem?** Favourite song changes all the time, at the moment it is Stereophonics, the Bartender and the thief
- **Do you have any phobias?** Moths
- **What would you take on a desert island?** I would take means of purifying water and a sharp knife





Essential Product Upgrade Due To Telephone Network Changes

As you may already be aware, the Government has backed plans to retire all 3G networks by 2024, with some networks committing to switching off their 3G provision by the end of this year.

We have individually emailed our customers that are due an upgrade.

Unsure if you need the upgraded modem? Give us a call today:
01733 843341

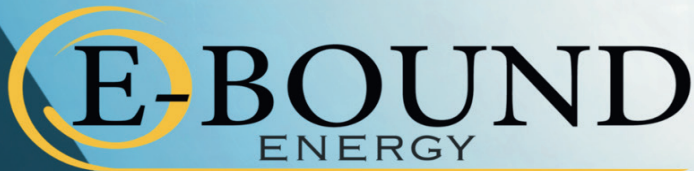


Benefact Trust Grants

Benefact Trust's Roof Protection Scheme provides grants to help churches install roof alarms in response to the issue of metal theft, which continues to be a very challenging issue across the UK. They have recently extended this scheme until the end of 2023 and increased the amount of funding available, with grants now funding up to 50% of the cost of the alarm, up to a maximum of £2,500. Grants under Benefact Trust's Roof Protection Scheme are made direct to individual churches. We advise that churches apply through one of these group schemes where possible, as some local trusts and dioceses have

other funds available to add to the Benefact Trust grant. Please note that you can only apply for a roof alarm grant from a group scheme OR apply directly for a roof alarm grant to Benefact Trust. You cannot apply to both. This list will be updated as new schemes are added. Please note that the proposed alarm system must be from a supplier that is approved by the church's insurer, whoever that may be, and the church must commit to maintaining the alarm for a minimum of five years. Further details can be found at benefacttrust.co.uk





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The E-Bound offices will be closed for Christmas and New Year from Friday 15th December at 14:00pm and reopening on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 08:00am. We will have emergency cover in operation at all times, customers who may need immediate assistance should call our office (01733 843341) where they will be able to leave their message with someone.

If your query is less urgent, please email info@e-bound.co.uk and we will get back to you in due course.

Alternatively, you may wait to contact us until our offices reopen on 2nd January. Please note that both calls and emails will be dealt with in order of priority.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
From the E-Bound Team*



Alarm responsibility over Christmas period

Nominated contacts could be called by our alarm receiving centre Remote Watch Monitoring if an alarm signal has been received.

It is important that you accept their call and attend site as quickly as possible.

Save the Remote Watch telephone number so you know who's calling you **01484 404150**

Please note that this information does not apply if you have the 24h Responce Officers service

DUTY CALLS

Key Facts That You Need to Know

- There should be a minimum of 3 contacts/ keyholders available 24/7
- Each keyholder should have transport and reside within 20 minutes of the property
- Remember to take keys to the property if necessary
- Please do not interfere with the alarm during or after an activation unless instructed to do so by a member of staff at E-Bound i.e. muting the alarm
- If you find any damage or suspicious activity, call the police immediately followed by our office

When you arrive at the property:

Do not put yourself at risk

Do not enter the property unless you are certain that it is safe to do so, if the emergency service have attended the site, follow any instructions given

Check carefully for suspicious vehicles and persons, but DO NOT approach them

What to Expect...

Alarm activates

Alarm receiving centre call keyholder

Keyholder attends site as soon as possible

Keyholder acts according to situation