

The Church of England

Guild of Vergers



The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), a police unit funded by and reporting to the Association of Chief Police Officers, has recently produced *Guidance on increasing the protection of crowded places from a terrorist attack*

The introduction suggests that, though many congregations may find it difficult to believe that they may be at risk, it is always possible that a place of worship could be the target for a terrorist attack because of its nature, the size of its congregation or

because of a special event. Measures to counter terrorism are also relevant to other threats such as theft, burglary and arson – which remain the greatest threats to places of worship.

The UK faces a real threat from terrorism and crowded places remain an attractive target.

Crowded places include places of worship, shopping centres, sports stadia, bars, pubs and clubs which are easily accessible to the public and attractive to terrorists.

This guidance has been written to help those charged with security at crowded places mitigate the threat and help make the UK less vulnerable to an attack.

However, any Church can obtain a copy free, by downloading it from their website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crowded-places-guidance>

With thanks to the Churches Legal Advisory Service and the National Counter Terrorism Security Office.