

[This is an example only and your risk assessment should reflect the circumstances of your site]

Example Terrorism Risk Assessment – Church, Medium Sized Market Town

Description of Site:

[This is a reasonably considered example of a description. It could be accompanied by maps, photographs and other supporting documents for further clarity]

The Church is a solidly built limestone medieval church set in an extensive graveyard. It is 200m from the main train station for the town, but is located away from the main market place, which is where the majority of shopping and the night time economy is located. The Church has a maximum capacity of 500.

Internally the church is largely open with oak pews and numerous limestone columns. The pews and columns mean that any movement through the church is channelled. There is a vestry at one end and access to the bell tower. The church has solid oak doors, but lacks effective means to secure them without a key, which is held in the vestry. All of the church windows are high and made of stained glass which would make it very difficult to enter or exit the church through them, even in an emergency. The Church Team Ministry (Rector and Church Wardens) maintains thorough health and safety risk assessments, based on both normal operation and for specific events. They have a standard first aid kit and comply with fire regulations. This includes multiple evacuation routes.

The church hall is used for some group activities, but is not normally open to the public. The door is secured, with a buzzer for access. This process is also used when groups use the hall.

The church is normally open for extended periods to allow access to the historic building. When this is the case, there is no one present within the church. The most predictable numbers in the church are for services – both regular worship and special ceremonies such as weddings and funerals. When these events take place there are greeters from the Team, the greeters actively engage people arriving before and during the service. The Team will also ensure that the building is checked after each service to ensure that they identify any lost property.

It has a small carpark between the church and the church hall / office building. There are several drives that can be opened to allow access for parking but are usually closed by wrought iron gates, cast iron bollards or lockable gates. Each of the drives is narrow and there are no clear run ups to the area outside of the church where people may congregate. The narrow drives are flanked by solid limestone walls and there are several gateposts and monuments that constrict the approach further.

Responsible Person: Rector

Competent Person(s):

Description of Process: Discussion amongst Church Ministry Team using the ProtectUK Risk Management guidance and existing knowledge of CT threat.

Date:

Review Due: [An annual review is a minimum recommendation]

What are the Threats?	Possible Harm?	Controls already in place	Decisions, further actions and responsibilities [ProtectUK should be used to identify additional measures that can be taken]	Progress reviews
<p>[The threats can be identified by yourselves, using the information on ProtectUK. If this approach is taken that should be recorded]</p> <p>We reviewed our understanding of the terrorist threat. We understand that the UK is currently at SUBSTANTIAL risk of a terrorist threat, but that the measures adopted here should reflect the HEIGHTENED response level that covers both SUBSTANTIAL and SEVERE. [it is not necessary to include this assessment of the current state, but when referring back to your assessment it will provide any future reader with the context for your decisions]</p> <p>The threats we identified were:</p> <p>A knife attack targeted on the church during a service. We discounted the likelihood of a marauding terrorist attack in the town impacting on the church due to the distance from other potential targets.</p>	<p>[As the operator of the site you will need to assess the impact on your business]</p> <p>Each of these attacks would cause harm to the congregation and may spread to passers-by.</p> <p>Due to the number of elderly parishioners, a knife attack or using fire as a weapon would present difficulties during an evacuation. [Specific users of your site should be considered]</p> <p>The vehicle as a weapon attack could create the largest number of casualties as people congregate outside of the church door, but would be difficult to achieve due to the location. [The location and layout of your site will impact the harm that can be caused]</p> <p>A bomb would need to be placed or carried into the church, if it went off during a service it could cause significant harm to the congregation, if it were to go off at any other time it is unlikely to</p>	<p>Hostile reconnaissance may be detected by the Team's greeters, but this would be dependent on their understanding of the threat.</p> <p>Fire exits are available for all attack types that require evacuation.</p> <p>Health and safety first aid kits are available. [Where existing measures exist, such as fire plans or Health and Safety measures, a reference to the document should be included to ensure alignment]</p> <p>Narrow roads and barriers on all of the approach roads. [Unless it is obvious, how an existing measure impacts the threat and harm should be recorded]</p>	<p>Ability to identify risk and pick out hostile behaviour needs to be developed through increased awareness of the risk amongst Team and volunteers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT e-learning for key staff and recommended for volunteers • SCan for all recommended for all volunteers who may act as greeters <p>Add responsibility for 'house keeping' sweep of the church prior to services. This will need to be done by members of the Team or volunteers who have completed ACT e-learning or are briefed on the HOT principles.</p> <p>Action plans developed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuation (based upon fire evacuation plan) • Invacuation / lockdown • Suspicious Items <p>Review first aid provision (using NaCTSO / HSE guidance on First Aid risk assessment) and consider purchase of a PACT Trauma Kit.</p> <p>Fitting of thumb locks / bolts to the inside of the east and west doors to allow them to be secured from the inside during an invacuation.</p>	<p>[Target date should be set and progress should be recorded between full reviews of the risks]</p>

What are the Threats?	Possible Harm?	Controls already in place	Decisions, further actions and responsibilities [ProtectUK should be used to identify additional measures that can be taken]	Progress reviews
<p>A bomb, either placed in the church or carried by someone who intends to cause casualties at a Christian place of worship.</p> <p>An attack using a vehicle as a weapon, most likely immediately after a service.</p> <p>The use of fire as a weapon – which may be done with or without the intent to kill people inside the church (arson).</p>	<p>cause significant casualties as the church is largely empty.</p>		<p>Volunteer duties to be extended to include checking the immediate exit point of the church during the final hymn. This not only allows them to confirm the area is safe, it also allows them to inform the congregation of any inclement weather.</p>	
			<p>Inclusion of security as an item in the Parish Council meeting.</p>	
			<p>Regular walk through of the plans with volunteers – period to be decided, but could alternate every 6 months with fire rehearsals.</p>	
			<p>Inclusion of discussion about requirements with people making bookings, including a need to undertake an additional review should there be a significant number or higher risk groups.</p>	