

# Nuneaton News

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

BEDWORTH

HINCKLEY

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# CHURCH ATTACKED

**SHAMELESS burglars smashed their way into a church causing thousands of pounds worth of damage to escape with just small change.**

Stalwart parishioners and volunteers have been left to mop up the mess and count the costs after thieves ransacked St James Church in Weddington.

What has made the raid at the Church Lane place of worship even more senseless is that the suspects only stole around £5 in cash and a camcorder.

But the damage they caused could spiral into the thousands according to devastated church warden Paul Ingram.

"The thieves broke in through the rear door to the lounge having smashed through a hardened glass panel," he said.

"They ransacked the church looking for valuables, but in doing so they smashed through a valuable glass door from the vestibule into the church, and also tore through a screen into the vestry.

"They even had a go at the safe in the vestry, but didn't manage to get in to it and luckily they failed to get away with anything of great value."

The bill is estimated to stand at anywhere between £1,000 and £3,000 after the break-in, which will include a number of repairs.

"We do have insurance, but it is going to cost a lot to get the glass replaced in the vestry door as well as the other repairs," Mr Ingram added.

"We have already had someone out to carry out repairs on the rear door and he had

by RYAN MERRIMAN

to take a sledgehammer to the glass because it is toughened.

"He had a difficult time himself so it must have taken whoever did this a lot of time, and they would have made some noise as well.

"We have had a number of people working to clean the place up as we still have services and also a wedding taking place this weekend."

The break-in happened some time after the last service on Sunday evening and 3.30pm on Tuesday afternoon when the damage was discovered.

Police officers were called to the scene and they are now investigating the incident and appealing for anyone with information to come forward.

A spokesperson for Warwickshire Police said: "Police received a report of a burglary at St James Church in Church Lane, Nuneaton on Tuesday, September 6.

"Initial reports state that a video recorder had been stolen from the church lounge area. The burglary could have happened any time between Sunday and Tuesday 6 September."

Anyone who spotted anything suspicious around the church between Sunday, September 4 and Tuesday, September 6 should PC Mark Greaves at Nuneaton Police Station on 024 7664 1111.

Information can also be passed on through Crimestoppers, which is free from a landline and confidential, on 0800 555 111.



**CLEANING UP...** church wardens Terry Laight and Paul Ingram clear up the mess that was caused by thieves who smashed their way into St James Church in Weddington. NNJA070911stjames02 and (inset) one of the inside doors that was smashed to pieces and discovered by church wardens. NNNA

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