Theological Reflection - an example to work through

The church building on the edge of a fairly large estate is the subject of frequent petty vandalism and minor theft. Groups of young people quite often come in quite noisily during church services and sometimes climb onto the theoretically inaccessible church roof. Flowers re moved round in the churchyard and shrubs decapitated, and broken glass , empty cans and litter of all kinds left in the small tarmac area at the front of the church and the rather unkempt garden round it. These recurring problems are a of heated discussion at church meetings. Some members would like the police to be called whenever young people come near the premises and insist that they should be kept way from the buildings at all times ( without specifying how this might be done) , others believe passionately that the church and the gospel are open to all, especially the young, the wayward and the vulnerable and those on the margins, and that a youth club and special events should be set up, specially for the, ( again, the resourcing of such project is unspecified) .matter some to a head after one particularly alarming incident, and the minister and church stewards are at their wits end.

( from p27 SCM Study Guide, ‘Theological Reflection’, by Judith Thompson, ( 2008)