

Two knifemen 'take hostages at church in Normandy' – knifemen now dead

An update from the [The Local](#)

Two men armed with knives have taken hostages at a church in Normandy, northern France according to reports. Their motives remain unknown.

The hostage situation was reportedly underway at a church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, near Rouen in the département of Seine-Maritime

Specialist elite police units are on the scene and a security cordon has been set up around the church.

It is believed a priest, two nuns and two worshippers were taken hostage by the two men who entered the church via a rear door, reports said.

It is unclear at this stage what their motives are. *I suppose it could be a local protest, or migrants rights, or something in the anti-clerical tradition. But these are less common reasons in the current climate.*