

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

SAINT CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

CASE SKBHCR 2025/0047

linked to SKBHCR 2022/0013 & 2022/0026

REX

V

ALEXIS LIDDIE

APPEARANCES

Ms Azuree Liburd for the Crown.

The defendant was unrepresented.

2025: OCTOBER 21

SENTENCE

For sacrilege and breach of previous sentences

- 1 **Morley J:** Alexis Liddie now 25 (dob 02.07.00) faces sentence for 'sacrilege' on 28.06.24 of the Antioch Baptist Church, being on St Kitts & Nevis an offence akin to burglary, contrary to **s26(a) Larceny Act** cap 4.16, to which he made early plea of guilty on 18.09.25.
- 2 The sacrilege on 28.06.24 places him in breach of a sentence of 2 years imprisonment suspended for 2 years, passed on 03.11.22 for sacrilege of the same church committed on 09.02.21, and further in breach of a 2 year probation order passed on 21.04.23 for 'building-breaking' of the premises of Indigo Yachts on 06.03.21, contrary to **s28(a) Larceny Act**, so for that offence he also faces re-sentencing.
- 3 In short, this sentencing exercise concerns 3 offences, chronologically to be referred to as:

- a. Offence 1 – the sacrilege at Antioch Baptist Church of 09.02.21 under casefile SKBHCR2022/0013 sentenced on 03.11.22;
- b. Offence 2 – the building-breaking at Indigo Yachts of 06.03.21 under casefile SKBHCR2022/0026 sentenced on 21.04.23; and
- c. Offence 3 – the sacrilege again at Antioch Baptist Church of 28.06.24 under casefile SKBHCR2025/0047.

4 Concerning offence 1, the circulated court digest records:

03.11.22

REX V ALEXIS LIDDIE – indictment 13/22

On 03.11.22, unrepresented, Alexis Liddie aged 22 (dob 02.07.00) sought a Goodyear indication of sentence concerning sacrilege, and thereafter pleaded guilty and was sentenced.

On 09.02.21, while drunk with three friends he had broken into the Antioch Baptist Church run by Pastor Lincoln Connor, breaking a window, cutting his leg, and stole money and a computer harddrive to the combined value of \$6255ec while ransacking the premises searching for valuables. Arrested on 23.03.21, he admitted the offence and signed a police notebook. He told the court he would drink too much nightly, and smoked cannabis daily, during the hard times of covid isolation, living alone, working as a sometime landscaper and fisherman. He had a previous conviction on 14.02.22 for malicious damage, for which he received time served from the magistrates; and also from the magistrates on 16.05.22, for malicious damage and larceny of \$1500ec on 26.04.21 from Pastor Connor, for which he received time served of 11m2w, and for malicious damage (breaking a glass shop door) on 06.05.21, for which he received 10m consecutively, with an earliest release date of 05.12.22.

Calculating the sentence by reference to ECSC guidelines for burglary, though not directly applied, acknowledging the public opprobrium arising from stealing from a church, the maximum sentence for sacrilege being 7 years, the learned judge found a starting point of 4 years, reduced to 3 owing to his cooperation with police, which was then reduced by one-third for plea at this early opportunity, resulting in a sentence calculated at 2 years. On reflection, this was then suspended for 2 years, concurrent to the sentence being served up to 05.12.22, to hang as the sword of Damocles to provide incentive for better behavior, observing Liddie a delinquent on the threshold of becoming a hardened criminal, or reformed, the choice being his. He was also ordered to pay \$5000ec in compensation to Pastor Connor, by 01.01.24, being notionally at \$100pwec from next year, or he will receive separately 9m imprisonment in default. If he reoffends, he can expect automatically to be jailed for two years in addition to any other sentence he may receive.

5 Concerning offence 2, the circulated court digest records:

21.04.23

REX V ALEXIS LIDDIE – indictment 26/22

On 21.04.23, following earlier plea, unrepresented, Alexis Liddie was sentenced by Morley J for building-breaking and criminal damage, receiving two years' probation, with an order to pay a measure of compensation, being \$4000ec, by 01.05.24 or serve 6 months in default.

Liddie had broken into the premises of Indigo Yachts near Budget Marine and the port authority in the early hours of 06.03.21 and had been captured on cctv, admitting to police officers it was him when confronted. He had stolen two security cameras, and damaged various surfaces he had touched by applying a corrosive substance, presumably to hide his fingerprints, damaging inter alia phones, computer keyboards, a filing cabinet, other cameras, and desktops. The combined loss and damage was assessed at just under \$20000ec. He did more damage than theft, explaining he had been intoxicated. His pre-sentence report by Officer Lauston Percival dated 14.03.23 had implored the court to grant probation, as at 22, Liddie has lived in poverty, having as a child been malnourished, and neglected, such that there was hope yet he might be rehabilitated if in employment, which he had recently secured as a landscaper, and if under probation supervision.

Of note, Liddie had received a suspended sentence on 03.11.22 for burglary of a church, being the offence of 'sacrilege', as above. The court noted if both burglaries had been before the court together the outcome might have been immediate custody for each together. However, the Crown had not been aware of the pending burglary of Indigo Yachts due to be committed to the High Court from the magistrates, when it should have known. Liddie being at liberty, and keeping out of trouble since late 2022, it was considered unfair to jail him now, noting he had been lucky. If he commits any further offences, he will face the suspended sentence for the sacrilege and re-sentence for breach of probation concerning Indigo Yachts, and has been told he can expect immediate custody.

- 6 Concerning offence 3, Liddie was seen on 28.06.24 at 23.00 on a live cctv alert by Pastor Lincoln Connor to be in the church, and was apprehended running off out a window, damaged by him costing \$1900ec to repair, and found to have two packets of sweets and \$41ec in change stolen from the church in his pockets, making full admissions, including saying to police he was so intoxicated by drink and drugs he did not know what he was doing.
- 7 Liddie has a previous conviction for troubling Pastor Connor, because on 16.05.22 he received from the magistrate 11.5 months in prison for stealing from him and damaging his home, and also the church, having been earlier remanded in custody, so that he was then sentenced to time served, plus 10 months more for a breaking shop window.

- 8 Moreover, having been arrested on 28.06.24 and remanded, he was by this court ordered on 19.07.24 to serve the 9-month period in default for not paying the \$5000ec compensation for offence 1 ordered on 03.11.22; further he has not paid anything toward the \$4000ec compensation ordered for offence 2 on 21.04.23, for which there was to be 6 months in default.
- 9 The pastor is exasperated by Liddie, and in his victim impact statement dated 30.09.25 asks for the court in effect finally to jail him for the nuisance he keeps doing to him.
- 10 There was a social inquiry report dated 14.03.23 by probation officer Lauston Percival, prepared for offence 2, and which has been relied upon for this sentencing as it is relatively recent. In it, officer Percival had implored the court to pass probation, which it then did, noting he had no relationship with his father, was quiet and bright at school up to aged 12, but often hungry and unwashed from home, observed by attentive and caring teacher Ruth Duporte, cleaning him, taking a special interest in him, and his little sister Sylvecia, ensuring they were fed at school, it being a source of much sadness to teacher Duporte he had come now to police attention.
- 11 Listing offence 3 for sentence on 10.10.25, Liddie has been wholly contrite before the court, explaining he has an addiction to drink and drugs, including marijuana and ecstasy, and asks for rehab, all his offending being while intoxicated, which the court accepts is true, and so has ordered him in prison to attend the 8-week drug counselling course from 13.10.25, while his sentence will be reduced to writing given its complexity, with warning he will receive more custody, to be delivered today 21.10.25.
- 12 In sum, he presents as lost, but delinquent in reoffending, with addiction problems, having had 3 opportunities to go straight, receiving largely time served, a suspended sentence and a probation order. On two occasions, on 03.11.22, and 21.04.23, when finally sentenced before the court he has been let out of jail. Weighing matters, reluctantly I have decided this must now change.
- 13 There are ECSC sentencing guidelines for burglary, published on 06.01.25. Under the **Larceny Act**, sacrilege carries a maximum sentence of 7 years and building-breaking of 10 years.

- 14 Dealing with offence 3, it presents as minor, being of unoccupied premises and pilfering items of small value, though causing some damage, and given the previous history, being targeting, meriting category 2B, with a starting point of 40%, being about 33 months, aggravated by being under the influence of drink and drugs, meriting addition of 3 months, to 36 months. With full admissions and police cooperation, the sentence can be reduced by 6 months to 30 months, and then concerning the offender, with remorse it can be reduced further by 6 months to 24 months. I will deal separately with the aggravating feature of having previous convictions, as these will be reflected in dealing with offences 1 and 2, rather than be added custody as double-counting. With early plea, the sentence can be reduced by one-third to 16 months. If it was a first offence I would consider suspension and/or probation, but it is not, instead in the context of his previous offending presenting as a pattern, and so will not.
- 15 Dealing with offence 1, which is on the same church premises, I will activate the 2-year suspended sentence, being 24 months, pursuant to **s9 Alternative Sentencing Powers Act** cap 3.20, to be consecutive, which is as a suspended sentence generally designed to be. It needs to be widely understood throughout the community that breach of a suspended sentence can be expected to mean it will be ordered served if there is further offending. However, as Liddie has served since 19.07.24 the 9 months in default concerning non-payment of the \$5000ec compensation, which in theory would have been paid while he was at liberty in employment during the suspended sentence, and because no longer at liberty, I will therefore rescind the compensation order. However, I also recognise if jailed originally for two years on 03.11.22, I would not have imposed compensation, where he has now served 9 months in default of its payment, and so I will deduct that 9 months from the period to be served, from 24 months to 15 months.
- 16 This all means the sentence for offences 1 and 3 together, being twice sacrilege of the Antioch Baptist Church, having been earlier convicted on 16.05.22 of a previous malicious damage at the church and theft and damage to the home of Pastor Connor, currently stands at 31 months, being 15 months added to the 16 months.

- 17 Dealing with offence 2, the effect of committing offence 3 being implicitly to breach the 2-year probation order passed on 21.04.23, means I now rescind that order, and I proceed to resentence Liddie for the burglary at Indigo Yachts on 06.03.21, pursuant to **s7(4) Probation of Offenders Act** cap 4.27. The offence falls within category 2B, as there was damage and theft to a value of almost \$20000ec, while there was significant 'force' applied in the sense that a corrosive fluid was used to disguise fingerprinting, causing much of the damage, which merits a starting point of 40%, being 4 years, or 48 months, aggravated 3 months by being intoxicated to 51 months. With full admissions and police cooperation, the sentence can be reduced by 6 months to 45 months. Then concerning the offender, with what was then remorse expressed in court, it can be reduced further by 6 months to 39 months; however, I consider it aggravating Liddie has made no attempt during the probation order to pay any of the compensation for which he was to serve 6 months in default, and so I increase the sentence 6 months back to 45 months, while also rescinding the original compensation order of \$4000ec as it is not realistic to expect it will be paid if he is jailed. With full credit for the original plea, the sentence reduces by one-third to 30 months.
- 18 The sentence for offences 1 and 3 currently stands at 31 months and I must now assess what to do with the 30 months for offence 2, as to whether in principle it should be concurrent or consecutive. If consecutive the sentence would be 61 months, which may be too long. On the one hand, offence 2 was not while on bail for offence 1, but being caught for offence 2 he then confessed to offence 1, and so it might be argued merits concurrent sentencing. On the other hand, it is quite separate offending, which merits recognition within this sentencing exercise, involving a record of multiple offences of break-ins and damage. In my judgment, considering the principle of totality, so the sentence is not overlong, the proper approach here is to reduce the sentence from 30 months to 23 months, and make it consecutive, and so the overall sentence will be 54 months, or 4.5 years, created by adding the 23 months for offence 2 to the 31 months for offences 1 and 3.
- 19 Time on remand of 9m21d will count, and its effect on Liddie's release date will be calculated by the prison¹.

¹ See para 12 of **R v Anthony Adams 2025**, as at 07.04.25, at www.eccourts.org.

20 *Alexis Liddie, please stand up.* For committing sacrilege at the Antioch Baptist Church on 28.06.24, the sentence will be 16 months imprisonment. By committing this offence, you fall to have two sentences received for earlier sacrilege and building-breaking reviewed. You were given a chance on 03.11.22 when you received a sentence of 2 years, suspended for 2 years, and the offence on 28.06.24 causes it to be activated, though reduced to 15 months, which you will serve consecutively, making the total 31 months. You were given another chance on 21.04.23 when you received a probation order for building-breaking at Indigo Yachts, and the offence of 28.06.24 puts you in breach of that order, leading me to rescind it and re-sentence you, to 23 months, to be served consecutively, making 54 months, or 4.5 years. I also order you shall undergo the 8-week drug and drink program within the prison as began on 13.10.25. Time on remand shall count, and you shall be eligible for remission of one-third of your sentence if of good behaviour. You may go with the gaoler.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Iain Morley KC

High Court Judge

21 October 2025