

The Sunday Telegraph

SAVE OUR CHURCHES



Britain's places of worship provide a vital service to their local communities but are under threat as never before. They need to be saved for the sake of this and future generations.

We are calling for:

- (i) The Government to increase funding for the conservation of places of worship
- (ii) Government grants to be introduced to enable places of worship to become focal points for the community
- (iii) Planning restrictions to be introduced to prevent disused places of worship being turned into pubs or nightclubs
- (iv) Listed places of worship to maintain a full rebate for VAT on repair work
- (v) The Government to make it easier for places of worship to be adapted for community use

"A good church is a focus for the community in the literal sense of the word - a place which keeps the common life warm and alive."

Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

"Our parish churches represent so much of what is important to us all: the unique landscape and architecture, and a thousand years of social, political and religious history."

Loyd Grossman, Chairman of the Churches Conservation Trust

"I approve of this campaign - it is important that we all support churches in this country as places of prayer and for the benefit of the entire community."

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Archbishop of Westminster

"Just as the twentieth century in heritage terms was about our great historic houses, the twenty-first will be about these churches."

Sir Roy Strong

Please join our campaign and sign our petition. You can do so by signing a coupon available this week in The Sunday Telegraph, or visit www.telegraph.co.uk/saveourchurches.