



Dear Sir/Madam

We have launched a campaign calling on the Government to do a lot more to help preserve our churches.

This is because we believe that not only are they at the heart of practising religion, but they are also crucial in sustaining communities and are an invaluable part of our heritage.

Specifically, we believe that the Government needs to provide more funding and also to change planning rules to help protect the buildings.

I'm sure you and your parishioners are aware of the seriousness of the threat posed to the country's churches from first hand experience, and as a newspaper we are determined to do something about it.

We are relying on you and your congregation to lend us your support if we are to be successful in convincing the Government to do more. Grass roots backing is vital and we hope you will play a key role in galvanising the people in your area - whether from the pulpit or over coffee at the back of church.

Sir Roy Strong said in last week's Sunday Telegraph that "just as the twentieth century in heritage terms was about our great historic houses, the twenty-first will be about these churches".

We are delighted to say that we also have the backing of both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Westminster.

I hope that you will join us in our campaign and sign the petition in this weekend's Sunday Telegraph, or at www.telegraph.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

Ian MacGregor
Editor
The Sunday Telegraph