

**SUBJECT:** Stop the decline of the Church of England. Save our parishes.

Dear [MP FIRSTNAME HERE],

I am very worried about the future of our parish churches and am writing to ask for your support with a campaign that I have joined: 'Save The Parish'.

There is a meeting taking place in **Committee Room 14 at 18:00 on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023** about the future of our parish churches, and the Church of England itself.

The Church of England is at a crossroads and I fundamentally disagree with its leadership who are seeking to fundamentally alter the way the Church is run, and, by default are dismantling our historic parish system to do so.

Clergy numbers are being cut. Parishes are being coerced into mergers. Dioceses are selling off vicarages and houses built at the expense of the parishes. The Church of England is removing those profits away from parish work when they are barely getting back up on their feet after COVID when the Archbishops forced all parish churches to close.

Power centralised. Parishes merged. Clergy cut.

This is no way forward for the Church of England.

The benefits of parishes in our constituency are incalculable. Parishes are the pillar of so many communities here and across the country. They amount of a vast, social support network which amounts to [£55 billion a year](#) of benefit to local communities. Their loss would be incalculable for our country

Parishes are our national heritage. So much of our local history is reliant on the living presence of these buildings. [Nearly 50% of the listed buildings](#) in the UK are churches, and the task of preserving those buildings for future generations is left entirely to local parishes. Abandoned the central church, they are being left to rot or sold into private hands.

I am asking you to join this meeting and to participate because the Church of England is the established church and you have influence over the future of these issues and holding the Church Commissioners to account because we need your help. [Save the Parish](#) is a group of parishioners and clergy from all across the Church. They are united in their view and have been championing parishes within the Church of England, but are now turning to Parliament to help.

Chris Loder MP, the MP for West Dorset is holding a cross-party briefing on **25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 18:00 in Committee Room 14** to go into more detail on how Parliament can help. Please attend this meeting – I would really appreciate it. Chris will be able to let you know more. His email is: [Chris.Loder.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Chris.Loder.mp@parliament.uk)

Thank you for your time, I'd be very grateful if you could support this campaign and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

[FIRSTNAME]

[FIRSTNAME] [LAST NAME]

[ADDRESS LINE 1]

[CITY/TOWN]

[POSTCODE]

P.S If you would like a more in-depth analysis of the problem, please see [this Times article](#)