

It's not just Christians who care about churches



A serious house on serious earth: the door of St Mary's Church in Chilham, Kent
| CREDIT: Alamy

SIR – Many folk must share Sir Michael Palin’s [feelings about Britain’s wonderful parish churches](#).

Agnostics, atheists and non-churchgoing Christians can all contribute to the upkeep of these ancient focal points of our cities, towns and villages by becoming a “friend”. Many churches have friends organisations whose fundraising efforts help keep the buildings in good order, or provide the extras that church governing councils can’t afford. Umbrella friends organisations, meanwhile, give grants for essential repairs and alterations.

How awful our townscapes and landscapes would look if parish churches were allowed to disappear.

Colin Senneck

Secretary, Friends of All Saints Church
Hartley, Kent

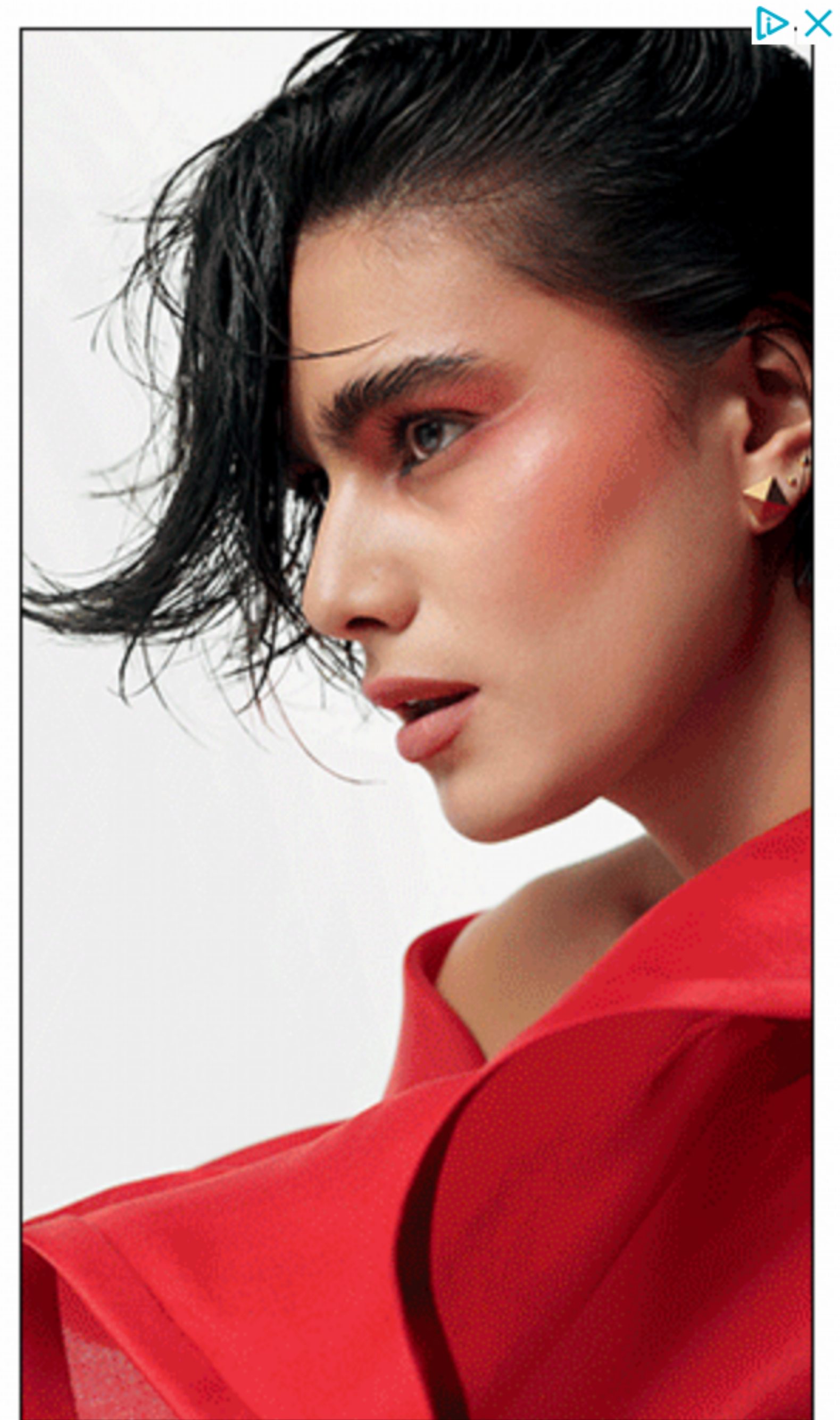
SIR – Sir Michael Palin raises the issue of church funding.

There are many couples who would like to marry in a church but do not qualify. Maybe churches could establish themselves as wedding venues for civil ceremonies, thus tapping in to a very lucrative industry. The events might even help generate new “customers” for the church’s spiritual activities.

Barrie Bain

Wadhurst, East Sussex

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SIR – In its 27 years of helping churchwardens and parishioners with their problems, Save Our Parsonages has spent most of its time mediating between the parishes and the dioceses.

The discontent in the parishes has arisen from three factors: first, the erosion of their resources and their ability to function in an unfettered way; secondly, the failure to consult them when decisions are taken that adversely affect them; and, thirdly, the constant burden of diocesan costs they are expected to bear even though the assets they once had have been expropriated.

Reversing these policies would have immediate benefits. The parishes are competent to look after their own affairs if only they are given the ability to do so.

Anthony Jennings

Former director, Save Our Parsonages
London WC1

Why television ‘news’ is nothing of the sort

SIR – [Janet Daley](#) is right about the partial television news coverage of Cop26.

I recommend that she joins those of us who no longer watch any broadcast news at all, and are better informed for it. For many years now, this form of news has simply been a mouthpiece for the media and chattering classes.

I would also recommend avoiding the BBC – with its humourless, woke pontificating – altogether.

Phil Coutie

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