More than four in five British adults (84%) agree that the UK’s churches, chapels and meeting houses are an important part of the UK’s heritage and history and 83% think that they play an important role for society as they provide a space in which community activities can take place, as well as worship.

60% of British adults agree with the Government providing financial support for churches in order to protect their heritage and history for future generations.
Despite declining numbers of people in Britain identifying themselves as Christian, this poll shows that there is overwhelming public support for church buildings.

Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust said:

“Despite declining numbers of people in Britain identifying themselves as Christian, this poll shows that there is overwhelming public support for church buildings.”

Number of people visiting churches in 2015

57% of British adults say that they visited a church, chapel or meeting house for any reason in the last year including religious services, nonreligious activities, or as a visitor or tourist. Women (40%) are more likely than men (34%) to have visited for religious reasons.

Adults in Wales were least likely (45%) and adults in the North East most likely (64%) to have visited a church, chapel or meeting house for any reason in the last year.

Top five things people say would encourage them to visit churches

- A friendly welcome
- Toilets
- Café or refreshment area
- Comfortable seating
- Useful visitor information

46% of British adults agreed that it is difficult to find useful visitor information about churches, chapels and meeting houses, such as directions, opening hours and details of things to see and do.

ComRes interviewed 2,038 GB adults online between the 16th and 17th December 2015.

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