

Harvey Howlett

From: josephine edwards <josiemedwards@hotmail.com>
Sent: 01 February 2013 20:32
To: Anne Griffiths
Subject: Birch St Peter Chelmsford Diocese Your ref RC08/40CL

VF-ITEM-ID: 2456332:18548029:1675:

I have read the documentation about the proposed demolition of Birch Church, sent to Colchester Civic Society, with huge sadness. Birch is outside the Civic Society's area, so we are unable to comment formally, but, informally, I suspect that our membership would feel as I do.

My grandparents, both teachers at Birch School, married in the church and are buried in the churchyard. I was baptised there. My mother was born in the Dower House, by the entrance to the church. As a small child, I spent many hours in the churchyard whilst my mother tended her father's grave and I have wonderful memories of the church, churchyard and surrounding meadows. We always went on sunny days so that Mum's shears would work well on the grass over the grave!! All totally by the way, I know, but now you know why I'm so sad!

I know that the body of the church is not particularly valuable historically or architecturally and that there have been problems with the fabric for many, many years. I would be sorry to see it go, but it's not so important. However, the loss of the spire would be awful! It is a beautiful, elegant, landmark that can be seen for miles. It is so much part of the landscape, much loved, irreplaceable.

I am not convinced that people in the area are aware of the situation regarding the church. I knew that a new use for it was being sought, but it wasn't until I saw your letter last night that I realised that a decision to demolish it was imminent. I suspect that, once people find out, there will be a huge outcry. Please, please reconsider this proposal.

Jo Edwards
13, Priory Street,
Colchester
CO1 2QB