

Want a truly heavenly home? Why church conversions are all the rage

Hundreds of churches are earmarked for closure in the next five years and buyers are snapping them up to convert into new homes

In a tumultuous world, a converted church promises the perfect peaceful haven. With their soulful-yet-solemn architecture, they can make for challenging but deeply rewarding and beautiful renovation projects.

According to a Church of England report, more than 350 churches are earmarked for closure within the next five years – a rate that is eight times faster than before the pandemic.

At the same time, deconsecrated chapels and churches are increasingly popular with buyers intending to convert them for residential use. “In our recent national property auctions, renovated chapels and churches have attracted huge interest,” says Andrew Parker, managing director and auctioneer at SDL Property Auction (a regular face on BBC One’s *Homes Under the Hammer*).

Heavenly stays

With stained-glass windows, soaring ceilings and a sense of the sublime, holiday rental sites now abound with converted church stays. The number of converted churches available to rent on Airbnb has more than tripled in the UK since 2015, and there are just under 150 converted churches currently listed across the UK on the platform.

Here's our pick of the best converted churches and chapels for a divine staycation:

Supernova, Isle of Skye



With a sauna and bath for two overlooking Loch Harport and the mountains beyond, [this chapel](#) conversion is quite the sanctuary for a romantic getaway

Elissa, Cirencester



Today, [this chapel's](#) ceilings are accompanied by Soho House furnishings and al-fresco hot tub surrounded by undulating Cotswolds countryside – but this former place of worship was originally built in 1901 to commemorate Queen Victoria