
Church spending

SIR – Andrew Berkinshaw-Smith ([Letters, December 29](#)) makes a good point about the “abysmal level” of giving by many Anglican congregations.

The more I learn about how the money is being spent by overstuffed dioceses and the number of clergy sitting at desks rather than being out in the community, the less inclined I am to continue to donate to the Church. I suspect that contributions would grow if the Church’s finances were more transparent and dioceses were held to account for the way in which they chose to spend it.

Conta Rowan Hamilton
Hinton Parva, Wiltshire

SIR – I’m the treasurer of a small parish church in Norfolk, a county that has 650 rural churches.

None of the five churches in the Coltishall group has more than half a dozen regular worshipers, despite the local population numbering 5,000.

The Norwich diocese is very wealthy but the parishes are in dire financial straits. Unless the present strategy of strangulating parishes and reducing the number of stipendiary posts is reversed, the Church will be reduced to a few magnificent cathedrals and thriving inner-city churches – but no heartland whatsoever.

Pete Hardy
Stratton Strawless, Norfolk
