

The Church's future

SIR – The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, suggests that the future of the Church of England is in the hands of God.

Perhaps, however, he could try to persuade his bishops that there are things they could do to arrest the decline in attendance. They could start by training and appointing more clergy so that more parishes could have their own minister, rather than asking one minister to look after an ever increasing number of parishes.

At the same time they could reduce the number of bureaucrats employed in each diocese. Having 42 “regional offices” replicating each other’s work is ludicrous and unsustainable.

Stephen Billyeald

Pangbourne, Berkshire

SIR – The reported decline in Church of England attendance comes as no surprise.

I suspect there are two main reasons for this. First, churches effectively closed during the pandemic hours of need. Secondly, in my experience, successors to retiring clergy are not sought soon enough: there is too little forward-planning for maintaining ministry in parishes.

Michael C W Terry

Walmer, Kent
