
Sale of Church land

SIR – The Church of England (Letters, September 10) no longer prioritises its buildings. It is galling to witness remnants of glebe land being sold, with the proceeds being taken by the local diocese.

It is also worth noting that, should a church be declared redundant and sold, the money from that sale goes to the diocese. Worse, the Church is not liable to statutory penalties with respect to listed buildings, but the local authority is keen to take action against the lay purchaser of a listed building, in case of lack of maintenance.

Michael G Bamber

Grantham, Lincolnshire

SIR – I am a churchwarden at a parish in St Albans diocese. Our priest is retiring in three weeks' time. There is no other organisation where a vacancy is not advertised until well after the current post-holder has left. We are not allowed to look for a new vicar for at least two months; it will then be a long wait, I feel sure.

We are finding it impossible to cover some of the eucharists. The diocese has a staff of at least 59 (according to the website). We have no one. The diocesan administration is as obstructive as possible. Something should be done.

Paul Bennett

Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire

SIR – Donald R Clarke (Letters, September 10) highlights the financial plight of parish churches. Unfortunately, the vast majority of churches are not sustainable and, as a business model, simply do not work. At least 90 per cent of our local church congregation is elderly, with little sign of any younger recruits. Youngsters have little to no interest in religion, so revenue from future churchgoers is, at best, uncertain.

I am not religious but attended church for the benefit of my children, when they were younger. Sadly, as the children became teenagers and discovered iPhones and the opposite sex, the allure of the church rapidly waned and never recovered.

The Church needs to learn how to work with the tablets and smartphones used by Generation Z in order to survive.

Chris Learmont-Hughes

Caldy, Wirral
