
Welby's record

SIR – Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, is expected to receive a knighthood for his “personal service” to the Crown (report, December 25).

It must be pointed out, however, that his tenure has seen a collapse in churchgoing numbers, with suggestions that the Church of England could face extinction by 2060.

There has been too little effort to reach out to parishioners, both existing and potential, in order to improve attendance. Vicars used to visit members of their flock at home and were a daily, visible presence in their parishes. Many parishes now do not have a vicar; in some this has been the case for a long time. Churches stand locked up and abandoned.

The Church authorities, meanwhile, seem more interested in engaging in politics, woke issues and international affairs, managing decline at home instead of preaching the gospels and growing membership.

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