
Hard-pressed parishes

SIR – Madeline Grant ([Comment, March 6](#)) is of course right. The Church of England is in decline, and the main reason for this is the huge burden that the combined bureaucracy of the central Church and the 42 dioceses (with their 112 bishops) is imposing on parishes.

This strain means that numerous parishes cannot meet their costs, of which the greater part is the infamous parish share paid to the dioceses. Consequently, many are being forced to close.

What is needed is a reduction in the number of dioceses, with the resultant easing of the parish share, together with a redistribution of the Church's wealth to needy parishes, rather than it being spent on “deconstructing whiteness” officers and “reparatory justice” ([Letters, March 7](#)).

Donald R Clarke

Tunbridge Wells, Kent

SIR – Today there is little love lost between the Church of England and the Conservative Party, but they do appear to have one thing in common – a determination to repel their core supporters.

Derek Wellman

Lincoln
