

## **Too many dioceses**

SIR – The Church of England archbishops’ admission that they “got it wrong” by neglecting rural parishes and their pledge to get it right by providing more funding are of course welcome.

However, they must also follow up on their commitment to consider what I think is fundamentally wrong with the parish system: there are too many dioceses. It is impossible to justify the present 42 when, 200 years ago, in the Church’s heyday, there were 26.

The new proposal should help to preserve rural churches now in danger of collapse – thanks to the financial burden imposed on them by all those dioceses – while the reduction in the diocesan count is being carried out.

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