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New Boeing is a lesson in efficiency

Sir, The analysis of the new Boeing 787's 20 per cent fuel efficiency improvement and 30 per cent lower maintenance cost as "nice to have gimmicks rather than must haves" was disappointing ("Green credentials, gadgets galore... and bendy wings", Business, Oct 27). Given that these two combined typically account for about a quarter of an airline's total operating cost, these efficiency savings are clearly very significant in an industry with minuscule profit margins and increases or decreases in costs are directly passed on to the passenger.

The innovation of British aerospace companies, that manufacture a significant proportion of the 787, may also help to explain why it can be cheaper to travel by plane to North Africa than to our own capital by rail.

Perhaps, in a country with extortionate rail fares and where huge swaths of track are still yet to see electrification, the rail industry can learn something from its aerospace counterpart.

ANDREW HOPKINS
 Holmes Chapel, Cheshire

Junctions curse

Sir, The M25 may be the London orbital road but it was never intended to be London's ring road, with local traffic joining and leaving the motorway having travelled a short distance on the M25 (letter, Oct 27). This adds considerably to the traffic on the motorway and interferes with the M25's true role as a pivotal part of the country's national and strategic motorway network.

My proposal was to close all the entrances and exits that were not motorway intersections and eradicate the M25's ring road role. This view produced wide acclaim from local communities blighted by new rat runs as people used local roads to the M25. These same communities had been assured that the M25 would reduce traffic through their areas. It was the planners, conscious of the Treasury's antagonism, who had insisted on these extra junctions without which the

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number.

The Church and the protesters at St Paul's

Sir, The criticism of St Paul's Cathedral for its handling of the protest on its doorstep is misplaced. When cathedral staff welcomed the protesters it was not possible to know how events were going to unfold. Perhaps Giles Fraser, who resigned as Canon Chancellor of St Paul's (report, Oct 28), believed that the demonstrators would not take advantage of his generous act, or that they might even reciprocate if it became necessary.

The raising of health and safety concerns was timely and appropriate. A crisis was developing and action had to be taken. The modern Church abides within the same 21st century parameters as the rest of us.

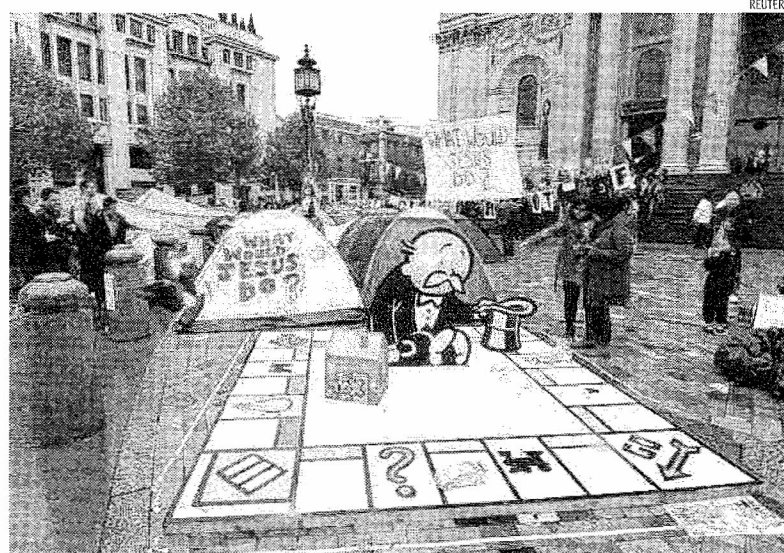
Perhaps the cathedral's mistake was to have faith in human nature — to believe that the demonstrators would respect the church's mission and activities, to accept Dr Fraser's support, but then not to outstay their welcome when their presence started to damage the life of the cathedral.

The protesters have forced Dr Fraser to resign because they did not move on when politely requested. When the chapter said it would have to close the cathedral, that was a cue for the protesters to leave; when Dr Fraser said he would have to resign, for fear of the need for forcible removal, that too was a cue for the protesters to leave. The protesters should be ashamed that they have so let down the cathedral and chapter which had faith in them.

But we should not criticise the Church — it acted entirely in accordance with its values. It would be a sad day for us all if the Church stopped having faith in humanity.
 DR CLARE TAYLOR
 London NW1

Sir, Giles Fraser's resignation is emblematic of a wider confusion within the Church of England. This confusion is resulting in our highest places of worship becoming little more than museums, lost in the hands of administrators of Christianity, instead of preachers of our religion. When our cathedrals, once great places of learning and

cost-benefit case for the M25 would not stack up. The traffic produced by these extra junctions was not needed to justify the case for the M25 for as always the planners underestimated the economic growth of the country and the effect this had on traffic.
 PROFESSOR GAREL RHYS
 The Centre for Automotive Industry Research, Cardiff University Business School



Have Christian faith and charity been abused by the cathedral demonstrators?

community, charge entrance fees, while others, such as the Science Museum, are free to people of all creeds, we have entered the wrong path of faith.

I am a person of faith. All believers, whatever their religion, know that the heart of their personal faith rests on the pillars of hope, charity and social justice. It is about believing in a better world. This is why, almost 500 years ago, Martin Luther protested against the selling of indulgences, the fast tracking of the wealthy to God, by the Church.

It may have passed from fashion, but the fad was to ask: "What would Jesus do?" I wonder where we would find him this weekend. Would Jesus be siding with the administrators, the police, the emblems of state, against a peaceful protest? Or, would he be walking down the steps of St Paul's alongside Dr Fraser?

DAVID CAIN
 South Zeal, Devon

Sir, The St Paul's saga is replete with paradox and irony which the Church's detractors must relish. Can there be any doubt but that the Good Lord's heart is wholly with the peaceful protesters and their active rejection of the grotesque

manifestations of Mammon which far exceed those He inveighed against in his day?

How disillusioning it is that most of the cathedral's spokesmen say nothing about that and are bogged down with pharisaic concerns about physical health and safety.

LORD PHILLIPS OF SUDBURY
 House of Lords

Sir, Greg Wilkinson, the protester outside St Paul's, writes about the scribes and Pharisees (letter, Oct 27). I recognise his New Testament source for this group, which as a religious category is no doubt still around. However, I do not recognise his "man who kicked over the moneylenders' tables".

The man I do recognise is the one who tipped over the tables of the currency changers. He did this first because their greed and dishonesty was defiling the temple, and second because their presence was preventing people from around the world coming to worship.

THE REV DAVID BERRY
 Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria

Sir, St Paul was a tent maker.
 MARTIN DEHNEL
 Ringwood, Hants

Royal heritage

Sir, Commenting on the changes to the laws of succession for the monarchy ("Women given equal rights in royal succession", report, Oct 28), David Cameron stated that "the idea that a younger son should become monarch instead of an elder daughter simply because he is a man, or that a

future monarch can marry someone of any faith except a Catholic — this way of thinking is at odds with the modern countries that we have become."

Surely the very concept of a hereditary monarchy is the way of thinking that is most starkly at odds with the modern countries that we have become.

JACK EDMONDSON
 Oxford