

## A reverend's railways

SIR - I had the pleasure of meeting the late and much-lamented Reverend Teddy Boston, rector of Cadeby, Leicestershire, and long-time friend of Reverend Wilbert Awdry, the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine (Letters, January 14).

In the grounds of his rectory he laid a few hundred feet of narrow-gauge track, upon which he ran an engine called Pixie, which I believe had been rescued from the Welsh slate mines. It pulled a couple of wagons on which basic seating was installed.

Rev Boston also had several steam traction engines and a fully working GWR 00 gauge layout, which ran to an exact old timetable. He had a "steam-up" once a month when, to the delight of many, he would operate his stock.

Several times I witnessed him getting down from a traction engine, donning a cassock and returning an hour later, having conducted a wedding. He's remembered locally with much fondness, almost 40 years after his death, and he was the inspiration for the Fat Clergyman in *The Railway Series*.

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