

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

Our man in Nottingham

LAST SATURDAY, Nottingham's splendid St Barnabas Cathedral hosted a study day on Graham Greene as part of its 175th anniversary celebrations.

Liberia, Mexico, Cuba, Haiti, Vietnam: Greene's novels are marked by their sense of place. But Nottingham, damp and sooty but a place of "sudden contrasts", also satisfied his appetite for the seedily exotic. Greene arrived here in November 1925, and stayed with his dog, Paddy, in All Saints Terrace for four months while working as a subeditor for the local newspaper.

It was a decisive moment in his life and fiction, as James Moran, a regular on our books pages who attended the study day, told us. Shortly after arriving, as Greene described it later, he "slipped a note into a collection box in the cathedral, asking for instruction because my fiancée was Catholic. I wanted to understand what she believed in, I wanted a better grasp of the nature of her faith. I had no thought of becoming a convert myself"

Greene met the remarkable Fr Trollope, a former actor, and as the duo rattled around



the streets together on the top deck of local trams they discussed transubstantiation and the communion of saints. The study day began with a tour of Pugin's cathedral with local poet, Ruth Shelton. She pointed out the font where the 21-year-old Greene was baptised on 26 February 1926. "When I was baptised," he wrote, "I made it clear that I had chosen the name of Thomas to identify myself not with St Thomas Aquinas but with St Thomas the doubter." Towards the end of his life, Greene told an interviewer: "I have, if you like, more doubts, but my faith has grown

too." Greene left Nottingham in March 1926, having secured a subeditor job at *The Times*.

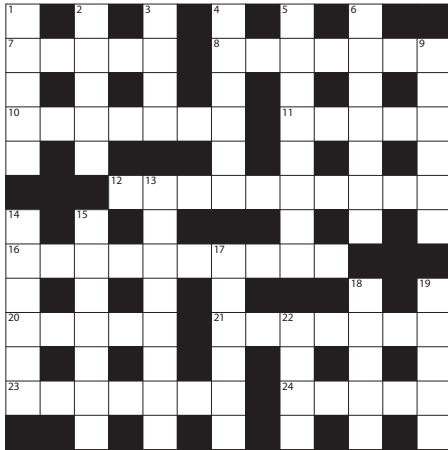
IT HAS been reproduced in newspapers around the world, and is the background to countless pictures of smiling pilgrims and censer-swinging acolytes. What will happen now to the lovely blue banner of a thoughtful and relaxed John Henry Newman that loomed happily over the unforgettable proceedings in St Peter's Square two weeks ago?

Fr George Bowen of the London Oratory, the indefatigable director of the Newman canonisation committee, tells us that the portrait was made with the help of the photographer, Richard Wilding, well known for his documentation of cultural identity in the Middle East. It is a skilfully coloured version of the photograph of Newman smiling that Fr Bowen found in Dom Cuthbert Butler's *Life and Times of Bishop Ullathorne*, published in 1926. (Butler's father had been the first professor of mathematics at Newman's Catholic University in Dublin.) The picture was dropped into a sumptuous woven tapestry frame provided by clever people at the Vatican, who reuse it at canonisation ceremonies.

The Oratorians are still working out the details with the Vatican but it is hoped that the portrait will come back to Birmingham.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 680 | Alanus



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 26 October, *The Tablet*, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: thetablet@thetablet.co.uk, with Crossword in the subject field. Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. Three books – on God, Miracles and Pilgrimage – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 8 November. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 16 November issue.

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Across

- 7 Poet providing the words for "Jerusalem" (Darke/Holst) (5)
8 Equal law, rights or privileges (7)
10 Prophet and book of the Old Testament (7)
11 "They that saw me have laughed me to ----" (Psalm 21, Douay-Rheims) (5)
12 Location of house near Oxford where Newman was received into the Catholic Church (10)
16 *Apologia* ---- ----, book by Newman defending his Catholic beliefs (3,4,3)
20 Board used by some people attempting to contact the dead (5)
21 "Ad ---- Dei gloriam", motto of the Jesuits (7)

- 23 A three-cornered hat tilted at the front (7)
24 Early pope, successor to Adeodatus II (5)

Down

- 1 Commander-in-chief of the army of King Saul (5)
2 One of the Boanerges, so named by Jesus (5)
3 ---- Sant, patron saint of Wales (4)
4 French artist whose famous works include *The Angelus* (1859) (6)
5 Philosopher of the social contract and the tabula rasa concept (8)
6 Wise O.T. ruler, built the first temple in Jerusalem (7)
9 Nickname for native of the US (6)
13 One who copies, the work of Thomas à Kempis perhaps (8)
14 Vegetable that may be associated with Brussels (6)
15 Son of Bd Joan of Aza, founder of major religious order (7)
17 International name in luxury fashion (6)
18 Saint, founder of the Order of Carthusians (5)
19 Traditionalist communities in US living according to a Christian church ethos (5)
22 Saint, author of the penultimate book of the Bible (4)

SUDOKU | Moderate

1	3	5	8	9	4
	5				6
7	2		5	4	9
	5	9	7	2	
8	6		4	5	7
	8			2	
9	7	3	2	8	5

Each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

6	2	7	3	4	8	1	5	9
1	4	5	2	7	9	3	6	8
3	8	9	1	5	6	2	4	7
4	1	2	6	8	3	7	9	5
5	3	8	7	9	1	4	2	6
7	9	6	4	2	5	8	3	1
8	6	3	9	1	4	5	7	2
9	7	1	5	3	2	6	8	4
2	5	4	8	6	7	9	1	3

Solution to the 5 October crossword No. 677

Across: 1 Balzac; 5 Summa; 8 Capri; 9 Silenus; 10 Noon; 11 Paganini; 13 Yacht; 14 Tolls; 19 Dandruff; 21 Zola; 23 Martini; 24 Overt; 25 Coals; 26 Egoist. **Down:** 2 Amphora; 3 Zoic; 4 Caspar; 5 Salvator; 6 Mundi; 7 Austin; 8 Cana; 12 Gherkins; 15 Lioness; 16 Adam; 17 Of Fire; 18 Cant; 20 Norma; 22 Pogo. **Winner:** Fr John Thackray, Ipswich, Suffolk.