

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

## The Queen's speech

ON HER twenty-first birthday, 21 April 1947, Princess Elizabeth, while with her parents and her younger sister Margaret on a tour of South Africa, broadcast perhaps her most memorable speech on the radio from Cape Town. "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service," she said in an unflinching voice. "God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."

In an extract from the journal of the Queen's first private secretary, published for the first time in the *Financial Times* this week, Sir Alan Lascelles confirms that, as has long been rumoured, he had subcontracted the drafting of her famous coming-of-age broadcast – "which was my job" – to Dermot Morrah, a journalist with *The Times*.

Morrah, who had drafted speeches for the Queen's father during the war and went on to write several court-approved books about the monarchy, was a Catholic; his wife was Ruth Houselander, elder sister of Caryll, the chain-smoking mystic and writer. The sisters were both, as Caryll put it, "rocking-horse Catholics", baptised not as babies but as 11-



and nine-year-olds, and then promptly farmed out to convent schools.

When Lascelles asked the princess how she liked Morrah's speech, she told him: "I read it straight through, and it made me cry." Lascelles told her: "That is just what it will do to millions of people all over the world." Seventy years after she became Queen, it's even harder to hear the princess' voice – and Morrah's words – with a dry eye.

HE'S BEST-known for writing the Oscar-winning theme tune to *Chariots of Fire* in 1981, its soaring melody and portentous clatter

a favourite on Sunday morning joggers' playlists, but the decisive moment in the career of Vangelis – who died last month at the age of 79 – came 10 years earlier.

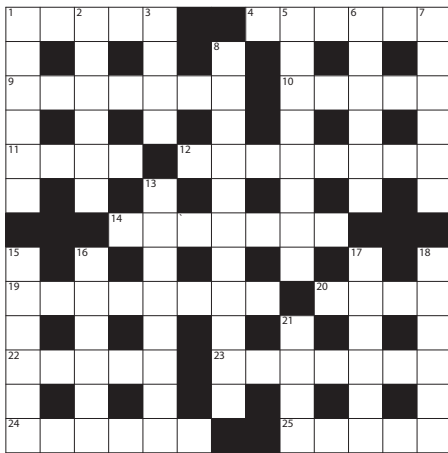
The pop group Vangelis had started with Demis Roussos and fellow Greek musicians, Aphrodite's Child, was beginning to have some chart success when he suggested they record a double album – remember those? – inspired by passages from the Book of Revelation. His fellow band members were keener to sell records and meet nice girls.

The music in *666* – as Vangelis called it – was early Pink Floyd with a spot of jazz and a dash of Greek Orthodox choral music. The lyrics were faintly ridiculous even by the inflated standards of self-indulgence of the time, and the record company refused to release it for two years, by which time the band had gone their separate ways. Inevitably, when it appeared in June 1972, sales were dismal. Equally inevitably, it was eventually recognised as a progressive-psychedelic rock classic.

Vangelis had begun faffing about at home with a piano from the age of four, and developed an early interest in banging pots and pans and fixing nails and other objects to the strings of his parents' piano. He never learned to read or write music.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 809 Alanus



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 11 June 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 Augustine, Christianity and Thomas Aquinas – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random. **We are processing entries but there may be a delay in notifying winners and sending out prizes. Please keep entering.**

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### Across

- 1 Brontë's Miss Earnshaw found in overturned yacht (5)
- 4 In novel luminary works on scriptorium material (6)
- 9 Afterthought in letters to change forerunner of the rosary (7)
- 10 Urge departure of trainee playwright from Ukraine (5)
- 11 Inveigle Ahab to reveal mother of Reuben (4)
- 12 Delay action concerning instructions for execution (4,4)
- 14 Birds of Peruvian Dominican saint (7)
- 19 Chaucer tale-teller with letter we hear of Cistercian Abbey (8)

### 20 See 24 Across

- 22 Sound men but in deceptive appearance (5)
- 23 Planned visit to new oil city of the old Holy Land (7)
- 24 (& 20 Across): Apostle with cowl the poet twice remembered (6,4)
- 25 Old couple following Apostle much appreciated in American literature (5)

### Down

- 1 Belvedere hello to Spaniard with trophy (6)
- 2 Military Roman emperor showing rule in India constrained by effect of sun (6)
- 3 In spite of that one follows abominable creature (4)

- 5 Holding attention with a view to marriage (8)
- 6 New goal for US soldier inside balcony corridor (6)
- 7 Becalm agitated subject for viniculturist (6)
- 8 Prayer and protection of St Patrick (11)
- 13 Father's Gulf linked to a Californian city (8)
- 15 Sounds okay that Lloyd designed major American buildings (6)
- 16 Rejection of my leading religious teaching on particular lamb (6)
- 17 Tobago revolution transforms South American capital (6)
- 18 English pope and a Scottish GP? (6)
- 21 Assembly with food programme not for Luther (4)

### SUDOKU | Hard

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 5 | 4 |   |   |   |   | 7 |
|   |   | 6 |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |
| 2 | 3 | 7 |   | 9 |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |   | 4 |   |   | 2 |   |
|   |   | 9 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |
|   | 1 |   | 7 |   |   |   |   | 4 |
|   |   |   |   | 6 |   | 2 | 7 | 1 |
|   |   |   | 1 |   |   | 5 |   |   |
| 9 |   |   |   |   | 2 | 3 |   |   |

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

### Solution to the 21 May puzzle

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

### Solution to the 21 May crossword No. 806

**Across:** 1 Cruets 5 Charm 8 Roper 9 Menorah 10 Chad 11 Montreal 13 Allen 14 Grimm 19 Demijohn 21 Bray 23 Didymus 24 Occam 25 Spain 26 Élysée.  
**Down:** 2 Raphael 3 Ezra 4 Simeon 5 Cinture 6 A.V. Roe 7 Moholy 8 Raca 12 Betjeman 15 Miracle 16 Adidas 17 Chassé 18 Eyam 20 Medea 22 Boly.