

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

## Our professor of codology

WE HAVE received an invitation to the launch next week of a book with the wince-inducing title *Thrust: A Spasmodic Pictorial History of the Codpiece in Art*. “That will be Michael Glover’s latest then?” a bright intern volunteered. And it is, of course, a new production from our poetry editor, who finds this kind of thing hard to resist.

“I feel a bit chary about inviting my friends at *The Tablet* to join me in celebrating the publication of my third new book this year,” Michael tells us. “After all, there are only 25 shopping days between now and that magnificently mean and Holy, end-of-year, Christ-child moment. How would they take the fact that their resident rhymester, a seemingly mild-mannered fellow from Sheffield, had descended into scurrility, outrageousness, and mischief? But think on,” – that’s how they talk in South Yorkshire – “much of that fashionable codpiece wearing, as anyone will discover if they have the shameless audacity to peek inside my book, accompanied by an attendant shudder, went on in Catholic countries during the middle years of the sixteenth



century, and many of the codpieces on display in this visual history of the strangest piece of men’s clothing ever created were worn by clerics. To draw over-much attention to the Mighty Organ of Generation was not to be sniffed at – though the nosey hound in Titian’s *Portrait of the Emperor Charles V* seems not to have got the message.”

Michael generously invites all *Tablet* readers to a face-to-face encounter with the book and its shameless author at Tenderbooks, Cecil Court, London on 3 December from 5 pm to 8 pm. Signed copies of the book – published

by David Zwirner Books – will be available. Good value at £8.95.

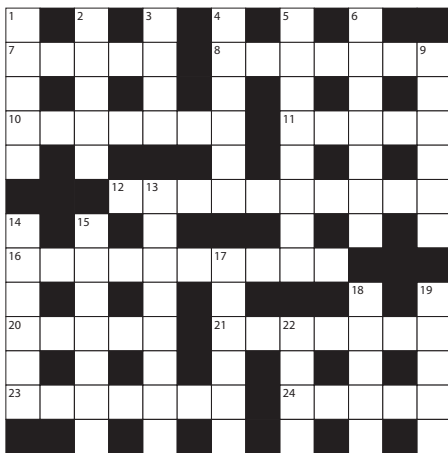
RICHARD JAMES HARVEY’S *The Martyrs’ Call: A Cantata in Stone* received its world premiere last Saturday in St Alban’s cathedral and abbey church, where the seven stone statues by Rory Young formed a vivid backdrop to the music composed in their honour. The figure of Alban himself, the first English Christian martyr, stands central, just metres away from his tomb, while six more martyrs stand in the niches to right and left.

Harvey’s powerful arias and choruses mingled texts from John 15 – “Greater love has no man than this” – with words from two of the modern martyrs on the screen: St Oscar Romero and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

In the middle movement, the conductor and music director of the St Albans Choral Society, George Vass, turned around to face the audience and led them to join in singing: “We, like them, shall bear our witness.” So there was no escaping, as the congregation was drawn into committing themselves along with Jesus, St Alban, Bonhoeffer, Romero and their four martyr companions. The final words sung were those of Romero: “Let us not tire of preaching love; it is the force that will overcome the world.”

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 685 | Enigma



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 30 November, *The Tablet*, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: [thetablet@thetablet.co.uk](mailto: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 13 December. The answers to this week’s puzzles and the crossword winner’s name will appear in the 21/28 December Christmas double issue.

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### Across

- 7 Sounds as if it might be difficult to escape this crop (5)  
8 The trainee is confused; where was Zacchaeus when Our Lord saw him? (2,1,4)  
10 An article backing the perfume is in its very early stages (7)  
11 When the big picture is a smaller one featuring the chic clique (5)  
12 Loudmouthed, and made a mess of the tennis rota (10)  
16 A student had the house before the trouble in Narnia (10)  
20 Laugh at one line describing Jacob’s brother Esau (5)  
21 Under a mountain in Scotland, tea was spilled on the first of the heather (7)

- 23 Rapidly recount the story of the unwinding of the film from the spool (4,3)  
24 “No time”? You have an awful nerve! (5)  
**Down**  
1 No males on Saturday? That probably means something! (5)  
2 Ireland points the way to completing the laundry (5)  
3 That man is starting to respect the place where we are (4)  
4 Try to hear the cellist enter (6)  
5 He and/go down to start a battle in Canada (8)  
6 My action against the physician/cast out was pretty extreme (7)  
9 Take direction from a sextant, if such a thing is still in existence (6)

- 13 A Wimbledon fan switches on TV hoping to find an English poet, he says (8)  
14 The greatest heroine in the Old Testament? (6)  
15 Had a drink on finding three quarters of a limb at one resting place (7)  
17 Rudely dismiss an effort to write about polish (6)  
18 Divide in two what you say you possess (5)  
19 It’s a dull job writing a chapter on mineral-bearing rock (5)  
22 Someone in the convent says there isn’t any (4)

### SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

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

### Solution to the 9 November crossword No. 682

**Across:** 7 Others; 8 Martyr; 10 Axolotl; 11 Theta; 12 Tuus; 13 Aztec; 17 Rabbi; 18 Tare; 22 Conch; 23 Tupolev; 24 Eyriis; 25 Alcuin. **Down:** 1 Jocasta; 2 Chlorus; 3 Prior; 4 Panther; 5 Utter; 6 Great; 9 Elizabeth; 14 Cathars; 15 Pallium; 16 Cervine; 19 Ackee; 20 Inert; 21 Opals.  
**Winner:** Antony Sisley, Beckenham, south-east London.