

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Chips with everything

A FRAGILE, discordant thread runs through the unexpurgated diaries of Henry “Chips” Channon, the first volume of which will be reviewed soon in *The Tablet* by Denis MacShane.

They begin in 1918, which Chicago-born Channon – a stupendous snob and agile social climber – mostly spends in Paris, staying at the Ritz. He has tea with duchesses and dinner with Proust and Cocteau. Then, a few days after his 21st birthday (he treats himself to a wristwatch from Cartier’s), he meets the society priest Abbé Mugnier. “I became a Roman Catholic in heart at least and realise I will continue to be so all my life. But to be admitted to the Church of Rome would bring too much unhappiness to my family, too much disaster to myself, at least for the present.”

And for the next twenty years the relentless toadying and bed-hopping is interrupted by the occasional dip into a church to light a candle. “Why was I not born English and a Catholic? That is the chosen state,” he laments. He has a convivial lunch with Douglas



Woodruff and a “mediocre” dinner at Campion Hall with Martin D’Arcy SJ, who has “steely hot eyes, white hair, a Bloomsbury expression and manner, and a sensitive mouth”. The Bishop of Durham warns him: “The Church of Rome is the church for people in moments of crisis, of danger, of hysteria and illness; but when the illness is passed, and life is less dramatic, then the Church of England with its sanity is the best religion.”

Is it just a pose? Channon has the Catholic sense that everything in this world is serious but not *really* serious, and he knows just how

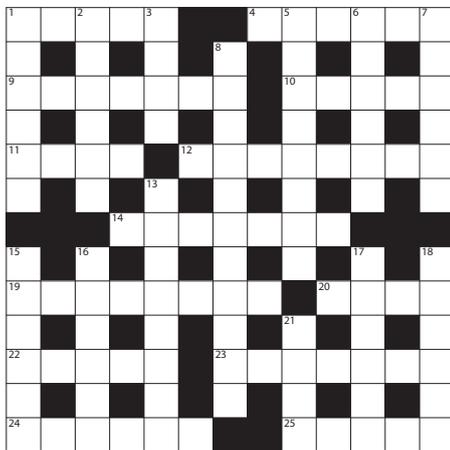
awful and ridiculous he is: that’s the saving sadness of these diaries. After a picnic with titled chums on the island of San Francisco del Deserto in the Venice lagoon, he creeps back to the friars’ chapel and flings himself at the foot of a giant crucifix, “and prayed for I don’t know what – For something to fill my life – I prayed until I thought I must have emptied my spirit”.

WE WROTE last week that since the departure of Dan Hitchens from *The Catholic Herald*, the new editor is Rome-based Christopher Altieri. But while Altieri is running the digital side of things, the chairman and joint proprietor of the *Herald*, William Cash, a biographer of Graham Greene who worked in the US as West Coast correspondent of *The Times*, tells us that “after Dan left at the end of December I stepped in as magazine editor – and I am enjoying it so much I intend to carry on”.

Cash lives in Upton Cressett, an Elizabethan manor house in Shropshire he has lovingly uncrumbled. His Quaker ancestors include the founder of *The Tablet*, Frederick Lucas, and an oil portrait of Samuel Hayhurst Lucas, Frederick’s father, broods over the fifteenth-century dining room, which serves as his office.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 746 Alanus



Across:

- 1 Auguste -----, philosopher and pioneer of sociology (5)
- 4 Country outside Europe whose population is nearly 40 per cent Catholic (6)
- 9 Greek king giving name to victories won at too great a cost (7)
- 10 Shade of green common in tweeds (5)
- 11 Biblical king and name of Melville’s obsessed Captain in *Moby Dick* (4)
- 12 Medieval cathedral three days’ pilgrimage walk from the Notre Dame in Paris (8)
- 14 St John -----, Polish fifteenth-century saint and theologian and name of a Canons Regular community (7)
- 19 Instrument used in Mass for incense (8)
- 20 Symbol of sainthood in art (4)

- 22 Biblical tower associated with linguistic confusion (5)
 - 23 Patron saint of Milan martyred in the second century (7)
 - 24 “I -----”, words of Christ from the Cross (6)
 - 25 St Gregory of -----, Cappadocian Father and theologian of the early Church (5)
- Down**
- 1 What Jesus called Peter in native Aramaic (6)
 - 2 Mount where Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac (6)
 - 3 Nymph in mythology whose love for Narcissus fell on deaf ears (4)
 - 5 Roman emperor who intensified the persecution of the Christians (8)

- 6 St Bernadette died and her incorrupt body rests in a convent in this French town (6)
- 7 Neurodevelopmental disorder often first seen in infancy (6)
- 8 Study of “the four last things” (11)
- 13 Patron saint of nurses and the sick, and order founder (8)
- 15 “----- Mater”, chanted in the Stations and sung in many compositions (6)
- 16 Indian city with Holy Name Cathedral in the Archdiocese of Bombay (6)
- 17 Water nymphs in Greek mythology (6)
- 18 Period of devotion over nine days, especially to Our Lady, for special graces (6)
- 21 ---- Terfel, knighted Welsh international opera and concert singer (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 6 March, 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 cannot process entries or prizes at present. Please keep entering. Winners will be notified and prizes awarded as soon possible.**

SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

Solution to the 13 February puzzle

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

Solution to the 13 February crossword No. 743

Across: 1 Erato; 4 Banjax; 9 Inspire; 10 Inner; 11 Mask; 12 Miserere; 14 Nostrum; 19 Aardvark; 20 Iron; 22 Nancy; 23 Sanctum; 24 Vestry; 25 Hasps. **Down:** 1 Enigma; 2 Assisi; 3 Ovid; 5 Anicetus; 6 Jansen; 7 Xerxes; 8 Net Interest; 13 Conveyor; 15 Satnav; 16 Uranus; 17 Brutus; 18 Animus; 21 Ankh.

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