

Stand up for children like Olly

THE THINK TANK Theos unfailingly fields an enticing speaker for its annual lecture. There have been politicians (Michael Gove, Tim Farron), writers (Terry Eagleton, Marilynne Robinson), and religious leaders (Rowan Williams, Jonathan Sacks). But never until last week had they hosted a comedian. Sally Phillips is familiar to audiences of *Smack the Pony*, *Veep* and *Bridget Jones's Diary*. She also, in 2016, fronted an unforgettable documentary, *A World Without Down's Syndrome?*

Sally's son Olly has Down's, and he was the inspiration for a memorable lecture. At Olly's birth in 2004, the lights seemed to go out. Sally felt she'd never work again, that her life was over. It took about a year for the lights to come back on, illuminating "a whole new stage set". She began to realise that Olly was a huge blessing, was making her "more fully human", "freer". She offered the Theos audience sobering facts – perhaps most shocking was that the NHS allows the abortion of a Down's baby right up to labour.

But what Sally really wanted to share was a story of joy: Olly is a child brimming with



generosity, gratitude, humour and, above all, love. Sally's favourite Gospel story is of Mary Magdalen pouring her jar of precious perfume over Jesus' feet. Judas thinks the act wasteful and misguided, but Jesus explains that it is beautiful. Sally Phillips longs to help people see that children like Olly are beautiful, too.

THE ORGANIST, choral conductor and composer, Colin Mawby, who died in Dublin on 24 November aged 83, was brought up in Portsmouth during the Second World War. His mother died when he was three and his

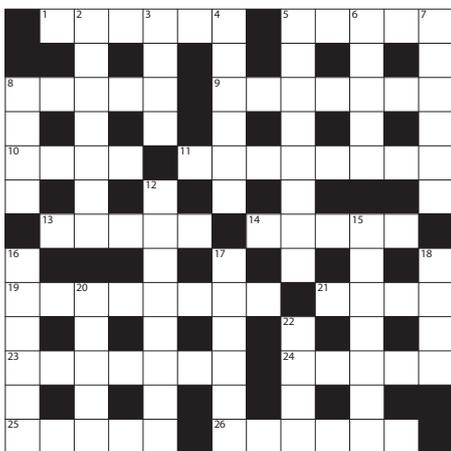
father, a convert, sent him to Westminster Cathedral Choir School. Mawby later spoke of how his father had been caught outside Portsmouth Catholic cathedral in a rainstorm and had nipped inside to keep dry. "He found himself in the middle of a Pontifical High Mass," Mawby said. "He had never seen anything like it and went to the sacristy at its conclusion to ask what was going on. This experience led to his conversion."

At the age of 12, Mawby was playing the organ in the cathedral as choirmaster George Malcolm's assistant. He went on to take over as master of music at Westminster Cathedral, bringing the choir to new prominence. He moved to Dublin in 1976, was appointed choral director of Raidió Teilifís Éireann in 1981, and founded the National Irish Chamber Choir.

He was a fluent composer – antiphons, hymn settings, Masses and motets, song cycles, two children's operas and a children's Christmas cantata. His music was direct and emotionally accessible. Writing in the *Catholic Herald* only a few months before his death, he eloquently weighed in on the controversial plan to turn Westminster Cathedral Choir School from seven-days-a-week boarding to five. Mawby was horrified. Such a move would, he insisted, "gravely affect standards and repertoire".

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 686 Alanus



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 7 December, 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 Saints, Monasticism and Philosophy of Religion – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 20 December. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 4 January 2020 issue.

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Across

- 1 & 5 Acr: Translator of Advent hymn "Gabriel's Message" (6,5)
 5 See 1 Across (5)
 8 Country recently visited by Pope Francis (5)
 9 Relating to a Jewish political movement (7)
 10 ---- *me Tangere*, Titian painting of Christ's encounter with Mary Magdalene (4)
 11 John -----, modern English composer (d. 2013) of contemplative and sacred music (8)
 13 Brother of Moses given miraculous rod (5)
 14 Fra Filippo -----, fifteenth-century Carmelite painter of religious works (5)
 19 Archbishop of Canterbury after Norman Conquest, predecessor of St Anselm (8)
 21 "---- Redemptoris Mater", seasonal Marian antiphon (4)
 23 Sr Giuseppina -----, from Rome,

- canonised with Cardinal Newman (7)
 24 Joseph -----, "father of the symphony", compositions include 14 Masses (5)
 25 Narrow covered passageway in medieval cathedrals between chapter house and transept (5)
 26 Emperor giving name to triumphal column in Rome (6)
Down
 2 Large two-handled flask holding holy water or oil (7)
 3 Scottish island where St Columba founded his abbey (4)
 4 Surname of the saint who founded the Order of Preachers (6)
 5 Dome of thin triangles forming a polyhedron (8)
 6 ----- of South Africa, former title of

- country now the Republic of South Africa (5)
 7 Former Vatican official who examined the fitness of candidates for benefices (6)
 8 St ---- Frances de Chantal, founder of Visitation Order, feast day 12 December (4)
 12 Region of north east France, capital city Metz (8)
 15 Roman name of ancient desert city in Syria, referred to as Tadmor (7)
 16 King of the Franks baptised on Christmas Day in 508 (6)
 17 Apply holy oil as in the Sacrament of Extreme Unction (6)
 18 French town famous for building stone (4)
 20 Capital city of the former duchy of 12 Down (5)
 22 A Canaanite whose daughter married Judah, son of Jacob (Genesis 38) (4)

SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

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

Solution to the 16 November crossword No. 683

Across: 7 Shroud; 8 Medusa; 10 Andante; 11 Avila; 12 Tent; 13 Ad Hoc; 17 Zloty; 8 Malo; 22 Hopes; 23 Ambrose; 24 Wicked; 25 Helena.
Down: 1 Ashanti; 2 Gradine; 3 Ruins; 4 Megaron; 5 Turin; 6 Balam; 9 Vendettas; 14 Blessed; 15 Dahomey; 16 Bodegas; 19 Shown; 20 Epoch; 21 Abbey. **Winner:** Mrs M. Stanton, of Garforth, Leeds.