

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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The family business

BORIS JOHNSON flew into Southampton Airport last week for a quick pre-election visit to south Hampshire, and was formally met on the tarmac by airport officials, one of whom was Stephen Longley. "Any relation to Clifford Longley, the journalist?" Johnson immediately asked. "His son," Stephen fessed up. The prime minister then spent five minutes chatting about the time he and Longley Snr had spent working together as journalists on *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. When Stephen said his father was now the chief leader writer for *The Tablet*, Johnson excitedly replied: "You mean 'The Pill'?" That's what it used to be called in his family, he explained: Boris' aunt, Sarah Fawcett, was an assistant editor under Tom Burns.

As he rejoined his aircraft Johnson saw Stephen at a distance, and waved and called out to him to be remembered to his father. It's encouraging to know that Johnson is not among the *Tablet* readers who plead with us to be a little more charitable towards the UK's first Catholic prime minister. The encounter was written up in the local paper, though they said Longley was 83. Journalists, you can't trust them ...



CHRISTOPHER LAMB's puzzlement about the Vatican's reluctance to move from the era of the fax machine to email (View from Rome, 7 May), awoke memories for Monsignor Basil Loftus. When he was serving in the Secretariat of State in the 1970s messages between the offices were carried by a pneumatic tube delivery system, and only the advent of the "golf ball" electric typewriter had finally persuaded Pope Paul VI that letters prepared for his signature no longer had to be crafted by calligraphers. Loftus tells us that the lift from the Cortile di San Damaso which took him to his office each day boasted a marble plaque

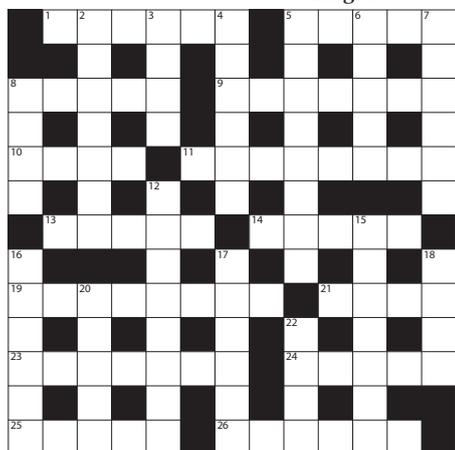
(in Latin of course) attesting to its conversion from hydraulic to electric power, albeit an unconscionably long time after electricity had been harnessed for elevators throughout the rest of the world.

The axiom "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" seems, Loftus muses, to ensure that not only the use of facsimile-transmission machines but church policies more widely are permeated by a museum-like ethos.

EVERY YEAR we appeal to readers for funds to give us a bit of space to develop things outside the usual run of business, such as paying for an aspiring journalist on an intern year. We've written to some friends of *The Tablet* whose names might be known to readers, in the hope that a glowing endorsement might nudge one or two readers to cough up. Mary McAleese kicked us off, and this week Laurentia Johns of Stanbrook Abbey puts in a good word for us. The actor Robert Bathurst replied with touching honesty, "Any testimonial from me would have to be based on very occasional reading of the magazine," but sportingly offered: "*The Tablet* is both serious and bright, informative and stimulating on all current issues. Is it any good? God knows, but to save time why not find out for yourself?"

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 805 Enigma



Across

- 1 It horrifies us that Dad goes back to his friends (6)
- 5 (& 8 Across): A bracing drink for a student on a sofa making musical notes (5,5)
- 8 See 5 Across
- 9 Judge removes head of the bar with a fierce dog (7)
- 10 Greedy five surrounded by help (4)
- 11 All right, Hal! Mao got into a state! (8)
- 13 Points out part of a pig's face (5)
- 14 Sleepless Balzac is mixed up with a secret group (5)
- 19 Polly got a name for herself with her international chatter (8)
- 21 English study is paradise (4)
- 23 Taking it easy during yet

another wasp attack (7)

- 24 Imitate a bird online (5)
- 25 I'm with you on a silver lake in Ireland (5)
- 26 Clues not found in an Ulster county (6)

Down

- 2 Have medication (a tiny bit) behind the motorcyclist's back (7)
- 3 Lament for a girl who is too short (4)
- 4 They can start a fire when the do-gooder gets the car in a spot (6)
- 5 Boat name devised by Nicole Krauss in 2020 (2,2,1,3)
- 6 Denial by CIAAS I left the association (3,2)
- 7 Four left the carnival, describing things of the flesh (6)
- 8 Holy old person in TV series (4)

- 12 Start to question Al Gore before mud is added to the swamp (8)
- 15 Speech about a garment of the modern era (7)
- 16 Pole expresses gratitude in ancient Greece (6)
- 17 Garbo and I went out of our way, dodging a dinner invitation signed with this name (6)
- 18 We hear a denial that it can be hard to unravel (4)
- 20 The student with the tattered rose will never win (5)
- 22 Cause emotion in a teacher drinking tea (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 14 May *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.**

SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

Solution to the 23 April puzzle

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

Solution to the 23 April crossword No. 802

Across: 1 Trent, 4 Thisbe, 9 Raeburn, 10 Roric, 11 Nano, 12 Benedict, 14 Bananas, 19 Schemata, 20 Cato, 22 Lupin, 23 Vertigo, 24 Sinbad, 25 Epode.
Down: 1 Tyrant, 2 Exeunt, 3 Tour, 5 Horseman, 6 Serbia, 7 Each to, 8 Underactive, 13 Tasmania, 15 Psalms, 16 Chopin, 17 Calico, 18 Coyote, 21 Brie.

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