

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Alav ha-sholom

FORMER Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Lord Sacks, died of cancer last Saturday aged 72. His funeral took place on Sunday afternoon. An obituary will appear in next week's *Tablet*.

"It used to take me about 10 minutes to pass through the scanner and armed security guards at his St John's Wood home, but when I was making documentaries such as Channel 4's *Children of Abraham*, I nearly always made it my first port of call," film-maker and former Dominican friar Mark Dowd told us. "Profound, never resorting to cliché, Jonathan Sacks was the broadcaster's dream. You sat at his feet, sipped coffee and listened."

Sacks and Dowd become friends. Mark remembers sitting opposite the former Speaker of the Commons, Michael Martin MP, at one of Sacks' celebrated dinner parties. Martin kept referring to his host as "Lionel". Was he thinking of Lionel Blue? wondered Dowd. Grace before and after the three-hour dinner was in Hebrew, with an English translation. "Our ancestors got these prayers just right. Grace before, when we're all starving, is about 20 seconds, but at the end, when we've all had our fill, it just goes on and on," Sacks told his guests.



A keen Arsenal supporter, Sacks often told the story of watching a match at Highbury with George Carey, another Arsenal fan, who had just been appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. Arsenal went down 6-2 to Manchester United. The next day a national paper carried a diary item that concluded: "If the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi between them cannot bring about a win for Arsenal, does this not finally prove that God does not exist!"

The following day, a letter appeared in the same newspaper. "To the contrary, what it

proves is that God exists. It's just that he supports Manchester United." It was signed by Jonathan Sacks.

IN HIS "Glimpses of Eden" on 17 October, Jonathan Tulloch announced he had grown a new variety of apple, "and when I took a bite a sharp, scrumptious juiciness exploded in my mouth".

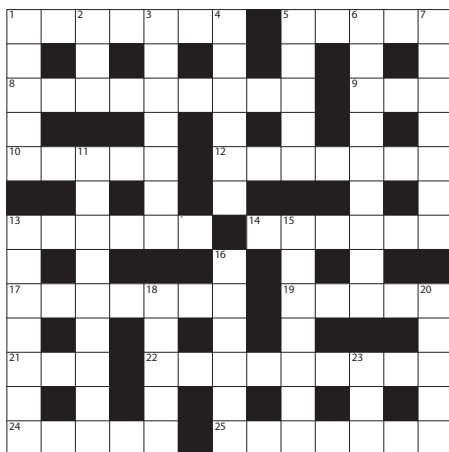
Six or seven years ago, after eating "a particularly delicious Egremont Russet", he decided to sow the seeds, and one germinated into a willowy sapling. When he visited his young tree a few weeks ago, it was laden. Its apples were definitely in the russet family. "But they were rosier, rougher and rounder than an Egremont Russet. It was a new variety."

But what would he call his "serendipitous variety"? The suggestions flooded in. Several variations on "Laudato Pippin". Fr Bernie Moloney of Emly, Co Tipperary, suggested "Russet of Eden". The nuns of Stanbrook Abbey, not far from the Tullochs, suggested "Hambleton Russet". Liz Keating of Gateshead suggested "St Dismas' Delight". "Jonathan once wrote that Dismas, the good thief, was his favourite saint," she wrote. "Like the apple, Dismas' rough exterior hid a promise of heaven."

"It's Dismas all the way," Jonathan has decided. "He knows the back way into heaven."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 732 Axe



Across

- 1 One of Daniel's three companions in Babylon (7)
- 5 Progenitor of the Israelites (5)
- 8 Inducted into the Church (9)
- 9 Lao-Tzu's principle(s) (3)
- 10 Songs of praise to God (5)
- 12 Town east of the River Jordan, given to Reuben's people (7)
- 13 One of the seven churches in receipt of a letter from John in Revelation (6)
- 14 Container from which cattle or horses feed, with links to the Nativity (6)
- 17 Missionary (7)
- 19 City of the Italian St Anthony (5)
- 21 Samuel's teacher (3)
- 22 Important religious town of the West

Bank associated with 14 Across (9)

- 24 Title taken by the Pope between c.167-174, meaning saviour (5)
- 25 Egyptian hermit, died c. 350, feast day 4 October (2,5)

Down

- 1 Minor prophet in Isaiah's time and an OT book (5)
- 2 Break a commandment (3)
- 3 Attilio ----- (1666-1729), one-time monk and composer of oratorios; later a colleague of Handel in London (7)
- 4 Collection of 10 Across (6)
- 5 Greek and Roman name for the "Southern Kingdom" of Israel (variant spelling) (5)
- 6 The ---- - - - - , work of Augustine of

- Hippo as a response to the sacking of Rome by Visigoths in 410 (4,2,3)
- 7 (Lay) member of a male religious order (7)
- 11 Adherent of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (arch) ... (9)
- 13 ... and the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, familiarly (7)
- 15 Vessel, as used in the Bible, possibly to store holy oil, water or blood (7)
- 16 Porcius -----, Roman procurator who kept Paul in prison (6)
- 18 Mountain in the plain of Jezreel, where Barak gathered his army (5)
- 20 Modern Arab capital built on the ancient capital of the Ammonites (5)
- 23 Son of Noah whose tribe spread into North Africa (3)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 14 November, 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 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.

■ We cannot process entries or prizes at present. Please keep entering. Winners will be notified and prizes awarded as soon possible.

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SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

Solution to the 24 October puzzle

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

Solution to the 24 October crossword No. 729

- Across: 1 Benaiah; 5 Cain and Abel; 10 Eliathah; 11 Ehud; 13 Asaiah; 14 Beroea; 16 Adam; 17 Pekahiah; 19 Phoenicians; 20 Malachi.
- Down: 2 Elnathan; 3 Aeneas; 4 Anak; 6 Ahisamach; 7 Ethiopian; 8 Beracah; 9 Admatha; 12 Gedaliah; 15 Melita; 18 Bera.