

Francis and Claire

LAST SUMMER, Claire Henderson Davis, who has been navigating previously uncharted territory between dance, choreography, liturgy and theology for several years, was approached by Tim Higgins of the Society of St Francis, who had been to a workshop she had given at Chester Cathedral. "He asked if I would be interested in creating a performance that brought the charism of St Francis into engagement with the contemporary world," Claire tells us.

"When I heard that Bishop John Arnold was turning his residence, Wardley Hall, into a *Laudato Si'* education centre, the idea for *All Creation Waits* was born. It's a dance/theatre piece that imagines a contemporary St Francis and St Clare coming to terms with the need to leave their existing lives and join the movement for change. It is the story of a growing friendship between Clare, a symbol of the earth herself, wounded and desecrated, and Francis, who is disturbed by Clare's arrival before being ultimately transformed through their relationship."

The premiere is at Salford Cathedral in their Assembly Room next Saturday, 25 January at 7pm; admission is free but booking is essential via Eventbrite.



CHRISTOPHER DAVID, a regular name on our letters pages, died on 26 December at the age of 93. Christopher was ordained from the Beda in 1955 and served in parishes in Wales before deciding to leave the priesthood. He trained as a teacher and started and ran pastoral centres at Wick Court, Bristol and Crosby Hall near Liverpool. From his family home near Monmouth, he and his wife Gill organised convoys of lorries taking supplies to refugee camps in Croatia during the Bosnian war.

They moved to Lanzarote in the 1990s, where they set up Niños del Tercer Mundo,

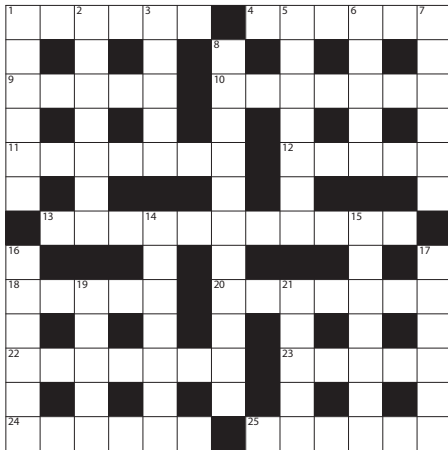
which raised money to build schools and community centres in the developing world. Christopher and Gill supported the Chambo seminary in Ecuador; they were asked by the bishop to take charge for a time, which they did for several months. After Gill's death, Christopher returned to Lanzarote, where he held a weekly meditation group. His eldest daughter, Angela Charles, tells us: "Christopher was a deeply spiritual man, who would always support and take the time to listen to those in need."

"Nothing very remarkable," his cousin Guy Neely says modestly, "but his life shows how much former priests can contribute, and what others might do in the post-sacerdotal era into which we are moving."

THE VISITORS' skipper Ben Mee put it down to an "odd bounce", but Burnley keeper Nick Pope would usually have dealt comfortably with a soft header from Tammy Abraham that somehow squirmed through his hands, giving Chelsea a second goal in their thumping 3-0 victory at Stamford Bridge last Saturday. It was, observed the *Observer's* reporter Jacob Steinberg, "an important victory after a series of choked attacking displays at home" – or, as the headline writer smartly put it, "Pope's fallibility helps Chelsea escape shackles".

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 690 Axe



Across

- 1 Claudius -----, tribune and commander of the Roman garrison in Jerusalem (6)
4 Trees associated with Lebanon (6)
9 Composer of a powerful requiem mass (18/74) (5)
10 Nephew of David, one of his thirty warriors (7)
11 Place in the valley of Hinnom where children were sacrificed (7)
12 Town south of Bethlehem, home of Amos (5)
13 Knee-length cloak worn by church dignitaries (11)
18 "The troublemaker": biblical character so-called after found with loot from the sacking of Jericho (5)
20 Patron saint of (church) music (7)

- 22 Peoples whose capital in the N.T. was Antioch (7)
23 Name of the second pope who greets Timothy (5)
24 Priest who anointed Israel's first two kings (6)
25 Judge of Israel who performed feats of strength against the Philistines (6)

Down

- 1 One of the tribe descended from the third son of Jacob and Leah (6)
2 Phoenician town to which Elijah was sent in the time of the great famine (7)
3 Square of white linen worn about the neck and shoulders by priests (5)
5 Missionary letter of the N.T., as per the K.J.V. (7)

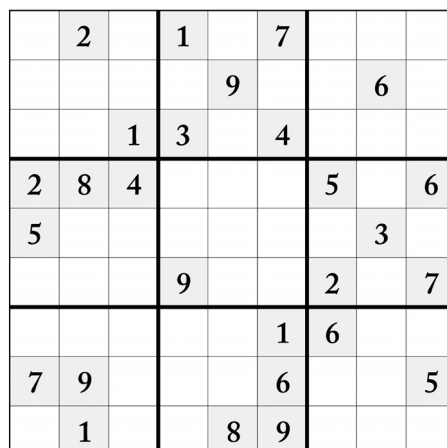
- 6 Where the 22 went after Ahab, as prophesied (5)
7 Name Isaac gave to a well (6)
8 Doctrine and practice of Christianity other than Protestantism or Eastern Orthodoxy (11)
14 Bible translator burned for heresy (usual spelling) (7)
15 Units of biblical currency (7)
16 Birthplace of Saul, later St Paul (6)
17 Beneficed member of the clergy (6)
19 King of Tyre, an ally of David and Solomon (5)
21 Francesco -----, most popular for his operas, he also composed *Statuit ei Dominus*, with a text from the Wisdom of Sirach (1943) (5)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 18 January, 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 on Friday 31 January. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 8 February issue.

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

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

Solution to the 21/28 December puzzle

The names of the winners of our Christmas Acrostic competition, which appeared in the 21/28 December double issue, are published with the answers on page 31.