

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Cambridge's beloved field hospital

IT'S PERHAPS the most striking and memorable of all Pope Francis' images for the Church: "It must be like a field hospital that cleans and heals wounds. This is the mission of the Church: to heal the wounds of the heart, to open doors, to free people, to say that God is good, God forgives all, God is the Father, God is affectionate, God always waits for us."

An unprepossessing hut with cream-painted corrugated iron walls and a wooden interior on the brink of Cambridge can claim to be literally that – both church and field hospital. St Vincent de Paul in Fen Ditton began life at Addenbrooke's Hospital and has moved across the city four times since. Built in 1914 it was one of several pre-fabricated huts used as a hospital for soldiers returning from the front line in France. The hospital included a pioneering bath ward, filled with warm circulating water, which was particularly effective in treating shrapnel wounds.

Parishioner Debbie Banaszkiwicz has written a pamphlet outlining the building's



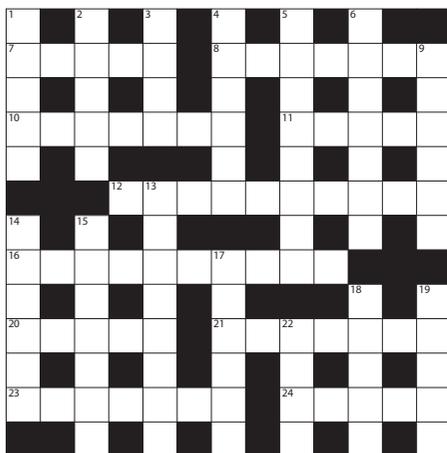
journey over the last 100 years. After the war, Baron Anatole von Hügel coughed up the £250 needed to buy one of the huts. It moved to its current spot on Ditton Lane after St Laurence's church on Milton Road opened in 1958. Today this humble but greatly loved building is under threat. "It has stood the test of time remarkably well," Debbie writes, "but it is now really starting to show its age. We hope that the current work being undertaken by volunteers will at least buy us some time whilst we consider options for the future."

MAGGIE FERGUSON, who wrote our obituary of Jean Vanier in *The Tablet* last week, tells me: "For the 30 years that I knew him, Jean Vanier was a *Tablet* reader, and it was a sign of his loyalty to us that he accepted an invitation, in the summer of 1996, to come to *The Tablet's* Open Day at Church House, Westminster. The topic assigned to him by the editor, John Wilkins, whom Jean respected, was 'The New Movements: Christian Communities and Sects'. To many in the audience, Jean appeared relaxed and jovial. But it was my job to collect him and deliver him to Church House, and he made it clear that he was apprehensive about the evening, and wary of the subject set for him. He felt it invited him to criticise other movements, such as, perhaps, Opus Dei, and he would never have wanted to do this. And he was never really comfortable speaking to specified subjects. He preferred – and was much better at – speaking about what he had learned during his life in L'Arche, which he did with such charisma that you could have heard pins drop. I felt relieved for him when the evening was over."

In spite of his ordeal, Maggie assured me that the next time she visited Trosly, there was *The Tablet* on his kitchen table, same as ever.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 658 | Enigma



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 18 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. A copy of *The Saints: A Short History*, by Simon Yarrow, OUP, will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 31 May. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 8 June issue.

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Across

- 7 Twentieth-century poet whose names included Weston Loomis (5)
- 8 Word for horizontal angle or direction of a compass bearing (7)
- 10 Musical instrument also known as the chitarrone (7)
- 11 Post supporting handrail of stairs (5)
- 12 ----- architecture used local materials and traditions (10)
- 16 Henry Carr is a character in this play by Tom Stoppard (10)
- 20 Mozart's *Ave Verum* is also known as ----- in D (5)
- 21 Surname of mistress of 22 Down (7)
- 23 One of those who defeated Athens in 404 BC (7)

- 24 Spanish poet and dramatist, 1896-1936 (5)

Down

- 1 P.G. Wodehouse wrote of young men in these (5)
- 2 ----- House; reference library in Oxford specialising in Anglican church history (5)
- 3 River forming part of Poland/Germany border (4)
- 4 The ----- spider's scientific name is *Pelinobius muticus* (6)
- 5 Ornament originally forming the crown of a buttress or small turret (8)
- 6 Upper edge or planking of the side of a ship (7)
- 9 Christian name of actress starring in

- The Black Dahlia* (2006) (6)
- 13 A mammal lacking incisors and canine teeth is referred to thus (8)
- 14 The first ones were issued in Britain on 1 May 1840 (6)
- 15 Pertaining to poetry such as *Inferno* and *The Divine Comedy* (7)
- 17 Christian name of Hollywood actor (1914-58) known for swashbuckling roles (6)
- 18 UK's most southerly city (5)
- 19 Perfume oil made from flowers and water (5)
- 22 French novelist who, in 1898, published his letter supporting Captain Dreyfus (4)

SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

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

Solution to the 27 April puzzle

Solution to the 27 April crossword No. 655

- Across:** 7 Lilies; 8 Decent; 10 Mistake; 11 Risky; 12 Eric; 13 Chant; 17 Bonds; 18 Rhea; 22 Prawn; 23 Scorpio; 24 Thorns; 25 Appear.
- Down:** 1 Climbed; 2 Classic; 3 Metal; 4 Herring; 5 Feast; 6 Stays; 9 Methodist; 14 Morning; 15 Whopper; 16 Labours; 19 Spite; 20 Capon; 21 Soaps. **Winner:** Colette Tipping, Antrim, Northern Ireland.