

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Time to bowl a maiden over

PAUL HANDLEY, sagacious editor of *The Church Times* and choreographer of the annual match between the Archbishop of Canterbury's team and St Peter's Cricket Club, the Vatican side, writes that this year, for the first time, the archbishop's side will include two women players.

Thea Smith, 25, and Becky Heath-Taylor, 30, are both currently ordinands at Trinity College, Bristol. Ms Smith will be flying out to Rome with her teammates the day after her ordination at Guildford Cathedral on 30 June; Ms Heath-Taylor is due to be ordained next year. Thea is a keen rugby and football player. "I only started playing cricket this year, so it's quite jammy to go international so quickly," she told *The Times*. Becky is also late to the crease; a keen distance runner, she played hockey and rounders at school.

St Peter's Cricket Club is largely made up of Indian and Sri Lankan seminarians. They're all men, of course, at least for now. The two sides have met every year since 2014, when the archbishop's XI beat the Vatican team, as they have mostly done since. But although



the teams compete with great commitment and seriousness, the result matters less than the camaraderie. "The power of cricket to bring people together should not be underestimated," Handley says.

Last year, a joint Anglican-Roman Catholic side trounced an interfaith team at Lord's, where the final of the Cricket World Cup will be taking place on 14 July. The match between the two sides this summer takes place 10 days earlier, at the Capannelle Ground on the outskirts of Rome on Thursday 4 July at 3 p.m.

ANOTHER STORY hoiked from the back page: the Airdrie-born Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, Leo Cushley, confesses candidly, "I am not a great football supporter." He is, though, a smooth and canny diplomat, who came to Edinburgh nearly six years ago after a career in the Holy See's diplomatic service that included postings in Burundi and South Africa.

The idea of putting up Billy McNeill, the captain of the Celtic team that won the European Cup in 1967, for a knighthood occurred to the archbishop as he was enjoying the Lisbon Lions' 50th anniversary celebrations, according to STV News.

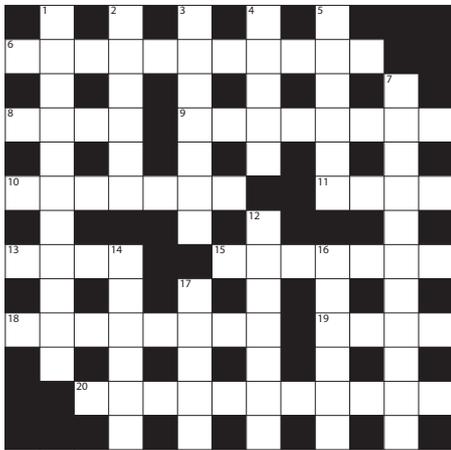
But he calculated that a balanced ticket might be more likely to find favour, so he threw in the name of John Greig, a former Rangers captain and manager, to the nomination.

McNeill, who won 31 major honours as a player and went on to have two spells at Celtic as manager, died on 22 April a proud MBE; his funeral Mass held at St Aloysius' Church, Glasgow, last month, drew many thousands of mourners to the east end of Glasgow.

If Greig receives a knighthood in future, he will probably have the unique distinction of being a Rangers legend nominated for this honour by a Roman Catholic archbishop.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 663 | Axe



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 22 June, *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 Jesus, Christian Art and Catholicism – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 5 July. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 13 July issue.

Across

- 6 Recce in Eden is reforming early Christian beliefs (6,5)
- 8 Dashing, but no painter, Saul's father (4)
- 9 One who helped Paul in Colossae keep a phrasebook locked up (8)
- 10 That indefinable thing: an old city region with no river – where Herod Philip ruled (7)
- 11 Left hospital department fast (4)
- 13 Is able to make a miracle here (4)
- 15 Pope has the lives, perhaps, of a cat (7)
- 18 Son of Korah in strange Bible, heartless Baal makes psalmist (8)
- 19 Missouri's fit description of Bible country (4)

- 20 Apostle and Marlowe, both converted (11)

Down

- 1 Privileged town's "harakiri" tab after massacre (7-4)
- 2 Benjamin's second son's Malbec heretic drank (6)
- 3 Saxon scholar's taken on board US character, the father of disciples (7)
- 4 Dominican maybe after half a day makes a rector (5)
- 5 Jacob dreamt of a ladder? Here's a nut hard to crack (6)
- 7 Murder One, they figured? (4,3,4)

- 12 Place for Henry; he's top and good in French and in Numbers (7)
- 14 Ha, there's a pub falling down in every part of the Jordan Valley (6)
- 16 He hunted for a little time, upsetting staff (6)
- 17 Hope charity makes up what girl has started? (5)

SUDOKU | Beginner

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

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

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

Solution to the 1 June puzzle

Solution to the 1 June crossword No. 660

Across: 5 Arimathean; 7 Lent; 8 Arminian; 9 Galatia; 10 Nain; 12 Adah; 14 Lebanon; 17 Miracles; 18 Asia; 19 Revelation. **Down:** 1 Bigtha; 2 Damaris; 3 Shema; 4 Cainan; 5 Alexandria; 6 Mabinogion; 11 Messiah; 13 Heaven; 15 Anakim; 16 Elder.

Winner: Fr John Thackray, Ipswich, Suffolk.

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