

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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A fly in the ointment

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury, Justin Welby, was a little under the weather when he spoke to journalists at Lambeth Palace last week, with what he assured us was only a very mild case of pneumonia. Afterwards, when we joined him for the lunchtime Eucharist service in the chapel crypt, he was anointed with holy oils, and the congregation – including the white-robed members of the ecumenical community of St Anselm, which he founded in 2015 – gathered around to pray over him.

The archbishop had been soldiering on, keeping an appointment to talk to us about *The Power of Reconciliation*, which he wrote during his sabbatical last year. It's a manual for resolving conflict partly drawn from his experiences working in Nigeria; one of his key recommendations is to always make sure refreshments are provided during negotiations. We were unable to draw him out on the possibility of reconciliation between Rebekah Vardy and Coleen Rooney.

The Church of England, like the Catholic Church, is clear that anointment is primarily a vehicle for spiritual grace rather than a miracle cure. Sadly, Welby tested positive for



Covid on Monday, scuppering his plan to preach at the Platinum Jubilee thanksgiving service in St Paul's.

IANTHE PRATT, who died on 10 April this year at the age of 95, and her husband Oliver were irrepressible campaigners, reformers and stirrers, and central figures in the lay Catholic insurgency that ruffled the Catholic Church in England in the decades after the Second Vatican Council. When *Humanae Vitae* was published to widespread astonishment and alarm in 1968, the opposition to its ban on artificial contraception was organ-

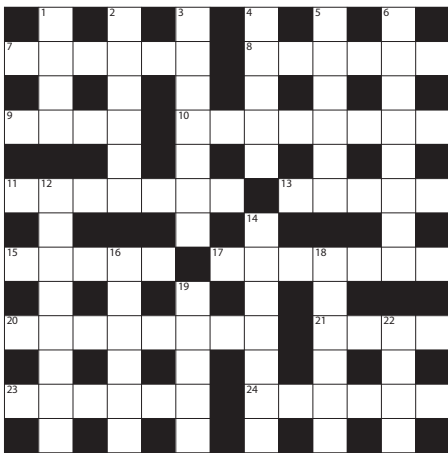
ised nationally from the Pratt family home. At the National Pastoral Congress in 1980, Ianthe chaired the group on the position of women in the Church.

Born on 7 December 1926, Ianthe Hill was one of three sisters in a family of lawyers and social reformers. Both her father and mother were gifted artists – some will have seen their paintings hanging in Ianthe's sitting room. Her parents had been converts to Catholicism but they encouraged open-mindedness and free discussion at home: Ianthe caught the bug. The Second World War broke out when she was 13 and during the Blitz in London she joined the local fire-fighting team. Ianthe's parents took a relaxed view of her education. She went to school for less than a year. The rest of the time she had a Russian-Jewish governess, Franya Godby, who inspired her with a love of learning.

Iris Murdoch, who tutored her at Oxford, found Ianthe "full of zest and gusto but wild and vague". That also just about summed her up as a mother, the eldest of her three children, Francis, told me. "Ianthe had a vision of what an inclusive Church could be, one where everyone was welcome and where women were able to use to the full their God-given gifts," her old friend Penny Toller said at her funeral in the church of St Thomas More in Dulwich.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 808 Enigma



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 4 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 Paul, Theology and Christian Ethics – 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.

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Across

- 7 A small, nomadic group within Hinduism (6)
- 8 Patron saint of bakers, feast 5 February (6)
- 9 Canopus is one (4)
- 10 He wrote *Gargantua and Pantagruel* (8)
- 11 Cholesterol-lowering drugs (7)
- 13 Thomas Carlyle attended this academy, in a Scottish town of the same name (5)
- 15 48th vice-president of the US (5)
- 17 They lack pockets, according to an old saying (7)
- 20 Round angles of 360 degrees (8)
- 21 Corrupt Shakespearean character who deliberately destroys a marriage (4)

- 23 The kind of devotion Aeneas showed to Anchises (6)
- 24 This kind of tea alleviates arthritic pain (6)

Down

- 1 Latin tag: *Caritas non ---- superbe* (4)
- 2 Dickens' Amy ----- lived at the Marshalsea Prison (6)
- 3 A kind of yellow quartz (7)
- 4 One qualified to expound the Halacha (5)
- 5 It belongs to the family Istiophoridae (6)
- 6 Ayutthaya used to be its capital city (8)
- 12 It was originally called the aetherphone (8)
- 14 ----- *Liberty*: 2004 film with Mandy Moore (7)

- 16 Dr Jack Preger started one for the poor in Kolkata in the 1960s (6)
- 18 Codeine, morphine, heroin; each is a this (6)
- 19 The sixth plague in the Bible brought these and blains (5)
- 22 Surname of the fictional Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* (4)

SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

Solution to the 14 May puzzle

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

Solution to the 14 May crossword No. 805

Across: 1 Appals; 5 Tonic; 8 Solfa; 9 Arbitrer; 10 Avid; 11 Oklahoma; 13 Snout; 14 Cabal; 19 Polyglot; 21 Eden; 23 Resting; 24 Tweet; 25 Agree; 26 Across. **Down:** 2 Pillion; 3 Alas; 4 Sparks; 5 To be a man; 6 Not so; 7 Carnal; 8 Soap; 12 Quagmire; 15 Address; 16 Sparta; 17 Borgia; 18 Knot; 20 Loser; 22 Stir.