

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

Strictly Stonyhurst

STONYHURST COLLEGE has announced a tantalising line-up for its first Literature & Film Festival, which will take place on Friday and Saturday, 16 and 17 August. Speakers and performers include actor, author and director Simon Callow, and Adam Kay, the best-selling author of *This is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor*. The climax of the festival will be an open-air screening in the fabulous grounds of the college of the Oscar-winning film about the life of Freddie Mercury, *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

The headline speaker will be Ann Widdecombe, the former Tory minister recently elected as a Brexit Party MEP. She will talk about life as a politician in Westminster, and sharing anecdotes from her celebrated appearances on *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Last week, Miss Widdecombe accused the owners of theatres who had cancelled performances of her one-woman show, "Strictly Ann: An Evening With Ann Widdecombe", of "denying free speech". She had said in a television interview that science could one day "produce



an answer" that, she suggested, might help people with unwanted same-sex attraction.

"I'm disappointed that the people who bought the tickets for my show are now finding that they can't have that fun after all," she told the BBC. The full programme and tickets for the festival – including for Miss Widdecombe's show – are available at: <https://enterprises.stonyhurst.ac.uk/literature-film-festival/>

"BUT HAS HE ever been a parish priest?" It's the question that's always asked of an

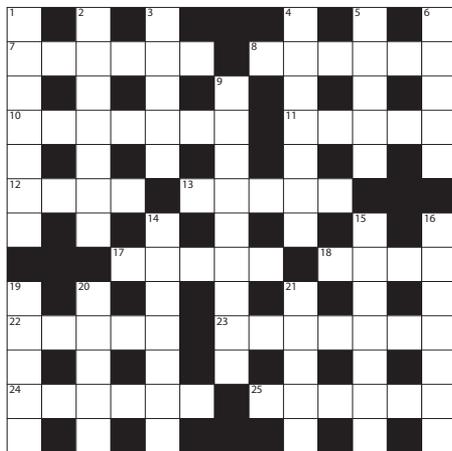
ecclesiastical high-flier fast-tracked from the English College to a teaching job in a seminary then on to a tricky admin role before being appointed a bishop. And a cursory look at the C.V. of John Wilson, appointed this week at the age of 50 to be Peter Smith's successor as Archbishop of Southwark, seems to suggest a 20-year career in the Diocese of Leeds with barely a hint of parish experience.

But between Wilson's stint as administrator of the diocese in the two-year interregnum between Arthur Roche and Marcus Stock, and his appointment as auxiliary bishop in Westminster, there was a lively seven-month vignette as the much-loved parish priest of St Martin de Porres, Wakefield.

Deacon Nick Shields remembers: "Being John Wilson's deacon was like hanging on to a whirlwind. His ideas were simple but worked. I personally loved the way he had the Presidential chair lowered so he did not loom above the concelebrant or deacon! We had newly installed radiators around the walls of the church which inevitably left sooty stains above them. We agonised at length over the best way to deal with this. One day we arrived to find the walls clean and sparkling. Father John had been out with his sugar soap or whatever for much of the previous evening. No fuss, no cost, job done."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 662 | Alanus



Across

- 7 Book of the Old Testament (6)
- 8 Sister of Moses and Aaron (6)
- 10 Recess in sanctuary wall for emptying away water used in Mass (7)
- 11 & 21 Down: *The Light* -- - - - - - , Holman Hunt painting based on Rev. 3:20 (2,3,5)
- 12 Type of mountain goat found in the Holy Land (4)
- 13 Louis ----- (baptised Ludewig 1784), composer and violin virtuoso (5)
- 17 ----- Churchill, award-winning British playwright (5)
- 18 Island of Inner Hebrides with own whisky and probable retreat of St Columba (4)
- 22 He succeeded St Peter as Pope (5)

- 23 City in Roman Galicia visited by Paul and Barnabus (Acts 13,14) (7)
- 24 St John, priest, one of the 40 Martyrs, executed aged 80 near Hereford (6)
- 25 Edward, founder (1619) giving name to independent school in Dulwich (6)

Down

- 1 City of ancient Egypt (Is. 19) giving name to pop music city of Tennessee (7)
- 2 French composer of interwar years, works include the ballet *Bacchus et Ariane* (7)
- 3 Architect responsible for revival of the Gothic in church architecture (5)
- 4 Companion of St Paul and recipient of letters from him (5)
- 5 Ordinal number of Mendelssohn's

- Reformation* symphony (5)
- 6 Days (Wed, Fri, Sat) set aside for fasting and prayer first week of each season (5)
- 9 One of the regions people came from amazed the apostles spoke their tongue at Pentecost (9)
- 14 John ----- (d. 1948), English painter and illustrator, known as "The Poster King" (7)
- 15 Last of Mozart's symphonies with a link to Holst (7)
- 16 ----- *Burana*, Orff's cantata from medieval Latin secular poems (7)
- 19 Poet whose work was put to music by Parry for his *Jerusalem* (5)
- 20 Fairy-tale creature seen in Swiss banks! (5)
- 21 See 11 Across

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 15 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. 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 28 June. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 6 July issue.

SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

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

Solution to the 25 May puzzle

Solution to the 25 May crossword No. 659

Across: 7 Azyme; 8 Tractor; 10 Van Dyke; 11 Belch; 12 Staffrooms; 16 Diocletian; 20 lambs; 21 Bassano; 23 Larnaca; 24 Egypt. Down: 1 Salve; 2 Byrne; 3 Levy; 4 Itself; 5 Canberra; 6 Stilton; 9 Rehash; 13 Talisman; 14 Adriel; 15 Coimbra; 17 Tobias; 18 Mary's; 19 Month; 22 Seek. **Winner:** Elizabeth Young, Harpenden, Herts.

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