

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Among the believers

RELIGION IS safe enough in small doses. But in its undiluted, swivel-eyed form, it leads to trouble. That, at least, is the general view. And in making his radio documentary *We Do Do God*, Ed Kessler, the director of the Woolf Institute in Cambridge and one of the busiest choreographers of interfaith dialogue in Britain, admits he set off with that suspicion in the back of his mind.

But after talking to some of the more strictly observant – Jewish Haredi, Muslim Salafis and Christian Pentecostals – Ed tells me that he found that they were “neither defensive, nor detached from society. Their fervour does not mean they are foaming at the mouth. They flourish because they are confident in their identity and their way of life attracts those who struggle with questions about how they should lead their lives.”

A Pentecostal bishop and an ultra-Orthodox rabbi each quoted the same verse to describe their relationship with the wider world: “And seek the peace of the city where I have exiled you and pray for it to the Lord, for in its peace, you shall have peace”



(Jeremiah 29:7). Ed tells me: “The Hebrew word for peace, *shalom*, means welfare or well-being. This verse represents a kind of mission statement for fervent religious engagement with society. Rather to my surprise, making this programme convinced me that we should feel less threatened by strictly observant religious practice.” *We Do Do God* is on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday 5 May and is available on iPlayer.

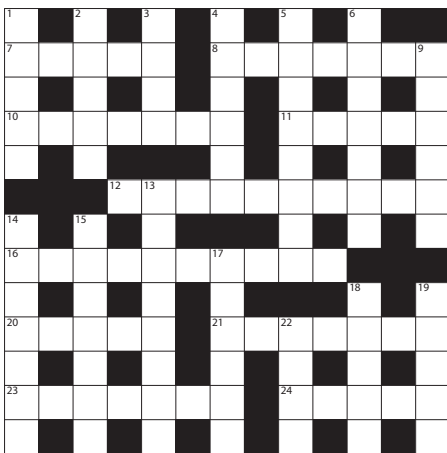
THE TURBULENT career of Sir Ronald McIntosh, civil servant, businessman and

indefatigable conversationalist, who died on 1 April at the age of 99, took him from dodging U-boats as a wartime merchant seaman to advising the Yeltsin government on the development of farming and healthcare in post-communist Russia. Ronnie worked closely with Edward Heath, Harold Wilson, James Callaghan and powerful trade union barons to try to smooth out the booms and busts in the British economy as director-general of the National Economic Development Council (“Neddy”) in the 1970s. Denis Healey, perhaps seeing too much of his own brusque self-confidence in a fellow Balliol man, complained: “The trouble with Ronnie is that he thinks he’s Jesus Christ.”

In 1951, aged 32, Ronnie married Doreen MacGinnity, after they had met on the tennis court as mixed doubles partners – “by far the best and most important thing I have done in my life”. He was an Anglican, she a Catholic. They were hugely happy. After 20 years of marriage he was received into the Catholic Church by the abbot of Ampleforth, Basil Hume. Dapper, shrewd, convivial and kind, Ronnie was an enthusiastic member of the Tablet Trust and a committed parishioner at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, run by the Carmelite friars, just down the road from his home in Faversham.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 656 | Alanus



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 4 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. 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 on Friday 17 May. The answers to this week’s puzzles and the crossword winner’s name will appear in the 25 May issue.

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Across

- 7 Milton, first P.M. of independent Uganda, later President (5)
- 8 Local language spoken by Our Lord (7)
- 10 Sixteenth-century Italian artist whose works include frescoes in the Castel Sant’Angelo by the Vatican (7)
- 11 Simplest of the three orders of Greco-Roman architecture (5)
- 12 & 24 Acr: Stories of pilgrimage penned by Geoffrey Chaucer (10,5)
- 16 Member of order founded in the eleventh century by St Bruno of Cologne (10)
- 20 Cinema suitable for a king or queen (5)
- 21 Bd Dominic -----, Passionist who brought J.H. Newman into the

- Catholic Church (7)
- 23 Performer in the theatre (7)
- 24 See 12 Across

Down

- 1 Vestment worn over cassock by assistant at Mass (5)
- 2 St Maximilian -----, Franciscan publisher of Catholic journals, gave his life for another at Auschwitz (5)
- 3 See 13 Down
- 4 Member of congregation of priests founded by Jean-Claude Colin 1816 in Lyons (6)
- 5 An oval panel or holy surround as with Our Lady of Guadalupe (8)

- 6 Service provided by Rossini’s Figaro (7)
- 9 Bone at the base of the spine (6)
- 13 & 3 Down: Metaphorical and mythological weakness (8,4)
- 14 Outmoded job title for a woman player (7)
- 15 Great Pope giving name to type of liturgical chant (7)
- 17 Nearby region whose women were raped by the early Romans under Romulus (6)
- 18 Kurt -----, German anti-Nazi composer who collaborated with playwright Brecht (5)
- 19 Damien -----, prominent English artist, Turner Prize winner (5)
- 22 One of the historical Books of the Bible (4)

SUDOKU | Beginner

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

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

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

Solution to the 13 April puzzle

Solution to the 13 April crossword No. 653

Across: 1 Taoism; 5 Dream; 8 Ratio; 9 Rampart; 10 Caen; 11 Montfort; 13 Aphid; 14 Congo; 19 Aloysius; 21 Isle; 23 Basmati; 24 Oxlip; 25 Tosca; 26 Mother. Down: 2 Antwerp; 3 Icon; 4 Merlot; 5 Demotion; 6 Erato; 7 Motets; 8 Rice; 12 Kinshasa; 15 Giselle; 16 Talbot; 17 Cubism; 18 Keep; 20 Oasis; 22 Moot. Winner: Basil Longy, of Bromley, south-east London.