

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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A refuge beyond words

SAID AND HIS MOTHER Salima fled Iraq during the war when Said's father – a university lecturer – was targeted and killed. Said is autistic. One thing he is good at is remembering dates. As he had lost all of his possessions, he only had the dates he remembered from his past, birthdays of his family and friends and other significant events to comfort him. He would repeat those dates over and over again, day and night, unable to sleep or to allow his mother to sleep.

Said and Selima (not their real names) ended up in a small room in a hostel in London. Eventually, a local learning disability charity helped them find better accommodation. Now Said has been able to create new memories and collect new beloved possessions. He has made new friends and remembers their birthdays. Salima has volunteered at the charity that helped her and is now a trustee. But the trauma of being a refugee has never left them.

The charity Beyond Words had been developing a "wordless story" about refugees, not due to be published until early 2022. Its founder, Sheila Hollins, tells us a shortened version can be accessed here: [https://books-](https://books-beyondwords.co.uk/afghanistan)



beyondwords.co.uk/afghanistan. "We have all watched reports from Afghanistan with a growing sense of horror," Sheila tells us. "Being forced to flee your home and leave behind everything you know is terrifying and confusing. For someone with learning or communication difficulties, the situation is amplified beyond comprehension."

The peer used pictures to communicate with her learning-disabled son Nigel and the experience led her to found Beyond Words in 1989; she has now written over 40 titles in its Books Beyond Words series. They have proved

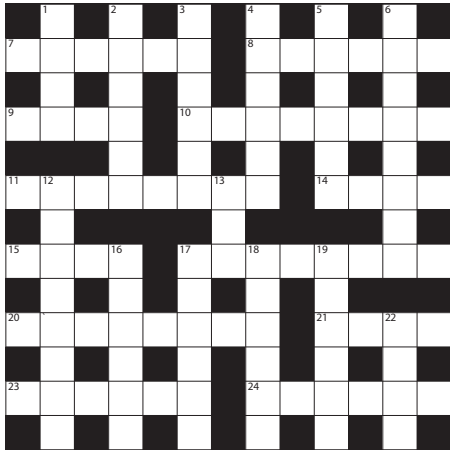
a fantastic resource for children like Said because they are not language-dependent.

ROBERT CALDERISI has always had a likeably mischievous streak. After a 24-year career at the World Bank, he published *The Trouble with Africa: Why Foreign Aid Isn't Working*, followed by *Earthly Mission: The Catholic Church and World Development*, two invigorating books that caused a painful stir in the overseas aid establishment. In the early 1990s, when Calderisi was appointed director of the World Bank's mission in western Africa, he and his partner, Jean Daniel, were the first same-sex couple assigned by a UN agency to a senior position overseas. "It hardly created a ripple," he says.

Calderisi (a Rhodes Scholar himself) needed all his skill for ambivalence in writing his latest book, *Cecil Rhodes and Other Statues: Dealing Plainly with the Past*. It is not a defence of Rhodes – who Calderisi acknowledges was appalling in many ways – but it might be thought of as a defence of the complexity of human character. Antony Gormley has suggested that the statue at Oriel College, Oxford be turned round so Rhodes faces the wall in shame; I suspect Calderisi would like to give the very human bully and swindler another twist, so he is half out, half in.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 771 Axe



Across

- 7 Dubiously purchase Ur, dropping Peter's name (6)
- 8 Chronicles prophetess looking initially to leave northern city returns cheated (6)
- 9 Mother of Mary's ultimately from Cana: Galilean woman aesthete (4)
- 10 Setter's deadly, unforgettable (8)
- 11 Attic's inane hat collection (8)
- 14 The last word in testaments? (4)
- 15 Views, whichever way you look at it, are the occupations of bishops (4)
- 17 Paul wrote here of huge sea change following depression (8)
- 20 Heretics have a way to occupy slouches (8)

- 21 Primarily Nubian interference leaves Egypt and Sudan crosser (4)
- 23 Feast: thrash before a short service (6)
- 24 Announce Viking gold found to the West by decree (6)

Down

- 1 No in Glasgow turned up after many see senior cleric? (4)
- 2 Woman known to Paul who quoted cost to live lower down (6)
- 3 Clare's place is like the river in Oxford – uplifting (6)
- 4 Sorcerer's article in support of charlatan (6)
- 5 Female solo part in the Mass (6)
- 6 Book of chants is translated to save Adam ... (8)
- 12 ... an Asian, non-English, religious book (3,5)
- 13 Saint died – is buried between the first and fifteenth characters (3)
- 16 N.T. woman picked out in a line among several (6)
- 17 Anointing oil, rich mix, Small and Medium (6)
- 18 Not so many get over this cautionary tale (6)
- 19 Councils get green light: evacuating Surrey to bear down on South (6)
- 22 Irish county one set out from to see Tim's gran (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 4 September, 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.

SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

Solution to the 7 August puzzle

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

Solution to the 7 August crossword No. 768

Across: 6 Gaza; 7 Edomites; 8 Philadelphia; 9 Ritual; 11 Faith; 13 Altar, 15 Cephas; 18 Fishers of men; 20 Neapolis; 21 Song.

Down: 1 Pashur; 2 Baal; 3 Holly; 4 Michmash; 5 Levant; 7 Esdras; 10 Transept; 12 Verses; 14 Liffey; 16 Shebna; 17 Kells; 19 Fast.

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