

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Ted's talents

IF THE NAME doesn't ring a bell, you have probably heard his voice. Ted Harrison is a former BBC religious affairs correspondent who at various times presented *Sunday* and *Does He Take Sugar?* on Radio 4. He's also a prolific and versatile writer; his two dozen books range from a scholarly study of stigmata to a chirpy guide to the cult of Elvis Presley.

Harrison has dabbled in cartoons since scribbling unflattering pictures of teachers at school, but over the past ten years, since he turned 60, he's thrown himself into art. He has produced some high-profile public works, including an installation in St Paul's Cathedral and memorials at Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals that honour organ donors. A couple of weeks ago, his first solo exhibition opened, and it's running till 20 June on Artsy (www.artsy.net/laura-igallery/artist/ted-harrison-b-1948).

Harrison, who divides his life between two places at opposite ends of the British Isles, both of which he calls home – Aberystwyth, Ceredigion and Unst, Shetland – sees his work as a form of visual theology. “I was keen to find ways to explore the mysteries of life that did not rely on language. I had come to realise



that when asking the big questions, human language, even religious language, seemed very inadequate.”

A launch was planned this week with Harrison discussing art and religion with his old friend Richard Coles. “I've known Richard for several years,” Harrison told us. “We collaborated on *Improbable Saints*, a light-hearted look at some holy legends: the unstoppable preacher who carried on talking after being beheaded – you know the sort of thing. Richard wrote the text and I did the illustrations.”

“HAVING BEEN a cleric for 46 years, I set out to de-clericalise myself,” Fr Tom Grufferty, a retired parish priest in the Diocese of Portsmouth and regular on our letters pages, writes. “Over the last few years I have discovered that clericalism is the greatest challenge of our time. Without us noticing, it has created an elite in which one group of people think and act as if they are better than others.”

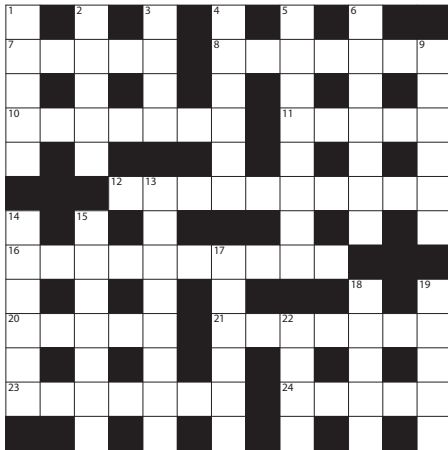
What follows is what Tom – the title “Father” was the first thing to go – describes as a “personal clerical detox”. Inspired by Pope Francis's call “to strip myself of everything that separates me from the missionary mandate of the Gospel”, Tom next dropped the clerical collar “and all those garments that separate me from my fellow human beings”.

Most importantly, though, he began, as he puts it, “to walk with the laity”. Listening to the laity “is healing, is forgiving, and, above all, allows us to grow in the faith”.

Tom's account of his “self de-clericalisation” is included in *Echoes of a Parish Priest* (available direct from the author at tomgrufferty1@gmail.com for £14.99). It is headed “Submitted to The Tablet in 2019 but not published”. The editor must have slept in the morning it arrived in his inbox.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 760 Enigma



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 12 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. **■ We are processing entries but there may be a delay in notifying winners and sending out prizes. Please keep entering.**

Across

- 7 The Fife -----; piece of jewellery housed in Kensington Palace (5)
8 The 2004 film *The Passion of the Christ* was in this language (7)
10 Puccini's Christian name (7)
11 In this TV comedy travel documentary, Karl Pilkington was this abroad (5)
12 21 February 1804 saw the first ----- in Wales (5,5)
16 The Cassini Division is found inside Saturn's ----- (5,5)
20 “Half-lapt in glowing gauze and golden -----”; (*The Princess*; Tennyson) (5)

- 21 Their founder was Eugene de Mazenod (7)
23 Seminary for rabbis (7)
24 Girl's name, from Greek word for peace (5)

Down

- 1 The whole world is this (Shakespeare) (5)
2 Annual holiday on 11 February celebrates the myth of this country's foundation in 660 BC (5)
3 “---- nome”, aria from *Rigoletto* (4)
4 Traditional ceremonial drink, made from kava roots in the Fiji Islands (6)
5 *Caveat emptor* is an example of one (5,3)
6 World's smallest country (7)

- 9 The term “----- chain” was first coined by scientist Geoffrey Milne in relation to soil (6)
13 Spice coming from the root of the *curcuma longa* plant (8)
14 Borough on the English Riviera, it has the same name as a suburb of Auckland (6)
15 Nietzsche was one (7)
17 On maps, it links points having the same barometric pressure (6)
18 *Lutra lutra* is better known as this (5)
19 Germany's Folkwang University of the Arts is located here (5)
22 Christian name of Superman's girlfriend (4)

SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

Solution to the 22 May puzzle

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

Solution to the 22 May crossword No. 757

Across: 7 Back us; 8 Empire; 10 Iron man; 11 Inane; 12 Tens; 13 Amend; 17 Pious; 18 Amok; 22 Omits; 23 Elapsed; 24 Garter; 25 Finance.
Down: 1 Obviate; 2 Account; 3 Duomo; 4 Ambient; 5 Milan; 6 Meter; 9 Enamoured; 14 Minster; 15 Amusing; 16 Skidded; 19 Lodge; 20 Litre; 21 Nadir.

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