

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

## Barbara the baker

ONE OF the great characters of modern day Methodism, Barbara Glasson's distinctive modus operandi is caught by the title of her new book *Peace is a Doing Word*, just published by the enterprising Sacristy Press.

Glasson grew up in the Kent countryside. Women couldn't be ordained, so she studied agricultural sciences. She married, had three children, then trained for the ministry. She completed a doctorate – a study of Methodism's changing attitudes to lone parenting she called "Bastards and Nonconformists" – and was sent to be the Methodist minister in Liverpool city centre. Glasson describes what happened next in her book *I Am Somewhere Else*. Conventional ideas about what it might mean to plant a church in the inner city were turned upside down. For one thing, there wasn't a church. Or a congregation. She spent a year walking the streets and listening to the people she met.

Then a community came together to make bread and give it away. "We had an open table around which anyone could gather to bake the loaves – this bread was wonderful and shared widely and became a means of transformation for many, including me," she



remembers. People called it the "Bread Church" and, like Touchstone, the interfaith project she went on to found in Bradford, it's still there. "Such is Methodist itinerancy," Glasson tells us, "that we must let these things be free and trust them to others to take forward."

In 2020, Glasson served as president of the Methodist Conference. "Very odd, very wonderful and strange. I went to the Rohingya refugee camps, to the Middle East, Argentina and Zimbabwe before being locked down. After I had finished cancelling things and bouncing off the walls, I began to write –hence *Peace is a Doing Word*. Little did I know how

appropriate it would be for now and our troublesome upheavals."

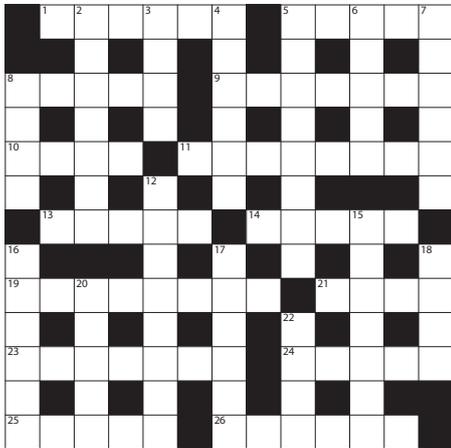
LOOKING TO a time when the world's centre would shift from the old world to the new, Horace Walpole prophesied, in 1774, that one day we'd see "a Thucydides at Boston, a Xenophon at New York, a Virgil at Mexico and a Newton at Peru". Or a St Peter in Topeka, Kansas. That was the headquarters of the "Vatican in Exile", and the seat of the apostolic throne of Pope Michael, vicar of Christ, supreme pontiff of the universal Church, *servus servorum Dei*. Until last week. Pope Michael – born David Bawden – went to his reward on 2 August, at the age of 62.

His reign as Pope had lasted 32 years. Elected in a conclave at his parents' thrift store in Belvue, Pottawatomie County (attendees, including his parents: six), Bawden ruled the Church from the porch of his family home overlooking Highway 24. For him, the Second Vatican Council had heralded generalised heresy, and a heretic couldn't be Pope – and given the Church needed a Pope, someone, somewhere, had to step into the shoes of the fisherman.

No successor has yet been chosen. A phrase from the papal coronation ceremony seems apropos: *sic transit gloria mundi*.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 818 Alanus



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 13 August, 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 God, Miracles and Pilgrimage – 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

- 1 Augustus Caesar's demographic exercise that gave us the Bethlehem miracle (6)
- 5 Poet who advised us not to make our rosaries of yew-berries (5)
- 8 St Bernardino of -----, Franciscan saint and "Apostle of Italy" (5)
- 9 Jacob -----, leading fifteenth-century composer of Masses and sacred music (7)
- 10 Girl's name from the Greek meaning "goddess" (4)
- 11 Popular hard cheese from provincial Italy (8)
- 13 Mythical river of the underworld inducing forgetfulness (5)
- 14 George -----, anti-Nazi German-American artist, a founder of the Berlin Dada group (5)
- 19 Roman silver coin at the time of Our Lord (8)
- 21 Blessed Margaret, mother of Cardinal

- Reginald, martyred in the Tower 1541 (4)
- 23 Feeling of bitterness or deep-seated ill will (7)
- 24 Poem and its title by Thomas Gray, written in a country churchyard (5)
- 25 Type of thrush, may have a ring association (5)
- 26 Charles -----, French composer of a popular "Ave Maria" based on Bach prelude (6)

### Down

- 2 Person who interprets spiritual texts (7)
- 3 Playwright who created the "Chesterbelloc" caricature (4)
- 4 European republic, and language, largely Catholic (6)
- 5 Social revolutionary, co-writer of *The Communist Manifesto* (4,4)
- 6 Mythical son of Jupiter giving name to

- region of ancient Greece, the land of Pan (5)
- 7 "Vade retro me -----", Christ's rebuke to Peter [Mark:8] (6)
- 8 Brother of Cain and Abel (4)
- 12 Essential item for the thrufier at High Mass or Benediction (8)
- 15 Ancient city of central Italy with early Christian basilica and Romanesque cathedral (7)
- 16 Theodor -----, twentieth-century German philosopher, musicologist (6)
- 17 People of North Africa of Berber descent (6)
- 18 Sir Peter -----, court painter of the future James II and Cromwell's warts (4)
- 20 Afternoon prayer in the Divine Office (5)
- 22 Old Testament king who destroyed the House of Ahab (4)

### SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

### Solution to the 23 July puzzle

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

### Solution to the 23 July crossword No. 815

- Across:** 1 Flight; 5 James; 8 Garda; 9 Bernini; 10 Thee; 11 Cromwell; 13 Myrrh; 14 Banjo; 19 Cantatas; 21 Bray; 23 Incubus; 24 Micah; 25 Tithe; 26 Senior.  
**Down:** 2 Larceny; 3 Goat; 4 Tabard; 5 Jeremiah; 6 Maize; 7 Stille; 8 Gate; 12 Preamble; 15 Jericho; 16 Schist; 17 Tarsus; 18 Lych; 20 Nacht; 22 Oman.