

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

The sun still shines

THERE'S AN unforgettable moment in the 2005 film *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days* when its effervescent young heroine sweeps a stack of white leaflets off a top-floor banister; they rise up into the air and flutter gently down into the grand marbled atrium of Munich University, where Sophie and her brother Hans are students.

For nearly a year before that day in February 1943, the Scholls and a small band of students – who called themselves the “White Rose” – had been writing and mimeographing leaflets denouncing the Nazi regime, which they surreptitiously distributed around the city. At night they painted anti-Nazi graffiti on walls. The leaflets were still swirling around the atrium when Sophie, Hans and their friend and collaborator, Christoph Probst, were arrested. Within a few days they had been interrogated, tried, found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death.

“Isn't it a riddle,” Sophie wrote, “and awe-inspiring, that everything is so beautiful? Despite the horror. Lately I've noticed something grand and mysterious peering through my sheer joy in all that is beautiful:



a sense of its creator ...” Sophie and Hans were Lutherans. Christoph, whose wife had just had their third child, was received into the Catholic Church the night before he was executed. “Now,” he told the priest, “my death will be easy and joyful.” The sentence was carried out in the courtyard of Munich's Stadelheim Prison. One source records that Sophie's final words were: “The sun still shines.”

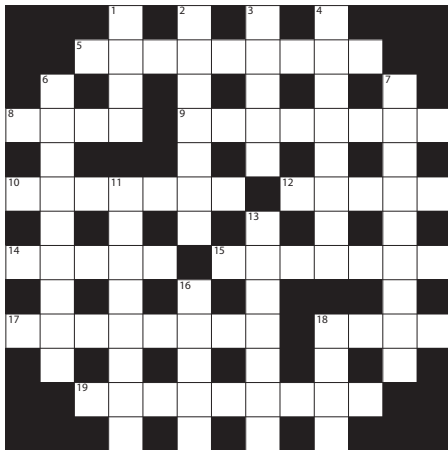
Sophie Scholl was born one hundred years ago this week; she was 21 when she died.

BRITAIN PUTS on a terrific display for official visitors who meet the Queen. But when it comes to impressing guests it has serious competition from the Vatican. A couple of months ago, the virologist Professor Peter Piot, once part of the United Nations' top brass, told *The Tablet* how he had been bowled over when trekking through Vatican corridors full of Renaissance art. Now the political economist and author of *The State We're In*, Will Hutton, has recalled his own wide-eyed visit to Rome. Speaking at a conference organised by St Mary's University last week, Hutton recalled attending a conference in Rome in 2008 organised by the Fondazione Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice. After giving a paper on capitalism he was asked to stay overnight. At 5 a.m. the next morning he was whisked off in a golf buggy to a church in the hills for a service. It was, he said, “one of the most extraordinary spiritual things I've ever experienced”.

Hutton trumped Piot, meeting not only cardinals but the Pope himself. A year later, when Benedict published *Caritas in Veritate*, his encyclical reflecting on the financial crash, he had incorporated “some of my ideas”, Hutton told the conference delegates with evident relish. And not a corgi in sight.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 756 Axe



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 15 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. **■ We are processing entries but there may be a delay in notifying winners and sending out prizes. Please keep entering.**

Prizes kindly donated by

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.oup.com

Across

- 5 Anatolia in Greek and Roman times, region of many a mission by Paul and others (4,5)
- 8 Father of Menahem, King of Israel (4)
- 9 Important early Christian teachers and missionaries (8)
- 10 Name of King Jehoiachim before it was changed by Pharaoh Necho (7)
- 12 Place where Zadok and Nathan anointed Solomon (5)
- 14 Dynast from humble origins integral to both Testaments (5)
- 15 Abraham's chief servant who found Rebekah in Mesopotamia (7)

- 17 Place Jacob called “God's camp” (8)
- 18 Son of Obed whose men assailed Abimelech but then turned tail (4)
- 19 Native of a land settled by a son of Ham (9)

Down

- 1 Ancestor of Jesus Christ, from the supposed genealogy of Joseph, son of Heli (4)
- 2 Province of the Roman Empire in the five highlands visited by Paul, Silas and Timothy (7)
- 3 New Testament character sometimes called Cephas (5)

- 4 Penitent; chastened (8)
- 6 Edomite king, son of Achbor (4,5)
- 7 Father of Meshullam, gate repairer in Jerusalem's New Quarter (9)
- 11 Custodian of the Ark of the Covenant for twenty years (8)
- 13 Bishop of Rome considered the first Apostolic Father of the Church (7)
- 16 With Amalek, one of the Edomite chieftains descended from Adah (5)
- 18 One of the five traditional Philistine strongholds of the O.T. (4)

SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

Solution to the 24 April puzzle

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

Solution to the 24 April crossword No. 753

Across: 7 Taoist; 8 Brahma; 9 Cana; 10 Arabians; 11 Rebekah; 12 Allah; 15 Laban; 17 Damaris; 20 Cenchræa; 22 Bath; 23 Kidron; 24 Elymas. **Down:** 1 Samaveda; 2 Pilate; 3 Ithamar; 4 Abram; 5 Daniel; 6 Amon; 13 Abiathar; 14 Hanamel; 16 Ancyra; 18 Abbeyes; 19 Trent; 21 Elim.