

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Celebrating Communion

NO ONE brings the worlds of social activism and the academy together with more energy, invention and style than Anna Rowlands. The guests gathered under the chandeliers in the chapter house in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral to toast the launch of her new book, *Towards a Politics of Communion: Catholic Social Teaching in Dark Times* (T&T Clark, £25.99; Tablet price, £23.39) included university professors and teachers, campaigners, activists and trade unionists, priests and church bureaucrats, and people from Cafod and the Jesuit Refugee Service and other agencies.

Her book – which she admitted took her ten years to write – is a fluent and polyphonic introduction to the Catholic vision of the good life, a celebration of the conviviality and richness of communal life written in the shadow of a century that has demonstrated our capacity for cruelty and barbarity. It is dedicated to a woman Religious, Pat Robb CJ, with whom Rowlands worked in immigration detention centres. “She befriended the persistent widow, the virtuous and difficult



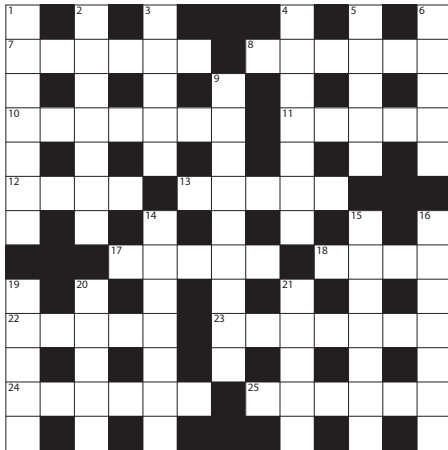
woman who faithfully believes in a truth beyond mere power and witnesses to it until justice is rendered. She stands for a generation of women, written out of the magisterial pages of the tradition, but who have led and inspired social renewal.” For Rowlands, St Hilda associate professor of Catholic social thought and practice in the department of theology and religious studies at Durham University, Catholic social teaching is not a catechism or a blueprint but an unfolding vision of what can happen when we seize that Good Samaritan moment, and recognise in the face of the stranger who is struggling not

a casualty or a victim but a friend and partner in the adventure of learning together how to be human.

PIERS PLOWRIGHT, the radio producer and *Tablet* contributor who died last summer, is sorely missed not only by his colleagues at the BBC but by the members of a meditation group that met on Sunday evenings at the home of the writer and theatre director James Roose-Evans. Ranging in age from their mid-thirties to their nineties, and including a guitar maker, a nurse and three actors, the group has collated, in Piers' memory, a collection of nineteen reflections on meditation, and how it can build a sense of community and combat loneliness. *Together* is delightful, not only because it offers such a wide range of approaches to prayer but because it draws so richly on the wisdom of men and women – some Catholic, many not – who have understood why prayerful meditation matters. “Listen with the ear of the heart,” from St Benedict. “God is our greatest and most continuing adventure,” Etty Hillesum. And, from the Carmelite Brother Lawrence: “The time of business does not differ with me from the time of prayer ... I turn my little omelette in the pan for the love of God.” *Together* can be downloaded from jamesrooseevans.co.uk

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 793 Enigma



Across

- 7 Scientist puts something rotten in the trash (6)
- 8 Capital growing by 100 per cent (6)
- 10 We'll leave you behind if you bring this up (3,4)
- 11 One ancient epic? I have fifty-one now! (5)
- 12 Time to break that thing (4)
- 13 A piece of information for father to stomach! (5)
- 17 They can beat all the other cards (5)
- 18 Sounds overly proud of part of the body (4)
- 22 Stop business acquiring half the country's capital (5)

- 23 If I rent, could that be more efficient? (7)
- 24 Churchman finds Ireland in the midst of a plague (6)
- 25 The lack of a penny leads to a broken heart (6)

Down

- 1 Give a sailor a black mark on Good Friday (7)
- 2 Unfortunately not free more frequently (7)
- 3 Flower not found in the desert (5)
- 4 Enraged by expensive clothing leading to debt (7)
- 5 Poor Nigel took someone else's marbles (5)

- 6 Slyly mocking the bad design when the first glamour has gone (5)
- 9 Politically incorrect American woman leads musicians to aid communication (9)
- 14 Well, you don't suffer from it! (7)
- 15 I am surrounded by Spanish men drawing their pensions (7)
- 16 There are no rules about any architectural feature (7)
- 19 Room for a holy vestment (5)
- 20 Helps to hydrate one unconscious after a short illness (5)
- 21 If you like, I will give you something worse than you find in 7 Across (5)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 19 February *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 | Hard

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

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

Solution to the 29 January puzzle

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

Solution to the 29 January crossword No. 790

Answers: Across: 7 Adrian; 8 Bonsai; 10 Killary; 11 Trent; 12 Neem; 13 Blunt; 17 Frogs; 18 Falk; 22 Agape; 23 Salmont; 24 Crocus; 25 Indigo. Down: 1 Sacking; 2 Frilled; 3 Hagar; 4 Tontine; 5 Aspen; 6 Misty; 9 Syllogism; 14 Croesus; 15 Camogie; 16 Skid Row; 19 Marco; 20 Magog; 21 Gland.

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