

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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## Ken's kindness

OUR PARIS correspondent, Tom Heneghan, a New Yorker who has reported from all over the world, tells us that the Welsh novelist Ken Follett has donated the earnings from his latest book, *Notre-Dame: A Short History of the Meaning of Cathedrals*, to the restoration of the Gothic Cathedral of Saint-Samson in Dol-de-Bretagne, a small town in Brittany.

It's handily placed for Follett to keep an eye on progress. "I really like the west of France," Follett says. "It's close enough to England that I can drive there in a day." Follett wrote a string of successful spy thrillers before scoring his biggest success with *Pillars of the Earth*, about medieval cathedral builders.

Saint Samson was a bishop from south Wales who built a monastery in Dol-de-Bretagne in the sixth century. The austere granite cathedral was built in the thirteenth century after King John of England – or *Jean sans Terre* as he is known in France – burned down a previous Romanesque cathedral on the same site. He repented by coughing up for the current building.

Two days after the Notre-Dame fire, Follett's



French publisher asked him to write a short book on what France's most famous cathedral meant to its admirers. "She said she would donate the publisher's profits to the rebuilding fund and, if I wished, I could do the same with my royalties. Yes, I said; of course, I'd love to," he wrote later. Seeing that Notre-Dame had attracted so many donations, it was suggested he support the refurbishment of Saint Samson de Dol-de-Bretagne instead. Follett agreed.

"It's a twist worthy of his best novels," the Catholic weekly *La Vie* wrote.

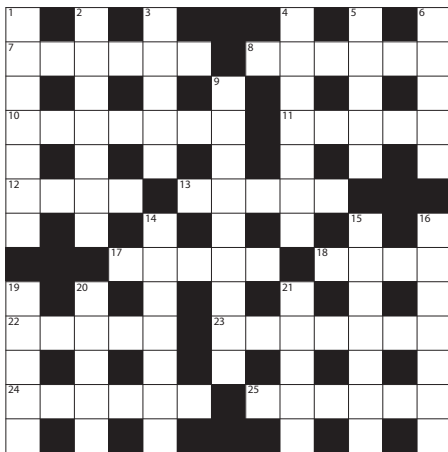
"HOLY WEEK has a special place in my heart" writes Father Richard Nesbitt, "for it was at the Easter Vigil on 2 April 1994 I was received into the Church at the grand old age of 28 while living in Poland. After that night nothing in my life was ever the same again, just as everything changed for the first disciples on the first Easter morning."

Father Nesbitt went on to train for the priesthood at Allen Hall and since 2013 he has been parish priest at Our Lady of Fatima church in White City in west London: "a wonderfully vibrant, faith-filled, multicultural, salt-of-the-earth parish community at the heart of one of London's largest social housing estates". The Friends of the Holy Land has published fifteen poems written by Fr Nesbitt during the lockdown of Holy Week last year together with fifteen hope-filled reflections by Christians living in Israel and Palestine. "We, the Christians of the Holy Land, are the children of the Resurrection," one writes. "The Risen Christ has been faithful and gracious to us at this difficult time, and He will be for ever and ever."

*Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land: Poems and Reflections for Lent and Easter* can be bought online from [www.friends-of-holyland.org.uk/lenten-book](http://www.friends-of-holyland.org.uk/lenten-book) for £7.99 plus p&p.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 748 Enigma



#### Across

- 7 Water nymphs (Greek mythology) (6)
- 8 Japanese religion involving ancestor worship (6)
- 10 A whole number (7)
- 11 Small American songbird, not unlike a greenfinch (5)
- 12 Maori war dance (4)
- 13 Prince Myshkin, Dostoevsky's "-----" (5)
- 17 Rudyard Kipling's poem about these was published in 1903 (5)
- 18 Firstborn of Adam and Eve (4)
- 22 The only member of the family Phascolarctidae (5)
- 23 North America's only marsupial (7)
- 24 System for transliterating Chinese into the Roman alphabet (6)

- 25 Gaius ----- (died 86 BC) held the office of Consul seven times (6)

#### Down

- 1 Title of Mars probe which landed in November 2018 (7)
- 2 "Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a -----" (Napoleon Bonaparte) (7)
- 3 Lady Macbeth's "poor cat" may be found in this (5)
- 4 The Jewish Feast of Weeks (7)
- 5 First name of conductor of London Symphony Orchestra, 1968-1979 (5)
- 6 Nikolai ----- (1809-1852), Russian dramatist of Ukrainian origin (5)
- 9 In *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye believes this should be maintained (9)

- 14 Relating to the body, as distinct from the mind (7)
- 15 *Pastinaca sativa* is popularly known as this (7)
- 16 The belief that everything in nature has a soul (7)
- 19 Founded in 2003 by Niklas Zennström and Janus Friis (5)
- 20 No longer mandatory before weddings in every part of the Catholic world (5)
- 21 Describes music based on modes other than major or minor scales (5)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 20 March, The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: [thetablet@thetablet.co.uk](mailto: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 Saints, Monasticism and Philosophy of Religion – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random. **We cannot process entries or prizes at present. Please keep entering. Winners will be notified and prizes awarded as soon possible.**

### SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

#### Solution to the 27 February puzzle

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

#### Solution to the 27 February crossword No. 745

**Across:** 1 Tropes; 5 Rumba; 8 Cafes; 9 Peccary; 10 This; 11 Russian; 13 Shaft; 14 Scone; 19 Sacristy; 21 Dido; 23 Extreme; 24 Ashen; 25 Torts; 26 Shoddy. **Down:** 2 Raffish; 3 Pest; 4 Superb; 5 Rucksack; 6 Miami; 7 Anyone; 8 City; 12 Officers; 15 Neighed; 16 Assent; 17 Athens; 18 Down; 20 Cater; 22 Halo.

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