

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

Fathers and sons

THE FUNERAL took place earlier this month of Septimus Waugh at St James' Church, Tiverton, Devon. He and Jimmy Burns, the journalist and *Tablet* board member, had kept in touch since university days.

"Sepo and I shared a literary legacy," Jimmy tells us, "the friendship that united our fathers, Tom Burns and Evelyn Waugh." Tom Burns, the publisher who later became editor of *The Tablet*, was the driving force behind Waugh's biography of Edmund Campion, published in 1936. When the Spanish Civil War broke out later that year, "My father and Waugh both supported Franco," Jimmy says. "Waugh's sister-in-law Gabriel Herbert, one of my father's girlfriends prior to his marriage, drove an ambulance and raised funds for the nationalist cause. When World War II broke out, Burns and Waugh applied to join Churchill's propaganda department – the Ministry of Information. Both were English Catholics drawn by a subconscious stream of faith and mission towards patriotism, propaganda, and espionage. While Waugh, having been rejected by the MoI, went on to enlist in the army, Burns was sent to the British embassy in Madrid, where he



married my Spanish mother, Mabel."

The marriage was to test the friendship between Burns and Waugh. Jimmy tells us: "Of my father's young Castilian bride, Waugh wrote in his diary in February 1946: 'swarthy, squat, Japanese appearance'. My mother, hardly surprisingly, thought Waugh was racist, a snob, and a misogynist, a sentiment that was compounded when Waugh, invited shortly after to dinner at my parents' house, complained about the smell of garlic coming from the kitchen and made fun of the young Spanish maid who served at the table."

Seventy-three years later, in June 2019, the

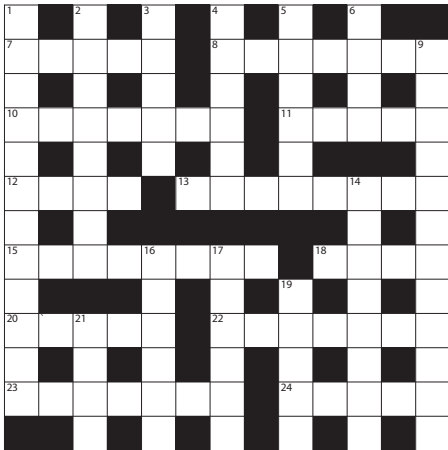
Waugh/Burns friendship was rekindled by their sons. "Swifts dancing around our balcony overlooking the Mediterranean announced the arrival at our holiday home in Sitges of Sepo and his wife Nicky," Jimmy says. "Over a magnificent paella we recalled Evelyn's connection with Spain long before we were born." Waugh visited Catalonia for the first time in 1929 during a stopover on his Mediterranean cruise trip before the breakdown of his first marriage. He was impressed by the various examples of Gaudí's works, not least the Sagrada Família. "It seems certain to me that it will always remain a ruin, and very dangerous, unless the towers are removed before they fall," Waugh wrote. As the sun went down, Septimus and Jimmy shared memories of their fathers, "aware of how much we owed them but also of what differentiated us from them," as Jimmy tactfully puts it.

Septimus became a carpenter and crafted beautiful wooden pieces. At his funeral his nephew Alexander Waugh recalled that he was particularly proud of a carving of St George now in the church of St Stanislaus, Dulverton, another of St Jude in Sacred Heart, Wimbledon, and a magnificent crucifix in Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ilfracombe.

"I will miss dear Sepo hugely," Jimmy tells us. "Que en Paz Descanses, querido amigo!"

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 783 Axe



Across

- 7 Philistine city has two kings during this period (5)
8 Saint's atrocity – reportedly during which identification's made (7)
10 Hypothetical, false, Lycia outlawed place where children were sacrificed (7)
11 Great Persian king's prophecy Russians embraced (5)
12 Shepherd, Abraham's familiar pupil (4)
13 Summon Lizzie to address west of village near Jerusalem (8)
15 Her people's tiny page in evolution (8)
18 Mosaic is one of the features of the Pentateuch, for instance (4)
20 Religion's clout? (5)

22 Deface icon built for second-century heretic (7)

23 Spooks wreck a comeback – totally, in old language (7)

24 Unnamed biblical queen – graduate woman getting ahead (5)

Down

- 1 Impetus a sage developed during the onset of Lent ... (12)
2 ... extraordinarily hyperopic, one's deduction? (8)
3 Divine messenger falls in South America (5)
4 For poets it's hard to endure in, maybe, Elisha's place (6)
5 Nahor's wife read line in a book (6)

6 Lot came here to open zoos or animal reserves (4)

9 Seen Saturday preparing for big day tomorrow (6,6)

14 Early Christian sect members with little money is headed by a woman (8)

16 After reading two short books – one new, one old – end up in Judah town (6)

17 United Church is in support of limited charitable aid for clerical clothing (6)

19 Cross Christian-Muslim subterfuge following the onset of disarmament (5)

21 Rachel's sister Henry turned up to hug the final time (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 27 November, 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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SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

Solution to the 6 November puzzle

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

Solution to the 6 November crossword No. 780

Across: 1 Altar; 4 Jotham; 10 Lucas; 11 Emperor; 12 Convent; 13 India; 14 Requiem Mass; 19 Ulema; 21 Ivan III; 23 Martyrs; 24 Nahor; 25 Eliada; 26 Anani. **Down:** 2 Licence; 3 Aisle; 5 Orphism; 6 Herod; 7 Moriah; 8 Flock; 9 Leo the First; 15 Umayyad; 16 Swithun/Swithun; 17 Summae; 18 Mitre; 20 Edeir; 22 Arnan.