

A Passion for Truth

IN THE SIXTIES a select group of journalists wanted to make a mark in Catholic media. Robert Nowell was one of them. While at Oxford he converted to Catholicism and met his future wife, Anne-Marie, another Catholic convert. After working as a subeditor at the *Catholic Herald* – he had an eagle eye for textual accuracy, and in his old age falling standards of spelling and grammar in the media brought out his cantankerous side – he moved to *The Tablet* as assistant editor to the formidable Douglas Woodruff from 1962 to 1967.

It was a remarkable collaboration because the two could not have been more different in their views. The Second Vatican Council was meeting in Rome, and while Woodruff had deep reservations about the reforms, Nowell welcomed them with enthusiasm.

After Tom Burns moved into the editor's seat in 1967, Nowell moved to the monthly *Herder Correspondence*, which he edited with provocative aplomb. When it closed in 1970, Nowell became a freelance writer and translator, working from home. His biography of Hans Küng, *A Passion for Truth* – a title that



personified its author as much as its subject – appeared in 1981.

He cared about food and drink, cooking his signature beef stew for the family and making brandy butter every Christmas. He grew artichokes, potatoes and other vegetables on his allotment. As a young man he enjoyed walking and climbing in Scotland, and when he was older riding his horse. He died peacefully at home on 29 July, aged 87. His wife of 64 years, Anne-Marie, survives him. Shortly before his death he told his daughter Tess: "I've had the most enjoyable life".

SAKHNIN IS IN Lower Galilee, 20 miles north of Nazareth. It packs its population of 30,000 people – mostly Muslim but with a sizeable Christian minority – into a couple of streets.

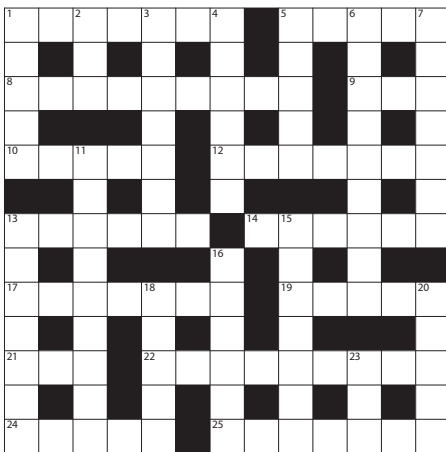
In 2003, its football team implausibly won promotion to the Israeli Premier League. Fearing immediate relegation, Sakhnin borrowed some players and signed a Brazilian who had been playing in Bulgaria. They also hired a new manager, Eyal Lahman, an Israeli Jew. Lahman drilled his mostly Arab players into a tight, defensive and physically intimidating unit. They weren't great fun to watch, but they were hard to beat.

In their first season, to general astonishment, Sakhnin got to Israel's Cup Final, where they faced Hapoel Haifa. The team from the small Arab town were a goal down after an hour, but won the match with goals from two of the Jewish players in the side. The winner was scored by the Brazilian – a Catholic. It was a tiny glint of light in a depressing year of violence. Sakhnin is still the only Arab club currently playing in the Israeli Premier League.

Nicholas Blincoe tells the story in his engrossing new book about football in Israel and Palestine, *More Noble Than War*, published by Constable later this month.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 670 | Enigma



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 10 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. A copy of *The Saints: A Short History*, by Simon Yarrow, OUP, will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 23 August. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 31 August issue.

Across

- 1 It's stimulating to boast about the Church of Ireland's direction (7)
- 5 In the past, as I wrote, they were very much feared (5)
- 8 It may be said his majesty has nowhere to go (9)
- 9 The third man was a revolutionary (3)
- 10 One who looks inwards for patience, they say (5)
- 12 A nobleman is further ennobled by this part of the body (3,4)
- 13 It seems an animal swallowed a theologian; a very confusing business! (6)
- 14 It was in vain Wodehouse tried a very modern practice (6)
- 17 With delicacy, points to the legal penalties (7)

- 19 The colour of a culinary treat? (5)
- 21 The old urge to pray when one loses an oar (3)
- 22 Delay drug, taking great care (9)
- 24 At a later stage, further back on the ship (5)
- 25 An artist in the diner helps with the washing-up (7)

Down

- 1 Firm involved in prohibition of meat (5)
- 2 For a long time, the spy rejected the Gospel (3)
- 3 Ken will provide something old-fashioned for the classroom (7)
- 4 The church does not want this kind of image (6)
- 5 Yes, we are inclined to use bad language (5)
- 6 "Moor the ship correctly!" cried the hermit (9)

- 7 One never getting into hot water (7)
- 11 End tundra; it is no longer wanted (9)
- 13 She is in a nasty organisation, so go back in and find her! (7)
- 15 Dishonourable type in an extract from an opera about a part of Greece (7)
- 16 Bring down a token of thanks and we'll come up with something to keep it in (6)
- 18 When they come up to mock you and me, how sweet it is to go down! (5)
- 20 Possibly an alternative to representing a town (5)
- 23 A biblical tribe used to be desperate for a comic (3)

SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

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

Solution to the 20 July puzzle

Solution to the 20 July crossword No. 667

Across: 7 Lawyer; 8 Klapka; 10 Rotorua; 11 Moira; 12 Them; 13 Aspen; 17 Anent; 18 Vale; 22 Anima; 23 Romuald; 24 No deed; 25 Heroic.
Down: 1 Florets; 2 Switzer; 3 Ferry; 4 Plumber; 5 Optic; 6 Navan; 9 Cassandra; 14 Uniates; 15 Parador; 16 Verdict; 19 Mainz; 20 Hindu; 21 Ember. **Winner:** Rory O'Keefe, of Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

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