

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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An island parish

RAY CAVANAUGH's account of Napoleon Bonaparte's flickering Catholic faith in the issue of 10 August prompted Fr David Musgrave, the current parish priest of the church of the Sacred Heart in Jamestown, St Helena, to where Napoleon was banished after his defeat at Waterloo, to get in touch.

Napoleon wasn't long into his exile in the South Atlantic before he was wheedling for a priest, quite a cheek for a man who had imprisoned two popes. Two Catholic priests arrived in St Helena to oblige the dethroned emperor's spiritual needs. One of them, Father Ange Vignali, gave Napoleon viaticum on the day of his death, 5 May 1821.

There were only sporadic visits to the island from priests for the next 30 years. A permanent church was inaugurated in 1852 – built by Anglo-Irish soldiers serving in the garrison – and the first resident priest arrived. Fr Musgrave is a Schoenstatt father who served in the archdiocese of Cape Town for over 30 years before spending 10 years in a parish in Bolton, in the diocese of Salford. On reaching the age of 75 three years ago, he asked for a



move to St Helena. He alighted on the island from the RMS St Helena in September 2017, and hasn't left since. There are, he tells us, just 18 Catholics on the island. Ascension Island is in his parish and has a slightly larger congregation, though he is not able to say Mass for them as often as he would like. It is just over 800 miles away as the giant petrel flies.

Why St Helena? "To maintain the historic footprint – and to celebrate the Sacraments as the living dynamic presence of our Saviour in one of the most remote corners of the

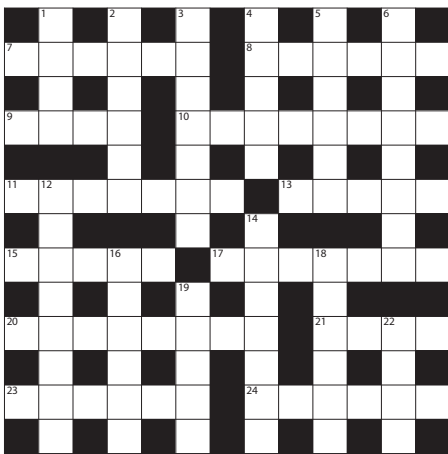
world." Pope Francis has a fondness for churches on the peripheries; Father Musgrave would be happy to welcome him to St Helena.

WIGMORE HALL, London's most intimate concert venue, usually goes dark in August while its performers and patrons head to places like Tanglewood and Bayreuth – or, closer to home, the Royal Albert Hall – for their summer festivals. But for the first time the Wigmore opened its doors this month to launch a new book by piano virtuoso, composer, writer and polymath Stephen Hough.

Hough has followed up his bracing first novel, featuring a tormented sex-addled priest, with *Rough Ideas*, a luminous patchwork quilt of recommendations, encomiums and revelations. It includes an account of how he composed his *Third Piano Sonata*, commissioned to mark *The Tablet's* 175th anniversary. Hough cheerfully reassured his Wigmore audience that the section on religion at the end of the book could easily be skipped by readers allergic to religion. Some of his fellow Catholics may also find it neuralgic; he includes, amid more reflective pieces, a waspish comment on why the Church installed the feast of the Assumption. This didn't stop Baroness Shirley Williams being among the first in the queue to get her copy signed.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 672 | Axe



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 31 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. 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 on Friday 13 September. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 21 September issue.

Across

- 7 Paul's affiliate in Troas (6)
- 8 Notable among the 500 enemies killed by the Jews at Ahasuerus' citadel in Susa (6)
- 9 Son of Zibeon who found hot springs in the desert while tending his father's donkeys (4)
- 10 One of David's children sired when in Jerusalem (8)
- 11 Solomon's commander and an officer of David (7)
- 13 Sacred song used to praise God (5)
- 15 O.T. book in two parts (5)
- 17 Province of the Roman empire in Anatolia visited by Paul, Silas and Timothy (7)
- 20 Son of Hezron, a descendant of Judah (8)
- 21 Kingdom in the O.T. east of the Dead Sea (4)
- 23 Priest who stood with Ezra as he read the Law (6)

- 24 Father of two distinguished warriors who served David (6)

Down

- 1 Town in the Judean hills where David hid from Saul when an outlaw (4)
- 2 Woman often accepted to be the wife of Philemon (6)
- 3 Saul's fourth son (7)
- 4 Name shared by a son and grandson of Caleb (5)
- 5 ----- the Great, King of Persia 522-485 BC (6)
- 6 Leader of David's 22nd group of cantors (8)
- 12 Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (8)
- 14 One of the tribes who built an altar by the Jordan which offended the Israelites (7)

- 16 Proconsul of Achaia whose protection of Paul brought new freedom to the Church (6)
- 18 Son of Saul and Rizpah (6)
- 19 Second son of Aaron, consumed, along with Nadab, by fire (5)
- 22 Name in Genesis for a descendant of Seir the Horite called Jaakan in 1 Chronicles (4)

Answers to the 10 August crossword and sudoku puzzles will appear next week. The crossword winner is: Gerard Staunton, of Galway, Ireland.

SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

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

Solution to the 3 August puzzle

Solution to the 3 August crossword No. 669

Across: 5 Abiathar; 7 Fast; 9 Anatolia; 10 Lo-Debar; 11 Attai; 14 Dinah; 15 Canonic; 17 Seleucia; 19 Anna; 20 Eustache. Down: 1 Abraham; 2 Paran; 3 Ahio; 4 Ordination; 6 Athena; 8 Adoni-Bezek; 12 Thomas; 13 Malachi; 16 Achar; 18 Erse.

Winner: Antony Sisley, of Beckenham, south-east London.

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