

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

Life through a lens

THE PICTURE of the editor looking forgivingly pleased with himself on his wedding day in last week's issue should have had a credit. It was taken by freelance photographer Sophie Stanes, who he has known since they worked together at Cafod. Sophie is also a trained spiritual director. She has always had a gift for putting people at their ease, noticing things happening in the corner of the picture, and catching the spirit of an occasion.

"I plough my chosen furrow with a small selection of wedding couples, faith-based charities and community groups," she told us. "It's a precarious profession, but fortunately seeing the world with a photographer's eye is not something one can switch off. As a spiritual director I help those I accompany to glimpse, focus, and reflect on the Holy Spirit at work in our daily lives."

For the past year, Sophie has been part of the adult learning team at St Paul's Cathedral. "During the pandemic many of us at St Paul's have been furloughed, so I find myself, once again, placing my future in God's hands. I've been able to offer spiritual accompaniment via Skype, and I am volunteering with the Jesuit Refugee Service. Working through spreadsheets



of individuals in need may not be everyone's idea of satisfying and meaningful work but the names of the many destitute refugee friends rise like a litany of prayer from the screen."

And there are other compensations to life in lockdown. "There's now lots of time for photos of my immediate family."

IF YOU want to understand the nation's doctors, Daniel Creamer, consultant dermatologist at King's College Hospital London, recommends a leaf through the obituaries in the *British Medical Journal*.

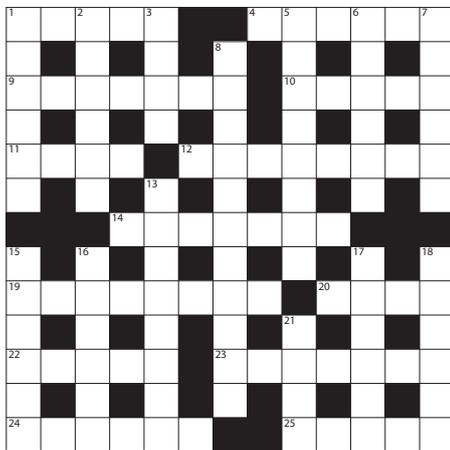
"A theme which crops up over and over again in the BMJ obits is missionary zeal," Daniel tells us. "The surgeon who spent one week each year teaching in hospitals in Palestine; the psychiatrist who worked in Mozambique helping children traumatised by the civil war; and the physician who settled in Zimbabwe where she ran a network of clinics, a leper colony and a tuberculosis sanatorium, as well as conducting police post-mortems. That's a portfolio career to be proud of."

It's not unusual to read of doctors who press on into their seventies or eighties: "His last surgery was on 29 January 2014, marking 51 years in general practice." Then there is the otolaryngologist who was not only a specialist in rescuing opera singers' voices, but "a bon viveur, an expert in French cooking and a devout Parsee Zoroastrian". And there are those characteristics we most admire in our doctors: "Her virtues of listening, empathy, professionalism and hard graft made her immensely popular with patients and colleagues."

While the acute physicians devote their energies to managing Covid-19 patients, Daniel himself has been redeployed as a junior ward doctor. He assures us that doctors are in good heart. "Most of us love our clinical work and flourish in the rough-and-tumble of patient care."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 707 Alanus



Across

- 1 Early invader working with short instrument (5)
- 4 Turn of Libra to hold Zodiac opening around the Amazon (6)
- 9 Operatic lover of Ludmilla with score about confused lass (7)
- 10 Returning native author proves resilient (5)
- 11 Key for boy soprano at beginning of score? (4)
- 12 Augustinian in fresh claim about leader of Israelites (8)
- 14 Live to pursue something to leave (7)
- 19 (& 7 Down) Soul analogy I revised and with it revealed order-founding saint (8,6)

- 20 In haiku duly versify horned beast (4)
- 22 Moans about founder of dynasty out east (5)
- 23 Waste physical force we hear for divine worship in all its forms (7)
- 24 Birdseed for *Angelus* painter? (6)
- 25 It is instrumental to Saint-Saëns symphony (5)

Down

- 1 Ecclesiastic as formal address in front of no church in particular (6)
- 2 Heard why rest about to follow cross with surgical instrument (6)
- 3 Little girl in Dickensian Shop (4)
- 5 Practice concerned with deliverer of the dead (8)

- 6 Last letter to church holding Web resource identifier in European capital (6)
- 7 See 19 Across
- 8 Con solver and St Peter's successor put together without causing harm (11)
- 13 Punishment conveyed in grammatical structure? (8)
- 15 One does cow impression when sheltered by Marist from wind (6)
- 16 The man Lee in trouble with tooth surface (6)
- 17 Saharan people upfront in great conversion (6)
- 18 Poet monitoring how pilgrim is doing? (6)
- 21 Swabian saint and Bamberg bishop back to back (4)

The following clue was missing from last week's puzzle (706): 24 Acr: How much paper went into spreading that terrible smear? (5). Apologies

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 16 May, 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 Jesus, Christian Art and Catholicism – 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.**

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SUDOKU | Tough

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

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

Solution to the 25 April puzzle

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

Solution to the 25 April crossword No. 704

Across: 7 Rorate; 8 Burgos; 10 Pompeii; 11 Sopra; 12 Rial; 13 Jonah; 17 Giles; 18 Bohr; 22 Reeve; 23 Utrecht; 24 Chanel; 25 Equine.
Down: 1 Propers; 2 Gremial; 3 Steel; 4 Dunstan; 5 Agape; 6 Aslan; 9 Nicodemus; 14 Navevh; 15 Joachim; 16 Britten; 19 Bruch; 20 Degas; 21 Iraqi.