

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Surprised by joy

NO ONE does more than Mary Colwell, the producer, conservationist and writer, to bring the message of nature conservation and ecological diversity to Catholics and to bring the message of St Francis of Assisi and *Laudato Si'* to the world of conservation. "God hears the endless symphony of the universe in its entirety," she wrote in *The Tablet* last year. "What it is to be one phrase of that music, to be just one element that is broadcasting our sacred presence among a countless throng, is a privilege we must never forget."

Now Colwell has been chosen as the 2022 recipient of the prestigious RSPB Medal – previous winners include Sir David Attenborough – thanks to her tireless commitment to raising awareness of the plight of the curlew, which is threatened with extinction in the UK and Ireland. She also has her eye on the long game – she is passionate about creating a society where people are not only enchanted by nature, but are well-enough informed to pass exams in it – and she has campaigned successfully for a GCSE in Natural History to be established.

"When I received the email to ask if I'd be happy to receive the medal I was so



excited I forwarded it to my husband, and then forgot to reply to say 'Yes'" Mary told us. "C.S. Lewis described being 'Surprised by joy' and that is how I felt when I first heard a curlew bubbling over a Scottish loch. From then on it has been a journey of enchantment and action."

"O LORD, make thy servant Elizabeth our Queen to rejoice in thy strength." William Byrd's anthem to the first Elizabeth provided the text for Cecilia McDowell's tribute to the second, which premiered at the Tower of London last Tuesday, sung by the voices of

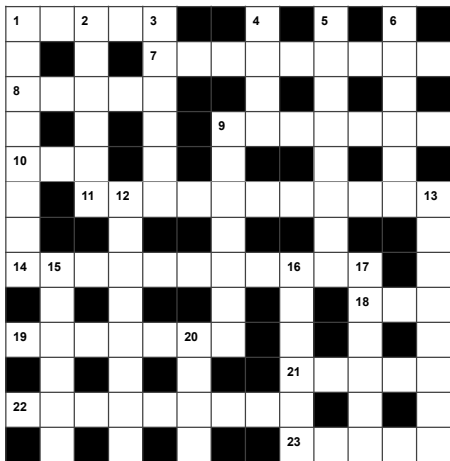
The Sixteen. For inscrutable musical reasons, there were 18 singers in the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, besides conductor Harry Christophers and a harpist.

McDowell's piece, a new commission from the Genesis Foundation, was the freshest flower in "A Garland for the Queen", a tribute to the late monarch which combined Elizabethan choral music from the sixteenth and twentieth centuries. Besides its original commissions (of which this was the thirtieth), the foundation funds opportunities for aspiring artists; Lord Heseltine and Bishop Nicholas Hudson were among the patrons and beneficiaries who made up the audience.

The concert was introduced by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Unlike some of his predecessors, he arrived at the Tower of his own volition, coming by Tube. He praised the late Queen's "willingness to forgive" – a theme poignantly reflected in the choir's rendition of *Miserere nostri* by Thomas Tallis. Somewhere on the sepulchral path from the chapel to the drinks reception, the ecclesiastical party went missing, to the alarm of guests who had heard an exhaustive list of the Tower's victims from a cheery beefeater. "We've lost the cardinal," announced John Studzinski, the founder of the feast. "I hope he hasn't joined Thomas More."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 827 Alanus



- Across**
- 1 Opera in bel canto style by Bellini (5)
 - 7 City (*sic*) associated with the use of the Sarum Rite (9)
 - 8 Impolite reference to journalists (5)
 - 9 Part of the Proper of the Mass following the Epistle and before the Gospel (7)
 - 10 Greek letters (3)
 - 11 Original title of Gruber and Mohr's carol Silent Night (6,5)
 - 14 Covering for shoulders worn by celebrant during Benediction (7,4)
 - 18 Mother of Seth in the OT (3)
 - 19 One actively opposed to new industrial machinery or technology (7)
 - 21 Famous Fountain in Rome where three streets once met (5)

- 22 Ancient Greek goddess with links to love and beauty (9)
 - 23 Fifty make up Our Lady's favourite prayer in St Louis de Montfort's *Secrets of...* (5)
- Down**
- 1 Book of the OT continuing from Ezra (8)
 - 2 Feature in wall to allow for statue of sacred object (6)
 - 3 Shrine town with which foundress of the Poor Clares is associated (6)
 - 4 Christian fashion designer of world renown (4)
 - 5 UAE capital with a Catholic cathedral dedicated to St Joseph (3,5)
 - 6 "Once more unto the ... dear friends", Shakespeare's *Henry V* (6)

- 9 From where 11 of the original Apostles came (7)
- 12 Man's name, e.g. President Roosevelt, meaning "gift of God" (8)
- 13 Blind soothsayer in mythology who reveals to Oedipus his fateful actions (8)
- 15 Takes position of power illegally (6)
- 16 Cathedral city in England (6)
- 17 Only one of 10 thanked Jesus for curing them (Luke 17:11-19) (6)
- 20 Small ethnic group of Dravidian association in southern India (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 22 October, 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 Augustine, Christianity and Thomas Aquinas – 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 | Very hard

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

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

Solution to the 1 October puzzle

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

Solution to the 1 October crossword No. 824

- Across:** 1 Marto, 7 Churchill, 8 Toxic, 9 Botoiph, 10 Hun, 11 Astigmatism, 14 Serendipity, 18 Eli, 19 Veritas, 21 Icen, 22 Tubal-cain, 23 Orion
- Down:** 1 Matthias, 2 Roxana, 3 Occult, 4 Brno, 5 Rheostat, 6 Glyphs, 9 Baggins, 12 Sheridan, 13 Magician, 15 Erebus, 16 In Vino, 17 Yemeni, 20 Arch