

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Rhodes must fall

ASHLEY BECK admits that when he was a student at Oriel College, Oxford, forty years ago, if anyone had tried to remove the statue of Cecil Rhodes – just a few yards from his rooms – “I would have chained myself to it”. Now he tells us: “I’m glad it’s going. The Provost and Fellows are to be congratulated for deciding to remove it. Rhodes was generous to Oriel and in establishing the Rhodes scholarships. But studying history involves applying truth to the present day.”

The life-size Portland-stone statues of other alumni on the wall of the Rhodes Building include William Allen, leader of the “English Mission”, training priests to return to England under the reign of Queen Elizabeth, where many were tortured and martyred. Beck, a priest in the parish of Beckenham who teaches at St Mary’s University in Strawberry Hill and is President of the Catholic Theological Association, points out: “At one time it would have been unthinkable for a statue to Allen to have been erected in Oxford, as generations would have been taught that he was nothing but a traitor. History is not static. Our view of history changes – statues come and statues go.”



THE WRITER and publisher Melissa Scott is a regular visitor to Bethlehem, and recently compiled a diary of 50 days of lockdown in the town (www.bethlehem-town.com).

“Compiling the diary with entries from Christians and Muslims across Bethlehem, reinforced just how significant Bethlehem is,” she tells us. “When we sing Christmas carols and watch Nativity plays retelling the story of one family ordered to return to their home town to register in a census, how often do we think of all the refugees today who would love to return to their home town?”

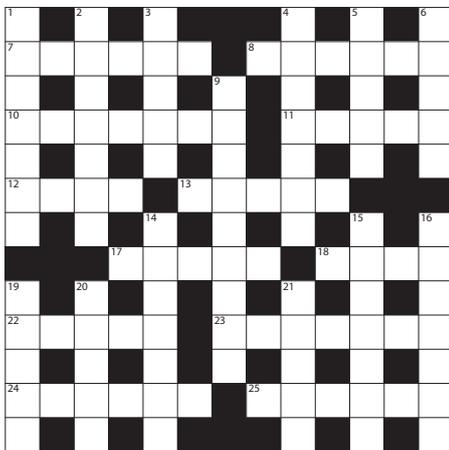
Cases of the virus were found amongst pilgrims staying in a guesthouse in the first week of Lent, and the town was immediately placed in quarantine. The streets were suddenly deserted and churches and mosques closed their doors. Tourism and the local economy took a thumping.

“Many still remembered the siege of Bethlehem during the *intifada* of 2002, when a group of Palestinians had sought refuge in the Church of the Nativity while it was surrounded by soldiers and tanks for 39 days,” Melissa says. “When writing about their thoughts and fears during the lockdown many reminded me that the people of Bethlehem had experience of sheltering in their homes. The only difference was that this time they were protecting their loved ones from the virus not bullets.”

“The restrictions have gradually been lifted, and the people of Bethlehem have hesitantly emerged from their houses, still fearful that a second wave might sweep across the town with an even deadlier force. But they are pleased that this hidden enemy seems – for now at least – to have left their town.” Melissa is now looking forward to a virtual Bethlehem festival, to be held at the end of November. “It will be a celebration of the town, past and present,” she says. Details will be released shortly.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 713 Alanus



Across

- 7 (& 20 Down): What condemns Luther sustains the birds! (4,2,5)
- 8 One betraying army unit within mountain of biblical note (6)
- 10 Broken reed let down hopes of air and fuel invention (7)
- 11 Drive out to hear one of his operas (5)
- 12 Church promotion for Mercia bishop saint (4)
- 13 Transgressor we hear involved in the staged killing of Caesar (5)
- 17 Painter returned two hours before Angelus prayed (5)
- 18 Unknown source working in follow-up to article (4)

- 22 Eager cry of unknown Dominican (5)
- 23 Ugly thing could be conjunctivitis we hear (7)
- 24 One is back in location being speaker of Middle Eastern language (6)
- 25 Spice barrel returned on Tam O’Shanter’s horse (6)

Down

- 1 Building return of Latin faith against a cold thing (7)
- 2 The truth revealed of a Dominican motto (7)
- 3 Flower symbol of widowed Sodom escapee whom we follow (5)
- 4 Need to have King in subterranean pursuit (7)

- 5 Take posh car out for spin to city of BVM cathedral (5)
- 6 (& 14 Down): Practises art involved with the coverings of people’s ups and downs (5,7)
- 9 Did indeed get organ to destination (9)
- 14 See 6 Down
- 15 Enlightens school group about vagaries of sin (7)
- 16 Endure suffering to reach London Tube station? (7)
- 19 Unexpected outcome of Dickens’ novel (5)
- 20 See 7 Across
- 21 It’s an odd puzzle about a form of transport (5)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 27 June, 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.

■ 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

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

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

Solution to the 6 June puzzle

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

Solution to the 6 June crossword No. 710

Across: 1 Zadok; 4 Smyrna; 9 Azariah; 10 Natal; 11 Owen; 12 Cuthbert; 14 Synaxis; 19 Veracruz; 20 Diem; 22 Stein; 23 Gonzaga; 24 Agatho; 25 Snows. **Down:** 1 Zealot; 2 Drake’s; 3 Keir; 5 Mannheim; 6 Rutter; 7 Arlott; 8 Thaumaturge; 13 Hyacinth; 15 Avesta; 16 Ortega; 17 Pisano; 18 Emmaus; 21 Enos.