

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

## Voices of the Spirit

**SISTER PAMELA** Hussey, who would have been 100 on 7 January, died peacefully on 13 December in Apley Grange, the Harrogate care home of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

"Mine might be described as a life of two halves or, more accurately, of two continents, South America and Europe," Pamela herself once wrote. Though her parents were English, she was born and brought up in Buenos Aires. In November 1942, at the age of twenty, she sailed from Argentina to Britain to "do her bit" for the war effort. In 2018, when she was 96, a delegation from the French Embassy arrived at Apley Grange. The community gathered around as Pamela was presented with the Légion d'Honneur – France's highest honour – for her service during the war. Her work and those of her fellow code-breakers at Bletchley Park had saved many lives.

Pamela returned to Argentina after the war, but "a desire for a deeper commitment" drew her back to Europe and to becoming a member of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Aged nearly 60 "the two continents of my life came together again" when she went to work for CIIR (the Catholic Institute for International Relations); she stayed for 25 years. A tireless



campaigner, speaker and writer, in the 1980s she visited Central America several times, working especially in El Salvador. Ian Linden, former director of CIIR, wrote in his tribute on the ICN website: "Pamela felt deeply the betrayal of women who had fought against the Latin American dictatorships and who were expected after victory to return to traditional roles." George Gelber, another colleague and friend for many years, told us, "She had such a clear sense of what was right and wrong and her vigorous opinions were always refreshing"; Sylvia Gelber added, "Pamela was such a constant, inspirational

presence. A joyful revolutionary spirit, fierce and independent."

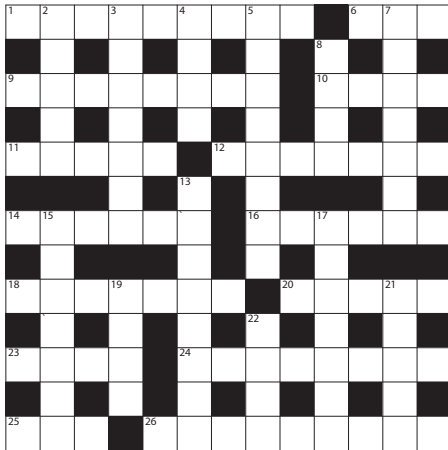
A FEW days before Sister Pamela's death another spirited woman Religious, Margit Slachta, who died in the US in 1974, was reburied in Budapest's Fiume Road cemetery.

Margit was the first woman to be elected to the Hungarian parliament, where she promoted workers' rights and defended the wellbeing of women and families. She founded the Sisters of Social Service, who lived among the people as teachers, nurses and midwives. In the late 1930s, she published articles opposing anti-Jewish measures in her newspaper, *Voice of the Spirit*. When it was suppressed, Margit published it underground. When the Nazis occupied Hungary in 1944 and began the deportation of Jews, her sisters arranged baptisms and sheltered people in their convents. One of Margit's sisters, Sára Salkaházi, was executed and Slachta herself was beaten and only narrowly avoided being murdered. In 1985, Slachta was recognised as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem.

In the words of Cardinal Péter Erdő, the Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, who presided at the reburial ceremony, Margit "represented in words and in action" the notion of Christian love.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 786 Axe



#### Across

- 1 Traditionally, the trade of Jesus' father (9)
- 6 *Balaam and the ---*, 1626 painting by Rembrandt (3)
- 9 Tommaso and Giuseppe -----, eighteenth-century brother composers of liturgical music and oratorios (8)
- 10 Priest and scribe who returned to Jerusalem after the exile (4)
- 11 Unnamed biblical queen, Balkis or Bilkis in the Quran (5)
- 12 French name of Stephen the Martyr (7)
- 14 Turn away from sin or do penitence (6)
- 16 Type of governmental administration employed by 22 Down at the time of Christ (6)

#### Down

- 18 Apostate (7)
- 20 Christmas decoration sometimes called "Christ's thorn" (5)
- 23 Longest river featured in the O.T. (4)
- 24 Subdivision of 16 Across (8)
- 25 High Priest of Shiloh, according to Samuel (3)
- 26 Territory of 22 Down now mostly forming part of Greece (9)

- 5 Letters of the K.J.V. Bible, in particular (8)
- 7 One of an ancient mystic noble Arabic order with charitable aims, allied to freemasonry (7)
- 8 Foremost religious and secular scholar of Anglo-Saxon England (673?-735) (4)
- 13 Oldest independent African country (8)
- 15 Book and major prophet of the O.T. (7)
- 17 Next month in letter-writing (Latin) (7)
- 19 Hebrew for "delight" (4)
- 21 Book of rites predating Confucius during China's Catholic history (variant spelling) (2,3)
- 22 Only extant example of a city enclosing a country (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 1 January The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: [thetablet@thetablet.co.uk](mailto: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 are processing entries but there may be a delay in notifying winners and sending out prizes. Please keep entering.**

### SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

#### Solution to the 4 December puzzle

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

#### Solution to the 4 December crossword No. 784

**Across:** 1 Isobel; 5 Cigar; 8 Bocca; 9 Solomon; 10 Vera; 11 Delaware; 13 Exist; 14 Yeats; 19 Asperges; 21 Tara; 23 Allegro; 24 Oasis; 25 Aaron; 26 Odessa. **Down:** 2 Sycorax; 3 Brae; 4 Lester; 5 Collared; 6 Gamma; 7 Ranger; 8 Bevy; 12 Estragon; 15 Tharsis; 16 Panama; 17 Tesoro; 18 Mars; 20 Polar; 22 Dove.

Prizes kindly donated by  
**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS  
[www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)