

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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A man of the Word

CONVERSATION WAS one of the great talents of Dom James Leachman, the Benedictine monk and liturgist who died on 29 August – whether it was dialogue with parishioners and visitors at his monastery, Ealing Abbey, or with friends, fellow liturgists and students. And for Leachman, liturgy itself was essentially a conversation between humanity and God.

He brought the Anglican and Catholic Benedictine liturgical traditions together in his studies of the work of Gregory Dix, the Anglican Benedictine of Nashdom Abbey, which Leachman himself had entered in 1977, before joining Ealing Abbey in 1986 and being received as a Catholic.

He was a professor of liturgy at Sant'Anselmo, Rome, and later helped set up a liturgical institute at Ealing Abbey. In later years, he became involved in discussions with survivors of clerical abuse, believing that Ealing Abbey, scarred by abuse scandals, must learn from those hurt by them.

Leachman's first degree was in botany and he would arrive with bunches of sorrel at classes to hand out to colleagues. Text messages sent to friends in May would invite



them to come and pick lily of the valley in his garden, which also housed his beehives.

He never forgot his Anglican roots. He carried in his habit pocket a pen inscribed with the name of Robert Petitpierre, his fellow Nashdom monk, from whom he took over as exorcist. But he declined the invitations to country houses that Petitpierre had encouraged from hosts who liked the frisson of excitement derived from having an exorcism as part of the weekend timetable. Leachman enjoyed a party, but he was deeply serious about monastic life, faith and the liturgy.

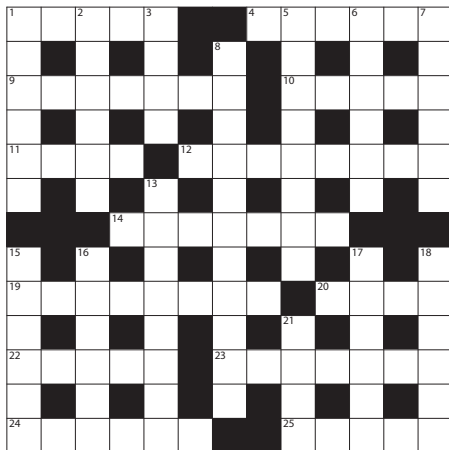
TO CELEBRATE the birthday of Gustav Holst, writer and editor John Morrish has arranged for Tony Palmer to introduce a screening of his film, *Holst: In The Bleak Midwinter*.

To Holst, divinity and music were indivisible. He created a series of choral masterpieces, though he is perhaps most associated today with two very different songs that share the same melody. Holst himself set Sir Cecil Spring Rice's poem to music taken from "Jupiter", a movement from his suite *The Planets*, to create the patriotic hymn "I Vow to Thee, My Country", played at the funerals of Winston Churchill, Princess Diana, Mrs Thatcher and Prince Philip. Holst, not one for pomp and circumstance, might have preferred the lyrics of "World in Union", put to the same tune by the mysterious pop-music fixer Charlie Skarbek to promote the Rugby World Cup in 1991, when it was still a game for amateurs. As direct and artless as a nursery rhyme, it has become a kind of unofficial global anthem. Tony Palmer shows it being sung by people of many different creeds, colours, languages and backgrounds: "As we climb to meet our destiny / A new world has begun." Let's hope so.

The film is being shown at the Playhouse in Cheltenham, Holst's birthplace, on Tuesday, 21 September at 7 p.m. More details at filmcheltenham.online

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 772 Enigma



Across

- 1 The late Mary ----- was the courageous author of *Blessings* (5)
- 4 Phil and Don ----- were an American rock and roll duo (6)
- 9 Surrounded by Mali, Mauritania, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau (7)
- 10 Middle name of author Sir Henry Haggard (5)
- 11 Catholic titular see in Almeria province, Andalusia (4)
- 12 Milan street sharing its name with the largest baroque fountain in Rome (3,5)
- 14 To paraphrase Philip Larkin, these people harm you unintentionally (7)
- 19 One may also be called a panegyrist (8)

- 20 In the Iron Age, Celtic tribes inhabited this region of Western Europe (4)
- 22 The bandoneon is a ----- accordion (5)
- 23 Saint whose feast is 13 June (7)
- 24 "The road of ----- leads to the palace of wisdom" (William Blake) (6)
- 25 An aeolian mode is a ----- scale

Down

- 1 King who brought frankincense to the manger (6)
- 2 Victorian poet, composed "Dover Beach" (6)
- 3 1958 film with Leslie Caron in title role (4)
- 5 *Caritas in -----*, Pope Benedict's 2009 encyclical (8)
- 6 Its primary use on an aircraft is to counter excess yaw (6)

- 7 2018 crime film based on Victor Headley's novel (6)
- 8 One who believed in two gods; one good, one evil (11)
- 13 Extremely optimistic character in Voltaire's *Candide* (8)
- 15 "Oh, poet! Be ever ----- to thy words" (Nat Lipstadt) (6)
- 16 The Mayo ----- in Rochester, Minnesota, was founded in January 1864 (6)
- 17 *Pelinobius muticus*, latin name for the king ----- spider (6)
- 18 Cricketer who is not a gentleman? (6)
- 21 It is made of protons, neutrons and electrons (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 11 September, 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 | Hard

				4		8		
2		5				3		
6			2				4	
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Each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

Solution to the 14 August puzzle

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

Solution to the 14 August crossword No. 769

Across: 1 Offset; 5 Bower; 8 Morse; 9 Bassoon; 10 Plan; 11 Prorogue; 13 Highs; 14 Adde; 19 Immortal; 21 Gina; 23 Grammar; 24 Perth; 25 Resin; 26 Totems. Down: 2 Ferrari; 3 Shed; 4 Tabard; 5 Bestrode; 6 Wrong; 7 Ringer; 8 Maps; 12 Theremin; 15 Leitrim; 16 Finger; 17 Carrot; 18 Bach; 20 Meals; 22 Taps.