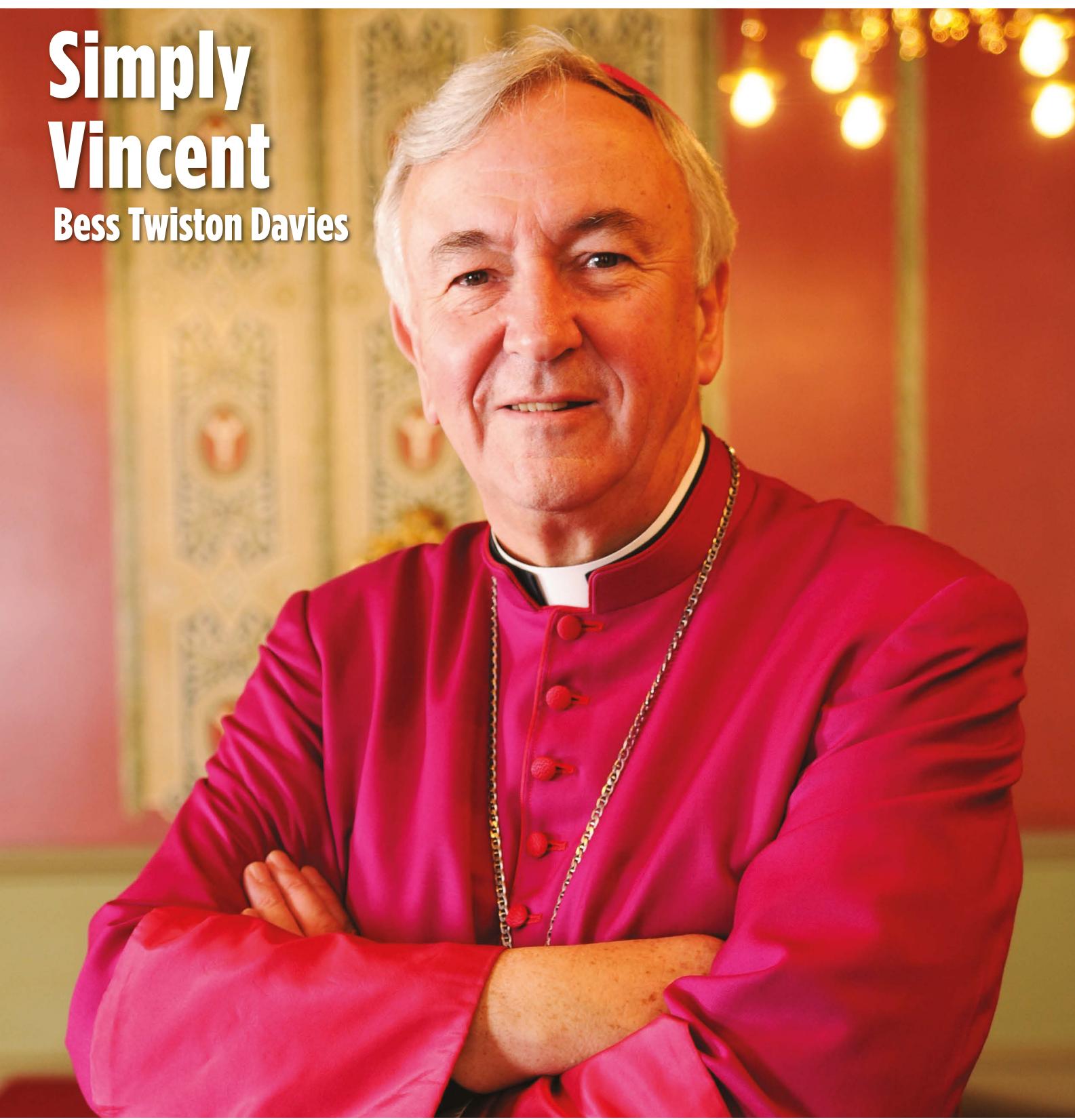


THE TABLET

**Simply
Vincent**
Bess Twiston Davies



Maggie Fergusson
Blake Morrison
raises the dead

Ann Wroe
The star of the
Candlemas play

Christopher Bray
Why save a
drowning toddler?

Austen Ivereigh
John Allen and
the Catholic centre

The healing art

NEATLY LAID OUT in the Lyndsey Ingram gallery in London's Mayfair, a five-minute walk from the Jesuits in Farm Street, are eight gorgeous ceramic tombs. A gilded medieval knight modelled on a general practitioner lies on the top of each one. It's quite a sight. One is dedicated to a Dr Chaudhuri. The inscription on the side explains: "A GP from Cheshire rushed to the aid of his housemate choking on broccoli, saving her from certain death using the Heimlich manoeuvre." There are other beautifully crafted ceramic objects on display: stethoscopes, a chalice full of pills and a Sacred Heart pierced by an arrow, entitled "Heart of the NHS".

On a porcelain service plate is written, not entirely unreasonably, "It is easier to get an appointment with the Pope". The plate's creator, Joseph Dupré, tells us it's something he overheard one of his patients saying. All the work in Joseph's show was made over the course of a year in a small studio at the end of his garden, in between two days' work at a GP surgery and one day a week on a ward looking after patients in a community hospital.



Joseph grew up in a very artistic household – his mother, Ruth Dupré, is a ceramicist and his father, Michael Glover, is a poet and critic well known to *Tablet* readers.

"I enjoyed both biology and art at school, so I ended up with an unhelpful melange of A levels that weren't particularly suitable for any career. I had to put the art on a 14-year hiatus while I completed my medical training. My two worlds are intertwined in this exhibition, which shows artwork with a strong narrative about my life as a doctor, and some of the stresses and strains that I and other medics face. I hope that having

seen the pieces, people will have a second think about their own GP."

The Lyndsey Ingram gallery is at 20 Bourdon Street. Joseph Dupré: Knight Shift is open to the public Monday to Friday until 20 February, from 10 till 6.

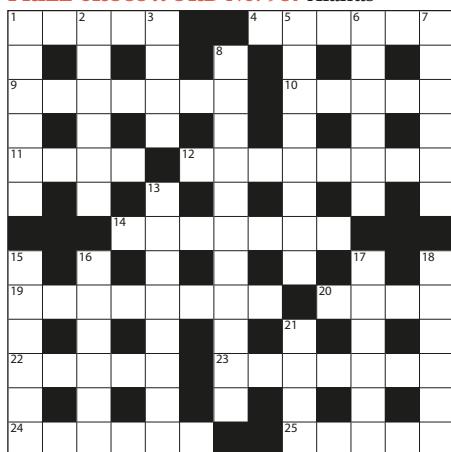
SEVERAL READERS noticed that we have a new compiler of the Christmas acrostic puzzle. Our first acrostic – a mix of a crossword and the game of hangman – appeared in the Christmas 1975 issue, nestled between a general knowledge quiz and a Latin crossword. It was compiled by Martin Redfern, the long-time director of Sheed & Ward who had worked briefly for *The Tablet* in the era of Douglas Woodruff and Tom Burns.

Martin, now aged 91, might have retired from setting acrostics on passing his fiftieth (we missed one year, which led to mass protests and a sheepish editorial U-turn), but he tells us he had a go at solving Tony Dodd's puzzle.

"It was an interesting and very enjoyable exercise trying to solve rather than to create, and in the cryptic clues it was challenging to meet a deviousness other than my own – indeed, there are one or two of them that I'm still not sure I understand even after I solved them."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 987 Alanus



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 31 January 2026, 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 the Hebrew Bible as Literature, Philosophy of Religion and Biblical Archaeology – from OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random.**

Across

- 1 See 15 Down
- 4 Mark of Christ's wounds on saints' bodies (6)
- 9 James and John (father Zebedee), "Sons of -----" (7)
- 10 Religious fraternity (5)
- 11 Nickname for a US American (4)
- 12 Queen of Aragon and Castile, sponsored Columbus on his voyage of discovery (8)
- 14 The Blessed Virgin Mary (7)
- 15 Month of Candlemas (8)
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

20 Recess in church behind the altar (4)

- 22 Subject of dentist's attention (5)
- 23 Follower of the teachings of Aquinas (7)
- 24 Getting better with oil! (6)
- 25 Famous TV policeman of Dock Green (5)

Down

- 1 Titan goddess, daughter of Uranus and Gaia (6)
- 2 Former students of a college/university (6)
- 3 Antelope with long spiral horns (4)
- 5 Brass instrument (8)

6 Biting insect, provocative type (6)

- 7 Only English Pope [IV] born Nicholas Breakspear (6)
- 8 Members of nobility (11)
- 13 Hooded Franciscan (8)
- 15, 18 & 1 Across: Not on usual route (3,3,6,5)
- 16 Leader of a religious community (6)
- 17 Mysterious feature of Egyptian desert (6)
- 18 See 15 Down
- 21 Thoroughfare (4)

SUDOKU | Moderate

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

Solution to the 10 January puzzle

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

Solution to the 10 January 2026 crossword No. 984

Across: 1 Square; 5 Faber; 8 Point; 9 Bennett; 10 Guts; 11 Decanter; 13 Essen; 14 Study; 19 Philemon; 21 Et Tu; 23 Chop Off; 24 Brute; 25 Slype; 26 Latest.

Down: 2 Quietus; 3 Alto; 4 Emblem; 5 Fine; Arts; 6 Bleat; 7 Return; 8 Pegs; 12 Penelope; 15 Detours; 16 Epochs; 17 Joyful; 18 Pure; 20 Ivory; 22 Abet.

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