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ANSWER MERGE

CRYPT-CROSS

Third time's the charm, so they say. Will this issue charm your hearts, or leave you going "No, Dan, that's an utterly terrible Answer Merge, I'm never solving any of your puzzles again", before you sneakily come back for more? Let's find out. You can find me on Twitter, @peakespuzzles. If you enjoy this, please consider leaving a tip at:

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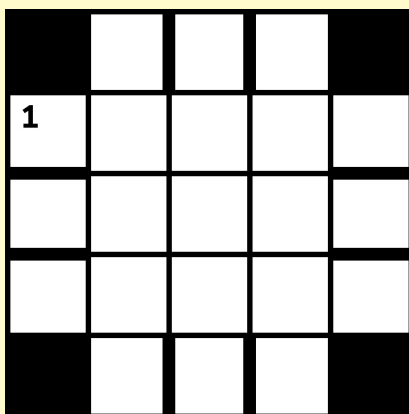
Thanks! - Dan 'Puzzelord' Peake

In this puzzle, two answers have been merged into one. For example, the answer to:

This Whopper of a fast food chain wanted to be like you in The Jungle Book (6,4,5)

is **BURGER KING LOUIE**. Can you work out the six clues below? Answer lengths have been given to help you.

- This cheese, commonly used on pizzas, is the Queen of Jazz (10,10)
- This 2017 film that won Best Picture is a large, round, green fruit (3,5,2,10)
- Doing things on a strict budget, including hiring a violist, a cellist and two violinists (2,1,10,7)
- This game character, due to be redesigned for an upcoming movie, is a Discworld character who rides a sledge pulled by pigs (5,3,14)
- This ethereal electronic instrument has St Paul as its capital (14)
- Mummies could be found in this lack of confidence by those no longer feeling young (11,6)



Only the position of 1 Across has been given in this cryptic crossword - you will need to figure out where the other clues will fit. As an additional hint, the top line will form a three-letter word.

- **1 Across:** Sorrow that can be good?
- Cats and dogs, say, carry no bards
- Decapitated, damaged with weapons
- Parts of cogs found in the mouth
- Queen has armour every now and then, that's a mistake!
- Wished to confuse media

Solve the anagrams below to reveal 12 religious people. Each anagram has one extra letter that isn't used. In order, these extra letters spell out an answer to the question below.

PINCH A LAD _____

REELED _____

BARBIE _____

PRIME _____

PET FIRS _____

PHOBIAS _____

MALTA _____

MINE FIRST _____

PARROTS _____

NEVER RIDE _____

AUGUR _____

ORCA DEN _____

What do you call an overweight religious diver? (4-3, 5)

Football. Soccer. Call it what you will, I still hate it. Maybe it needs an image rebranding, and change its name to D.T.I.

What could **D.T.I.** stand for? Be creative, and let me know using the form at bit.ly/peakespuzzles - the best ones will appear in the next issue.

Here's what you said about the previous Initial Problem: Adverts are incredibly annoying. There's this one advert for **P.O.P.** that, when it comes, on, makes me turn off the TV immediately because it's such a terrible product.

Pineapple on pizza, @mattclemson
- Disgusting idea. Don't @ me
Puzzles omitting puns, Elizabeth, Ealing
- Catastrophic idea!
Polyester-optimising pollutant, @JosieDFO
- This would explain the local fashion sense

PUNAGRAM

INITIAL PROBLEM



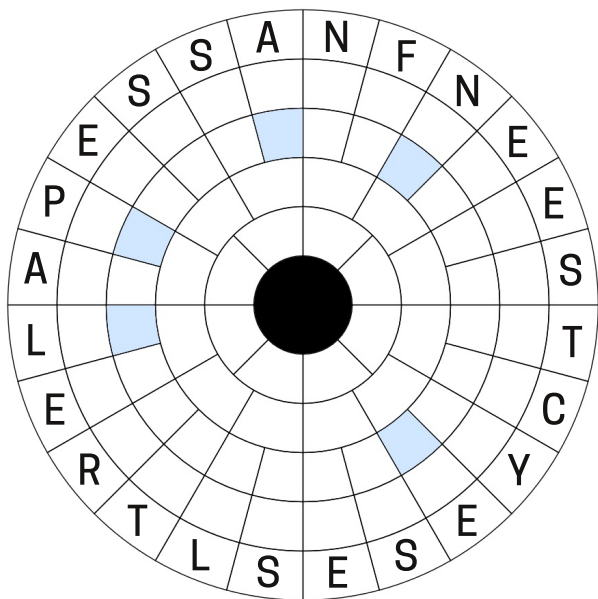
Find the three trigrams that go after the ones given below to create ten twelve-letter words.
Take the middle letters of the highlighted cells, from top to bottom, to make a five-letter word.

ADD			
BIB			
CAN			
DEN			
END			
FLU			
GOO			
HEN			
ILL			
JUR			

ARD	CEF	DRO	ELE	ERR
GRA	ICT	IES	ING	ION
ISD	IST	ITI	KER	LIO
LLY	LOG	NAT	NCE	ONA
ORE	ORW	OSK	OUS	PHY
SCE	SEB	TAL	TAN	UMI

TRIGRAMS

IN THE ROUND



Answers are to be entered from the innermost ring outwards. Clues are grouped by quadrant, but the order of the quadrants, and clues within each quadrant, are random. The last letters of each answer are given in the outer ring. Once filled, the innermost ring will spell an eight-letter word, going clockwise. One other ring holds an additional heartfelt message from me.

QUADRANT 1

- Full of holes, perhaps
- Not heavy
- Purple colour
- Recurrent theme, often considered one overused
- Something to hold in a hernia
- Tent formed of skins

QUADRANT 2

- Bear, tolerate
- Discolour, or a discoloured mark
- Chasm
- Killed, as a dragon might be
- Not with anyone
- Rigid, or a body

QUADRANT 3

- ... Flynn, Robin Hood actor
- Go in, a keyboard key
- Inactive, as chemicals can be
- Perfect
- Rub out, destroy
- Ticks over out of gear, as an engine

QUADRANT 4

- A weapon that is often rattled
- Aqualung, diving equipment
- Hired cabs
- Polynesian country
- Urban settlements
- Shovel, or a hot piece of news

AM: 15th, 15th, 16th, 11th, 10th, 7th

C-C: e2, d5, b2, b4, c3

P: 1, 9, 10, 5, 7

T: Shaded squares

ITR: Shaded segments

