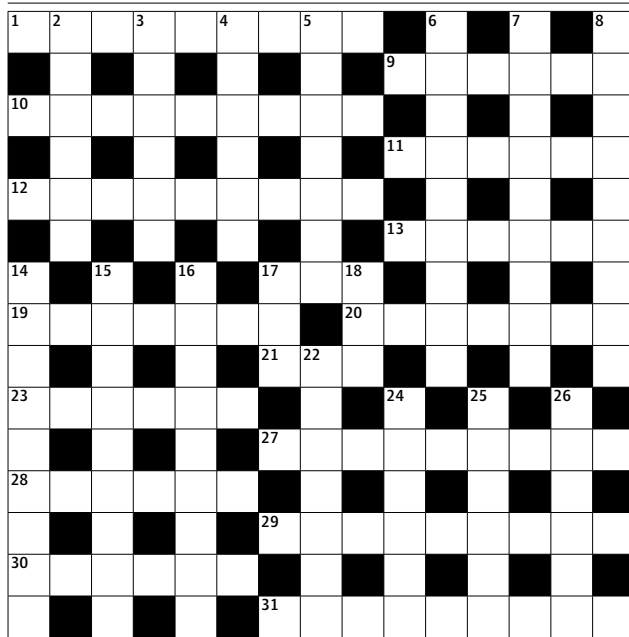


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,769 set by Brendan

Across

- 1 Drama about caretaker, for example, initially powerless in mutual action (9)
- 9 Prophet avoiding pride through divine intervention (6)
- 10 Platform section next to end of railway track (5,4)
- 11 Bizarre denial included in introduction (4-2)
- 12 Isn't commonly included in unusual reply that's artistic, in a way (9)
- 13 Caught returning from island in Med (6)
- 17 Foolish person raises, ignoring the odds (3)
- 19 Opts for post, say, in an Indian city, beginning in March (7)
- 20 Lets rip with changes, complex peals of bells (7)
- 21 Habitually sail over layer of rock (3)
- 23 After conversion lets in to join service (6)
- 27 Like a thinking man's raison d'être (9)
- 28 Use some tact in selecting what's for show (6)
- 29 Unorthodox stance about a religious teaching can be this (9)
- 30 Silent treatment that may be said to get someone's attention (6)
- 31 Discover a canister at sea (9)

Down

- 2 African animals in US city, unfortunately (6)
- 3 Still being taken out of context, antagonistically (6)
- 4 Vote on a couple of points that may need to be counted (6)
- 5 Scratch American ring? Something like that (7)
- 6 Reckless Democrat on a McCarthyite obsession (9)
- 7 Leaving instructions about change of mind for green energy sources (9)
- 8 Gentle quality of light concealed by black cape (9)
- 14 Provide drinks in part of plant – it's said to increase turnover (5,4)
- 15 Courage of new piece of text inserted in service (9)
- 16 Succeeded in becoming editor: did well (9)
- 17 Unit that, for example, is central (3)
- 18 Signs contract really finally in pen (3)
- 22 Pervasively influences to abandon partnership (7)
- 24 Work of art from university in Washington or New York, say (6)
- 25 Funny priest's wit (8)
- 26 A wife inhabiting one part of Africa or another (6)

Solution No. 25,768

D	R	I	F	T	E	R	S	I	K	H	I	S	M	
E	N	O	E	O	E	N	I							
B	I	J	O		M	A	S	T	E	R	F	U	L	
A	U	R		I	T	L	E	I						
S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	E	N	B	R	A	T	
E	Y	A		N	S	N	A							
				M	I	L	Q	U	E	T	O	A	S	T
O	A	E	O	T	R	L	E							
B	A	S	I	N	G	S	T	O	K	E				
S	H	T	T		E	G	R							
T	Y	P	O		A	C	C	E	N	T	U	A	T	E
A	L	S	A	V	W	Z	V							
C	H	A	N	T	E	U	S	E	I	R	E	N	E	
L	N	Y	S	N	S	B	A							
E	X	T	R	E	M	E		T	R	E	F	O	I	L