ACROSS
7 Not busy on the house (4)
8 Restrictions damaged retail enterprise (5,5)
10 Awful rage after church makes accusation (6)
11 Play that may bring tears to one’s eyes? (3,5)
12 Small spear, sharp (8)
13 Sharp, tiny boy wearing one (2,4)
15 Maybe “Pass the Parcel” can be played after this! (8,5)
18 Member of the clergy in vicious circle (6)
20 Shorts all the rage? Nonsense! (3,5)
22 A very English mass, with song and prayer (3,5)
24 Get rid of university don, almost all moved (6)
25 Principal actor directing staff (7,3)
26 Capture bear (4)

DOWN
1 Classic art cheaply reproduced (10)
2 Tight young lady narrowly avoided collision (4,4)
3 Second note about revolutionary plot (6)
4 Popular novel I wrote gets to me (2,2,4)
5 Most obese female ignored evidence (6)
6 Half of Conference with cheese? (4)
9 Booster, perhaps? (1,4,2,3,3)
14 Record an album and leave? (4,6)
16 A pasta; sculptor feeding husband with one (8)
17 A polenta prepared with little effort (2,1,5)
19 Put right about me, extremely doughty (6)
21 Absentee, not wholly faithful worker in colony (6)
23 Struggle with belief (4)

SOLUTION 15,711

A prize of The Good Word Guide by Martin Manser and How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions by Wednesday December 13, marked Prize Crossword 15,723 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday December 18.

The winner’s name will be published in Weekend FT on December 16.