



ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS — Parish Church of Amersham on the Hill

NEWSLETTER JULY & AUG '23



## Who's Who at St Michael & All Angels

70 Sycamore Road  
Amersham HP6 5DR

Church Office: 01494 726680

[Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:Office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)  
[www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

(10 am—1 pm Monday—  
Wednesday & Friday)



### Clergy

Vicar

**The Revd. Debbie Oades**

[revdebbieoades@gmail.com](mailto:revdebbieoades@gmail.com)



Associate Priest

**Fr. Peter Binns**

[peter.binns166@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.binns166@btinternet.com)



### Church Administrator

**Hazel Miller**

[office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)



### Churchwardens

**Roger Leslie**

[rogerleslie25@gmail.com](mailto:rogerleslie25@gmail.com)



**Roland Gillott.**

[Roland.gillott@btinternet.com](mailto:Roland.gillott@btinternet.com)



### Safeguarding Officer

**Cathy Franklin**

[cathy.stmichaels@outlook.com](mailto:cathy.stmichaels@outlook.com)



### Communications Officer

**Rebecca Olsen**

[communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)



"The new vicar is really cool, Dad.  
Did you know that God emailed the Ten  
Commandments to Moses' Tablet PC?"

### St Michael's Vision Statement

*As a Christian community, we seek to engage with the world  
around us and to be a place of welcome and  
acceptance for all on a journey to God – believers, doubters  
and those who are seeking.*

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors  
and do not necessarily reflect the views of the  
Vicar, PCC or the official policy of St. Michael's Church.

**The Newsletter is published monthly  
(except January and August).**

**The next issue will appear on 2 September. Material  
for inclusion should please be emailed to  
[communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk), for  
the attention of Rebecca, by 20 August.**

#### In this issue..

Who's Who at St. Michael's	2
Joachim & Anne	3
Simpatico Art Exhibition	3
Home Communion	4
Crossword Puzzle	4
Flower Arranging	5
Montessori - In St. Michael's Hall	6
Poem	6
Diary & June Crossword Puzzle Answers	7
Births and Deaths	7
Kids Page	8

#### Page



## JOACHIM & ANNE By Edmond Eiliazadeh

As a Christian community, we follow our faith through Jesus by reading the Bible and more or less practising what Jesus has asked us to do. It is so heart warming and significant to see how this book of revelation has become compatible with today's modern time. We speak of Jesus and his commandments and also of the disciples, their work, and our duty in that respect, but we don't know much about their background and their personal philosophy of religion and how they became believers and followers of Jesus. We are quite familiar with the Holy Ghost descending upon the Virgin Mary and the miraculous pregnancy, while she was not married but engaged to Joseph according to Jewish law.

So who were Mary and Joseph? Let's focus on Mary for the moment. Mary was a young girl from the small town of Nazareth. She grew up in a moderately wealthy family. Her father, Joachim, was known as a generous, wealthy man, pronounced for his work and regular giving to the poor. It is not confirmed but his wealth is thought to come partly from ownership of a large herd and flock.

It has been said that once, at the temple, his sacrifice was rejected as the couple's childlessness was interpreted as a sign of divine displeasure; consequently, Joachim was very upset and disappointed and he withdrew to the desert, where he fasted and did penance for forty days. It has been revealed that angels appeared to both Joachim and Anne individually to promise them a child. Joachim later returned to Jerusalem and embraced Anne at the city gate, located in the walls of Jerusalem.



An ancient belief held that a child, born of an elderly mother who has given up hope of having offspring, was destined for great things.

Joachim was born in Nazareth, c75 B.C. in Hasmonean Judaea and died in Jerusalem c15 B.C. in the Herodian kingdom of Judaea. We do not know much about St. Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary. Her story has been told in a document known as 'The Gospel of James'. Whether the names and dates in this gospel are correct or not is unimportant, for instead we should look to the truth that we do know, and she is mostly appraised for giving birth to the Virgin Mary and raising her worthy of the glory of God.



This year, the Church of England celebrates Anne and Joachim on Wednesday, 26 July.

*Pictures by Giotto di Bondoni, from the Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, Italy. For detailed descriptions of the pictures please see: <https://www.wga.hu/>*

## SIMPATICO ART EXHIBITION

During June, St. Michael's hosted the ***Simpatico Art Exhibition***. The work on display was diverse and engaging, with each artist displaying paintings that showed off a variety of techniques and styles.

Many of the paintings were sold, and more than one budding young artist left the church with a small canvas for inspiration after stopping to get tips from the artists on how to improve their own work.

A few of the pictures that were on display can be seen below.

Some of you will know that three of the artists went out the day they set up and each independently saw and bought the same pink dress! See below.

If you would like to contact these talented and inspiring artists, please write to: [lizgrammenos@gmail.com](mailto:lizgrammenos@gmail.com)



*From left to right: Jenny Thompson, Liz Grammenos, Barbara Spruytenburg and Madeleine Fletcher*



*Jenny Thompson  
"Flower Song"*



*Liz Grammenos  
"All about the Red"*



*Barbara Spruytenburg  
"Harbour Walls"*



*Madeleine Fletcher  
"Endangered"*



# HOME COMMUNION By Ann Jarvis.

When Alan Crawley, a Curate at St. Michael's, left to join another Parish, I took over creating the rota for Home Communions. I continued to do this until just before the COVID pandemic.

The rota was not only for members of the Church but also included the care homes, Pratt House, Mansil House and the Croft. It involved the Clergy and a small but dedicated team from the congregation.

I became very aware of how much these visits were appreciated whether it was for a short time while a member of the Church recovered from an illness or for the rest of the person's life. The continued contact with St. Michael's was deeply treasured.

The visits to the care homes also extended the outreach of St. Michael's beyond the congregation, which is an objective we, as a Church, are very keen to continue. On many occasions we were thanked by the residents' families, indicating how much the resident had appreciated receiving communion. In some cases a family member would ask if they too could join the short service, something they could share with their relative.

At this time little did I realise that I too would be a recipient of Home Communion. Following a

heart attack on New Years Eve, 2022, I found I was being asked whether I would like communion brought to me. My initial reaction was, I regret to say, "please leave me in peace". However, it quickly occurred to me that attending a full service at Church, even a short Tuesday service, was far too daunting an experience to contemplate. So, for several weeks Revd. Debbie and Fr. Peter took it in turns to visit me on a Thursday morning.

It was just what I needed, keeping me in touch with God not only through my own prayers, but using the incredibly comforting communion prayers which had been such a constant throughout my life.

The response, "Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed", can mean so much in lots of different ways, depending on where you are in life and

what your particular needs are at that time.

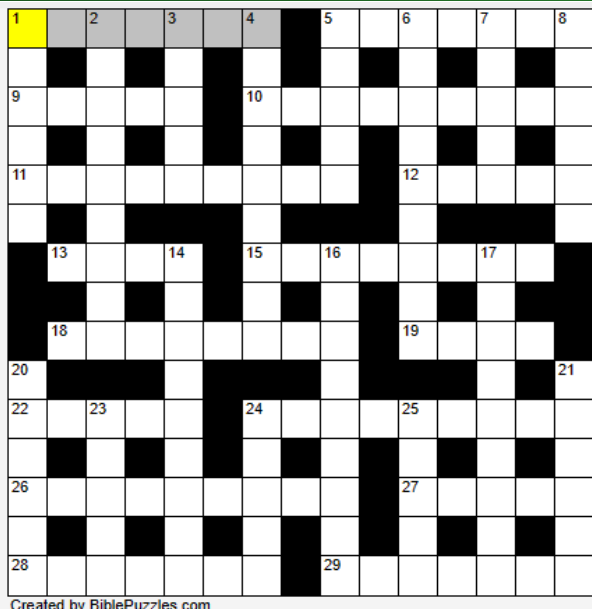
Home Communion is one of the many almost unnoticed activities happening at St. Michael's but, as is often the case in life, it is of immeasurable importance.

I can vouch for that!

*If you are unable to attend St. Michael's due to ongoing illness, please contact Revd. Debbie or Fr. Peter for home communion.*



## Crossword Puzzle Answers in the September edition



### Across

- 1 Desperation; Praised (anag) (7)
- 5 God, doing this on day 7 (7)
- 9 More refined (5)
- 10 One of Paul's letters (9)
- 11 Uncared for (9)
- 12 Encamp against city (5)
- 13 Charitable giving (4)
- 15 Consecrated (8)
- 18 Abraham received these (8)
- 19 Jesus raised in 3 (4)
- 22 Colour found only in Ezekiel (5)
- 24 Someone who shields (9)
- 26 Continuance of life (9)
- 27 Grind together (5)
- 28 Unusual (7)
- 29 Athalia's cry (7)

### Down

- 1 Rely on (6)
- 2 Tail-ender (9)
- 3 Be in harmony (5)
- 4 Not wicked (9)
- 5 Reigned (5)
- 6 Contented (9)
- 7 Picture (5)
- 8 Good news (6)
- 14 The first, first-aid-er? (9)
- 16 Fradulent (9)
- 17 Slain by Moses (9)
- 20 They get the hump (6)
- 21 Parentless (6)
- 23 Prickly shrub (5)
- 24 300 bought ointment to anoint Jesus (5)
- 25 Keen-sighted bird of prey (5)



# FLOWER ARRANGING AT ST. MICHAEL'S By Hazel Adamson



When Keith and I and our son, David, moved to Amer-sham, nearly 51 years ago, we joined the congregation at St. Michael's. I had been arranging flowers at our vil-lage church for several years and wondered if I could be of any help in our new par-ish. After attending for three weeks, I enquired if there was anything I could do. The rest is history, I have been arranging flowers at St. Michael's ever since.

Now we have a problem making fresh flower arrange-ments every week due to a shortage of volunteers. We have sadly lost several val-ued volunteers in the last year or two.

I have made three silk flower arrangements which we use as an alternative but it would be good to have fresh flowers more often if possi-ble. Pedestals and oasis are available in the flower cup-board.

It is such a lovely thing to do and I know that it gives pleasure to many who com-ment.

SO, are there any willing volunteers out there? You don't have to be an expert, just have an eye for beauty and an interest in flowers. You will be very welcome and we can help with tips!

**WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US AND GIVE IT A GO?**

If this interests you, please contact the church office by email: [office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

From weekly arrangements to festivals, and yes, even weddings, it has always been a combined effort to keep our flower arrangements special.

It mostly involves each of us doing a pedestal arrange-ment once or twice a year and joint efforts for festivals.

St. Michael's is an inter-esting church in which to arrange flowers compared with older, darker, churches. We have to be careful to consider the glass screen behind the altar and the fact that the back of the pedestal can be seen from the Lady Chapel!





# THE BEEHIVE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

in St. Michael's Hall By Lyndsey Nelson



I opened the Beehive Montessori School back in 1990 and moved to St. Michael's Church Hall in 2000.

Our Nursery runs five mornings a week, from 9.15am -12.15pm, and one afternoon session (or more if parents are interested in this option) till 2.45pm.

We take children from 2yrs – 5yrs.

A Forest School session also takes place on a Thursday at local woods.

I've been so fortunate to have witnessed so many children's growth assisted by a wonderful approach where the child is truly at the centre of everything we do.

I always find it quite challenging to explain Montessori in a nutshell as my passion for this subject takes over!!!

Here's a little insight!!

Montessori is an educational approach developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician and educator at the turn of the 1900s. It focuses on helping children learn and grow in a supportive and hands-on environment.



## Child-Centred Learning:

Montessori believes that children are naturally curious and capable of learning on their own. In Montessori classrooms, children have the freedom to choose their activities and work at their own pace, following their interests and abilities.



## Prepared Environment:

Montessori classrooms are carefully designed to provide a range of learning materials and activities that are accessible to children. Everything in the environment is child-sized and arranged in an organized manner, allowing children to independently explore and engage with the materials.



**Respect for Individual Development:** Montessori recognizes that each child develops at their own pace and has unique strengths

and interests. Teachers in Montessori classrooms observe and understand each child's individual needs, providing tailored guidance and support to foster their growth and development.



## Hands-On Learning:

Montessori emphasizes learning through hands-on experiences. Children work with specially designed materials that encourage sensory exploration, problem-solving, and critical thinking. These materials are self-correcting, meaning children can identify and correct their mistakes independently.



## Mixed-Age Classes:

Montessori classrooms often have mixed-age groups, typically spanning three-year age ranges. This setup allows younger children to learn from older ones and older children to reinforce their knowledge by helping younger ones. It fosters a sense of community and encourages co-operation and empathy.



## Focus on Independence and Life Skills:

Montessori encourages children to become independent learners and develop life skills. They learn to take care of themselves and their environment, such as tidying up, pouring drinks or dressing themselves. These practical life activities foster independence, responsibility, and self-confidence.



## Individualized Pace:

Children are allowed to learn at their own pace without feeling rushed or pressured. They

can spend as much time as they need on a particular activity or concept, ensuring they fully grasp and internalise the knowledge.



**The curriculum** includes all of the following - Practical Life, Grace and Courtesy, Sensorial, Literacy, Art, Music, Geography, History, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, outdoor play and more!

*It is so rewarding to watch the children's development over time and it never ceases to amaze me how much children can learn at this age. Their brains are like sponges. That's why it is such an important period in their lives.*

*We aim to ignite the passion for learning and help them on their path to independence, foster self-confidence, respect for one another and provide them with loving adults who can support them on this wonderful journey.*

*If you'd like to know more email Lyndsey at [lyndsey66@icloud.com](mailto:lyndsey66@icloud.com) or call 01753891613*

[www.beehive-montessori.co.uk](http://www.beehive-montessori.co.uk)

*Follow us on Facebook or Instagram.*

## BEEHIVE MONTESSORI SCHOOL (Est 1990)

2-5yr olds. Monday - Friday 9.15am - 12.15pm  
+ Wednesday afternoon till 2.45pm.  
Forest school takes place on Thursday mornings.  
St Michael's Church Hall.  
Contact: Lyndsey Nelson, 01753 891613 or  
[lyndsey66@icloud.com](mailto:lyndsey66@icloud.com)



## Invitation

By Janet Gibbs

From your  
Silver Chalice, Lord,  
You ask me  
to drink -  
its ruby contents  
trickle down,  
its perfume deeply  
lingering.  
Into our  
motley company  
You were posted –  
Sorrow,  
Joy,  
Tenderness and  
Compassion  
became  
*Intimately Yours.*

You Invite me  
to be  
Your  
Friend;  
I carry my Cross, I own  
my Wounds,  
just as you did.  
Those hurts are  
become  
riches  
which connect  
me  
*Intimately*  
to You.

In the company  
of  
*Angels*  
lend me  
Your Grace,  
buoyed  
by trumpet  
sounds  
and  
*Celestial*  
Anthems,  
until such time  
when I may  
see  
You  
*Face to Face.*

© Janet Gibbs



image: Freepik.com

## WORSHIP

### Eucharists:

**Sundays** 8.30am and 10am

A COTHA United Service will take place on 2 July at 10.30am at St. Michael & All Angels. Gathered Round on the 2nd Sunday of each month is especially designed for families.

**Tuesdays** 10.30am

### Morning Prayer:

**Tuesdays** 9am in the Lady Chapel.

**Messy Church: 15 July '23 (NOT ON IN AUGUST)**  
(The third Saturday each month 11.30am—1pm, except Aug)

The church is open for private prayer from 10am — 4pm Mon—Fri.

This link, <https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>, will access live-streamed services.

### Sunday WARDENS

2 July — Andy Connor (723561)  
9 July — Roger Leslie (726362)  
16 July — Roger Leslie (726362)  
23 July — Roland Gillott (722674)  
30 July — Claire Sinclair (07591 954701)  
6 August — Andy Connor (723561)  
13 August — Alan Bacon (774870)  
20 August — Hazel Miller (726680)  
27 August — Roland Gillott (722674)

Please see  
[stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)  
for more details

## ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

**POP IN & PAINT— Will not run in July, but will run on Friday, 4 August**  
Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed

**A Crafty Cuppa— Friday, 14 & 28 July— 10.30am**  
A drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company

**LUNCHEBREAK – Amersham Free Church**  
**Every Tuesday – 12noon-2pm** Tea, coffee and soup available **1.10pm-1.30pm** Music, a talk, or a short service

Mon-Fri	<b>Montessori Nursery</b> 9.15am—12.15pm + Wednesday afternoon until 2.45pm during term time. (Tel: 01753 891613)
Mondays	<b>Mature Movers</b> 1.45pm—2.45pm during term time. <b>Amersham Dance Studio</b> Children from 3+. 4pm—10pm during term time. (email: <a href="mailto:emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk">emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk</a> )
Tuesdays	<b>Tuffney Performing Arts Academy</b> 4.30pm during term time. ( <a href="mailto:office@tuffney.com">office@tuffney.com</a> ) <b>Yoga with Shiv</b> 5.30pm-7pm during term time. (Science based approach, open to all. Tel: 07815132157).
Wednesdays	<b>Karate Club</b> 7pm—8pm (Tel: 07951 024 397) <b>Badminton Club</b> 8.15pm—10.15 pm (Tel: 01923 264791).
Thursdays	<b>Amersham Dance Studio</b> Children from 3+. 4pm—10pm during term time. (email: <a href="mailto:emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk">emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk</a> )
Fridays	<b>Stay Steady, Stay Strong</b> 1.30pm—2.30pm & 2:45pm—3:45pm (Tel: 07951 294178) <b>Karate Club</b> 7pm—8 pm (Tel: 07951 024 397)
Saturdays	<b>Popstars Academy</b> 9.30am—12pm during term time. (email: <a href="mailto:hazel@popstarsacademy.com">hazel@popstarsacademy.com</a> ). Please see <a href="http://stmichaelsamersham.org.uk">stmichaelsamersham.org.uk</a> for more details.

## IN THE HALL

## BIRTHS, BAPTISMS & DEATHS

RIP

Jennifer Elizabeth  
Robinson

Who passed away suddenly but peacefully on 6 June 2023.



July Messy Church will be based on the story of the woman at the well, which is found in John 4:1-30 & 39-42. As usual, many activities will be on offer that illustrate the story and create talking points that link the story with modern life. Families will have the opportunity to create clay water jars, edible wells, partake in a Water Bottle Challenge to raise money for Water Aid, and much more. Towards the end of the session grace is said and lunch is provided for all. No need to book. All welcome. Just turn up. The session is free but donations are welcome.

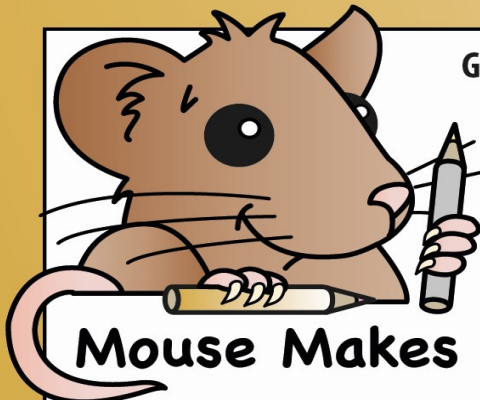
### June Crossword Puzzle Answers

	1		2		3		4		5		6		7									
	L		J		E		S		U		S		I									
8	R		I	T	U	A	L		9		U	R	N									
	O		D		E		N		I		P		N									
11	I		N	T	E	R	C	E	D	E	S		12	P	O	O	L					
							T				O					L	R					
13	14		15						16		W	A	N	D	E	R	E	R				
	G	E	H	A	Z	I										M						
17											18		I	N	C	E	N	S	E			
	R	E	C	O	U	N	T				21		A		P	N	E					
22		23					24				25		P	O	T	T	E	R				
	S	E	P	A	R	A	T	E														
26									27		O	V	E	R	T	H	R	O	W	N		
	B	O	D	Y																		
	H	P					R	N			A		L	A		A						
30									31		N	E	T		32		L	O	C	U	S	T
	K	I	S	S																		
	M		E				S		S						I		A		H			

Created by BibleBazaar.com

Created by BiblePuzzles.com

# DIARY JULY & AUG '23



## Mouse Makes

Where did Goliath come from?



1 Samuel 17:4

How tall was Goliath?



\_\_\_\_\_ cubits.  
1 Samuel 17:4

What was Goliath's armour made of?

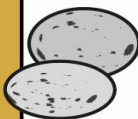
1 Samuel 17:5,6

What weapons did Goliath carry?

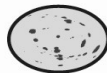


a J A V E L I N,  
a \_\_\_\_\_  
and a \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Samuel 17:45

How many stones did David take from the stream?



1 Samuel 17:40



Where did David's stone hit Goliath? On his \_\_\_\_\_

1 Samuel 17:49

**Goliath**, the champion of the Philistine army, taunted the Israelites.

"Choose a man to fight with me and if he kills me then we will be your servants!"



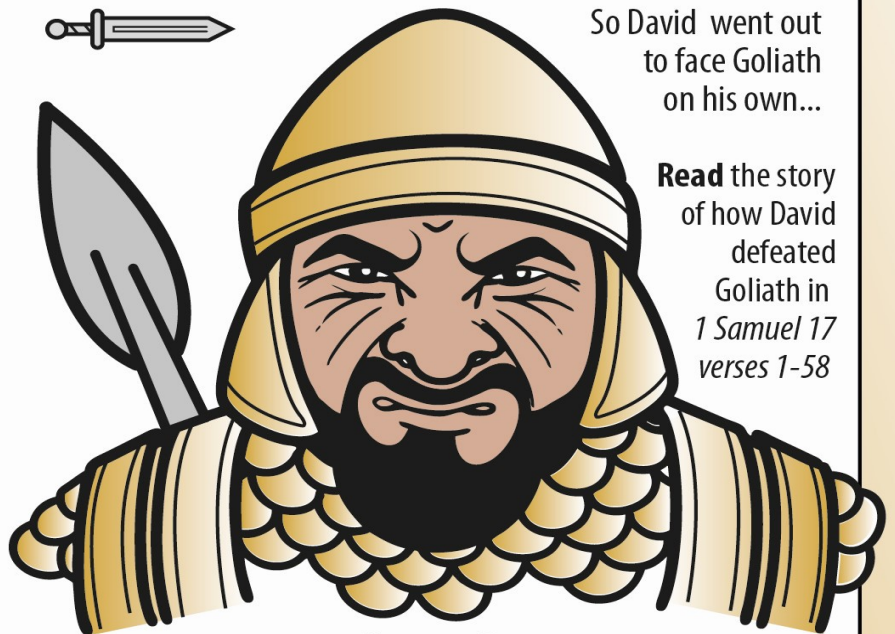
The Israelites were afraid, but **David**, a shepherd boy who had come to bring food to his brothers on the battlefield said:

"The **Lord** who delivered me from the lion and bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."



So David went out to face Goliath on his own...

**Read** the story of how David defeated Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 verses 1-58



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

ISRAEL • SAUL • DAVID • LORD • GOD • PHILISTINES • BATTLE • CAMP  
CHAMPION • GOLIATH • HELMET • ARMOUR • JAVELIN • SHIELD • FIGHT • BEAR  
LION • SHEPHERD • STAFF • STONES • BAG • SLING • STRUCK • HIT • FELL • GROUND