



Photographer unknown



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

**NEWSLETTER** Nov. '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 treasurer still had a trick up his sleeve*

Saturday, 18 November, Messy Church

will be on in St. Michael's from

11.30am to 1pm, including lunch,

which is provided for all. This month will focus on Saints and includes drag-on, garden and Christmas decoration

making and much more! No need to book. All welcome. Just turn up. This activity is free but donations are welcome.



### 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 (with the exception of January and August).**

**The next issue will appear on Thursday 1 December. Please email material for inclusion to [communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk), for the attention of Rebecca, by 16 November.**

#### In this issue...

	Page
Who's Who at St. Michael's	2
A short message from The Editor	3
A Peak into the History of All Souls	3
Christmas Tree Festival at St. Michael's	4
I am thankful...	4
Listening	5
Crossword Puzzle	6
Fun at the Care Home	6
Diary & September Crossword Puzzle Answers	7
Kids Page	8



This month, with QR codes now adorning the backs of the chairs throughout St. Michael's, to make donating to St. Michael's a little easier for anyone entering the

church, the cartoon on page 2 seems rather apt!

Early in October the beautiful photograph given by St. Michael's to St John's Meth-

odist Church, in gratitude for their hospitality during the refurbishment of St. Michael's Church from July to September 2007, was returned to us and so I felt it

right to include that as the cover photo on this month's issue. The label on the back reads, "*Christ at the centre of all things*".

**The Editor**

## A Peak into the History of All Souls by Rebecca Olsen

1 Corinthians 15.52: In an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the final trumpet blast, the dead shall rise. — Those who have done good deeds will go forth to the resurrection of life; those who have done evil will go forth to the resurrection of judgment. [5]

The passage above forms part of the English translation of *The Office of the Dead*, prayers that were used during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries as part of a Requiem Mass to remember the departed. *The Office of the Dead* was part of the *Book of Hours*, which people would consult hourly in order to remember the dead and help them pass from Purgatory. Each church or individual would recite the Office of the Dead when it best suited them until, in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Abbot Odilo, who was the Benedictine Abbot of Cluny for 54 years until his death in 1048 AD, established 2 November as All Souls' Day.

By the late Middle Ages, personalised *Book of Hours* became popular. The picture shown in column two was commissioned for Denise Poncher, "a young woman from an elite family whose father served as treasurer of wars for the French crown and whose uncle was bishop of Paris."

A writer for <https://www.getty.edu/news/offices-dead-halloween-scary-medieval-books/> explains that, "Denise Poncher is depicted kneeling with her prayer book before Death, a terrifying skeleton covered in rotting flesh and holding numerous sickles. The jarring contrast between her innocent loveliness and the horrific spectre looming above her is heightened by the presence of three victims lying on the ground nearby, who Death has already taken."

"This striking image was likely a reminder of mortality and the im-

portance of prayer in protecting the soul."



*Denise Poncher before a Vision of Death, about 1500, Master of the Chronique scandaleuse. Tempera colours, ink and gold on parchment, 5 1/4 x 3 7/16 in. Getty Museum, Ms. 109 (2011.40), fol. 156.*

Today, across the world, different countries hold different traditions for celebrating All Souls Day, from prayer to family gatherings and dressing up as skeletons to visit the deceased in cemeteries in Mexico; to lighting votive candles and decorating graves with fresh flowers in the Philippines and Spain. In Poland bread is left at gravesides, while in Guatemala they leave a dish called *El Fiambre* – a combination of vegetables, fish, meats, cheeses and eggs. In Guatemala they also believe they can communicate with the dead through colourful kites and so hold a Giant Kite Festival; and according to *countryliving.com*, in the past, in Scotland, children and the poor would go from door to door to

ask for "soul cakes" in exchange for prayers for the dead on All Souls' Day, possibly giving rise to the modern tradition of trick-or-treating.

Our own celebrations are far less radical than those of our ancestors. This year at St. Michael & All Angels, All Souls Day will be celebrated on Sunday, 5 November at 4p.m. and all those who wish to have deceased loved ones remembered are invited to submit the names of their loved ones to Hazel in the church office. During the service there will be an opportunity to have loved one's names read out and to light a candle in their memory.

As in bygone years, remembering the deceased is not limited to just one day of the year, and our Book of Remembrance stands proudly to the front right hand side of the altar rail as a testament to this. The pages are regularly updated upon the request of relatives, sometimes with the names of deceased members of the congregation, past or present, and other times with the names of those who resided within the parish. Each name is beautifully penned by a local calligrapher and deserving of a moment's pause and a quick prayer.

A few years ago, Hazel started collecting together information about the people mentioned in the Book of Remembrance for anyone who wishes to pause a little longer and ponder on the past. If you have any information about anyone that you would like kept on file, please see Hazel who will be pleased add to the archives.

All Souls follows on from All Saints Day, a day which allows us to celebrate men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. [churchofengland.org].

# **Christmas Tree Festival at St. Michael's by Kiki Connor**

Raising funds for the Wycombe Homeless Connection.

Local community Groups are currently booking to participate in this event, running from Sat 2 Dec up to Christmas Eve – some are regulars, some for the first time. We still have Trees available, so if you're aware of a Group who might like the opportunity to help raise money for an amazing charity whilst shining a light on their own activities, do ask them to get in touch. Last year we raised just over £3,300 during the entire Festival, with supporting events.

Plans for the 'Choirs at St. Michael's' event during the morning of Saturday, 9 December, are underway, and following the success of last year, when it moved indoors due to exceptionally cold weather, we'll be inside the Church again, with the sound broadcast out to the Square. Free entry, with passers by being encouraged to pop in for as long as they wish. Donations are requested. We hope to have coffee and cake available throughout the event. So, win: win – raising funds: having fun!

Wycombe Homeless Connection are hugely supportive and, in order to make a plan with their volunteers, we need to know how many helpers we can put forward from St. Michael's. Various jobs need to be covered – meeting and greeting, making tea & coffee, or hanging onto a collection tin inside and outside the Church. If you are able to offer any time on Thursday, 30 November between 9.30am and 12.30pm, and/or Saturday, 2 December between 9.30pm and 4.30pm, and/or Saturday, 9 December between 10am and 2pm, please contact [kiki@akipl.com](mailto:kiki@akipl.com). Happy Christmas!



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## **I am thankful...**

For the taxes that I pay because it means that I am employed;  
For the mess to clean after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends;  
For the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat;  
For my shadow that watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine;  
For the lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home;  
For all the complaining I hear about government because it means we have freedom of speech;  
For the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking;  
For my huge heating bill because it means I am warm;  
For the lady behind me in church who sings off key because it means I can hear;  
For the piles of laundry and ironing because it means I have clothes to wear;  
For the weariness of aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been working hard;  
For the alarm that goes off early in the morning because it means that I am alive;  
For getting too much email because it lets me know that I have friends who are thinking of me...

(An anonymous prayer sheet found at St Paul's Community Café in Brentford).

**Words discovered and donated by Rosie Marciniak**

# Are You Listening?

by Patryk Jakubowski

Every time I experience how God surprises me with His Word and unconventional-ity, I feel a kind of embar-rassment. I realize that God's Word is always rele-vant and yet contains con-tent that goes beyond hu-man logic. The term "unconventional" best cap-tures what I feel. When I led sessions on psychological counselling and we prac-tised various skills or worked on case studies, I often told students, encour-aging them to discuss: "During these exercises, there's no wrong way of thinking, only an unconven-tional one," which usually led to fruitful discussions.

This time, Apostle Luke, de-scribing the Mission of the Disciples in the Gospel (Luke 8, 16-18), surprised me the most with his unconvention-al statement: "Pay attention to how you listen, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away." It may seem completely strange - how can you take away some-thing you don't have? How-ever, it is possible. If we look at this statement as a

whole, we will notice that Christ calls for attentive lis-tening. Our sister communi-ty of the Evangelical Luther-an Church\* also emphasizes in its basic principles of faith that faith is born through listening. For us as well, this is not foreign.

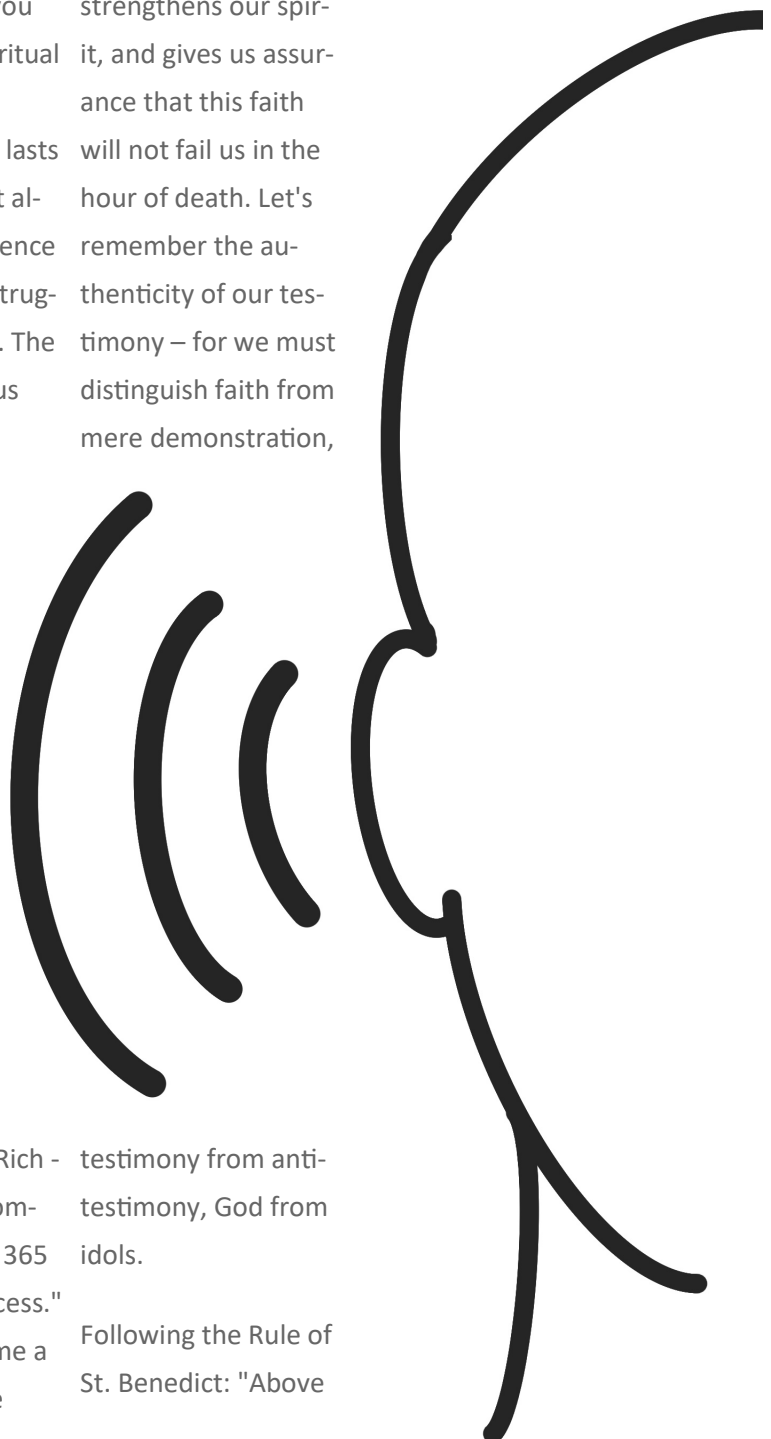
"Pay attention to how you listen." Christ in our spiritual life can remain silent (sometimes this silence lasts for years), and we don't al-ways understand His silence because we ourselves strug-gle to endure in silence. The world's idols surround us with noise and extrava-gance, tempting us with their tangibility, showing shortcuts, skillfully drowning out God's voice and si-lence with temporary pleasures and selfish-ness. Oh, there are more and more pre-scriptions for happi-ness, as the number of self-help books and ebooks grows from year to year, such as "Young, Beautiful, and Rich - How to be a fulfilled wom-an" or "Fulfill Yourself - 365 days to your key to success." However, there will come a moment when it will be

clear that everything that drowned out the space for God is like chasing the wind and rust.

Our primary task as believ-ers is to bear witness to be-ing disciples of Christ be-cause through this sharing, He increases our faith, strengthens our spir-it, and gives us assur-ance that this faith will not fail us in the hour of death. Let's remember the au-thenticity of our tes-timony – for we must distinguish faith from mere demonstration,

all, when you are planning to do something good, pray fervently first, so that He <i.e., Christ> Himself may lead it to completion." It will add to and illuminate our lives. Amen.

*\*The sister community to the author's church in Poland.*

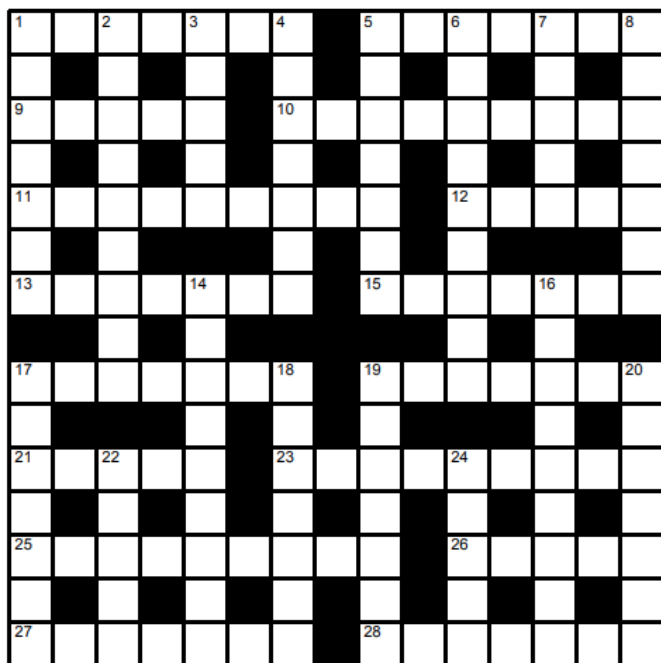


testimony from anti-testimony, God from idols.

Following the Rule of St. Benedict: "Above

# Crossword Puzzle

Answers in the November edition



by Philologus

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## Across

- 1 Purifies (7)
- 5 Tainted (7)
- 9 Forbidden objects of worship (5)
- 10 Abundant (9)
- 11 Wife of David (9)
- 12 Lift up (5)
- 13 Grapple (7)
- 15 Lack of rain (7)
- 17 Sennacherib's realm (7)
- 19 Domain (7)
- 21 Biblical clothing (5)
- 23 Supplant (9)
- 25 Announced (9)
- 26 Tamar's brother (5)
- 27 Person seeking redress for wrong (7)
- 28 Decorates (7)

## Down

- 1 Colourful arc seen after the flood (7)
- 2 Forehead ornaments (9)
- 3 Bird homes (5)
- 4 Greatest in status (7)
- 5 Servant (7)
- 6 Time of day (9)
- 7 Ruth's mother in law (5)
- 8 Lineage (7)
- 14 Separating wheat from chaff (9)
- 16 Legion's people (9)
- 17 King who was almost persuaded to be a Christian (7)
- 18 One more (7)
- 19 Pummelled bread (7)
- 20 Grass clippings (7)
- 22 Holy book (5)
- 24 Barter (5)

# Fun at the Care Home

by Fr. Peter

Taking communion to residents in a care home is a real pleasure. When I go to The Croft, I am assisted by four members of St. Michael's, which is a great help, not only in giving the service cards and hymn sheets out, but also in talking to the residents. They very much appreciate that.

The service is easy to follow, and we have a couple of hymns, CDs with organ accompaniment. We just have to make sure that the residents have the service card and the hymn sheet on the right side (and the right way up!!). One of the residents likes singing, and she is very pleased when I say, 'Hello, and follow up with her name and where she is from!'

Another of the residents likes to hear about my roses, so we have been showing her photos of them. A few months ago, I knocked over her water jug, which resulted in a considerable amount of mopping up. The next time, she asked, 'Knocked over any water jugs recently?' She still hasn't forgotten it!

Yet another resident, whose husband was Polish, was thrilled when Patryk talked to her. She also hasn't forgotten it. 'A lovely young man,' she said the next time.

At the end of the service, after the blessing and second hymn, I go round and touch each resident lightly on the head. If I forget, I get told off!!

We are very grateful to the activities co-ordinator, who gets all the residents ready before we arrive. She tells me how much they look forward to the visits.

Sometimes, things can be a bit unexpected. In another care home, there is an elderly gentleman, who is very deaf, and so they put us in a wooden building, called The Cottage, which is behind the main house, and this means that I can shout without disturbing anyone else. We get tea and biscuits!! However, the last time, I went into The Cottage to get ready, and a carer came, having told the gentleman in question that I had arrived. He had replied, 'I don't care who he is, I am not coming!!' I went into the main building, and when he saw me, he came without any trouble!

It's really fun doing all this, and it's great when the residents enjoy the service and chat. It helps them know that they aren't forgotten.



## Eucharists:

Sundays 8.30am and 10am  
(Gathered Round on the second Sunday of

each month is especially designed for families)

Tuesdays 10.30am

## Morning Prayer:

Tuesdays 9am in the Lady Chapel.

## Messy Church: 18 November '23

(The third Saturday each month 11.30am—1pm, except Aug)

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

# WORSHIP

## Sunday WARDENS

5 Nov (All Saints) 10am — Alan Bacon (774870)

(All Souls) 4pm— Hazel Miller (773189)

12 Nov — Andy Connor (723561)

19 Nov — Roger Leslie (726362)

26 Nov — Roland Gillott (722674)

Please see:

[stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

for more details

## ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

### POP IN & PAINT— 3 November—10.30am-12.15pm

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed. Materials provided.

### WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB — 3 November— 2pm-4pm—Wheeler Room— Where the Crawdad's Sing

### A CRAFTY CUPPA—10 & 24 November — 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

Montessori Nursery (Tel: 01753 891613)

9.15am—12.15pm + Wednesday afternoon until 2.45pm

Mondays

Tiny Talk—Baby Signing 10am (Tel: 07809 157 428)

Mature Movers 1.45pm—2.45pm

Amersham Dance Studio Children from 3+. 4pm—10pm

(email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)

Tuesdays

Tuffney Performing Arts Academy 4.30pm office@tuffney.com

Yoga with Shiv 5.30pm-7pm (Science based approach, open to all. Tel: 07815132157).

Wednesdays

Karate Club 7pm—8pm (Tel: 07951 024 397)

Badminton Club 8.15pm—10.15 pm (Tel: 01923 264791).

Thursdays

Jacq-in-the-box 10am-12 noon. (Tel: 07948371615)

Amersham Dance Studio Children from 3+. 4pm—10pm

(email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)

Fridays

Stay Steady, Stay Strong 1.30pm—2.30pm & 2:45pm—3:45pm Tel: 07951 294178)

Karate Club 7pm—8 pm (Tel: 07951 024 397)

Saturdays

Popstars Academy 9.30am—12pm (email: hazel@popstarsacademy.com).

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

## IN THE HALL

## CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFT SHOP

*Amertham Open!*

*Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October to*

*Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December*

*10AM till 4PM Daily!*

Supporting local and national charities

**CARDS**  
FOR GOOD CAUSES

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## BAPTISMS WEDDINGS & DEATHS

## RIP

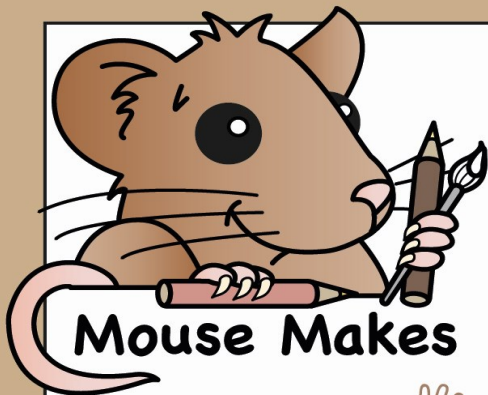
Rev. Noel Whale

(First curate of St Michael & All Angels, 1970-1973)

## October Crossword Puzzle Answers

1	H	U	S	H	E	D	4	A	S	S	I	G	N	E	D
2		A		A					E		N		A		I
9	L	A	N	D	S		10	C	H	A	L	D	E	A	N
11	I	C		T			12	R	O		U		M		H
13	N	E	T	S			14	R	O	O	F		L	E	A
15	E		I				16	W		T		G		N	S
17	S	A	F	F	R	O	18	I	D	E	A				
19	S		Y				20	O		B		N		O	A
21							22	D	E	A	F		E	S	C
23	C		G		N		24	T		R		E	P		U
25	L	U	R	E	D		26	H	A	I	L		F	O	O
27	O		E		S		28	O		A		E		S	T
29	S	H	E	P	H	E	30	S		C	H	I	N	E	
31	E		C		I	N				A		N		R	
32	T	R	E	S	P	A	S	S		H		U	N	G	R

Created by BiblePuzzles.com



"Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

with thanksgiving, present your  
\_\_\_\_\_ to God."

*Philippians 4:6-7 NIV*

"The \_\_\_\_\_

is \_\_\_\_\_

to all who \_\_\_\_\_

on him in \_\_\_\_\_"

*Psalms 145:18*

"For where two or three \_\_\_\_\_

in my name, there  
I am with them."

*Matthew 18:20*

SAY SORRY

PRAY FOR OTHERS

PRAY FOR YOURSELF

THANK GOD

FOR MY FAMILY

PRAY FOR FRIENDS

PRAY FOR THE NEEDY

PRAY FOR THE SICK

PRAISE GOD

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH



*NIV*  
**Look up** the  
Bible verses,  
fill in the  
blanks then  
find them in the  
word search

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

**Find these  
words too:**

APPROACH  
MEDITATE  
HEAR • LISTEN  
BLESS • PRAISE  
FORGIVE • NAME  
CRY OUT • AMEN

" \_\_\_\_\_  
always, \_\_\_\_\_  
continually, \_\_\_\_\_

in all circumstances."  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

"Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_

your sins to one another and  
\_\_\_\_\_ for one another,  
that you may be healed."

*James 5:16*

" \_\_\_\_\_  
yourselves \_\_\_\_\_

to prayer, being  
watchful and  
thankful."

*Colossians 4:2*