



@ Chris Leslie

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



NEWSLETTER SEPT '23

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

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



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"Er... vicar – does the church have a position on the donation of GM vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"

*A huge  
warm welcome  
to  
Katherine Hyde  
who  
recently joined us  
at  
St. Michael's  
as a trainee  
Lay Minister*

Saturday, 16 September, Messy Church will be based on Noah's Ark, Genesis 6. 9-17. Children and their carers will have the opportunity to make wooden animal pen pots, 3D pictures, masks and bracelets and so 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 runs from 11.30am-1pm; it 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 Monday 2 October.  
Material for inclusion should please be emailed to  
[communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk), for  
the attention of Rebecca, by 15 September.**

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## 'Welcome' A word from the Editor

When everything seems to be pointing in a particular direction it seems to me that it's time to step back and take notice of what the world is saying. I found myself in this position yesterday and so, when I went over to see my mother who is convalescing following an operation, I took the opportunity to ask my father for some advice. His response was to hand me a pile of papers containing articles he had written for a church magazine.

The page that caught my attention was an article based on the text from Romans 15: 'In a word, welcome one another, as Christ welcomed us, to the glory of God.' The article spoke about how important it is for regular church attendees to welcome visitors and new comers; to take courage and go up to someone and say, 'Hello, I'm so-and-so. I don't think we've met before. It is nice to see you here.' This small act helps others to feel seen and heard, loneliness to fall away and warmth to flow and create a sense of belonging.

While compiling the September Newsletter it struck me that the concept of communication and welcoming is a common thread that runs through this month's issue.

Diane Rutter expresses the toll that not feeling heard can take on someone who is sick, and how a few kind words can change everything. On page 5 Carly Bedwell talks about how our community at St. Michael's welcomes children, and on the same page, Andy Connor writes about how we will be welcoming Kate Lillie on 24 September to talk about Medic to Medic. Edmond Eiliaza-deh, on the other hand, welcomes us to learn more about his cultural background.

This month we also welcome a guest writer and occasional visitor to St. Michael's. Celia Palmer regularly receives the newsletter and often follows up with kind and encouraging words for all those who have contributed. She was delighted to write for us.

It strikes me while writing this that God already knows us and yet still we are welcomed into his glory, through Christ. So perhaps we too are required to welcome each other regularly, to say, 'Hello, it's so lovely to see you this week,' and to sit and talk for a while, to care, to alleviate the sense of loneliness this fast-paced society has a habit of creating, and not leave anybody saying, 'I went to church and nobody spoke to me.' *By Rebecca Olsen*

## In God's Hands By Diane Rutter

My 88-year-old Mum, Joyce Rutter, will be known to many at St Michael's. She has been living at home, supported by my brother and I, and has been needing more and more care from us over the past couple of years.

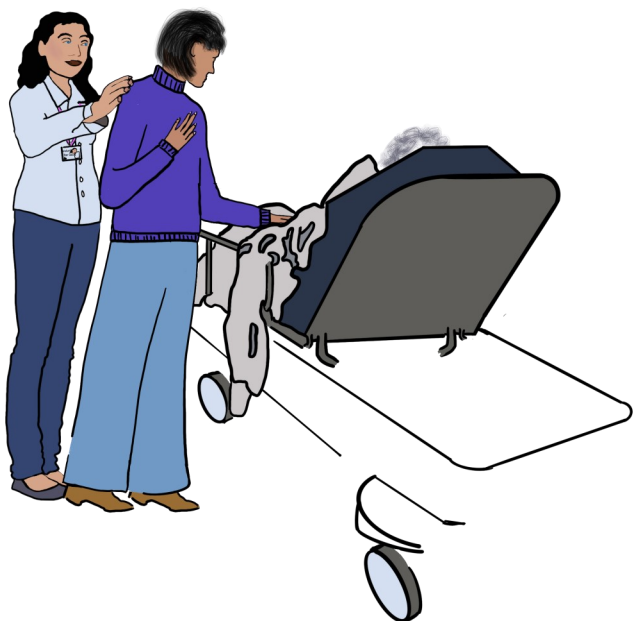
In June she had a fall in the early hours. She pressed her pendant alarm, and the alarm company immediately called me. It was several hours before an ambulance was able to come and take her to hospital, and she then spent a very


long time on a trolley in the corridor as A&E was extremely busy. I was with her and as time wore on it felt very hard.

There was a moment, after hours of Mum being in distress, and at a point where I was feeling utterly helpless, when I silently prayed - *Jesus, Spirit, Father, Mother, God, Somebody, we need help.* A few minutes later I felt a hand on my shoulder and a voice said *hello, I'm Marilyn, I don't know anything about your situation, but I'm a chaplaincy volunteer.* She was wonderful. Literally a Godsend. She spoke so kindly to us both. Mum relaxed, her gaze alighted on Marilyn's face, and she positively shone as they spoke to each other. In my many hours accompanying other people in A&E, I have never ever seen a



chaplaincy volunteer there before. I felt deeply touched by this immediate answer to my call for help. Nothing changed in that Mum was still in the corridor with no prospect of anything moving forward for her. But everything had changed in that there was human kindness and the assurance that we were still in God's hands and care.

Postscript. Three days later, Mum was moved into St. Joseph ward and 10 days after that she moved into her new home at Chesham Leys nursing home, near to where my brother and I both live. It was amazing that a bed became available just when we needed it. She told me *I think that God is looking after us Diane.*





**Wise Choices**  
**Film Club**  
**'23 - '24**  
Wheeler Rm @ St Michael's  
Usually the 1st Friday  
each month 2-4pm



<b>Mrs Harris Goes To Paris</b> 1 September '23
<b>Operation Mince meat</b> 6 October '23
<b>Where the Crawdads Sing</b> 3 November '23
<b>Fisherman's Friends</b> 1 December '23
<b>A Man Called Otto</b> 5 January '24
<b>Empire of Light</b> 2 February '24
<b>Living</b> 1 March '24
<b>The Quiet Girl</b> 5 April '24

# St. Michael's Patronal Festival *By Celia Palmer*

I was honoured to be asked to write about the Patronal Festival, which will be celebrated on 1 October this year. In my research for this I realised afresh the link St. Michael brings to places I love, 'Coventry Cathedral', 'Mont-Saint-Michel' in Normandy and 'St. Michael's Mount' in Cornwall. Therefore, there is an incredibly special ambience with spiritual connection to our very own St. Michael's here in Amersham.

St. Michael is special as he is not a human saint but an Angel, a special angel known as the Archangel Michael. This made me think of Archangel Gabriel and the amazing message he brought to Mary of the precious son she would bear, the son who is our Saviour, and the Annunciation painting by Fra Angelico.



[Below] So, Michaelmas is special as we remember this fine angel, St. Michael, often portrayed as slaying the dragon, like St George, but other artists, as at our St. Michael's, show him killing a serpent which brings us back to the very beginning in Genesis. I warm to this as it references the thought of St. Michael as a protector, healer and leader of the Heavenly band of those special beings – angels! It also fits with the

Reconciliation Message of Coventry Cathedral. Where the new building stands alongside the ruins of the bombed old Cathedral, their St. Michael stands above the entrance to the new Cathedral just as ours here does.

On consulting my Bible, I discovered he is known in Daniel *'as one of the princes of the heavenly host'*, and Jude refers to him as *'Archangel Michael'*. In Revelation he becomes a leader of the Angelic Army in Heaven driving Satan out of Heaven back to earth. Back in 2021, Ken Prideux-Brune referred to this as being bad for us still living down here whilst those in Heaven are free of him! But perhaps this explains why so many bad things are happening here in God's world, I have never thought of it quite like that!

When my late husband, Ray, and I visited Mont-Saint-Michel we received great blessing from the peace of the beautiful building, the sun, the sky and the wonderful warm sea breeze with the sea surrounding the rock on which it is built. It became a special place to us and brought us closer to God as we gazed from the huge refectory window at the top. St. Michael's amazing gold figure,

slaying the dragon, is fixed on the top of the tall spire and visible for miles around!

I was also moved by the glass angels etched on the entrance glass doors which are passed through here just as you would pass into the new Cathedral at Coventry from the ruins. Heavenly Beings thus portrayed drawing us together in this strange world of war, trouble, and turmoil to where peace will reign supreme, and our Lord Jesus Christ is in control with St. Michael depicted as the leader and protector of all. An Etched Angel is also on the Chapel Door of the Hospice of St Francis, created by the husband of one of my friends on the Family Support Team. What comfort they bring in sad times.

Modern Life and all it entails makes life overly complicated to understand, or maybe that is just me, harking back to easier times and the innocence of childhood and my simple faith.

St. Michael makes me think of the *'thin places'* where we feel closer to God and the real



Photo by Roland Gillott

things of life so that materialism and modernism slips away as we ponder the wonder of God and His tender loving care of us all.

The Prayer of the Friends of Coventry Cathedral, which I pray every day, could also apply on this special day in Amersham for St. Michael & All Angels here, and reflect back to the Mission Statement.

**'Almighty God, the light and life of the world, we give thanks for this [Church of St Michael], raised up as a house of prayer for all peoples, and as a temple to your glory. We pray for all those who minister and worship in the [Church] day by day, and especially for our ministry of reconciliation.'** Amen.

May this Patronal Festival Day be blessed.

Mont-Saint-Michel



## Attending St. Michael's with a Small Child!



*By Carly Bedwell*

We have been attending St Michael's for just over a year, our son was only one when we joined the congregation. He is now a very active 2-year-old!!

We were initially a little nervous to bring such a small (and often rather noisy!) child along, but we were immediately put at ease by Reverend Debbie, Peter, and other members of the congregation. They told us not to worry and assured us they would be able to project over any noise our son was making. We have always been made to feel very welcome by everyone. We are now regular members of the 8.30am Sunday Service and I think it is safe to say that our son is a hit with all! We often go for coffee with some of the congregation after the service, which has really helped get to know everyone more.

When we first arrive at church, we pop over to the toy section and choose something to hopefully entertain our son. We also come

armed with a few snacks (bananas and raisins always seem to work!). This will usually keep him still for a while but then he likes to get up and walk around. He is always very inter-

ested to watch what is going on, especially when the bell is rung. We often bring a couple of puzzles with us, and one of us will sit on the floor playing with him. Inevitably at some point during the service he likes to

venture outside of The Lady Chapel; we then tag team between us who will follow him.

We have been attending (and volunteering at) Messy Church since it restarted and have been able to encourage some friends to come along. It has been great to meet other parents too.

For anyone else considering coming along to St Michael's with a small child, I can assure you that you would also be very welcome. We have never heard a bad word said about any noise, in fact we often get comments of how lovely it is to hear a little one enjoying the church. Now, whenever we walk along Sycamore Road, our son will point at the church and want to go in.

## St. Michael's Harvest Appeal Charity is *Medic to Medic*

*By Andy Connor*

This year's Harvest Appeal charity is Medic to Medic ([www.medictomedic.org.uk](http://www.medictomedic.org.uk)), whose main aim is to guarantee the tuition fees for healthcare students in Africa, especially in Malawi, who have academic potential, but are in financial need in. Following the recent devastating cyclone in that country, they have also organised much-needed assistance there and shipments of essentials collected locally.

The CEO of the charity is **Dr Tamsin Lillie**, who grew up in Amersham and whose family live here. Many of you will know them and the work that they do. **Kate Lillie**, a key Medic to Medic volunteer and Tamsin's mother, has agreed to come to St Michael's on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September** and give a short talk about the charity during the 10am service. Please come and support her and the charity at that time. This Harvest Appeal will continue through to Harvest Festival itself, which we will celebrate at our "Gathered Round" service on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October.



*Survivors of the Cyclone*

**The Amersham Photographic Society** will be exhibiting their work in St. Michael's from **Tuesday, 26 September-Saturday, 30 September** from 10am-6pm daily.



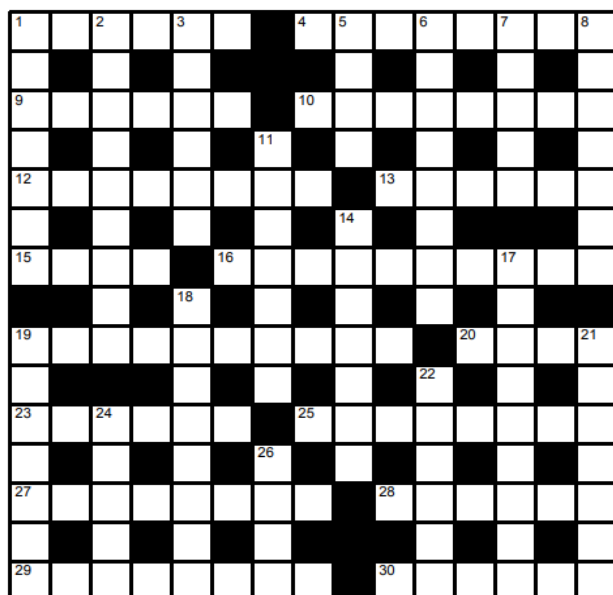
**On October 1st, Amersham Band** are putting on a concert in the church, followed by a 'have a go' session. It's aimed at families and encouraging children to take up brass instruments. Further details will be available soon.

Another event coming up in church is an **Older People's Day** on **19 September**, it will feature a range of services/activities for older people. The day is organised by Rotare and is a repeat of an event they have held at the church before.



# Crossword Puzzle

Answers in the October edition



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

## Across

- 1 Express sorrow (6)
- 4 Anticipated (8)
- 9 God will judge people with this (6)
- 10 Sore ants (anag); In the White House? (8)
- 12 Kept confined (8)
- 13 Times Peter denied Christ (6)
- 15 Noah became this by faith (4)
- 16 Last book of the Bible (10)
- 19 God's angels (10)
- 20 Mix up (4)
- 23 Thin length of material (6)
- 25 It never comes (8)
- 27 Soothed (8)
- 28 Money lender (6)
- 29 Counted (8)
- 30 Rigid sheets of metal (6)

## Down

- 1 A dimension of God's love (7)
- 2 Himalayas, for example (9)
- 3 Gain, reach or arrive at (6)
- 5 Sesame worked! (4)
- 6 A faithful minister of Christ (8)
- 7 Mother in law of Ruth (5)
- 8 Sun sets in this sky (7)
- 11 Retaliation (7)
- 14 Scripture is profitable for this (7)
- 17 Magicians couldn't do this for Pharaoh's dreams (9)
- 18 Jerusalem - how her house is left (8)
- 19 Disease of cattle (7)
- 21 When Jesus comes these will be with Him (7)
- 22 Fragment of food (6)
- 24 Booms (anag) (5)
- 26 Not there! (4)

## Who is the Assyrian Nation?

By Edmond Eiliazadeh

I have had the opportunity to have a conversation with different people of different ages and backgrounds to try and understand the best way to educate our young generation and give them the right skills and tools to enter into real life and be able to cope with the many challenges that lie ahead. It is not easy to design a curriculum that suits everybody and fits everybody's needs.

It is okay to learn a bit about the essential subjects and familiarise yourself with unknown matters, but what I'm not so fond of is going too deeply into unnecessary detail, unless the subject is of special interest or one would like to

become a skilled scholar in that subject.

For example, the history subject that I have chosen today is a very useful tool to help us learn about the past and increase our knowledge about events that have happened, and in particular it helps us learn about our ancestry. Getting too much into details would not harm, but sometimes it may get boring and lose the main interest and objective of the learning. An example: a student who is leaving school might have good knowledge of algebra, physics, history etc., but if you ask about normal ordinary facts in life, such as mortgages, life insurance cover,

or how to find the best loan, normal human communication etc., some might find it strange and have no clue about to do deal with it. So, we have to focus on simple essentials and prepare our future generation by adding a bit of spice to make things interesting to learn about!

Okay, going back to my original topic. Often people mistake the words Assyrian and Syrian. Assyrians are the very, very, and even much older, nation that lived in the Mesopotamian capital Ninveh (today's Iraq), some four thousand years BC. They were a people with architectural and academic skills, practicing the Christian faith, after the miracle of Jesus's appearance. Syrians, on the other hand, are the people from Syria and are of African origin. The majority of Syrians follow the Muslim faith while a minority follow other religions, including Christianity and Judaism.

Mesopotamia was a humongous land that stretched from today's southern Turkey to Saudi, Sudan, and Ethiopia. From the east, Persia all the way to Jordan, neighbouring Palestine. The Assyrian Kingdom ruled over this vast land, and at the time Babylonians, Sumerians, Caldians and Persians were the most noisy prominent neighbours, and there were constant conflicts of interest and disagreements amongst them. Babylonians are mostly remembered because of the hanging garden of Babylon in the middle of the desert. But we should remember that Assyria was a very diverse nation and the first nation, even

before the Romans, that was advanced in architectural work and developing arch making. Assyrians were also the first in history to create a clay tablet library, along with other prime engineering feats.

As the kingdom became a vast land, amalgamating over time with other small nations, due to conquering or other political or economical reasons, it would have been a mammoth task to rule peacefully and maintain control over all the regions, especially as whilst some were friendly others were enemies. But they did it. They ruled through a strong central government and powerful regional governors. Not going into too much detail, as I suggested in the second paragraph, the very last King of Assyria, named Ashoorbanipal, lost the very last war with the Persians as a result of the collaboration of unhappy neighbouring nations and the treason of his own brother. The kingdom toppled down and the Assyrian Kingdom became history.

The majority of Assyrians stayed in the original motherland (today's Iraq), and they are still living there, but due to their craftsmanship and other skills, some were taken to Persia as prisoners of the war and generation after generation became Assyrian Persian (today's Iran).

The Assyrian people stayed together as one nation and did not mix with Muslims or Jews (of the land). Inter-marriage was prohibited, in particular with Muslims; this very important fact that kept the Assyrian people together, protected them

## 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: 16 September'23

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

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

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

# WORSHIP

## Sunday WARDENS

3 Sept—Roger Leslie (726362)  
10 Sept —Roland Gillott (722674)  
17 Sept— Claire Sinclair (07591 954701)  
24 Sept— Alan Bacon (774870)

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

# ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

## POP IN & PAINT— 6 October—10.30am-12.15pm

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

## A CRAFTY CUPPA—8 & 22 Sept— 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> (Tel: 01753 891613) 9.15am—12.15pm + Wednesday afternoon until 2.45pm
Mondays	<b>Tiny Talk—Baby Signing</b> 10am (Tel: 07809 157 428) <b>Mature Movers</b> 1.45pm—2.45pm <b>Amersham Dance Studio</b> Children from 3+. 4pm—10pm (email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)
Tuesdays	<b>Tuffney Performing Arts Academy</b> 4.30pm office@tuffney.com <b>Yoga with Shiv</b> 5.30pm-7pm (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 (email: emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk)
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 (email: hazel@popstarsacademy.com).

# IN THE HALL

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

(Ctd.) from being converted to other religions and helped them survive to this day. I personally am very grateful to Islam for indirectly helping us to remain together and survive all the way to the 21st century.

Sadly, due to the instability of the region and politically motivated facts, people started moving around the world and, as followers of Christ, mixed with other Christian nations. Conse-

**SIMPATICO** have reported welcoming a record number of visitors to their Art Exhibition this year, topping 900, and raising over £450 for St. Michael's and the same (+what was in the collection boxes!) for Lindengate!!

quently, after a while you lose your originality. The Assyrian population is estimated to be about 2.5 to 3 million,

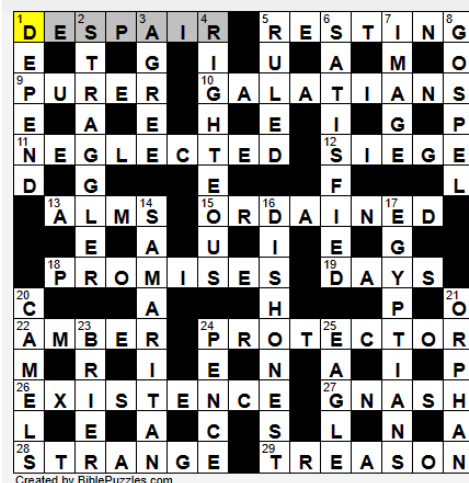
## BAPTISMS WEDDINGS & DEATHS

RIP

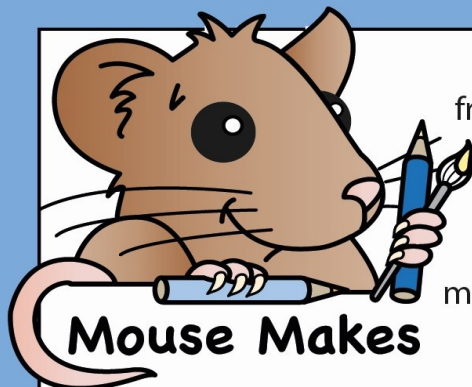
Joy Houston  
Peter Lawson

living mostly in the USA, Europe and Australia, as well as in the motherland.

July/Aug Crossword Puzzle Answers



# DIARY SEPTEMBER '23



## Mouse Makes

After Jesus miraculously fed 5,000+ people from two fish and five loaves, he sent his disciples off in a boat across the Sea of Galilee before going up a mountain by himself. Later in the night, as the boat was being blown and buffeted by the wind, Jesus came miraculously walking on the water towards them...

Read the story in: *Matthew 14: 22-27,*  
*Mark 6:45-56 or John 6:16-21*

**What did Jesus do when he went up on the mountain?**

\_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 14:23*

**What was the boat struggling against?**

The \_\_\_\_\_ and  
the \_\_\_\_\_  
*Matthew 14:24*



**What did Jesus say to his disciples?**

Do not be

\_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 14:27*

**What did the disciples think Jesus was when they saw him walking on the sea?**

A \_\_\_\_\_  
*Matthew 14:26*

**Who walked out on the water to Jesus?**

\_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 14:29*

**What did Jesus say to Peter?**

Oh you of little \_\_\_\_\_  
why do you \_\_\_\_\_  
*Matthew 14:31*



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

JESUS • DISCIPLES • BOAT • OTHER SIDE • CROWDS • MOUNTAIN • EVENING • ALONE • LAND • NIGHT • SEA  
WALKING • TERRIFIED • FEAR • COME • WATER • SINK • SAVE • INTO • CEASED • WORSHIPED • SON OF GOD

Answer the questions then find them in the word search

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