

# The Moving Church News

## A Church and Community Magazine



St. Mark's Church Biggin Hill

August & September 2023

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## Welcome to the Moving Church News The Bi-monthly Magazine of St. Mark's Church, Biggin Hill

### Services at St. Mark's

First Sunday in the month

8.00am Communion -  
Book of Common Prayer

10.30am All Age Worship

Other Sundays  
10.30am Parish Communion

Wednesdays  
10.00am Holy Communion Service

### Contents

How Happy Was Your Childhood?	4
To Prune Or Not To Prune?	6
The Community Of Biggin Hill Village	8
St. Mark's Website	11
Biggin Hill Carnival	13
Forest Church At St. Mark's	13
Congratulations!	16
The Boat	17
Biggin Hill Friends Of The Park	22
Ukraine Update	22
Landing A Hunter With No Front Wheel!	24
Biggin Hill Residents' Association	28
Baptisms at St. Mark's	29
Community Telephone Numbers	30
The Next Moving Church News	31

Front cover: The Mayor and Mayoress of Bromley visited St.  
Mark's stall at the Biggin Hill Carnival.



# St. Mark's Parish Church, Biggin Hill

Church Road, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3LB

Parish office: 01959 577816

Email: [admin@movingchurch.org](mailto:admin@movingchurch.org)

St Mark's website: [www.movingchurch.org](http://www.movingchurch.org)



st mark's biggin hill - 'the moving church'

Vicar	Revd. Alison Newman	01959 540482
Church Wardens	Patrick O Sullivan	01959 572684
	Rohan Perera	01959 574355
Reader/Evangelist	Mark Newman	01959 540482

**For Hall Bookings, Baptism, Wedding and general enquiries,  
please contact the Parish Office.**

**Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
9.30 am to 12 noon**

## How happy was your childhood?

If you had perfect parents, you were very fortunate! As we all know, the best parenting can raise stable, independent and caring children – except that bumps and knocks happen along the way and sometimes derail what has been a promising start. We also know that many children are starting their life journey from a very low baseline. Perhaps this has always been the case, but we seem to be witnessing so many more cases.

Anna Khan, CEO of Welcare, recently spoke at St Mark's. Welcare started in 1894 under the name of the Diocesan Association for Friendless Girls, an initiative of the then Bishop of Rochester and his wife.



Welcare now stretches across 6 London Boroughs: Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Southwark, Richmond and Wandsworth, and also works in East Surrey. It maintains its Christian ethos.

To start with, the focus was on mother and baby homes; now, Welcare does preventative work and life skills development, doing everything to keep families together.

This is what they offer: parenting programmes, domestic abuse recovery, the Caring Dads

programme, and developing partnerships with schools – working through them with children and parents in need.

The mission of Welcare is to improve the lives of children and families damaged by social isolation, domestic abuse, financial hardship and other disadvantages.

Today's children are tomorrow's parents. Here is one organisation actually doing something about it!

Mark Newman

*The work of Welcare in South East London is co-ordinated from their base in Community House, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH*





# To prune or not to prune!

To ensure flowering continues right through the summer into autumn, dead heading is a ritual carried out during the growing season, using secateurs, scissors or just our fingers and thumbs.

The RHS describes this process as the removal of flowers from plants when they have faded or died. It is done to keep plants looking attractive and encourages new growth and more flowers, while some like fuchsias neatly deadhead themselves, saving you the task.



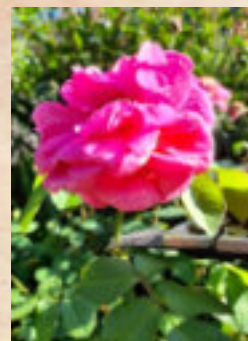
There are also occasions though when pruning does prevent self-seeding, particularly useful for valerian, and Erigeron.

It also allows the gardener to reshape the plant at the same time, in some cases where they throw long shoots before they flower, spoiling its shape.

Of course, there are times when leaving seed heads become decorative, bird friendly seeds, fruits or those you wish to collect seed from. The dried flower head of the Hydrangea protects the immediate buds below from frost, potentially the flower buds for next year

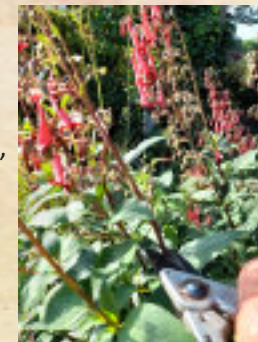
Flowering bulbs also need deadheading, it allows the plant to put all its energy into growing for the following spring, rather than setting seed.

Many, particularly woody plants have sleeping buds, generally found in the leaf axils, good examples are roses and shrubs. The photograph below left, shows the stem of a rose with secateurs at the point just above an out pointing leaf axil, leaving a



nice clean cut. This will wake the sleeping bud and regrow, taking approximately six weeks to produce another cluster of flowers.

Ideally, an out pointing bud is chosen for future flowering growth. Allowing to keep the middle of the bush free, reduces crossing branches and clutter free, allows light, air and reduce diseases such as black spot and powdery mildew on roses.



This can be said for most types of roses. In the case of other plants such as the Phygelius or cape fuchsia, a semi shrub or hardy perennial, the same can be applied. See right.



The Biggin Hill & District Horticultural society hold many events throughout the year.

Dates for your diary:  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July**, Caroline Halfpenny, will give a talk on "The Principles of Garden Design"

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August**, "An Evening with Jim Buttress", ex Royal Parks manager, Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Show judge who visits us to talk about what he has been up to over the past few years, the hidden stories we don't hear!

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**, Nick Hagon will talk and demonstrate different aspects of propagation.

Autumn Flower Show, flowers, vegetables, floral art, handicraft and domestic classes on **Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>**, doors open at 3 pm.

Talks are from 8 to 10 pm (doors open at 7.30) refreshments, garden sundries, plants to purchase, and raffle are available.

All the above are at St Marks Church Hall, Church Road, Biggin Hill.

Thank you

Nick Hagon (Biggin Hill & District Horticultural Society) 01959 575799 between 6.30 and 9pm.



# The Community of Biggin Hill Village

Over the last couple of months we have been in the thick of the community, and we really have enjoyed it. It is where our hearts are, working with and amongst you! We name no names, but you know who you are, and who helps us make it all tick.

Being members of the Horticultural Society we attended the plant sale in early May, seeing Melanie walking away with armfuls of bedding and tender tomato plants, all duly planted and thriving, making a splash of colour not only to the garden but also the meal table. The Summer Show in July was well attended with numerous exhibits ranging from roses, to jars of jam, to fresh fruit. All lovingly home grown or made with the support of the society. We had our first win, with our display of five pansies, a spontaneous late entry, supported by a society member who gave us the opportunity and ability to enter.

Another joy to attend is the working parties and meetings of the Friends of the Parks (FOTP), lately not as many as we would like. However a long desire for the group, has been to have an outdoor gym within the rec on Church Road. Working together, we are working up a bid for moneys from the Council Jubilee Fund and if successful, will provide an open and free exercise area for all of the community to use.

Talking of FOTP's, we are indebted to those members who work tirelessly with us and the Carnival Committee in preparing the rec for Carnival Day, the first Saturday in July. Grass cutting appears to be an easy task but not when we talk to Council contractors and like every year it takes many phone calls, hours on the rec, and many a rake to make sure we are ready for the biggest public event in the Biggin Hill calendar.



If you saw us on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, you were lucky. We walked 15,245 steps on Friday and 24,360 on Saturday, we were here, there and everywhere. We are heavily involved in this community event, working tirelessly alongside the small committee, drawing together all that it takes to raise money for and on behalf of the community. Remember the motto "For Biggin Hill, by Biggin Hill".

Children play a big part in our community, and recent meetings have, and continue to take place to improve and upgrade our play

facilities not only "up top" but also in the Valley including the communal playground at Oaklands Lane.

We continue to have our fortnightly meeting with management at Thames Water, which acts as an invaluable source of information and also a direct reporting line. We recently attended meetings regarding the proposed closure of Westerham Hill to install a new water supply to a housing development. Luckily, were able to influence the postponement of these works until 2024, we

are hoping to come up with a solution that does not require the road to be closed for up to 6 weeks.

As avid supporters and members of St Georges Chapel Friends ("The Strongest Link") we often attend services and were delighted to be part of the special Veterans Service in honour of our local service personnel.



We continue to work with our traders and businesses and thank them for supporting the petition to endeavour to stop the introduction of paid parking along our Main Road. We also continue with our Trade Watch WhatsApp Group that provides invaluable intelligence of suspicious goings on along our shopping parades.



With this in mind and all things criminal, we hosted an evening with the new Superintendent of Bromley Police, so that we could voice your concerns but also for us all, to listen to the action plan to improve local policing.

It was at this meeting that we called for more volunteers to join and set up a Neighbourhood Watch in local roads, closes and streets. This is not an onerous role and take little work, it is just about keeping in touch with your neighbours and looking out for each other. This can be done as easily as sending texts or WhatsApp messages to knocking on doors. We are still waiting for those interested to make contact?

Being a lead of a watch also entitle you to attend our Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings, an interaction between residents, traders and the local policing team, sharing information, intelligence and working towards a safer environment for us all.

On a sadder note we have lost some local stalwarts of our community and have attended too many funerals of late. We thank each and every member of our community for making it what it is, now and in the past.

We can be contacted by phone or email and look forward to talking with you soon.

Melanie Stevens – 07900 171 266 – [melanie.stevens@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.stevens@bromley.gov.uk)

Sophie Dunbar – 07929 365228 – [sophie.dunbar@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.dunbar@bromley.gov.uk)

## At St. Mark's.....

### Music At St. Mark's

St. Mark's Music - songs and fellowship with a lively touch. Call Chris on 01959 700815 for more details

### Baby & Toddler Group

Every Monday and Friday from 10.00 am in the Church Hall during school terms. Contact the Parish Office for details -01959 577816 - or just come along.

### Home Groups

Home groups meet every fortnight for fellowship and Bible Study. For more information contact Alison on 01959 540482

### Bell Ringing

Please contact the Parish Office on 01959 577816

### 1<sup>st</sup> Biggin Hill Guides

Please contact Rosemary Spurway on 01959 575717



### DAY TRIPS BIGGIN HILL

Pick up opposite Waitrose, Main Road  
Please note our driver will only return to the same drop off points as pick ups

- Fri 18 August – Eastbourne Airshow £22pp
- Mon 21 August – Carr Taylor Vineyard Wine Tasting/Tee Museum, Hastings £35pp
- Thurs 24 August – Wingham Wildlife Park from £42pp
- Sun 27 August – Southampton Solent Boat Cruise £60pp
- Thurs 31 August – A Day at Deal £22pp
- Tues 5 September – Petworth House & Gardens £39pp, NT £22pp
- Wed 13 September – Ditchley Park, Milton Keynes £42pp
- Sun 17 September – Rural Life Living Park, Tifford £31pp
- Fri 22 September – Greenwich Market/Queens House, Greenwich £22pp
- Tues 26 September – A Day at Brighton £22pp
- Tues 3 October – Ham House, Richmond £36pp NT £22pp
- Fri 6 October – The Knitting & Stitching Show, Alexandra Palace £35 50pp
- Thurs 12 October – Osterley Park, Isleworth £36pp NT £22pp
- Wed 18 October – Bluewater Shopping £22pp
- Mon 25 October – Ruxley Manor Garden Centre, Sidcup £22pp
- Tues 31 October – Brick Lane Musical, 'There'll always be an England' with Afternoon Tea £67pp
- Mon 6 Nov – Winter Country Tour to Chichester £22pp
- Thurs 9 November – Seaside Sunset with Live Entertainment and Fish & Chip supper £61pp
- Tues 14 November – Polhill Garden Centre, Sevenoaks £16pp
- Tues 20 November – London Lights tour & Fish & Chip supper £39pp
- Wed 29 November – Musical Museum & Afternoon Tea £52pp
- Saturday 2 December – Xmas Lights at Wakehurst Place £38pp
- Monday 18 December – Xmas Lunch & Private Tour Old Royal Naval College £65pp
- Thursday 28 December – Xmas Lights at Beddington £42pp

Tel : 01883 330095 or Email [enquiries@allenbycoachhire.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@allenbycoachhire.co.uk) WWW.Allenbycoachhire.co.uk



## St. Mark's Website

Thinking about visiting St Mark's? Wondering what St Mark's is like? Then our new website is for you!

Our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) give you answers fast. For example, what events are suitable for children.

Also new are accessibility information and short videos of church members talking about their faith.

Why not visit [movingchurch.org](http://movingchurch.org) and tell us what you think of it.



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## Wednesday Lunch Club The Friendly Club!

Enjoy a warm welcome at our **Lunch Club** which is open from 12.15pm until 2pm. A three course meal is provided which is cooked on the premises. Afterwards hot drinks are served. Transport within Biggin Hill can be provided at a small cost.

## Biggin Hill Day Centre

Our Day Centre provides a friendly and sociable environment where you will be supported by our professional care staff.

Start the day with a cuppa and a chat!  
Morning and afternoon activities. Three course lunch cooked on the premises. Transport option for Biggin Hill residents. The Centre is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Provides respite for carers

## Do you have difficulty doing your grocery shopping?

Our Assisted Shopping takes place on Friday mornings and is for Biggin Hill residents who live independently but need help with their weekly grocery shop. Call Annette on 01959 700411.

## Assisted Shopping

## Art Group

Our Art Group meets on Wednesdays from 2pm. Everyone is welcome from novice to expert. Light refreshments are provided. A small donation is requested for each session.

All places must be booked in advance. For more information, please call us on 01959 577400 or email [bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com](mailto:bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com).

You can also visit our website: [bigginhillcommunitycare.org](http://bigginhillcommunitycare.org) or scan the QR code. We hire St. Mark's Hall, Church Road for our Day Centre, Lunch Club and Art Group.



## Biggin Hill Carnival



At the Carnival St. Mark's stall had two notable visits, one by the Mayor and Mayoress of Bromley, and another by MP Bob Neill and his wife.



## CONGRATULATIONS!



Wendy and Kevin Muckle renewed their marriage vows in St. Mark's Church on the 10th June, celebrating 25 years of marriage.



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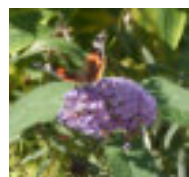


# FOREST CHURCH AT ST. MARK'S

## Sunday 24 September - starts 3.30pm

Outdoor activities for  
all the family,  
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and cakes

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### Orchard Garden Maintenance

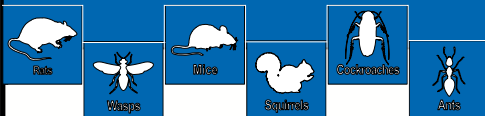
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## THE BOAT

It'd only taken a glance into the hull of my boat to see that the yearning for one last sail that had driven me to hurry the final miles home, would remain a dream, never to be fulfilled.

It had been many years since I'd visited the village that, for most of my life, I'd called home and I was horrified to find the mast had gone, as had the rigging, and the years of neglect had caused her boards to spring and those close to the shallow keel to rot. Running my hand along her gunnel I couldn't help but feel nostalgic for the years when she'd responded to the set of her sail and my hand on her steering oar to plough the sea for a harvest of fish. She'd been my pride and joy and I obviously couldn't just leave her there on the beach to suffer the indignity of slowly decaying in the sight of the villagers.

Shoulder against her bow I tried to heave her towards the water's edge. She didn't budge but my action attracted the attention of the fishermen who had been sorting tackle in readiness for a night's fishing and together we soon man-handled her into the water.

Despite her size she was light enough for me to wade at her side easing her through the gentle swell but I knew the water that was already sloshing around in her hull would soon make her unmanageable and so I set off. After, perhaps, a mile I found what I was looking for, a narrow shallow inlet shaded by trees, and, after turning her bow towards the sea, I hauled her stern-first into the inlet until she grounded on the soft mud. Pushing her further into the inlet was easy at first but then, after the first few feet, she stuck and I had to push, heave, lift and pull to coax her a foot or two more into her final resting place.

She sat upright in the inlet surrounded by water and firmly stuck in the mud and, satisfied that I'd done the best I could, I climbed aboard. The water that sloshed around in her hull was already ankle deep but looking around me I relived a few of the experiences we had shared.

I touched the seat where Jesus had sat teaching the crowds that lined the shore and looked down at where he had slept on a cushion before he calmed the storm. I ran my hand along the gunnel that I had stepped over to walk on the water towards my Lord and Saviour. I pictured where each of the disciples had usually sat when we had crossed the sea together and I saw again the crowds, sometimes in their thousands, who often ran along the shore following our progress and waiting for us to land.

With my mind full I squatted in her hull and fighting back the tears I said good-bye. I told her how much I loved her, how much I valued the way she had lifted my spirits and weathered the storms of our life together and how proud she must be for having carried the Son of God into the deep and landing the largest haul of fish ever recorded in this part of the world.

I stayed for a while, listening to the quiet splash of the swell breaking on her bow, the gurgle of water running along her hull and the gentle breeze whispering through the leaves and rustling the tops and then I clambered over her gunnel and started back towards Capernaum returning as I had come by wading through the water.

After a few steps, I turned to walk backwards so as not to miss the last glimpse of my boat. I saw less of her length each time I took a backward step until all I could see was the tip of her bow still parting the waves. Another step and she was gone, hidden by an outcrop, and for a moment or two I stood in the water and wept at her passing. I almost rushed back to retrieve her from what would, no doubt, become her muddy grave but instead I turned towards the village and as I waded back home I scooped water onto my face to wash the red from my eyes.

In 1986 the remains of a fishing boat dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD were found buried in soft mud on the north-west shore of the Sea of Galilee (the region around Capernaum) by two brothers who were both fishermen and amateur archaeologists. There is, of course, no way of knowing whether the boat that was found was Peter's boat.

Stuart Wells

## VOLUNTEERS

Biggin Hill Community Care Association organises four activities for people over 50 living in Biggin Hill or the surrounding area. (Please see page 12 for more details these). Although BHCCA employs professional staff for the Day Centre and to provide cooked meals, we do rely on

volunteers for many of the things we do. If you have time to spare from Tuesday to Friday, would you be able to help in any of the following ways?

Using your car to bring members to and from the Lunch Club on a Wednesday or the Assisted Shopping on a Friday morning?  
Help serve the meals and clear tables and chat to members for the Wednesday Lunch Club?

Assisting members with their shopping on a Friday morning?  
Helping with serving Tea and biscuits and helping members with puzzles, jig saws etc at the Day Centre on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays?

If you feel you might be able to help in any of these ways - even occasionally - or want to know more, please get in touch by email: [bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com](mailto:bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com) or by phone 01959 577400  
(You may need to leave a message)

Registered Charity  
of No: 1056336



# Church Registers

## BAPTISMS

“We welcome you in the name of the Lord”

Cody R.J. Wilkins  
Jack Dennis Codling  
Indie Grace Game  
Tate Zachary Game

## FUNERALS

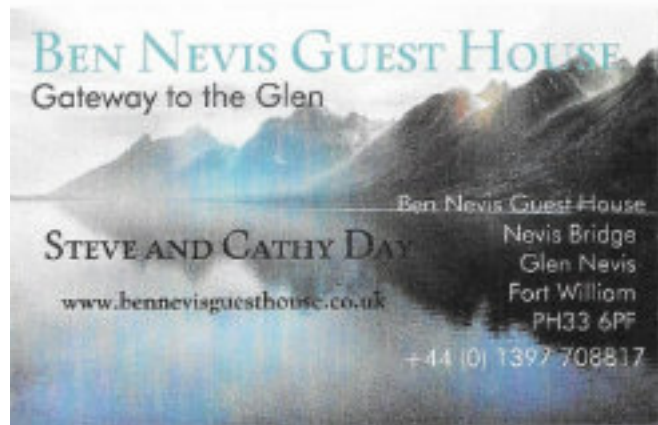
“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His compassion never fails; every morning they are renewed”

Josephine ‘Josie’ Muriel Lillian Cole  
Joyce Anne Lee  
Anne Griffiths  
Janet Patricia Davis  
Margaret Jean Kenyon Roberts  
Harold Taylor  
Michael ‘Mick’ Douglas Blundell  
Pauline Hayat

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Friend's groups countrywide are an established force to secure the future of our open green spaces, despite green spaces being so important to its local community. The Rec, the sensory garden and Mine Shaw are places of vast space for communities to interact, cultural vibrancy and to promote happiness and wellbeing. But we need help to sustain our open spaces, to help keep them clean, to enjoy and maintain them. If you have any spare time to join us, enjoy the outdoors, wish to know more about gardening or just like the social aspect, we have the following work parties: in the Sensory Garden, 18<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August; Kings Road open space garden, 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

We desperately in need of more volunteers, whether gardening, administration, or just general support. Please contact us if you are interested in any way, maybe just for an hour, another day, if you cannot fit the days suggested above.

Join Biggin Hill Friends of the Parks and help us maintain The Sensory Garden in The Rec, look after woodlands in Mine Shaw or keep Kings Road Open Space attractive and safe for adults and children to use and enjoy! Contact Nick Hagon on 01959 575799 for further information or wish to join as a volunteer, please phone between 6.30 and 9 pm.

Thank you.

## UKRAINE UPDATE

Many thanks to all those who have already donated bedding, flasks, shoes, sleeping mats and bags. These were delivered to the Brasted dropping off point last Monday. I spoke to our contact there, who said that another delivery was due out very soon, and every 2 weeks they're are scheduled. Top of the list for future donations include more duvets, sleeping bags and mats. Young children are educated in basements, and bomb shelters, and educational materials, toys and games are welcomed to add variety to their days. Rucksacks are very welcome. Unused medicines, bandages, torches and joint supports are desired as they have very little.

Several of the bombed out residents are Russian speaking, not of their choice, but because of which part of Ukraine that they live in. The Ukrainian Winter will be desperate for those in the trenches. An appeal goes out for candles that can be melted down to fill empty cans that can then be used as the only form of heat for cooking for the soldiers. Military clothing, including warm gloves and boots are wanted too.

Please contact me on [funkystork2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:funkystork2@hotmail.co.uk), for you to get the donations to me which I will then drop off in Brasted

Many thanks, Lynne Martin

# It's so easy...

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and you can gift aid your donation too



Please go to our website by scanning the QR code  
above with your phone and then select 'web'  
OR  
type <https://www.stmarkchurch.org/support/>  
into the app you use to search the web.

Then follow instructions on screen.  
You will need your debit or credit card handy.

**THANK YOU!**

## Come Dancing!

**Every Thursday Morning**

**at Shirley Cox Dance Studio**

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## Landing a Hunter with no front wheel!

This is Chris Cureton, with his wife Sheila. In November 1956 he joined the RAF, doing three months officer training in Lincolnshire. He came out as an acting pilot officer, and was one of 12 sent out to Canada as part of the Canadian NATO commitment. There were also Danes, Norwegians French and Belgians. The weather in Canada was totally different from the UK: a mixture of snow and clear blue skies.



He started with a 25 hour course flying Chipmunk trainer aircraft in Ontario, then was moved to Alberta by train, a two and a half day journey, via the vast emptiness of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. From the first floor lunch and dining room of the cadets' mess they could see the Rockies a hundred

miles away.

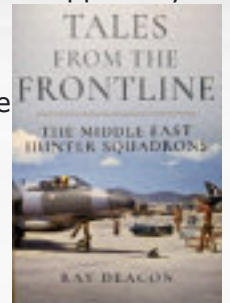
Just after Christmas 1957 Chris went to Manitoba to do jet training. He and his roommate drove there. The day before they were due to leave, Chris suddenly realised he hadn't got a map. His friend said, 'What do you want a road map for? Turn right out of the gate, 70 miles to Calgary, turn left on Highway 1. Stay on Highway 1 for 730 miles.'

He did jet training there on a converted American Shooting Star F 80, with a Rolls Royce engine, half as powerful again as the American version. It had power controls and an electric hood. British fighter planes by contrast were primitive, for example the locking device on the British Vampire consisted of a piece of cord!

The Canadians recommended Chris went onto jet fighters. On his return he went to RAF Valley on Anglesey, flying Vampires, both the twin seat training version and the single seat fighter type, then Shackeltons in Scotland; this was followed by a refresher course on a Meteor, which was physically hard work; next, day fighter Hawker Hunters in Yorkshire, then low level ground attack course on Hunters in North Devon. Prior to a low-level trip, you would draw a line on your map showing your route, then you'd put a marker across it every 7 nautical miles. The route was flown at about 480 miles an hour - seven nautical miles a minute. You'd be flying with one hand and a map in the other and a stopwatch clipped to the instrument panel. If you knew where you were, you could drop from 250 feet to 100 feet. And all this in a tiny cockpit.



All this was vital preparation for his time in Aden, starting in January 1963. The RAF had an accommodation rule: they didn't approve of their officers being married under the age of 25. It was supposedly bad for your career. Chris and Sheila were 22 when they got married and had no entitlement to married quarters. He eventually found a flat for £90 a month, on a net monthly salary of £105. This was going to be impossible, so they spent 14 months apart. He eventually got Sheila out there in February 1964.



During this time, Chris had a couple of UK breaks. Every six months, RAF pilots had to do a simulator course and dinghy drill. RAF pilots in Yorkshire were flying out continuously over the North Sea- this was the Cold War. You sat on your dinghy in the ejector seat. After parachuting down, you would inflate the dinghy and scramble into it. Chris was able to see Sheila for that week, evenings only, after training. Later in 1963 he got a weekend in the UK, as he had to ferry a Hunter back from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire out to Aden. The first stop was in Malta, which with extra fuel tanks you could just make it

While he was in Aden, dissidents would come across the border to the Radfan, a region of the Republic of Yemen, north of Aden, to fire at the Army and pin them down. The RAF were often scrambled from 70 miles away, 10 minutes of flying. So Chris and the other Hunter pilots would fire their 30mm cannons at brick buildings or wherever the firing was coming from. However, the rebels would hear the planes and go and hide!

One day, on returning from an ordinary trip, the nosewheel did not descend. He circled a few times, and finally landed at about 120mph, gently dropping the nose onto the tarmac. All this is because someone had not done the wheel door lock greasing during a major service! Three days later it flew perfectly.



In 1964 Chris came back to the UK for a ground tour (no flying): he was dealing with Bloodhound surface-to-air guided missiles. Chris gave lectures to RAF members coming onto guided missiles. He brought two missile systems down from Farnborough to Biggin Hill for a Battle of Britain display.

By the age of 30 he began to wonder how long he could manage the 6.5G to exit the rocket dive on the Hunter. The limit was 7 for the aircraft! This was despite wearing an anti g-suit. The UK had just

bought the Hercules transport aircraft, a four-engine turboprop. This seemed a better idea! You could get out to Bahrain in 11 and a half hours, landing on a dirt strip, then 12 hours out to Singapore. He spent two years at RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus. At RAF Lyneham, while in charge of the Hercules flight simulator, he got to talk to the Duke of Edinburgh, but missed speaking to the Queen by a fraction of a second.

In June 1975, Chris flew a Hercules from RAF Lyneham to Mauritius via Akrotiri and Nairobi. On the descent to Mauritius he had to shut down a propeller, then change it once landed. However, this was the windy season, and calmer conditions were only expected in 3-4 months' time. The crane to change the prop would not be able to control the swing. So he taxied the plane 50 yards along a tarmac road to the lee of the control tower, got the prop changed. However, he could not turn the plane, so the only way back to the runway was - to reverse down the narrow road. The return route took him via the Seychelles, but unfortunately he couldn't find anything wrong with the aircraft to keep him there!

Later, having left the RAF he did holiday charter work with BIA (British Island Airways) for 12 years. BIA had expanded and bought BAC One-Elevens ('the bus stop jet') for European and Mediterranean destinations.

In March 1980 he took the Arsenal team from Luton to Gothenburg for a European Cup match. On approaching their destination, he got a red instead of a green for the nosewheel, although the control tower said it looked as if it was down. Most of the British sports press were on the plane. After flying around a few more times, they suddenly got a green light.

During the May 1983 general election campaign, the Conservative party hired a BIA aircraft. Chris did two flights within the UK with the prime minister. The UK and foreign press were on board including the famous American Walter Cronkite. Chris did manage to speak to the prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, but on the PA system. That way she was unable to interrupt him! They were due to land at Leeds Bradford airport which, at that time, had a fairly short runway. He briefed the passengers that they should expect a firm arrival and more reverse thrust than they might be used to. But, Chris said, it would be well within the capabilities of this British-built aircraft. Thatcher must have loved that comment because after her re-election, she invited the crew and press to drinks at Number 10!

Mark Newman

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Your Biggin Hill Residents Association has had a busy month, welcoming new members and supporting our local Biggin Hill Carnival event. It was fantastic to see such a great turn out and our wonderful community supporting all the local businesses and organisations in our village. Thank you to our Independent Councillors and all the volunteers who continue to make this possible each year.

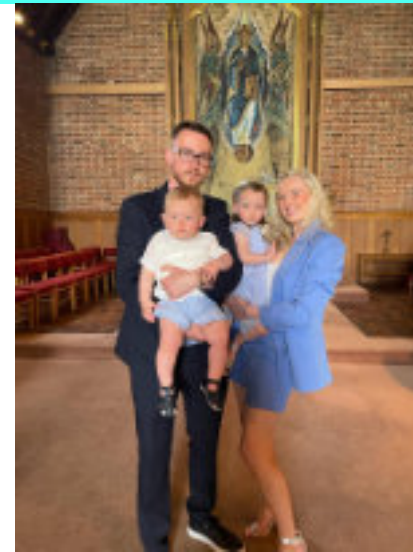


Things are not set to settle down for the BHRA any time soon! You'll be pleased to hear that we will be adorning our

village with poppies once again this year and raising valuable funds for the Royal British Legion. For those of you who came to visit our stand at the carnival, you will have had the opportunity to sign up and sponsor a poppy in memory of a loved one. We are continuing to collect sponsorship for anyone wishing to sponsor a poppy and you can secure your very own by visiting the BHRA website.

Whilst you are there, why not sign up to become a member of the Residents Association and help us to secure the improvement of Biggin Hill and the surrounding area by encouraging a greater sense of community: <https://bigginhillresidentsassociation.co.uk/>

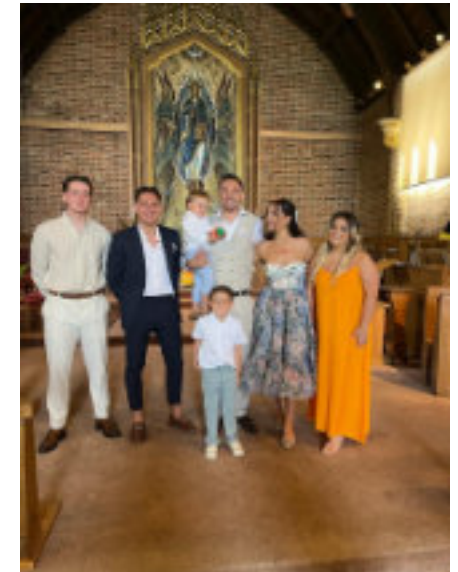
Coming up next month, the Residents Association are organising a fabulous quiz night which is being held at Blundell's Squash Club. So why not rally your family and friends for some friendly competition and join us for this great community event. We are looking for teams with a maximum of 6 people (all ages welcome) and tables can be booked directly with Blundell's on: 01959 573240. Keep your eyes peeled on our website and on our Facebook page for further details. See you all there Biggin Hillers!!



Ben Coding was baptised in St. Mark's Church on the 28th May. He is shown with mum Jade, dad Ben and older sister Emme.



Cody Wilkins was also baptised at St Mark's on 28th May. Cody is in the photograph with mum Ebony, dad George and older brother Fynley.



Age UK - Bromley & Greenwich	0208 315 1850
Benefit Enquiry Line	0800 88 22 00
Biggin Hill Aperfield W.I.	01959 571360
Biggin Hill Blind Club	01959 572817
Biggin Hill Community Care Association	01959 577400
Biggin Hill Councillors: Melanie Stevens	07900 171266
Sophie Dunbar	07929 365228
Jonathan Andrews (Darwin)	07811 313 559
Biggin Hill Evening W.I.	01959 700973
Biggin Hill Horticultural Society	01959 575799
Biggin Hill Library	01959 528053
Biggin Hill Musical Theatre Company	01959 701829
Biggin Hill Residents Association -	07763 215037
Biggin Hill Rangers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows	01959 575717
Biggin Hill Romanian Group	07802 575417
Biggin Hill Society	01959 572569
Biggin Hill Scout Group	07983 447721
Bromley Council – Office Hours	0208 464 3333
Bromley Council - Emergency out of hours	0300 303 8671
Bromley Social Services - Emergencies only	0203 036 1574
Bromley Assoc. for People with Disabilities (BATH)	0208 663 3345
Childline (confidential helpline for children)	0800 1111 (24 hr)
Citizen's Advice Bureau (Bromley)	0208 315 1940
Community Links, Bromley	0208 315 1900
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Dial-a-Ride (For registration and enquiries)	0343 222 7777
Doctor's Surgeries –	
Stock Hill Surgery	01959 580011
Norheads Lane Surgery	01959 574488
Domestic Violence - 24hr Helpline	0808 2000 247
Electrical power cut - to be connected to the local network operator	105
FOAL Farm (Friends of Animals League)	01959 572386
GAS Emergency 24 hr freephone	0800 111 999
National Childbirth Trust (Biggin Hill)	01959 572209 or 01959 701765
New Life Church	01959 571667
NHS help line when you need medical advice	111
Police: Non Emergency Reporting	101
Local Safer Neighbourhood Team:	020 8721 2820
Princess Royal University Hospital	01689 863000
St. Mark's Parish Office	01959 577816
St. George's Memorial Chapel	01959 570353
Schools - Biggin Hill Primary	01959 575846
Charles Darwin Secondary	01959 574043
Cudham Primary	01959 572673
Oaklands Primary	01959 573963
Tatsfield Primary	01959 577356
Samaritans (Local branch) - 01689 833 000	24 hr - 08457 90 90 90
Textphone for hard of hearing	08457 90 91 92
Spitfire Youth Centre	01959 574835
St. John Ambulance	01959 701281
Thames Water	0845 920 0800
Trading Standards Rogue Traders Rapid Response	07903 852 090
Valley Hall Community Association	01959 573917/570020
Victim Support Scheme	0208 776 7071
Westerham Hill Baptist Church	01732 867516

## The people of St. Mark's Church would like you to know that we pray for Biggin Hill regularly.

If you would like us to pray for you, someone you know or for something that concerns you, please let us know and we will be happy to do so. In order to comply with the Data Protection Regulations, please ensure you have the permission of the person to be prayed for.

Please contact the Church office. The times the office is open can be found on page four. A message can be left on the answer machine outside of these times - 01959 577816

If you prefer, you could send your prayer request to St. Mark's Vicarage, 10, Church Road, Biggin Hill, Kent TN16 3LB

## Worried? Problems?

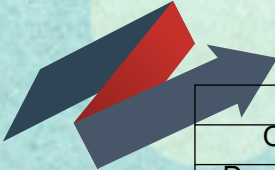
We at St. Mark's would like to help you. If you would like our help, or simply want someone to talk to, please call

01959 540482 (Vicar),

## Keeping up with everything at St. Mark's.

If you want to receive a regular email giving all of the details of events and services at St. Mark's please send your details to Chris Walker. Her email is [chrissey.walkerz@gmail.com](mailto:chrissey.walkerz@gmail.com). Your email address will not be passed on to anyone else.

## The Next Moving Church News



Month	Deadline	Distributed from
Oct - Nov	16th Sept	1st Oct
Dec - Jan 2024	11th Nov	26th Nov
Feb - Mar	14th Jan	29th Jan

The Moving Church News is published every two months. For more information or for advertisement enquiries please contact Neil Walker - [neil.walkerz@gmail.com](mailto:neil.walkerz@gmail.com) - 01959 700815 or through the Parish Office. Contributions are welcome especially from local community groups or schools. Please contact Neil as above.



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