

The Moving Church News

A Church and Community Magazine

St. Mark's Church Biggin Hill



April & May 2023

Hennis Upholstery



Re-Upholstery • Bespoke Sofas & Chairs
Tailored Loose Covers • Curtains & Blinds
Headboards & Window Seats

Accounts with
Sanderson, Zofany, Romo & many more

(RE-)COVERING LONDON & THE HOME COUNTIES

T: 01689 800099

E: hennisupholstery@gmail.com

W: www.hennisupholstery.com

30 YEARS ESTABLISHED – FAMILY BUSINESS

Welcome to the Moving Church News
the bi-monthly magazine of
St. Mark's Church, Biggin Hill

Forthcoming Events

Easter At St. Mark's - Page 7

Messy Church - Page 6

St. Mark's Holiday Club - Page 13

Rock Choir Concert - Page 22

Contents

Services At St. Mark's	4
The Boy Who Fell From A Cliff Face	5
Good Friday Messy Church	6
Easter At St. Mark's	7
Biggin Hill Cemetery / Burial Ground	8
Biggin Hill Community Care Association	9
Biggin Hill Memorial Museum - April Events	11
The Arts Society Limpsfield	11
St. Mark's Holiday Club	13
When Spring Arrives!	16
Bromley Trading Standards Alert	17
Church Registers	19
At St. Mark's.....	19
Rock Choir Concert	22
Picture Gallery - Local Events	23
The Boy Who Sat On An Unexploded Bomb	24
Biggin Hill Friends Of The Park	28
Community Telephone Numbers	30
The Next Moving Church News	31

St. Mark's Parish Church, Biggin Hill

Church Road, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3LB

Parish office: 01959 577816

Email: admin@movingchurch.org

St Mark's website: www.movingchurch.org

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**

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

The boy who fell from a rock face

In August 1969 a 13 year-old was taking part in a residential boys' camp in the Lake District. His day for rock climbing came. The group consisted of several leaders and about 20 teenagers. The main leader gave the usual advice: always maintain 3 points of contact, keep your hips close to the rock wall, use your legs to do the work... and off they went up different routes. This 13 year-old made his way halfway up the face. Suddenly he was in freefall.



Nowadays, every climber is belayed (secured) by a fellow climber on the ground. The climber's rope runs up to the top of the cliff or wall, through a metal eye, and down to the partner on the ground. Back then, the practice seems to have been less safe: the partner was stationed at the top of the rock face, tethered to the ground, but had to take the full weight of any falling climber.

On this occasion, the partner at the top managed to save the 13 year-old, but at the cost of a nasty rope burn on his bare arm. His wound was not a pretty sight. As for the climber, he suffered the humiliation of being the only climber in the entire camp to have fallen, and the further humiliation of being mentioned by the main leader, without being named, to the entire group of 100 boys and leaders. How small he felt!

The boy that fell, in fact, was me. I'm glad to be able to say I've done some basic climbing walls successfully as an adult, and even done the leap of faith from the top of a telegraph pole. But the memory of that public embarrassment still occasionally surfaces.

At Easter Christians remember the path of physical suffering and public humiliation of Jesus.

Was this a failing on his part? No. Did he choose this path? Yes, because he could easily have kept quiet and gone against his conscience. The path of agony and rejection that Jesus took is something we can never fully grasp, because he was willing to be completely separated from God his Father, an agony much deeper than even crucifixion. Christians believe that the sacrifice of Jesus saves us from falling into the inescapable void, which we call sin.



But the greatest victory, the biggest triumph of all came on Day when Jesus rose from the dead. The power of death had been broken.

If you are tempted to think that the chances of a dead man coming to life again are zero, these are the common theories put forwards:

- Swoon theory – Jesus had not actually died
- Wrong tomb – the followers of Jesus who found the empty tomb muddled the location
- Bribery - the soldiers on guard were paid off by the disciples
- Robbery – the body of Jesus was stolen
- Hallucination – Jesus’ followers only imagined he had risen from the dead

Each of these alternative explanations needs a great deal of faith, given the inescapable conclusion in all four gospels: the empty tomb meant Jesus was alive again. Many people have set out to disprove the resurrection and come to realise that the risen Jesus is the only possible explanation.

Christians believe that the risen Jesus is therefore with us now, unseen until our eyes are opened to his presence. What do you believe?

Mark Newman

Good Friday 7th April



9.30 am Messy Church.

There will be crafts and activities for all ages!

Easter at St Mark's

Holy Week

Monday 3rd April

5.15pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

8pm Compline in church

Wednesday 5th April

10am Communion said service

Maundy Thursday 6th April

7pm Maundy Thursday Easter Drama with light refreshments

Good Friday 7th April

9.30 am Messy Church. There will be crafts and activities for all ages!

Followed at 10.30 am by our Family Service in church.

11.30am Hot Cross Buns and drinks

2pm Reflections at the Cross

Easter Day

10.30am Celebration Parish Communion with Easter Egg Hunt



Biggin Hill Cemetery/Burial Ground

We are privileged to have one of seven cemeteries within the Borough. It is described as being situated in a quiet 5 acre corner of Biggin Hill. First opened in 1930, it has 3,500 spaces for full memorial and lawn graves.

Early Christian writers were the first to use the phrase "burial ground", through the Greek word *Koimeterion* to mean "sleeping place, dormitory", from *koiman* "to put to sleep" *krimisir* "I lie down".

It was with this thought of, our loved ones, lying down and sleeping in this discrete enclave, that has driven us to work with the parks and cemetery team to improve and enhance this space. On checking back through the emails this quest started on 12 November 2015 with a header title of "I am on a sign mission!"

Today saw us in the pouring rain, with snow still visible on the ground, attend a progress meeting of works identified and commissioned.

We are pleased to see that the vehicle pathways have been extended to prevent tyre run off, saving the grass from being damaged.

The central island flower bed has been replanted with low maintenance shrubs that will provide, once established, all year colour and interest. Spring crocus, snowdrops and daffodils are all flourishing after some extra feed to promote growth.

The trees on King George VI Avenue have had the canopies lifted so that the horse drawn carriages have easy access and the planting of new trees to replace those blown down in the storms has taken place. It was a delight to see spring bulbs popping up their heads along the now mended metal fence.

The naturalised grass area to the rear, although looking scruffy at the moment, is doing its job providing a haven for insects, arthropods, birds and small mammals. A new interpretation board will be installed in April explaining the purpose of not mowing this area.

The site benches are waiting for some dry weather and the "community pay back" scheme to kick into action in May. We have found a pot of paint and the entrance gates are being rubbed down ready for a fresh coat of green paint in the very near future.

We still explore how to provide water facilities to the rear of the site, to make it easier to care for the graves. This work will continue until we find a solution as well as identifying the purpose of the stone hut and how it can be repurposed.

We thank the team for their continued efforts and support in endeavouring to maintain the area to provide for all, a way to grieve for our loved ones. It will always be difficult to manage the various ways in which people pay tribute and honour, friends and family when they, from the Greek word *Katapauo*, rest with us in Biggin Hill. But manage we must!

You can often help us by litter picking, trying to keep it neat and tidy.

And to turn back to November 2015, we are still waiting for our entrance sign but we have been assured that it is on its way!

Our meetings will be ongoing especially when the spring/summer grass cutting starts as this tends to cause the most upset and issues. Please as ever contact us should you need a particular grave to be looked at.



Melanie Stevens – 07900171266
Melanie.stevens@bromley.gov.uk

Sophie Dunbar – 07929 365228
sophie.dunbar@bromley.gov.uk



Biggin Hill Community Care Association

Biggin Hill Community Care Association (BHCCA) runs several services and activities for local older people. These include a Day Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays staffed with professional carers, a Wednesday Lunch Club, an Art Group and an escorted shopping scheme. (More details can be found on page 12). On these 3 days, 3 course meals are cooked on the premises. We hire St. Mark's Church hall from the London Borough of Bromley.

Our Day Centre is now one of only 2 such centres left in the whole of the London Borough of Bromley. Other Day Centres have closed over the last few years, some partly because of the Covid situation but mainly because of the high costs involved. BHCCA receives no special funding and our revenue depends of the fees we charge for our services. We subsidise these fees to enable them to be affordable for our members. Fortunately we do sometimes receive donations from local organisations and individuals, for which we are grateful, but these do not cover our costs. Our expected deficit for this financial year is expected to be over £20,000. Our main expenses are the cost of employing our care and kitchen staff and the monthly rent we pay to the London Borough of Bromley.

I would ask you to support the Concert that Bromley Rock Choir is kindly performing in aid of BHCCA. Please see page 22 for details.

Neil Walker, Chairman, BHCCA
(Registered charity number:1056336)

BLINDS • SHUTTERS
• CONSERVATORY BLINDS
 Verticals | Rollers | Venetians | Romanes | Panels
 Pleated | Conservatory Blinds | Plantation Shutters

• FREE Professional design advice on all of our products
 • Appointments in the comfort of your own home - all blinds that suit YOU
 • A fantastic range of styles, colours and products from top named brands to choose from
 • Measure and supply conservatory window
 • Expert measuring and fitting
 • Only using manufacturers who are committed to ISO 9001:2008

From your Local Specialist Blind supplier based in Biggin Hill

To discuss your requirements call us on: **01959 509179**
 email: info@benasa.net or visit us online at www.benasa.net

BENASA
 The difference is in the detail

ALLENBY
COACH HIRE
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

- Tues 4 April – Portsmouth/Gun Wharf £22pp
- Wed 12 April – FULL Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway £45pp
- Mon 17 April - Crossness Victorian Pumping Station £42pp
- Thurs 20 April – FULL Arundel Tulip Festival £45pp
- Fri 28 April – A Day in Deal £22pp
- Thurs 11 May – Marble Hill House £22pp
- Fri 19 May – A Day in Eastbourne £22pp
- Wed 24 May – Bekescot Model Village & Gardens £31pp
- Tues 30 May – A Day in Southend on Sea £22pp
- Wed 14 June – Parham House & Gardens, Pulborough £35.50pp
- Fri 16 June – Broadstairs Dickens Festival/Wargate £22pp
- Mon 20th June – A Day in Bexhill or Hastings £22pp
- Friday 30 June – Windsor Boat Trip £39pp
- Wed 5th July – A Day at Rye or Camber Sands £22pp
- Tues 11th July - Michelham Priory £32pp
- Thurs 13th July – Kentish Lady Boat Cruise with Picnic £55pp
- Tues 18th July – A day at Whitstable or Margate £22pp
- Wed 20th July – Amberley Museum £34pp
- Tues 1st August – Littlehampton or Bognor £22pp
- Sun 6th August – Shuttleworth Carnival and Airshow £50pp
- Friday 18th August – Eastbourne Airshow £22pp
- Sun 27th August – Southampton Boat Cruise around the Solent £60pp
- Wed 29th November The Musical Museum Christmas Concert & Afternoon Tea £52pp

Tel : 01883 330095 or Email enquiries@allenbycoachhire.co.uk WWW.Allenbycoachhire.co.uk

BIGGIN HILL MEMORIAL MUSEUM

WHAT'S ON - APRIL

11 APRIL
Elvis Buckler and RAF Biggin Hill
 2.00pm – 3.30pm
 Join us to hear about the life of ACM and RAF aviator, Elvis Buckler by our guest speaker, Pauline Buckler-Jones

18 APRIL
Battle of Britain at Biggin Hill Memorial Museum and Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar Tour
 10.30am – 4pm
 We have teamed up with Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar to be able to offer a Battle of Britain tour, where you get to visit both the museum and heritage hangar in one experience with breakfast and lunch included.

18 APRIL
RAF Biggin Hill
 11.30am
 Join Andy (BHM volunteer) for his talk about the life of Winston Churchill and his role in developing defence at RAF Biggin Hill

1 APRIL
Easter Table and Wreath Decoration Workshop with Cream Tea
 1pm
 Spend the afternoon making a beautiful decoration that can be used as either a table decoration or a wreath. The perfect way to welcome your guests this Easter! All materials are included along with a delicious cream tea.

13 APRIL – Lunch in the Nightingale Cafe.
2pm – Next stop is the Heritage Hangar Tour
 A guided tour of the many Heritage Hangars at the Heritage Hangar, including the restoration projects.
4pm – Finish
 Please note a car is required to travel from Biggin Hill Memorial Museum to the Heritage Hangar.

21 APRIL
History of RAF Kenley
 2pm
 Join Linda DeHeld (Kenley Royal Observer) for a wheels-up tour through the history of Biggin Hill's neighbour - RAF Kenley, from its origins as an Air Acceptance Park during the Great War, through the desperate battles of WW2 and into post-war.
 The Kenley Memorial - www.kenleyairfield.org/

 For further details about all of our events and how to book, please visit our website: BigginHillMemorialMuseum.org.uk

For more information, please contact Katie: director@bhmm.org.uk
 Visit our website: bhmm.org.uk
 Biggin Hill Memorial Museum, Main Road, Kent TN16 3EJ

TASL (The Arts Society Limpsfield)

26th April at 2.00 for 2.15 and 7.15 for 7.30 at Limpsfield Church Hall, lectures by Ian Keable on The Art of Trickery - how medieval magicians were shown in art and how they managed to avoid being burnt as disciples of Satan! Ian Keable will amuse and entertain us.

Guests £5, Half Year Membership £21. Pay at the door or book on-line via the website.

Spring Lunch: The Treasures of Titsey - The Four Canalettos.
 Friday April 14th Members and half - year members, £39. Book via the website under "join us"

Camden Town walks Tuesday 18th April and Thursday 27th April.
 Explore this vibrant area. Book via the website - see Visits

theartsocietylimpsfield.org.uk

Supporting people
over 50



Registered Charity No: 1056336

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. It may be possible to provide transport within Biggin Hill 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?**

Assisted 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. Please call Annette for more details - 01959 700411

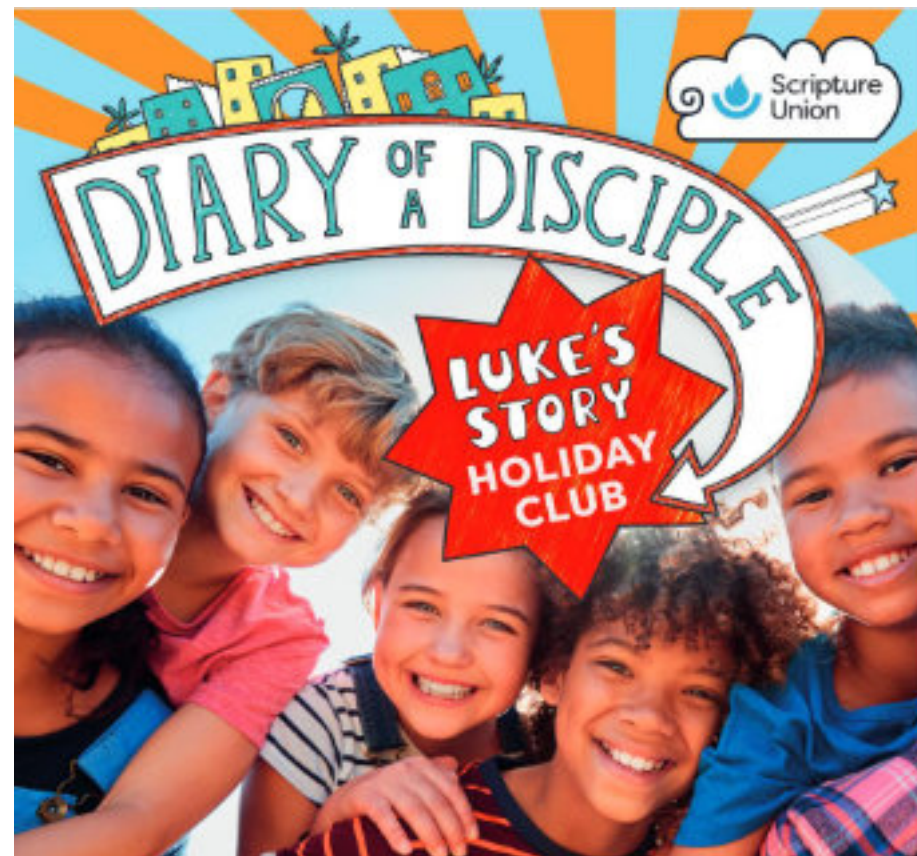
All places must be booked in advance. For more information, please call us on 01959 577400 or email bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com.

You can also visit our website: bigginhillcommunitycare.org or scan the QR code.

We hire St. Mark's Hall, Church Road for our Day Centre and Lunch Club



This summer St Mark's presents...



Holiday Club for Primary children

Mon 31 July – Fri 4 Aug 0930-1200

For a place : newmans60@btinternet.com

01959 540482

£6 per day, £25 for all 5 days

The Chartwell Charities

House Clearance and Waste Disposal Services



SCAN HERE
to find out more

Professional, sympathetic clearance, collection and waste management solutions you can rely on making a stressful task, hassle free.

Donated goods are resold through our network of charity shops, the proceeds dedicated to our fundraising projects.



Items unfit for sale are recycled or disposed of safely at a competitive rate, ensuring waste is kept to a minimum.



Committed to improving the lives of cancer and leukaemia patients by making a real difference to cancer care in our local communities.

Our charity shops are located in Selsdon, Croydon, Westerham, Tatsfield and Peckham and our services are available across these areas as well as London and the South-East.

BOOK ONLINE: www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk/house-clearance/

01959 570322

www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk

Charity Registration Number: **1109784**



REG. CHARITY
NO. 1109784



REG. CHARITY
NO. 1162907

BRIGHTLIGHT Electrician

Private & Commercial
NAPIT Part P registered
J.I.B. qualified
Over 30 years experience

Rewires
Additional points
Lighting
EV chargers
EICR test
Fuseboard upgrades

Call Terry on 07930 673210
brightlight01@btinternet.com



New dog groomer
to your area!

- Based in Badgers Mount
- City & Guilds Qualified
- Fully Insured
- 1 to 1 service

Contact Katie 07956 436670

Dapper Dogs Parlour

Oven Wizards

We clean your oven... so you don't have to

We clean your oven... so you don't have to.

Call today to have your oven, hob, extractor or Aga professionally cleaned

Rob Hadgijanni contact details

Tel 01689 254525 Mob. 07957 325452

Email rob.hadgijanni@ovenwizards.com

www.ovenwizards.com

Easter Egg Hunt

11am - 1pm Saturday 8th April

Biggin Hill
Recreation Ground

Meeting

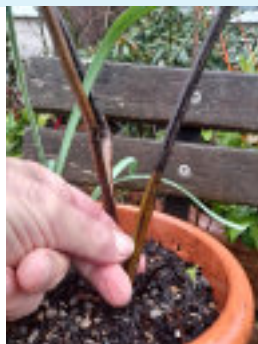
Spitfire Centre Car Park

A Free event!

(Accompanied 0 - 10 Yrs Only)

Biggin Hill Residents' Association

When Spring Arrives!



We wait in anticipation to what spring will bring, warmer temperatures, lighter evenings and the new shoots in the garden? Unless the actions of the winter weather have left a legacy of potential damage and shy growth. Climate change has resulted with different weather, to what we have been used to in past years.

However, all is not lost and gardeners can learn, adapt and be patient. Some plants



look damaged, dead or dying, wildlife have taken to plants to eat as food is scarce and the garden is looking sad and unkempt. There is an urge to remove all dead looking plants or worse, giving up the garden. There is a way of determining whether you have lost your favourite plant by using the thumb nail test. At the base of the plant, scrap a small amount of bark off with your thumb or a sharp knife. If the layer underneath is green, it is alive, if brown, it is possible it may be dead, but may sprout from the ground, particularly if it is a perennial (see photo)

Patience is a virtue, the ability to wait for something without getting angry or upset is a valuable quality of a gardener. There are other tasks in the garden that can be completed during March and early April, pruning and removing plants can wait.

Tidy the border, removing old leaves of the Hellebores to view the delicate flowers more clearly, untangle growth to allow the spring bulbs



to grow and flower without competition, defining the edge of the border and cut branches in bud of Forsythia, Ribes, Hellebores and daffodils to enjoy indoors.

The recent wet weather has enabled the soil to benefit from extra moisture, as we have had a dry February. Now is the time to feed plants with a granular feed such as bonemeal, Growmore or chicken pellets and add a mulch to our border using well-rotted garden compost or farmyard manure, (not fresh chicken manure), composted bark or leaf mould.

Providing thick layers across the border to help seal the moisture in the ground for the following summer.

Check the greenhouse, plants saved over winter, may be starting to break into growth, remove all dead leaves to avoid disease spores spreading. Tidy the benches, floor, pots and prepare ready for sowing seeds etc because once warmth and longer daylight hours becomes regular, plants and weeds will grow vigorously.

Happy Gardening!

Nick Hagon (Biggin Hill Horticultural Society)

Dates for the Diary

The Biggin Hill & District Horticultural Society hold many events throughout the year, held at St Marks Church Hall, Church Road.

Saturday 1st April Spring Flower Show, doors open to the public 3 pm, presentation of prizes at 4.15pm. Refreshments, plants for sale and raffle available.

Wednesday 19th April, we have a talk by Rory Dryburgh "The Wonders of Titsey Place" from 8 to 10 pm (doors open at 7.30) with refreshments, trade table and raffle available. Entrance for members is free, non-members £3.

Wednesday May 17th, we have a talk by Sue Marshall, "The English Love Affair with Iris"

Saturday May 20th, Plant sale, doors open at 10.30 am

The Biggin Hill & District Horticultural society hold many events throughout the year. Should you wish further information, check our Facebook page for details. Please contact Nick Hagon Chairman (Biggin Hill & District Horticultural Society) 01959 575799 between 6.30 and 9pm.

Trading Standards **ALERT!**



Don't deal with doorstep traders. Whatever the work being offered, dealing with doorstep traders risks shoddiness, having no redress, and being substantially overcharged. You may also be subjected to repeated visits in the future.

If you, a neighbour, or someone else you know is being affected by rogue traders or a scam, call Trading Standards' Rapid Response on 07903 852 090 or visit www.bromley.gov.uk/scams.

It's so easy...

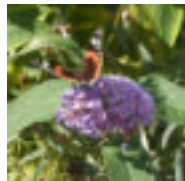
...to support St Mark's Church
and you can gift aid your donation too



Please go to our website by scanning the QR code
above with your phone and then select 'web'
OR
type <https://www.msvingschurch.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!



Orchard Garden Maintenance

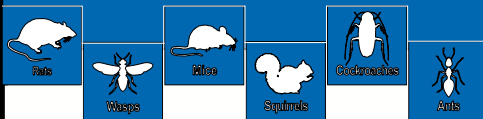
Making your garden a delight!

- mowing
- digging
- pruning
- weeding
- planting
- hedge trimming
- pressure washing

Phone : 01959 570244

Email: orchardgardening.tn16@gmail.com

Your local
friendly pest
company



Contact us for expert advice

01959 565 777

info@safeguardpestcontrol.co.uk



24hr Emergency Plumbing & Heating Service



Registered installer of Aquilisa Showers
All types of WATER TREATMENT
and DRAIN WORK
All types of PLUMBING & HEATING
SERVICING of GAS BOILERS
Saving heating costs



DAVID RUDD & SON

MIP RP
Registered Plumber

Tel: 01959 577072
Mobile: 07831 641664
GAS SAFE REGISTERED
Established 32 years

Church Registers

FUNERALS

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

Jean Margaret Liffen
Sheila McDonald Watson
Bryan Peter Lewis
Mary Saunders

BURIAL OF ASHES

Stephen and Sandra Harrison

At St. Mark's.....

Music At St. Mark's

St. Mark's Music and
Singing Group. 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

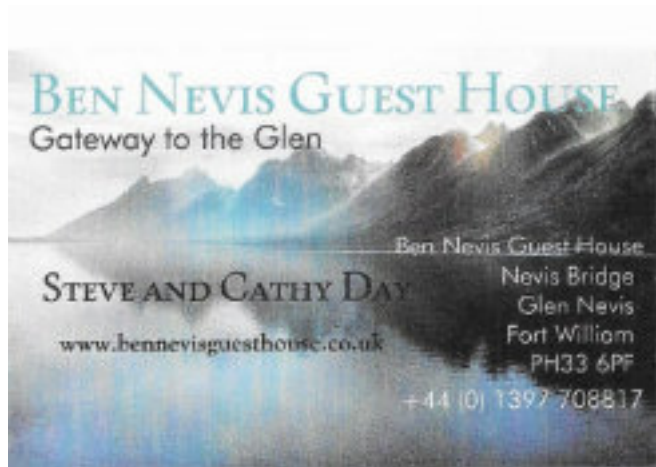
Home groups meet every
fortnight for fellowship and Bible
Study. For more information
contact Alison on 01959 540482

Bell Ringing

Please contact the Parish Office
on 01959 577816

1st Biggin Hill Guides

Please contact Rosemary
Spurway on 01959 575717





For all your floral requirements

FLORIST
A personal service at a competitive price!

Lily of the Valley

309, Main Road (opposite St. Winifred's Road)
Biggin Hill TN16 3JJ
01959 571445

www.lily-of-the-valley.co.uk

Mobile Chiropodist 

Chiropody undertaken in the comfort of your own home

Mandy Gifford M.Inst.Ch.P
HCPC Registered

Registered Member of the Institute of Chiropody and Podiatry

Tel: 07944 763045



SEWING SERVICE

40 years' experience

Wedding Dress Alterations Specialist

Ladies & Gents Garments Alterations, Restyling & Repairs

Biggin Hill
01959 546 551

Keeping IT Simple

Solving all your technical support worries, calmly and patiently in your own home, by someone who cares

- > New Device Setup
- > Instruction & Tuition
- > Cleaning & Cooling
- > Virus & Malware Removal
- > Hardware Upgrades
- > Remote Support
- > Small Business Support
- > WiFi Routers & Networking
- > Cloud Storage
- > Data Backup
- > Data Recovery
- > E-mail Support
- > PCs & Laptops
- > Printers
- > Smartphones
- > Tablets
- > Televisions
- > Wireless Security Cameras

Over 65s
10% off your first hour of tuition



07375 416 176

dan@kisIT.co.uk

In St Mark's Church

ROCK CHOIR

Saturday 13th May 7.30pm

Tickets £10 to include light refreshments (Students £5). Call 01959 700815 to book your tickets.



The proceeds of the concert will be for the benefit of Biggin Hill Community Care Association

Registered Charity No: 1056336



The photo shows Doreen and Keith Downes who renewed their marriage vows at St Marks on 25th February.

Biggin Hill Residents Association and Biggin Hill Shedders (Peter Martin, Graham Savage, Alan Holmes) presenting Rev Alison Newman with donations towards the church lighting fund. (£1,000 in total). We are very grateful for their support and to members of our community for their individual donations.



On Thursday 23rd February Margaret Wilmot organised a 102nd birthday party for Veteran Peter Lemon in the Nightingale Cafe at the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum. It was a wonderful occasion. Peter is aiming to get to 105 he says!

The boy who sat on an unexploded bomb



This is David and Pat Wilkinson in their 1913 house in the Valley. The house has been in David's family since it was built.

Pat grew up on Bromley Common in a family of builders; her father and grandfather had a pig farm at Keston, where she moved. She was food supervisor in M&S Bromley, where discipline and a strict dress code was in place: long skirt, no ladders in stockings, hair tied up, and inspection each morning. To work on the shop

floor, you had to pass an English and Maths exam! She left M&S in 1966 to have her first child. In their front room she proudly pointed to a photo of her father in the RAF, North Africa. He won the DCM in 1943.

David's parents came from Maple Road, Penge; they rented the Biggin Hill house for 15 shillings & 6 pence per month from a German who had built it. A benefactor, Pa Sweeting, bought the house. Pa was a superintendent in the London wharfs, and was buying up lots of properties during 1920s at the time when plots of land were still being sold for £10. Pa Sweeting kindly left the house to David's mother! The house has changed little since then.

David was born in 1935. Not surprisingly, his most vivid memories are from the war years. War broke out when he was 4, but he wasn't evacuated unlike all his mates. His mother was in the WVS; their house was an ARP post. Their phone number was Biggin Hill 58. Invasion gear was stored in the back bedroom: hot water bottles, blankets, dried potatoes, dried egg. Locals would come there to sign on for watch duty. His father was unfit to fight as he had asthma, but worked round many munitions factories as a glazier.

His father raised money at concert parties at the WI: groups such as the Tin Hatters and the True Blues. For the Aladdin's Cave events, grown-ups made toys such as dolls and soldiers. While some lead soldiers were being made at his house, an

accident involved molten lead being spilled all over the dining room table...

David's schooling started at the original Biggin Hill school; he would dodge falling bombs by using the air raid shelters under what is now the Waitrose car park; later he transferred to Quernmore Secondary School, Bromley, now Parish School, on London Lane.

When bad weather prevented children in the valley from going up Stock Hill, they would gather for lessons in the family house. David's neighbour used to live up Jewel's Hill: he and his sister would walk to Jail Lane school or Biggin Hill school, sometimes doing a double journey in the day if they went home for lunch!



David, front left, his mother behind, with Mr and Mrs Dark

Mr & Mrs Dark lived in the house over the road, where David spent lots of time with their son Peter. They had an air raid shelter. Mr Dark was in the RAF, often away from home. One day Peter Dark and David heard the air raid siren. They ran from near the airfield and jumped down into the air raid shelter. When the Germans bombed the aerodrome, they would attack from across the back of the valley, coming

over the fields. The boys' parents were distraught not knowing where the children were! One day a bomb hit the Darks' air raid shelter, blowing it up.



There we were sitting in the crater: Mrs Dark, her neighbour, my mother, and Peter and I sitting at the back with our thumbs up'



David aged about 5 or 6 sitting on top of a 500lb bomb, just along the road from his house. When the soldiers were digging the bomb out, the sergeant kept hitting the fin!

David remembers attending Sunday School, which took place at the back of the house called Troy, which still stands at the foot of Stock Hill. As a 12 year old he used to do a milk round on a Saturday morning, first milking the cows into buckets, then pressing cardboard tops onto the bottles, and loading them straight onto the cart. He recalls the

fairground which used to set up opposite the war memorial at the top of Jugg Hill. When three Gloster Meteors crashed in the Valley in June 1951, David witnessed the pilot of the first plane being carried out on a piece of corrugated iron.

David left school at 16, and became an apprentice blacksmith on Rolls Royce cars at James Young, Bromley. He soon left, wanting to enter the Services, and signed up at 18 as an RAF airframe engineer, taking 30 days to get to Singapore. He was in Singapore and Malaya for 2 ½ years working on monocoque Mosquitos. There he would read about changes in Biggin Hill while – his mother would send him the Bromley and Kentish Times, by ship.

David's father, Bert Wilkinson, helped Rev Vivian Symons move building materials from All Saints Peckham. He brought down the bell of All Saints with rope and tackle and, with a little pressure from the vicar, was one of the first to be confirmed in the new St Mark's. Like everyone in the Valley, his parents shopped at Temple's store at the foot of Stock Hill. Everything was sold there, food, hardware, the lot.

Once back from the Far East, David discovered his childhood sweetheart of 11 years was seeing another boy. It broke his heart! Later David met Pat at a friend's party, getting married within 16 weeks. Their first child was born just over a year later. A second German connection was his work in Keston, then Ightham, for Reuters, a German horticulture firm, specialists in rhododendrons. Reuter's parents had come to

England when the Kaiser was recruiting the youth for the WW1. Both David and Pat worked for Reuters in the 1970s, and used to exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show. David branched out into landscaping and tree felling. David and Pat moved back into the family home in 1977.



David showed me his copy of *Grandfather's Biggin Hill*, written by John Nelson in 1982. He darted from one page to another, using several views of the Valley to point out houses he knew as a boy, showing a precise knowledge of almost every building. He identified the house called Sunningvale, which is still there, also Blandford Villas, recently demolished. Admiring one house which no longer exists, David enthused: 'Look at the magnitude of the carpentry, the filigree, the fascia boards.'

In fact, some wooden houses arrived in kit form. David helped John Nelson with a few amendments to the 2010 edition of the book.

What were his feelings about the demolition of many old houses in the Valley in the late 1970s? He stated in no uncertain terms: 'It was the downfall and rape of a lovely country village, a population of 2,500, 5 butchers, a Co-op, a general store, and delicious bread from the baker's!'

Mark Newman

Flowers for Church



If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of flowers in church for a particular week, to mark an anniversary or a special event, please contact either Caroline Budimir on 01959 576093 or the Parish Office on 01959 577816



Over the coming months the Friends will be weeding, pruning and dead heading, to promote vigorous growth and flowers for visitors and our friends in the garden, the bees. The same applies to Kings Road open space. But we need some help. Perhaps you don't have a garden, or you wish to know more or need some friendly advice on how to look after your garden or you love a chat. We are a friendly bunch, with tea and biscuits to refuel and we provide an enjoyable experience and give the opportunity to make new friends. Come along, you never know you might enjoy it, only a couple of hours twice a month or more if you are keen.

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 if you wish to join as a volunteer, please phone between 6.30 and 9 pm.



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

THE MOVING CHURCH NEWS

IS THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF

St. MARK'S CHURCH, BIGGIN HILL

St. Mark's is known as the "Moving Church" as in the 1950's it was constructed from materials brought from the redundant church of All Saints North Peckham. This remarkable feat of dismantling and building carried out by local Biggin Hill people was accomplished through the initiative and vision of the then vicar, The Revd. Vivian Symons. He mobilised the local parishioners to create a truly worthy parish church in place of their ageing corrugated iron building. This fascinating story is recounted in an illustrated colour guide available from the Church.

St. Mark's is a pilgrim church; we do not simply accept the status quo, we are on a spiritual journey as pilgrims of old, actively seeking to draw closer to God and discover His will both in our own lives and the life of our local church and community which we love and serve. We are anxious "not to store up treasures here on earth" but to use all our church resources given by God, in His service and for His glory.

We want to share the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ with all those in our parish and neighbourhood. Hopefully this is portrayed by the way we live our lives, and speak to others.

We respect that we are all children of God, and we want to discover Christ in each other, encouraging personal growth in our individual relationship with each other and with Jesus.

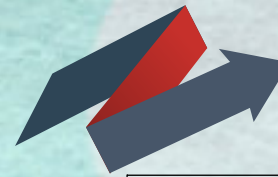
Worship is an integral part of our love for God, and we want our services to reflect dignity and sensitivity as well as joy and thanksgiving.

St. Mark's Church, Biggin Hill - People's Prayer

Dear God in Heaven who loves us so much,
Thank You for everything You do and provide for us.
We pray for Your church and community here in
Biggin Hill, that we may know Your plans for us
in this special town.

Especially, we pray for help in bringing all Your
children to You, so they may come to know You fully,
through our actions enabled by Your Spirit,
And through the life, teaching and example of
Your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

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 Next Moving Church News

Month	Deadline	Distributed from
June - July	12 th May	28 th May
Aug - Sept	14 th July	30 th July
Oct - Nov	15 th Sept	1 st Oct

The Moving Church News is published every two months. For more information or for advertisement enquiries please contact Neil Walker - 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.

Parish office: 01959 577816

Email: admin@movingchurch.org

St Mark's website: www.movingchurch.org



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

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 chrissy.walkerz@gmail.com. Your email address will not be passed on to anyone else.

ADVERTISE HERE! An ad in full colour costs from just £60 per year.

2700 copies of the Moving Church News are distributed in Biggin Hill every 2 months

Provide your own material or we will design an ad. for you

Contact Neil for more details
01959 700815
neil.walkerz@gmail.com

W. UDEN & SONS LTD

INDEPENDENT FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS

MONUMENTAL MASONS

Est. 1881

186 Main Road, Biggin Hill

Tel: 01959 573130

(24hr answer service)

OFFERING A FULL SERVICE

PREPAID FUNERALS AVAILABLE

PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST
on the premises



Continuing to build on the family traditions of personal and caring service for over 100 years in the area

We are always available to visit you personally to make any necessary arrangements in the privacy of your own home.

**Branches at Petts Wood, Sidcup, Eltham,
Dulwich, Bexleyheath & Camberwell**