



The Moving Church News

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30 YEARS ESTABLISHED – FAMILY BUSINESS

Welcome to the Moving Church News

the bi-monthly magazine of
St. Mark's Church, Biggin Hill

Forthcoming Events

Christmas Tree Festival & Christmas Fair

Please see page 25

St.Mark's Christmas Activities and Services

Please see page 16

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Front Cover - Nativity by Stephen Cuyos

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

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),

Do you remember these events?

- 1953 New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Tenzing Norgay were the first to reach the summit of Everest
- 1963 200,000 people marched on Washington in support of civil rights; Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his *I Have a Dream* speech
- 1973 The world's first mobile phone call was made in downtown Manhattan by Motorola employee Martin Cooper
- 1983 In the UK, wearing a seatbelt was made compulsory for drivers and front seat passengers
- 1993 Buckingham Palace opened its doors to the public for the first time
- 2003 Lord of the Rings: *The Return Of The King* won 11 Oscars
- 2013 Prince George was born

What, for you, has been the most important event of this year?

You will have spotted that all of the above events are positive stories. Not surprisingly, there are many more news stories that have caused a negative impact on people over these same years. It would be a bit depressing to draw up a long list of bad happenings!

One of the stories from 1993 that caused massive heart-searching in the UK was the murder of Jamie Bulger. His abductors were just 10 years old. Until that time, our view of children was to consider them as fairly innocent. The fact that two children still at primary school carried out great evil was a massive talking point in the media. If children are not pure and naïve, what hope is there?

At Christmas we celebrate the ultimate good news story. Everyone loves a baby, especially with a few sheep, angels and stars thrown in! However, this good news story turns bad: Jesus the baby becomes Jesus the full-grown man, who is put on a Roman cross.

What purpose did that serve? We read in the Bible: *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

This Christmas at St Mark's we will be celebrating God's global rescue plan, because all of us need saving from the wrong in the world, of which each of us is a part. We'll be pleased if you can join us at one of our services.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas, and a happy and positive New Year!

Mark Newman



ST MARK'S 100 CLUB!

We are inviting you to join St Mark's 100 Club for 2024 or to renew your membership. Over the past few years there have been almost 60 people who have signed up to this fundraising venture. Perhaps this will be the year we reach the magic number of 100!!!

How does it work? 100 people will pay £15.00 each for the year of 2024 and then every month, one name out of those 100 people will be drawn to receive a cash prize of £30!

Why not invite your family members and friends to join!

Don't forget - ALL profits go to church funds and we are continuing to raise funds for a new lighting system!

Please complete the form below and return it along with the £15 to Chris Walker (6 Moselle Road Biggin Hill) or drop it in to the Parish Office. Please add any extra names on the form below if you wish or ask for another form! Thank You

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ST MARK'S 100 CLUB

January - December 2024

Name:.....

Tel No:.....

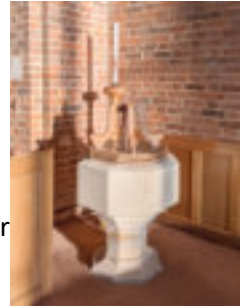
Address:.....

(Cash or Cheques payable to St Mark's PCC)

St. Mark's Church Festival of Baptism

Saturday April 27th 2024 10.00am - 3.00pm

In the last edition of the Moving Church News I wrote about St Mark's Festival of Baptism in 2024. Just to make sure you don't forget I'm sending you a reminder! We will be displaying clothes which children have been wearing when they were baptised/christened either in St Marks Church itself but also those which were used to baptise children elsewhere over the years. We already have some ready to display but would love to receive even more! So if you have tucked away (as so many of us do!) the outfit your child or you yourself wore, or even one worn over more generations, we would love to show everyone. If you have any photographs of the day especially any taken in or around the church they would be a wonderful addition. I realise that for so many people in the community St Mark's is your church and so it would be great to look back over the years and see once again the faces of both those who were baptised/christened here and also of their families.



To add a little more nostalgia to the day we also plan to show some of the toys those children would have played with as they grew up. Now I know for certain that many of you have those stored away in the attic for the next generation or just because they bring back so many memories. We plan to have at least one train set laid out for you to try, maybe even a Scalextric? So lots of fun to be had by all. (And, of course, there will also be cake!).

We will take good care of anything you lend us -please don't forget to put your name and address on anything you send us! We are starting to collect material now and any contributions will be gladly accepted so please contact either the Parish Office on 01959 577816 or me on 01959 576093. Let's look forward to an interesting, nostalgic and fun filled day for all the family!

Caroline Budimir. Assistant Churchwarden

**If there is righteousness in the heart
There will be beauty in the character
If there is beauty in the character
There will be harmony in the home
If there is harmony in the home
There will be order in the nation
When there is order in each nation,
There will be peace in the world.**

Sent by Barry Bevan

Meet the author of *Grandfather's Biggin Hill*

Part 2



When John came into possession of the photographic dry plates in the late 1970s, he was fascinated by the vague images he could see when he held them up to the light. He had no idea how to produce photographs from them, but knew of a photographic shop on the corner of Widmore Road, Bromley, next to the old Police Station. John took some of the plates to the shop where the assistant assembled various trays, bottles of chemicals and packets of paper on the counter and proceeded to demonstrate how to carry out the photo printing process. Back home, John converted his loft

into a dark room and began producing photographs, the first results being quite amazing.

John Nelson's grandfather had come to Biggin Hill in 1903, dying in 1928. He was a highly professional photographer, but the quality of his work in Biggin Hill was limited because there was no electricity. His father, John's great-grandfather, Alfred Nugent Nelson, had been involved in the early days of photography starting off in Dublin in a company called Nelson & Marshall. His company took photos and supplied *cartes de visite*, to notable people including opera singers, and some of these cards are held in the collections of The National Gallery bearing the name Nelson & Marshall and The Royal Dublin School of Photography. He moved to London in the 1850s and built up a lucrative wholesale photographic business and studio in Twickenham but sadly went bankrupt after having failed to properly protect his inventions with patents. He had employed several of his children in his business and they all moved to other parts of the country to open their own photographic studios.

In this way John's grandfather, William Henry Nelson, came to Biggin Hill. He was told that the world was his oyster because Frederick Henry Dougal had bought the Aperfield Manor a few years previously in 1895 and people were coming to build their houses and settle in Biggin Hill.

View of King's Road towards
Norheads Lane
with permission of John Nelson



At times when his regular work permitted, John's grandfather, in order to promote business, used to call on people in the village to ask if they would like him to take a photograph of them, perhaps working in their garden. *'A picture of your house? Bring the family out and we'll do a photo. No obligation to buy!'* Not everyone did buy the photographs but William survived comfortably, engaging with his principal source of income which was the making and selling of picture postcards of Biggin Hill and all the other villages around. He held a licence to sell postage stamps which was confirmation of his being a person of

character and integrity and John still has the original licence in his possession.

By the late 1970s people who had become aware of the existence of the photographic plates and developed photos, suggested to John he might give some illustrated local history talks to village groups. He transferred a number of the old photos on to slides, and also took up-to-date pictures of the same locations. With his projector and screen he was then able to give talks to a wide variety of local organisations which were much appreciated. At this point someone said, why don't you write a book? This project took a year, involving time spent on research in Bromley Library reading old newspapers and searching maps. It also entailed several visits to Kent Archives in Maidstone to bring to light the history of the Aperfield Estate going back to Norman times. There were also visits to Cudham and Downe churches and personal interviews with countless old Biggin Hill residents. John's wife



*Troy, still at the bottom
of Stock Hill
with permission of John Nelson*

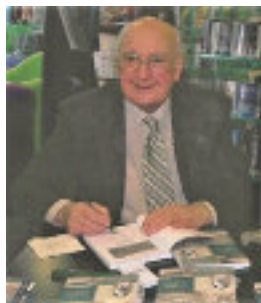
Stella, as has been said, was a very competent secretary, recorded his narrative in shorthand and

transcribed it. John decided to self-publish, and at Christmas 1985 *Grandfather's Biggin Hill* was on sale.

The books were printed in hardback and paperback and John was advised to have an extra thousand dust jackets printed. On the inside of the jacket was laid out some publicity

material and a purchase application form. John, Stella, their son Alex, their daughter Saralie and her boyfriend deposited one of these leaflets in the letterbox of every accessible house in Biggin Hill. Even before they got home from the first round of leafleting, they'd sold a dozen copies. At that Christmas husbands were buying the books as presents for wives and the wives buying them for their husbands. The first thousand copies were soon gone and eventually 2,500 were sold.

In 2010 there was a revised edition. Simon Finch, who worked for Bromley Council, told John that the Council had done a series of local histories, and wanted to reprint John's book as number six. John conducted an update on certain details, for example, one of the photos of a bungalow had been mis-identified in the first edition, the reason being that many bungalows came in kit form and therefore there was room for misinterpretation. An index, prepared by Simon Finch, was also included, and John sat for half a day signing copies of the new edition in Biggin Hill Library.



John remembers Rev Vivian Symons (1951-65) as inspirational, leading by example and encouragement. Going back further, he recalls Rev Kenneth Horner (1945-51) being very academic; Rev Raymond Allanson (1937-45)

and his daughter, Rosemary, being enormously funny; even further back he recites the reported infamous phrase by Rev Charles Bassett (1928-37): 'I preside over a parish of crooks and crocks.' There was apparently a meeting organised on Biggin Hill Green in response to this accusation, where the vicar was criticized for having said such words about respectable crooks! When Raymond Allanson was vicar during WW2, John and his brother Peter sang in the choir of the old St Mark's Church whilst their mother played the organ.

John recalls with fondness the spring and summer pre-war weekends when hundreds of cyclists came out from London up to Biggin Hill. There were various cyclists rests, from Leaves Green up to Westerham Hill, where riders could get their refreshments but also leave their bikes for a few pence, and go for walks to Tatsfield, Cudham, Knockholt, or Downe. Cyclists would pick bluebells and primroses and take them back home packed tightly in their saddlebags. Among the cyclists cafés The Teapot was the most popular, opened by a Belgian named Alphonse Haentjens who was one of thousands of Belgian refugees who escaped to England during WWI. Members of the RAF delighted in stealing the big red teapot from its stand on Main Road.

In days gone by, the surface of every side road in Biggin Hill during wet weather used to be covered in mud. John remembers Sutherland Avenue having deep ruts where the carts came through. People used to laugh at the thought of living in Biggin Hill, but now, with the new boundary changes, it will become an even more desirable place to reside: *the parliamentary constituency of Bromley and Biggin Hill!*

Mark Newman



Five Eims PCN are pleased to announce the launch of the

Biggin Hill Health and Wellbeing Café

Join us at our café for a health and wellbeing session as well as other activities.

Opening on Friday 10th November 2023,
the café will take place between 10am -12pm on
the second Friday of every month

Location:
St Marks Parish Centre
10 Church Road
TN16 3LB

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. 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?

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. Call Annette on 01959 700411.

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.

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, Lunch Club and Art Group.



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 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

ALLENBY

COACH HIRE

DAY TRIPS BIGGIN HILL

Pick up opposite Waitrose, Main Road

- Fri 1 December - London Lights with Fish & Chips £37pp
- Fri 8 December - FULL Winchester Christmas Market £22pp
- Wed 13 December - FULL Canterbury Christmas Market £22pp
- Sat 16 December - Christmas Lights, Kew Gardens £47pp
- Mon 18 December - Christmas Lunch at the Royal Naval College & Private Tour, Greenwich £65pp
- Thurs 28 December - Christmas Lights at Bedgebury, Kent £42pp adult £36.50pp child



WISHING YOU SEASON'S GREETINGS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR



JANUARY 2024 WITH OUR NEW BOOKING SYSTEM

- Wed 10 January - Milestone Living Museum, Basingstoke £38pp
- Thurs 18 January - Postal Museum, London £58pp
- Wed 31 January - Fulham Palace with Guided Tour, London £32pp
- Mon 5 February - Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham £40pp
- Wed 14 February - Snowdrops at Batemans, Sussex price NT £24pp Ad £38pp
- Thurs 22 February - Museum of Power with guided tour, Maldon £31pp
- Tues 27 February - Blenheim Palace, Woodstock £49pp
- Sat 9 March - Shaw House, Newbury £24pp
- March - Polesden Lacy, Dorking, Date TBC
- Fri 22 March - Day in Brighton £24pp
- Thurs 28 March - Howletts Animal Park, Belkesbourne £42pp
- Thurs 11 April - Highclere Castle - £45pp
- Wed 24 April - A Day in Whitstable £24pp

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Volunteer Car Drivers

Biggin Hill Community Care Association needs volunteer drivers who are willing to use their own car to bring members to and from the activities on an occasional rota. Please contact us for more details.

01959 577400

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

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Christmas at St. Mark's

Sunday 17th December

6.30 pm 9 Lessons and Carols

Refreshments served afterwards

Monday 18th December

3pm 'A Blue Christmas'

A quiet reflective service for those who will be finding
Christmas difficult this year.

Wednesday 20th December

6.30pm A Christmas Miscellany

Carols, poems, drama.

Wear your Christmas Jumper!

Friday 22nd December

10am -12pm Christmas Messy Church!

(See page 18)

Christmas Eve

Christingle services at 3pm and 5pm

A wonderful way to celebrate Jesus' birth. For all the family.

The children will receive Christingles.

Midnight Communion 11.30pm

Christmas Day 10.30am

Family Communion

Do bring along an opened Christmas present to
show the congregation!

The wedding of Joshua
Olaifa and Cheyenne Dixon
which took place at St
Mark's on
Saturday 26th August.



The photo shows Aston
Blyth with his parents
Dylan and Courtney.
Aston was baptised at St
Marks on 5th November.



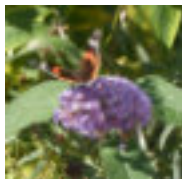
April and Austin Chipping were
baptised on 1st October. Their
parents are Paul and Marizza.



Our next Messy Church

for all the family is
Christmas Messy Church
on Friday 22nd December
10am -12pm.

Come along and enjoy games, crafts,
mince pies and fun!



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Church Registers

BAPTISMS

“We welcome you in the name of the Lord”

April Alyssa Chipping
Austin Anthony Chipping
Aston Ray Blyth

FUNERALS

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

Harold Aldridge (RAF Chapel)

BURIAL OF ASHES


Grace Percy
Philip Martin

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

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As we enter winter, the Biggin Hill Horticultural Society takes a short break. However, the committee continue with their sterling work organising events for 2024 and finishing off the schedule for printing. The schedule will be delivered to you in January, membership fee of £10 plus a beautiful, coloured calendar, free. Should you wish to donate towards to the calendar, you are very welcome!

We have another wide range of talks for 2024 to whet your appetite. We will be starting off with Bees in the garden, so important in the garden to pollinate flowers and vegetables. Followed by Chartwell and Winston Churchill's influence, trees for small gardens, Painshill Park, and the history of the Crystal Palace, not the football team, but the huge glasshouse created by Joseph Paxton. Visit the Crystal Palace Park Trust website for more information. The remaining talks for next year can be found in our annual schedule book.

Please come along, free to members, £3 for non-members, tea, coffee and biscuits will be on offer plus your usual trade table to purchase you garden sundries. Also encourage your friends, neighbours and relations to come along, I'm sure they will enjoy the ambiance and an interesting talk. Should you need more information or wish to join the Biggin Hill Horticultural Society, please do not hesitate and call Chairman, Nick Hagon on 01959 575799 between 6 and 9 pm. Nick Hagon

From all the team, we wish everyone a super Christmas, a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all, ready for the new growing season!

Best Wishes



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.movingchurch.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.

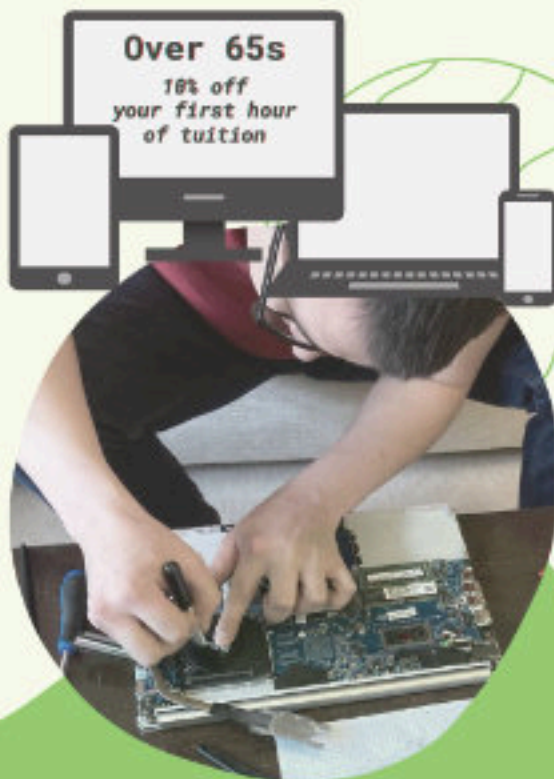
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- > Smartphones
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07375 416 176

dan@kisIT.co.uk



Our Biggin Hill Heroes

Have enabled weekly donations of vital goods to be delivered to the Collection Point in Brasted.

This campaign, initiated by Westerham U3A, has touched the hearts of Biggin Hill folk, and on behalf of the Ukraine People, I thank you for all your help.

Sadly, the war goes on with increasing levels of brutality. The Winter conditions facing the troops are ever more challenging.

Priority items now include:

Medical - tourniquets; bandages; all kinds of dressings, burn treatments; microporous tape; cool packs; antiseptics & eye washes. Pain relief; vitamins; muscle relief ointments; Imodium; Sene cot; antacids & fungal relief for feet.

Medical aids: crutches; slings; leg, arm and knee braces. Medical boots.

Clothing - military; men's Tee-shirts & footwear.

All sizes of tents; winter weight sleeping bags; camp-beds; groundsheets, & mats

Stoves; small burners; candles; camping cutlery & all in one lidded eating pots etc.

Lynne Martin. 01959 576144 funkystork2@hotmail.co.uk

**Let us stand together and continue our valiant efforts for
Ukrainian people**

Come Dancing!

Every Thursday Morning

at Shirley Cox Dance Studio

24, Aperfield Road, Biggin Hill, TN16 3LU

Dancing from 10am to 12noon

Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits

Meet new friends & have a friendly chat

Whole session £12

01959 572859

Your 1st Thursday morning FREE!

Biggin Hill Residents' Association

HELLO from your Residents Association! With Christmas just around the corner and the year drawing to a close, we are as busy as ever, planning lots of exciting new events for Biggin Hill in 2024. Stay tuned to our social media for news of our next quiz night, our St Patrick's Day celebrations and the return of our Easter Egg hunt for all the family!

The redesign of our website continues, and we hope to be able to relaunch this in the new year, making it easier for our residents to join the association and to engage with all things Biggin Hill. The Residents Association aims to be a hub for our community where you can seek information, support and advice and engage with other residents, schools, and businesses. Please do consider becoming a member of the Residents Association and help us to improve Biggin Hill and the surrounding area: <https://bigginhillresidentsassociation.co.uk>

October saw our AGM, held at New Life Church and we are pleased to say we had an excellent turn out. It was fabulous to meet with members of our community who came to hear more about the Resident's Association, The Biggin Hill Sheds and the relaunch of our Neighbourhood Watch 'Radar' scheme from our Local Councillors.



Our special guests included our young winner of the Bob Shekyls award, Rodney Cairns, together with our local policing team who were keen to share all things 'policing' in the pipeline. It would be amiss not to mention the cheese and wine too, kindly donated by Waitrose Biggin Hill. Thank you for your continued support.

We were overwhelmed to see the huge support this year for our poppy appeal. The Residents Association were able to donate hundreds of pounds to the Royal British Legion once again, through the generosity of our residents. Thank you to everyone who donated and who sponsored a poppy for the village display in memory of a loved one. They were remembered.....

Turning to our next event, the BHRA are thrilled to announce details of our Biggin Hill Pantomime which is coming to our village this December. The Shrinking Santa Suit is a brilliantly written original pantomime which will provide some Christmas fun for all the family! It is not too late to get your tickets so please read on for details:



The Panto will be held at New Life Church on 1st and 2nd December. Tickets are £10 pp via our website at: info@bigginhillresidentsassociation.co.uk

Ticket sales are also being supported by some of our high street businesses and you can purchase yours here:

- On The Beach
- Caffe Isabella
- Blundell's

All children receive a free Christmas gift with every ticket, and we look forward to seeing you all there



St Mark's Church Biggin Hill

Christmas



Tree Festival

1st-3rd December

A Varied display of Christmas Trees and Wreaths

On Saturday there will also be a range of stalls to help you with your Christmas shopping and get you into the Christmas spirit!!

Enjoy Coffee, tea, cakes each day.

Join in the singing of Advent Carols on Sunday at 3.30pm

Fun for all the Family!

Friday 1st 3pm-5pm

Saturday 2nd 10am-4pm

(Christmas Fair 10.am-2.00pm)

Sunday 3rd 10.30am Sunday Worship followed at 11.45am by viewing of the exhibition.

Advent Carols at 3.30pm-close at 5pm

Table top—if you are interested in having a table at our fair please phone 01959 576093 or contact the Parish office on 01959 577016. Only Christmas themed or craft goods please! £10 booked in advance.



St Mark's Church: Biggin Hill

7pm Saturday

9th December, 2023

A Christmas Concert



Beckenham
Concert
Band

StChristopher's

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retiring collection for St Christopher's

www.movingchurch.org

What Angels Eat For Breakfast

“Can’t sleep” sighed Alice parting the curtain of the window by her bed and staring at the shiny black surface of the window behind.

The room was dark except the light that crept under the bedroom door that was just enough for me to see the pale oval of Alice’s face and make out the bulge of her raised knees under the duvet.

My name’s Johosaphat but most of the host call me Jo and, now and then, when I get fed up with all the singing, I pop in to say hello. Mostly we chat, and while Alice asks me about what it’s like to live in Out, where it is, what angels eat for breakfast and loads of other questions, I ask her about what it’s like to live in In. But, tonight, Alice had other things on her mind.

“What’s the time?” she whispered.

“I’ve no idea,” I replied copying her whisper. Angels can do lots of things but telling the time isn’t one of them. There’s no time in Out and no need for clocks.

“You can’t tell the time!” Alice exclaimed loudly and then in a whisper “Mum and dad are still up and I’m meant to be asleep.”

We both listened intently hoping that Alice’s voice hadn’t been heard, but it had, and a few moments later the door opened and two heads appeared. Fortunately, Alice had slithered down between the sheets and closed her eyes just in time.

“It couldn’t have been her,” whispered one of the heads. “She’s asleep” confirmed the other with a nod and after both heads glanced round the room the door closed.

In case you’re wondering - No, angels aren’t invisible. The rules are that we must try not to be seen stepping from Out to In or In to Out but otherwise there are no restrictions and you might see us in the most unexpected places. Oh, and while I’m at it, I’ll answer your other question. Angels only have a light breakfast. We feed on the light that radiates from God’s throne.

“The night seems endless,” whispered Alice after all was quiet. “I’ve been awake for hours,” she moaned, “The butterflies won’t stop flitting around my stomach and thoughts of what tomorrow might bring keep racing through my mind.”

“What tomorrow might bring?” I repeated.

“Surely you must know it’s Christmas!” exclaimed Alice but this time keeping her voice in a whisper.

“Of course, I know about Christmas.” I replied somewhat indignantly. “I was among those who appeared to the shepherds and I’m in the ‘Herald Angels’,” I said with a hint of pride. “We’re mentioned in one of your carols”.

“Isn’t it always Christmas in heaven?” asked Alice.

There are no days in Out but that’s not to say we’re stuck in one long day and nothing ever changes. Celebrations come and go and we love them all, but especially Christmas.

We didn't understand what was happening when the Boss's son, Jesus, set aside his power and glory to become a fragile baby and live in your world but once we realised that he did so to defeat death and make it possible for all mankind to be reconciled to His Dad we could hardly contain our joy. The Christmas parties that we have in Out are amazing. More feasting, more singing, more dancing, more laughter more whoops of joy and praise than you can ever imagine ending in wonderful worship of the One who made it all possible."

For a moment I felt overwhelmed by the love that God had shown to mankind and I sensed that Alice too had caught a glimpse of the wonder of Christmas.

"That sounds like heaven," breathed Alice as she pulled the duvet up to her chin

"Can't you make the night go faster?" she asked sleepily.

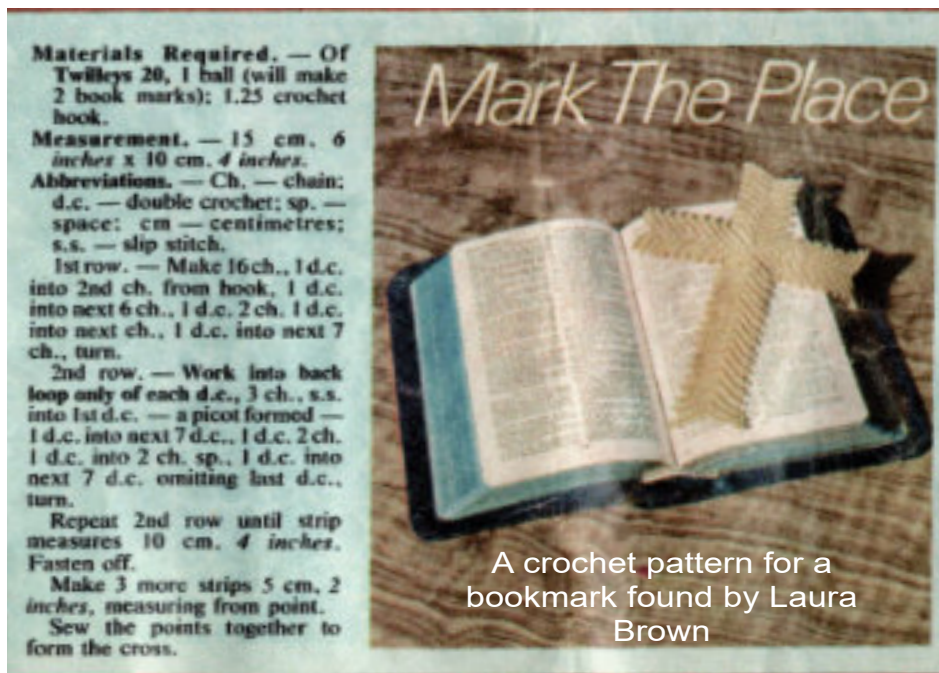
"It'll be gone in a jiffy," I promised and as Alice closed her eyes time hurtled towards the coming day.

I stood in silence looking at her face and listening to her breathing and after a few moments I reached over and closed the gap in the curtain so she wouldn't be woken by the dawn that was already showing along the top edge of the dark window pane.

"Merry Christmas," I whispered as I crept to the bedroom door. "I must fly," I added and after one last look I stepped out.

And Merry Christmas to you too.

Stuart Wells



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We Will Remember Them

We attended the Flag Pole Service of Remembrance on Saturday 11th November at 11 o'clock. A small gathering of residents accompanied us as we paid homage to our fallen war heroes.

Sunday morning saw Sophie attend St George's Chapel, The Strongest Link, to lay a wreath on behalf of the Mayor of Bromley.

Melanie attended St Marks Church Holy Communion and then headed with the parade to the War Memorial accompanied by representatives of all our churches, our bugler Ava and other dignitaries.



We were joined by the ATC 2427 marching drum band and over 60 Cadets, along with the other uniformed organisations. We were met at the War Memorial by 100's of residents.

Melanie Stevens – 07900 171 266 – melanie.stevens@bromley.gov.uk

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

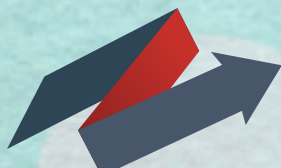
The people of St. Mark's Church would like you to know that we pray for Biggin Hill regularly.

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

Age UK - Bromley & Greenwich	0208 315 1850
Benefit Enquiry Line	0800 88 22 00
Biggin Hill Aperfield W.I.	01959 571360
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 --- child referrals	0208 461 7373
Bromley Social Services --- adult referrals	0208 461 7777
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
February - March	19 th January	4 th February
April-May	8 th March	24 th March
June - July	17 th May	2 nd June
August - September	12 th July	28 th July

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'

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