

The Moving Church News

A Church and Community Magazine

St. Mark's Church Biggin Hill

February - March 2024





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

Forthcoming Events

St Patrick's Day Party
16th March (page 9)

Easter Services
Page 21

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Cover photo: One of the two Christingle Services held on Christmas Eve.

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),

New Year's Resolutions

January is traditionally a time for New Year's resolutions – did you make one, and have you kept it so far?

These are people's favourites:

- Lose weight
- Make more time for the family
- Spend money wisely
- Read more
- Drink less alcohol

But how about making a New Year's resolution to care more for our world and creation?

We are facing not just a climate crisis, but interlinked climate, biodiversity and pollution crises. The biggest impacts on all these are (i) burning coal, oil and gas (ii) industrial agriculture (iii) destruction of ecosystems and (iv) excess waste.

As Christians we believe God created the world and told us to look after it.

'The Lord God put humankind in Eden 'to serve it and keep it'.

Genesis 2:15

There are lots of small things we can do to care for our world. Carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – is the biggest cause of global heating. To conserve energy we can...

- Limit our electricity use. Turn lights off and use low energy light bulbs (LEDs use least) and don't leave appliances on stand-by. Turn down the thermostat. Draught-proof windows and doors.
- Save and cherish water
- Use water butts

Scientists calculate that one third of global heating arises from food production; rainforests are cut down to grow animal feed; industrial fishing empties the oceans; fertilizer and pesticide run-off makes waterways barren, and industrial farming turns rich soil to barren dirt. Methane from cattle and sheep farming is a potent greenhouse gas.

What can we do?

- Use your LOAF! Buy and grow some food that follows the 'LOAF' principles for food: Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly and Fairly traded.
- Eat more plant-based foods.
- Try to buy British fruit and veg in season and support local shops.
- Take reusable bags to the shops or your own container when you buy takeaway food.

Deforestation and loss of biodiversity are caused by the harvest of ever greater quantities of the raw materials for clothing. Clothing production uses 79 trillion litres of water every year. Chemicals used in clothing production cause pollution and are harmful to factory workers. Cheap clothes often mean bad working conditions and low pay for factory workers. Waste from fast fashion often ends up on landfill. Synthetic fabrics do not biodegrade and shed microplastics which pollute land and sea.

What can we do?

- Repair, re-use, borrow or share rather than buying new
 - Buy second-hand
 - Keep your clothes for longer and give away anything you haven't worn for years
 - Learn to sew and mend your clothes.
 - Use biodegradable washing powder/liquid
- These are maybe just a few ideas for ways we can help to protect our planet now and for future generations.

The American evangelist Billy Graham said *'When we fail to see the world as God's creation, we will end up abusing it. Selfishness and greed take over, and we end up not caring about the environment or the problems we're creating for future generations'.*

What resolution can you make this year to help to care for our world?

Rev. Alison Newman



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

St Mark's Singers at Christmas



Beckenham Concert Band performing a Christmas Concert on 9th December at St. Mark's

A huge thank you to all those members of the community and community groups who have contributed so generously to our church lighting fund. The work has started and is expected to be completed in March. We are very grateful for your help.

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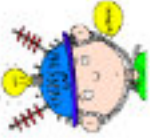
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30 YEARS ESTABLISHED – FAMILY BUSINESS

Biggin Hill Residents' Association
Presents.....
Quiz Night
Sat 24th February 7.30 for 8.00pm
"Blundells' Jail Lane
(opp Charles Darwin School)



Dastardly and frivolous rounds to test your knowledge of 'Life, The Universe & Everything'
Maximum team size of six
£7 each player
(Includes Table Snacks)
Tickets: 01959-573240
"Working for our Community"
Info @bigginhillresidentsassociation.co.uk

St Patrick's Day
PARTY
Biggin Hill Residents Association & St Mark's Church
Presents an evening with The Ceilidh Band:
D'arcy Spice
D'Arcy Spice has been one of Surrey, Kent and Sussex's favourite barn dance and ceilidh bands for over twenty-nine years. Playing traditional barn dance music with a dash of imagination and a hint of swing to bring us a St Patrick's Evening to remember. "Folk with verve and style"
16th March, Saturday
St Marks Church
Main Road, Biggin Hill
Arrival 7pm for 7.30pm dinner
Tickets: £25.00 pp Available from Blundells Squash Club & St Marks Parish Church (Cash Only)
2 Course Meal & Coffee
Irish Stew & Colcannon Mash (Vegetarian/Vegan options available)
Irish Apple Cake & custard
Irish Liqueur Coffee
Please bring your own bottle and glasses

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

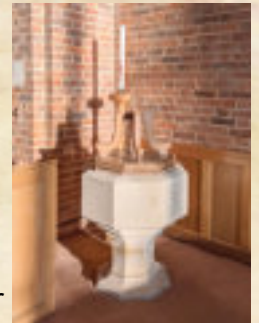
Bell Ringing

Please contact the Parish Office on 01959 577816

1st Biggin Hill Guides

Please contact Rosemary Spurway on 01959 575717

St Mark's Church Festival of Baptism Saturday April 27th 10.00am - 3.00pm



Come along to St Mark's Church to take a look at some of the clothes worn at Baptism services over the years. And not just by those being baptised!

How fashions change..

There will also be a chance to guess the identity of some more famous youngsters. And to add to your enjoyment there will be retro toys in the Church Hall which some will find nostalgic and others will just enjoy!...

There will obviously be at least one train set and if you are good you will be able to have a go! So lots of fun to be had by all.

(And, of course, there will also be cake!).



DAY TRIPS BIGGIN HILL AREA

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PLEASE NOTE OUR DRIVER WILL ONLY RETURN TO THE SAME DROP OFF POINTS AS PICK UP

- Wed 14 February – Snowdrops at Batemans, Sussex £38pp NT 24pp
- 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
- Wed 13 March – Polesden Lacy, Dorking £39pp NT £24pp
- Fri 22 March – Day In Brighton £24pp
- Mon 15 April – Borde Hill Gardens, Haywards Heath £34pp
- Fri 19 April – Boat Cruise Little Venice to Camden Lock, London £43pp
- Wed 24 April – Day In Whitstable - £24pp
- Tues 30 April – Tulips at Pashley Manor Gardens, Ticehurst £40pp
- Fri 3 May – Howletts Animal Park, Bexesbourne £42pp
- Tues 14 May – Day trip to Saffron Walden £24pp
- Thurs 30 May – Day Trip to Eastbourne £24pp
- Mon 26 August - Highclere Castle, Newbury £45pp

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**Wednesday
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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 Thursday 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.

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.



How Do We See Christmas?

How do we see Christmas? Well, in lots of different ways. Preparing all the traditional food goes on for days and days. Gathering friends and family, who eat more than they ought. Excited children laughing, thrilled by the presents Santa brought Grans and Grandpas, Mums and Dads and little girls and boys See Christmas as it ought to be, through eyes alight with joys.

Wrap gifts, write cards and send them off, make all the preparations And then bring in the Christmas tree, and our history in decorations. Especially Mavis, our old fairy, who looks unlike most fairies do In orange, satin, homemade dress, punk haircut and tattoo. We see these things just once each year as we decorate our trees Remembering Christmases with those long gone, through eyes of memories.

Poverty, grief, violence, abuse happen at Christmas too. How can we make things different with the little that we can do? Try our best, give what we can, offer prayers to our God above, To calm their hearts and heal their pain through his great gift of love. And hope that our small efforts can in some way allay the fears Of those who only see Christmas through eyes that are filled with tears.

Some, see Christmas in negative ways, are scornful of what we do. Religion is jingoism, gifts commercialism, How do they ever get through? So look at the people beside you, sitting down your aisle, Whether or not you know them, just give them a nod and a smile Be glad we have faith that helps us cope. So that we can see Christmas with eyes filled with hope.

Christ was born in Bethlehem, long ago, far, far away He brought a message, "Love God and each other" was what he had to say. For this, the authorities despised him, killed him in an awful way But he was not defeated and rose on the third day. Remember all that he did and said, the whole of the Gospel story, So that we can see the Redeemer Lord, through eyes that are filled with Glory

Lynn Hussey

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MONDAY

7.00-8.00 Beginners Ballroom & Latin Class

8.00-9.00 Improvers Ballroom & Latin Class

TUESDAY

7.30-9.30 Practice for competitors

WEDNESDAY

4.30-5.15 Children's Ballroom & Latin Classes

THURSDAY

11.00-12.00 Coffee Dance (No instruction)

1.30-2.30 Line Dancing

FRIDAY

9.30-10.15 Fit Dance

4.15-5.00 First Steps Ballet from 4 years

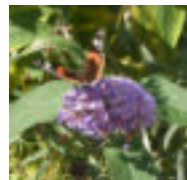
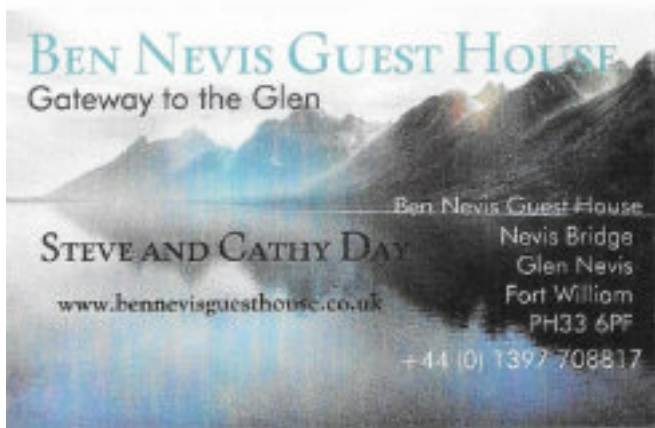
5.00-6.00 Grade 2 Ballet & Acro Ballet

6.00-7.00 Adult Tap Class

SATURDAY

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Church Registers

FUNERALS

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

John Dominic Simons

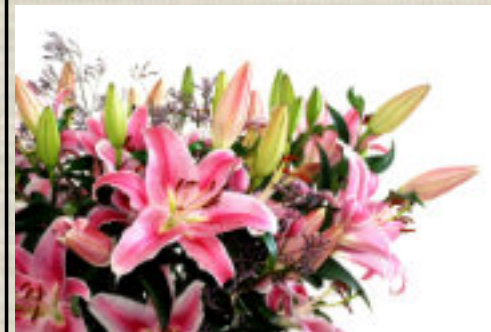
Lucy Miriam Norris

Christopher Cureton (RAF Chapel)

BURIAL OF ASHES

Derek Foulsham

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



Fields in Trust is an independent charity with over 90 years' experience protecting parks and green spaces. They work with landowners, community groups and policy makers to champion the value of our parks and green spaces to achieve better protection for their future at both local and national level.

It has been proven, parks and green spaces help people stay physically and mentally well; places where we can all move, breathe, run and play. They are an important tool to drive social cohesion, combat loneliness and build community spirit.

Fields in Trust encourage Friends of Parks groups, or "Friends", local volunteers that have historically supported parks and acted as voluntary community custodians over their use; being fundraisers, influencers, conservationists, managers, and event organisers. They have also acted as the 'eyes and ears' of our parks when they come under threat or they're being mis-managed. Friends of groups are then often the glue that keeps many a park at their best, and the actions taken by these volunteers should be valued highly.

We can secure funding for the 'extra' bits in a park such as benches, bins or swings, getting more people using the park through events and physical improvements such as fences or

planting are clear measures of impact, but how do we value the full contribution Friends make through their time and effort? It turns out that time volunteered is a tricky thing to quantify. Traditionally, volunteering value has been calculated by looking at the cost of replacing the volunteers with paid workers. In 2016, the national figure was estimated as £70m and the value of Friends volunteer hours have increased substantially over the last few years.

Unfortunately it's also been shown that the amount of time people volunteer in general is decreasing across the country. Volunteering is becoming more valuable, and sadly it may be getting rarer. Friends of groups are going to be crucial in developing the innovative new ways in

which our green spaces survive and thrive, and we could all do well to appreciate their time a little more, and perhaps join their ranks.

We can all celebrate our open green spaces in Biggin Hill, but your local Biggin Hill Friends of the Parks, working with Bromley Council and their contractors oversee The Rec, Sensory Garden, Mine Shaw, Kings Road Open Space and Jug Hill and we need your help to encourage, promote, maintain and to support us.

We need some help on our committee and to join us on volunteer days, the following are a few of the tasks we carry out.



Weeding, edging, pruning, clearing brambles, planting, litter picking, replacing post and rails, coppicing, bulb planting. If you feel you can contribute some help or want to brush up on your gardening skills, this is the place to come, as you will be given some excellent tuition. Tools, gloves are all supplied.

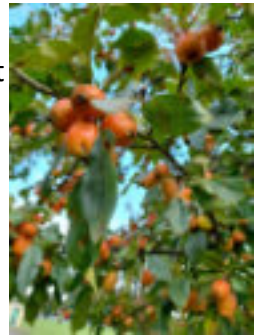
The Friends of Biggin Hill parks are a friendly but vital and passionate group of people that care for their environment and their community, but we desperately need your help. We meet every second Saturday of the month for a couple of hours to work at any one of the sites mentioned above.

Please do remember, if you live further way and cannot help Biggin Hill, consider helping your local group to look after your local parks, gardens, memorials, and open green spaces. They all desperately need help to keep them maintained.

Finally, I would like to thank Fields in Trust, using their words of wisdom from their web site.

Do join us and keep Biggin Hill a place to be proud of. Telephone Nick Hagon, 01959 575799 for further information between 6.30pm and 9 pm.

Nick Hagon (Chairman)



Easter



Good Friday 29th March

9.30am Messy Church.

There will be crafts and activities for all ages!

Followed at 10.30am 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

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Biggin Hill Residents Association

HELLO from your Biggin Hill Residents Association and welcome 2024!

The BHRA went out with a bang in 2023 with two fabulous performances of our very first Pantomime **'The Shrinking Santa Suit'**. Thank you to everyone who came and supported this event and to New Life Church for hosting the performances. We couldn't have done it without all the amazing volunteers and especially our Vice-Chair Kim for writing the fantastic script and organising this fun filled family event. Now to what we have in store for 2024! Coming up in February will be a fabulous music quiz being held at Blundells in Jail Lane. Please come and join in the fun and put your musical know how to the test! (See page 9.)

We will be holding a St Patricks Day celebration on the evening of 16th March 2024 in conjunction with St Marks' Church. This will be an evening of music and dancing with entertainment from the very talented D'arcy Spice Ceilidh Band. Tickets will include entertainment and a 2-course meal and further details on how to purchase your tickets can be found on page 9.

Please visit our website and like our Facebook page for up-to-date information on what the BHRA are doing for our community. 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>

The Arts Society Limpsfield

28th February 2024 2.15pm start

Manet's Muse: Berthe Morisot - Female impressionist artist by Caroline Levisse
Berthe was an independent career woman at the forefront of the latest artistic trends. Her bold style reflected her passion and dedication and the choice of domestic subjects was radical in its day. She was part of an artistic circle that included Edouard and Eugene Manet.

27th March 2024 2.15pm start

The Culture of Ukraine by Rosamund Bartlett

Learn Ukraine's story through the shared culture of its proud people. Its multi-ethnic history includes a rich folk culture and had an influence on modern painting and haute -couture

Held in Limpsfield Church Hall, RH8 0UD. Guests £10 on the door.

The boy who fled the Russians



This is Richard Geiger with his wife Pat. After secondary school in Strood, he trained as a graphic designer at the Gravesend School of Art and the Canterbury College of Art. Richard met his wife, Pat, at Gravesend, where she studied commercial design for 3 years.

Geiger, if you didn't know, means Fiddler, as in playing the fiddle. Yes, Geiger is a German name! His father, Eugen, was from

south Germany, the Stuttgart area; Richard's mother, Stella, came from Bushey in Hertfordshire. Both his parents were born around 1906-1908.

After school Stella worked for a while as a governess in a big house during the summer holidays. Here is an amazing literary connection: her employer was an old lady called Alice Liddell. In her childhood, Alice had known Lewis Carroll; he had taken a number of photos of her. During a boating trip Carroll told Alice a story; he turned this story into his 1865 novel, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland!

Originally from Swabia, Richard's father was an anglophile. Having completed his apprenticeship in engineering in Germany, and as there was no employment in engineering, he came to Pitman's in Hampstead to improve his English.

Stella loved German at school and became proficient, so in the mid-30s decided to go to Germany, explaining that she 'wanted to see what Mr. Hitler was getting up to.' So off she went to the historic city of Magdeburg, later flattened by the RAF and Americans, to teach English. Stella was a fine pianist and loved opera. One day Eugen and Stella saw each other at the opera, so he enrolled in her English classes. They married and set up house in Magdeburg. Stella's family wasn't too pleased, as Eugen was working as a draughtsman for Krupp, the famous engineering company and the main weapons manufacturer for Germany in both world wars. He carried on working for Krupp during the war, was therefore excused National Service. However, he knew all along the war wasn't going to go well for Germany.

Along came Richard in 1941, the youngest of the three. He remembers sleeping in the cellar of the house. Just before Liberation, he recalls the Americans coming through; the locals hung out white sheets. The only conflict in the Magdeburg area in the Old East Germany was when the Russians came through in 1945.

In that area people had been used to the Germans marching through, click click click, with their steel heeled boots. When the Americans came you heard nothing: their Doc Martens meant silence!

The family dynamics weren't that easy. Richard's brother Eugen was his mother's favourite. He did everything right. But Richard, the youngest, was the naughty one! He remembers his mother saying, 'You're a horrible boy. If the (deceased) twins had lived, I wouldn't have had you.' Richard remembers a Russian staff car coming by while he was swinging on the metal front gate. He picked up a stone and threw it at the car. The car stopped and an officer came up the garden path. His mother had a hard time pacifying him!

When the Russians came through, Richard's mother said, 'Oh Lord, that's all I need.' So she started to make plans to leave, but Richard's father would have to stay in Germany. In 1946 no Germans were allowed into England anyway.

A cousin collected a petition for the Home Office; the local MP for Hemel Hempstead was Lady Davidson. She brought up in Parliament the situation of this English-German family where the whole family was stuck in Germany. As a result of this, Richard's mother was given permission to enter England; however, they weren't allowed to leave East Germany. She went to see the Consul General of Magdeburg, a Russian. His reply was: 'Why do you want to leave with a Workers' Paradise being set up?'

After the war his mother had taken up the custom of giving tradesmen a Christmas box. One of these had access to a lorry that went to Berlin once a week. One day mother and the three children boarded the lorry, picking up other people as well. Richard remembers going through a German forest with pine trees on either side. During a comfort break in the forest, people suddenly emerged from the woods, also wanting to get on board. Even now going along a road with pine trees triggers this memory from when he was 6!

They reached Berlin and stayed with two Russian ladies, White Russians who had fled the Revolution and were living in a grand building which had not been destroyed. The family stayed for 2 days and then came the moment of truth: they went to Berlin Tempelhof airport, where they boarded a Dakota, as Richard recalls, standing nose up. He remembers looking at this aircraft and thinking, 'This is the highlight of my life.' He doesn't remember take-off, but does remember crossing the Channel. At this point



Richard with his converted 1950s Riley



Outside handbrake, dickey seat, and just look at the exhaust!

his mother was getting quite excited. They landed at RAF Northolt and went to live at Hemel Hempstead at the cousin's house who had been instrumental in their exit.

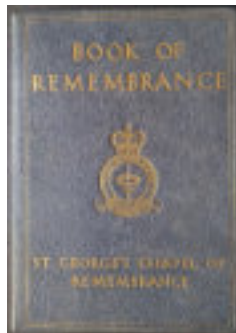
Then the family troubles really began. According to the Russian authorities, the family weren't meant to have left. His father, not having permission to come to England, kept on buying the same amount of goods with the ration books, then distributing the rest that he didn't need, but someone reported him. Richard's father was quizzed by the Russian authorities, who sentenced him to 2 years hard labour. He was used as slave labour on the building of a dam in the Harz mountains.

Meanwhile in England, Stella needed work and as she was unable to secure work in England, went to the Edinburgh High School for Boys to do teaching, taking the two eldest children with her. Richard was promptly put into a council-run children's home in Harpenden which, he says, was awful! At this stage he was aged 7. His mother found out the situation and managed to get all three children into West Lulworth Church of England children's home. This, Richard says, was the best time of his life! On the first night the lady who ran the home complimented Richard on the way he folded his clothes at bedtime!

The three of them went to the local school and at one point there was a county-wide painting competition by Brooke Bond Tea, which Richard won!

Richard's brother Eugen went back to Germany in 1959 where he still lives, and Elizabeth, his sister, became a teacher and lives in Leicester.

Book of Remembrance (buried ashes) in St George's RAF chapel – Richard has written all the names



Mark Newman

Hope, Peace, Purpose



WHAT'S THE BEST LIFE
YOU COULD EXPECT?

MARCH 7, 14 & 21

....and love? Don't we all need these things?

In March there's an opportunity to look at what the Bible says about Hope, Peace and Purpose. At St Mark's we will be running an online course on three Thursday evenings: March 7, 14 & 21

If you'd like to join, or find out what the course involves, please contact me:
marknewman1955@gmail.com

The advertisement features a background image of a bowl of spaghetti topped with meat and vegetables, with a fork lifting some spaghetti. The text 'yes you can' is written in a large, red, cursive font. Below it, 'with Slimming World' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. A red circular badge says 'FREE recipe book worth £4.95 when you commit to a Countdown course!'. A green heart-shaped badge says 'new 2024 member pack!'. A black banner at the bottom contains the address: 'BIGGIN HILL BLUNDELLS SQUASH CLUB JAIL LANE (OPP CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL) TN16 3AV WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00AM + 6:00PM CALL SOPHIE ON 07929 365228'. The Slimming World logo is in the bottom right corner, with the tagline 'touching hearts, changing lives'.

Happy New Year!

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

Cllr Sophie Dunbar - 07929 365228 sophie.dunbar@bromley.gov.uk

Thinking all things New Year and what 2024 might bring us, we were asked what would be our hopes for the community of Biggin Hill and how we could influence and make bring them to fruition.

Luke 10:22 - "You shall love the Lord your God ...and your neighbour as yourself", gave us the foundation of community thinking, and allowed us to compile the following things to concentrate on.

Unity – we would wish to bring all of the community together, building relationships, caring for each other and looking out for our neighbours!

We are actively involved in Safer Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. An arrangement of residents coming together and being on the lookout for each other. Think of it as a form of an added burglar alarm, CCTV, or ring doorbell system, but with a quicker response time? To run a Watch it would need someone to take control and feed out information received by email regarding scams, alerts, tips and ideas on keeping safe, not only at home, but also while out and about. Email, WhatsApp groups, text messages are all quick and easy ways to relay the information, and warn each other of suspicious things happening, but the old fashioned pen and paper is still an option.

We hope that more willing residents will come forward and take responsibility of their own small community area/road/close/avenue, to make it safe for all.

Prosperity – we have thriving hubs of shops and retailers throughout Biggin Hill, offering an array of goods and services. To use them means not to lose them!

We continue to fight against paid parking on Main Road, hikes in business rates and rents to landlords whilst being realistic of the need for all to cover costs. We promote small shopping parades and bid for grant funding to improve the areas. We get involved with litter picking, street sign cleaning and are forever using Fix My Street to get things done.

We hope, that we all look to our local shops and retailers, before we buy on line?

Exercise – we are proud to have been involved with the bid for grant funding to install an outdoor gym in the rec. Friends of the Parks and one particular gentlemen, worked hard and diligently to get the necessary money for this project.

We hope that all residents will take the opportunity to make use of the equipment in a bid to make us all healthier, happier and be a fitter community.

Council Assets – in other words buildings. By managing your own household budget you will appreciate how the council feels in setting and then maintaining its budget? The same £££ come in but a much larger amount of £££ is going out! The council has to look to its own households, building within Biggin and making sure that they all match the income ££££ and the outgoing £££.

We hope that by working closely with the council that we are able to make good use of the buildings that we have, regenerate the ones that need and provide the services required by the community.

Love and understanding – if we love the Lord as we love ourselves, then the transition to our neighbours is easy?

We all need to work and be part of a team, not many of us thrive in isolation? Teams are strength. Teams are accountable. Teams make "things" happen, develop and come to fruition. They give comfort, assistance, support, understanding and love and caring.

We hope that we can continue to build and nurture, together the wonderful teams that build on relationships, and provide Biggin Hill that unique and much envied community.

Finally we hope for us, for the good grace, strength, tolerance and willingness, as individuals, and as a team, to be able to serve you to the best of our abilities for the year of 2024.



Mathew 5:15 "Neither do people light a lamp nor put in under a bowl. Instead they put in on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house".

We hope that every resident that needs our help, finds our light, trust and confides in us and always know that we are here when you need us.

Please follow us on our Facebook page, a useful way to get information and follow our antics and exploits as we work for and within the Community.

Always fighting for our community of Biggin Hill!



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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 701765
New Life Church	01959 571667
NHS help line when you need medical advice	111
Police: Non Emergency Reporting	101
Local Safer Neighbourhood Team:	
Princess Royal University Hospital	020 8721 2820
St. Mark's Parish Office	01689 863000
St. George's Memorial Chapel	01959 577816
Schools - Biggin Hill Primary	01959 570353
Charles Darwin Secondary	01959 575846
Cudham Primary	01959 574043
Oaklands Primary	01959 572673
Tatsfield Primary	01959 573963
Samaritans (Local branch) - 01689 833 000	01959 577356
Textphone for hard of hearing	24 hr - 08457 90 90 90
Spitfire Youth Centre	08457 90 91 92
St. John Ambulance	01959 574835
Thames Water	01959 701281
Trading Standards Rogue Traders Rapid Response	0845 920 0800
Valley Hall Community Association	07903 852 090
Victim Support Scheme	01959 573917/570020
Westerham Hill Baptist Church	0208 776 7071
	01732 867516



The Next Moving Church News

Month	Deadline	Publication Date
April - May	8 th March	24 th March
June - July	17 th May	2 nd June
August - September	12 th July	28 th July
October - November	13 th September	29 th September

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.

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