

# The Moving Church News

A Church and Community Magazine  
St. Mark's Church Biggin Hill



February - March 2025



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# Welcome to the Moving Church News

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

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### FRONT COVER - COMPASSION UK

How do you solve a problem like poverty?

Well, how much do you spend per month on drinks and meals away from home? Compassion UK runs a child sponsorship programme across 29 countries. This brings each child a future and a hope.

Compassion speaker Lisa Leaf came to St Mark's on Sunday 19th January to talk about the work of the charity. To sponsor a child costs £32 per month. (How many coffees out does that represent?!) In the words of the charity 'Our approach to fighting poverty is highly focused and personal. We show every child that they matter.'

Six of our church members signed up to sponsor a child, while others already have their own child. You can find out more about the charity by looking at their website

<https://www.compassionuk.org/>

# 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),

# Unbelievable Mistake During Take-off

It was a Monday evening in November 2014. It was dark and foggy.

A Gulfstream III business jet, bound for Newfoundland, was due to take off from Biggin Hill airport. The captain, age 36, had over 4,000 hours experience flying, the bulk in Gulfstream III. His co-pilot was less experienced. There were 5 passengers on board.

From the control tower came the message: 'Taxi and hold short at J1, runway 03.' They waited for clearance and performed the pre-flight checklist. Then came this message: 'We are having low-level fog patches at the airfield. Very low, very thin fog from the 03 threshold to approximately down the runway, then it looks completely clear.' Then from the Tower: 'Cleared for take-off runway 03, have a good flight.'

At 8.28pm the plane moved from Holding Point J1 and aligned with the runway. What they didn't know was that instead of aligning the plane with the centre of the runway, they had chosen the right edge, 3m to the right. As the plane picked up speed, the landing gear passed over the runway edge lights, but after 250m the tarmac ran out. The plane ended up on grass, the nose gear collapsed, and the flight was aborted.

The crew thought there was lighting down the centre of the runway, but this information was not available on their iPad app charts. They had the illusion they were in the centre. Fortunately all 7 people on board were unhurt, but the plane was a write-off.

The Christian faith has something important to say about direction, and how we are aligned. During our lives, we can imagine all sorts of things, but sometimes we find we are in the wrong place, or with the wrong people, or going the wrong way. Jesus said: 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'

CS Lewis observed that with teachings such as these, Jesus had to be either: mad, making himself so unique; or bad, because he was therefore misleading others; or he was God.

I hope your take-off into 2025 went well!

Mark Newman





# Ukraine Appeal

## Urgent Winter Appeal for the Harsh Ukrainian Winter

Supporting Ukraine defend its country and its people  
Ukraine Relief Drop Off for Biggin Hill and surrounds.

Contact telephone number and email for Lynne Martin to collect or you to deliver to me - 07809198202 funkystork2@hotmail.co.uk



Frontline troops, including those in the trenches bravely fight on. Many families remain in temporary accommodation and they and others in their own homes are without power for up to 20 hours each day. These are wretched conditions. Please once again reach out to them and demonstrate that we stand with them. The urgency for all medical items has never been greater and the need for camping gear yet still also of the highest priority.



Priorities: Medical, camping gear, generators, food, items for babies are top priorities. FPV Drones, Generators, military uniforms and warm clothing and boots. Outdoor and waterproof clothing, T shirts, pants, workwear gloves.

Tents (2 to 8 man); Sleeping bags (all, preferably to -10c) Camp beds, mats, and Groundsheets, Bedding (single most urgent) Candles (used as the means of warming food in the trenches). Tinned items - fish, beans, soup, vegetables, potatoes and seasoning, salt, and pepper, rice, noodles, pasta packets or tinned and flour (sturdy containers) Other powdered food to add boiling water. Milk items: Evaporated or powdered milk, long life milk, tea, coffee, cocoa, chocolate drinks, sugar. Nuts, dried fruit, energy bars, cereals, biscuits and peanut butter, jelly, and jam. Barocca calcium fizzy drink tablets and water purification tablets.



Thank you. Together to victory. "IN UNITY IS OUR STRENGTH"  
Many thanks on behalf of the Ukrainian people,

## 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

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

Please contact Rosemary Spurway on 01959 575717



DAY TRIPS BIGGIN HILL AREA  
PICK UP - OPPOSITE WAITROSE, MAIN ROAD, BIGGIN HILL

- Wednesday 12 February - Orchid Festival at Kew Gardens - £43pp
- Monday 17 February - Day in Greenwich - £25pp
- Thursday 20 February - Wellford Park Snowdrops (Home of Bake Off) Newbury - £36pp
- Friday 28 February - Day in Brighton - £25pp
- Monday 3 March - Ightham Moat, Sevenoaks - £40pp NT - £23pp
- Thursday 6 March - Vyne House, Hants, inc Jane Austen guided tour £45pp NT £29pp
- Wednesday 12 March - Visit to the Great Hall & Westgate Museum, Winchester - £33pp
- Tuesday 25 March - Day Trip to Whitstable - £25pp
- Thursday 10 April - Day Trip to Oxford to inc. guided tour of the 600year old Bodleian Library - £38pp
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April - Day Trip to Arundel, Sussex - £25pp
- Wednesday 16 April - (Full) Highclere Castle, Hampshire - £46pp
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Day in Southend - £26pp
- Monday 28 April - Tulip Festival at Pashley Manor Gardens, Sussex - £41pp
- Saturday 21 June - (Closing date for tickets 01/03) Duxford Air Show, Cambridge - £70pp

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# The Story of the Blakes

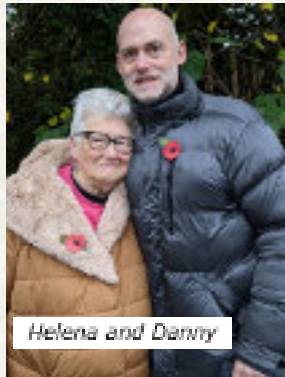
Helena Blake was born in Old Tye Avenue in 1938, where she still lives. Her mother, Daisy, was from Bermondsey; her father, Arthur, had been born in Hillcrest Road in 1910. The couple moved into Old Tye the day they got married in 1937.



Grandfather is front right

The Blakes were a well-known clan in the Village. Originally, her great-great-grandfather had married in Biggin Hill in 1832 and was landlord of the original Black Horse! Helena's paternal grandfather was one of 8 Blakes. The family, 8 boys, had all lived in Biggin Hill at Mill House (as did Sheila Blundell!). Meanwhile, her paternal grandmother was one of 9 girls.

Arthur lived in seven different houses in Biggin Hill, which included Westacott, a farmhouse on the site of what was to be the airfield. He was one of the first pupils at Biggin Hill school on Main Road. As a boy, Arthur had got a Saturday job at Abbot's bakery by the school on Main Road when deliveries were done by horse and cart. Later he used his bike to go from house to house, out as far as Leaves Green and Tatsfield, as well as in the Village. He talked of the 1927 snow being up to the windows.



Helena and Dorothy

Later he was appointed as a police Special in the Village, investigating any military activity, for example a plane crash. The deposit for the house in Old Tye came to £25 followed by the main payment, £400. He had said: 'I'm going to live here, and not go out till I'm in my box.' This turned out to be true.

At 18 months Helena went to live with the lady that had raised her mother, who had been orphaned at age 10. 'Nanny' lived in Yew Tree Cottage on the corner of Melody Road and Spring Gardens. In 1942 Arthur was called up. As a professional cook, Arthur wasn't required for combat. In Scotland he trained to cater for 700 men in a field kitchen.

When living at Yew Tree Cottage, Helena remembers several tearful experiences of walking up from the Valley, her father in uniform, as he caught the bus to go on service. First he was sent to Italy, where he survived a torpedo



Yew Tree cottage

attack in the Mediterranean. He ended up in Naples, the year Vesuvius erupted! Next he was sent to India in 1944, returning two years later. Helena still has the letters he sent. She has great affection for her dad, and looked after him in Old Tye till he was 95. Arthur's brother Harold lived at the corner of Lusted Hall Lane, and Richard, another brother, ran the Sunningvale service station.

To get to school from Yew Tree Cottage, Helena walked up Polesteep, or the Pinewoods at the beginning of The Grove. She was in the same class as David Watts. She went to Sunday School at the Baptist Church, run by Mr Sackett, held at what is now the Children and Family Centre, Churchside Close. This is where also Brownies met. In 1947, the year of the deep snow, she returned to Old Tye, attending Sunday School at the Tin Tabernacle. She was confirmed at 13. She also learned craft at the house of Mrs Jones in Hillcrest Road.

Mother did her shopping at Temples Store. There were few other shops just after WWII, but several operated a delivery service.

After demobilisation, the first thing Arthur taught Helena was to ride a bike. At that time, Old Tye was covered in pebbles. She and her friends used to ride right round the large Cedar Tree.

Helena went to Bromley Grammar School in Nightingale Lane. Pupils were then selected to do languages, otherwise needlework and cooking. Helena was one of 4 or 5 from Biggin Hill that year. One was Daphne Whitehead, related to Sheila Blundell. Until 1949 children of secondary age would stay on at the primary school till 14 or 15, but the year Helena started secondary, 1949, all Biggin Hill secondary children went to school in Bromley. West Kent Motors provided a coach service. Most boys went to Quernmore, girls to Burnt Ash.

Helena worked for 5 years at an accountant's in Widmore Road. To get to work, she bought a bike on HP from Watsons on The Pantiles: repayments were 10 shillings a week. She discovered the delights of cycling with friends to Eastbourne. In 1946 Brian Morris's family came to the Village. His mum was cook at Biggin Hill school. Brian had been a pupil at Beckenham Technical School, which transferred to Keston and was renamed Ravenswood School. As was often the case, Brian and Helena met at a dance at the W.I. Hall, and both had learned to dance under Shirley Cox.





Brian and Helena were the first couple to get married in the new St Mark's. Unusually, it took place on Sunday 14 June 1959. Both dads were afraid to ask for a Saturday off!



After a year Brian and Helena went to live in Southsea for 6 years, as Brian had been offered a job there. He specialised in domestic appliances, then deep freezers, which had just been developed. He went on to develop cold rooms, blood banks and chilled computer rooms. The first supermarket Helena remembers was Victor Value in Portsmouth.



Brian loved technical hobbies: he built two racing cars, a trials car, and a scrambler bike. Helena did once have a go at grass track racing on the Layhams Road autocross circuit. Their boys, Ricky and Danny, learned to race cars; this took them all over the country. Sadly, Ricky died of Covid in 2020.

Brian decided to buy a 37ft cruiser which they kept on the Medway. This took them to France, the Channel Islands, Belgium and Holland. Once in the Channel near Le Havre, a rope got caught round the prop. Brian put a rope round his waist, dived down and cut the rope in two!

Helena found plenty to occupy herself: she worked in the kitchen at Biggin Hill and Cudham schools. Later she worked for Mr Marshall the chemist for 11 years.

In recent years Helena took over the running of the annual Biggin Hill Reunion from Sheila Blundell. The 2024 numbers were around 50.

What has been the greatest pleasure for Helena living in Biggin Hill? She believes she grew up in the best period when there was the freedom as a child to walk anywhere in a village of about 1,000 inhabitants.



Brian and Helena:  
Golden wedding

Mark Newman

#### DOING & WORKING

St.Teresa "We cannot do great things, we can only do little things with great love".

St.Augustine "Work as if everything depended on you and pray as if everything depended on God."

Barry

10

# Do you like Gardening?

*Then why not join us?*

## BIGGIN HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### 2025 EVENTS

#### Evening talk:

**Wednesday March 19th 7.30 for 8pm**

"Vegetable Growing, Ideas and Advice

Speaker: Barry Newman

#### SPRING FLOWER SHOW 3pm

Saturday April 5th

#### Evening talk:

**Wednesday April 16th 7.30 for 8pm**

Exhibiting and Growing Sweet Peas

Speaker: Bryan Everest

#### PLANT SALE 10 -12 MIDDAY

Saturday May 17th

*(Please bring your own bags)*

#### Evening talk:

**Wednesday May 21st 7.30 for 8pm**

"Gardening is Fun - Ask the Kids! Interactive Talk.

Speaker: Marie Shallcross

**all held at:**

**St Mark's Church Hall, Church Road,  
Biggin Hill.**

For more information please contact :

**Membership Secretary Helen Wanford on:  
07866 706165**

*(Yearly subscription £10.00 per household)*

[www.bigginhillhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillhorticulturalsociety.co.uk)

**Facebook: Biggin Hill & District Horticultural Society**



## Biggin Hill Community Care Association at the Christmas Tree Festival 2024 at St Marks Church, Biggin Hill

There were two contributions from Biggin Hill Community Care Association to the Christmas Tree Festival at St Marks Church.



The Day Centre tree was covered with a variety of decorations, some of which showed photos of some of the members who enjoy the activities and company that the group offers. Alongside the tree there was a basket filled with small parcels numbered for use as an Advent calendar.



The other tree was decorated by the Art group. This year the theme was Christmas jumpers. The group spent some happy hours painting wooden blanks cut into the shape of a jumper. There were over 70 that were decorated in many colourful imaginative different designs.

Pat Robb

**Moving Model Display**  
**Saturday 15 March**  
**10.30-15.00 in St Mark's Church Hall**



*Bring your own loco or  
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**Test your skill - Refreshments - Free entry**

**For display space contact  
 Mark Newman 07837 001893**

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## Wednesday Lunch Club The Friendly Club!

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

## Biggin Hill Day Centre

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

Start the day with a cuppa and a chat!

Morning and afternoon activities. Three course lunch cooked on the premises. The Centre is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Centre provides respite for carers

## Do you have difficulty doing your grocery shopping?

## Assisted 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.

## Art Group

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

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

You can also visit our website: [bigginhillcommunitycare.org](http://bigginhillcommunitycare.org) or scan the QR code.

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



## VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

BHCCA needs help with transport for our members for the Lunch Club (Wednesdays) and the Assisted Shopping (Thursday mornings). If you are able to use your own car to help and would like more details, please call Annette on 01959 700411 (for the shopping) or the Centre number 01959 577400 (for the Lunch Club.)



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CONTACT: [www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk/leave-a-legacy-in-your-will/](http://www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk/leave-a-legacy-in-your-will/)

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## BAPTISM AT ST. MARK'S



Mason Songhurst was baptised on Sunday 12th January 2025. He is seen in the photograph with his parents Molly and Billy and lots of baptism guests!

# MINI CABS

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LICENSED MINI CABS

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# Reverend Graham J Kitts

In early November my wife and I had the privilege to have a tour of St Mark's Church at Biggin Hill - The Moving Church - and we are grateful to Mrs Chris Reeks, the Church Administrator, for showing us around. How wonderful to see a relatively modern miracle of faith and God's provision.

Having been brought up in Cornwall I had often heard my mother speak of her cousin, The Reverend Vivian Symons and his project to move a Church from London to Biggin Hill - but for my mind, at the time as a teenager, I couldn't imagine someone undertaking such a task on one's own, indeed I had no concept; no idea of the complex work involved.

Then one day my mother announced that her cousin was visiting his parents and the family at Trenwheal, a small rural hamlet, not far from where we lived and that we had been invited for afternoon tea - that was probably in 1957. Arriving we were met by my great aunt, delighted to see us, and coming out of the workshop was my mother's cousin, Vivian, small of stature, to greet us too. To my surprise he was wearing his clerical collar, a cap on his head, in overalls and smoking a cigarette! As I recall he was telling my father he was seeking out some Cornish granite stone whilst he was down. My father, who would have known many quarries in the locality might have been of help, I am not sure. However, at St Mark's, Biggin Hill when I saw the bases in Cornish granite holding the candlesticks on the altar I confess I had to touch them and the beaten metalwork too. What an emotional delight!



Now retired myself from active Church ministry, I felt it would be inappropriate to leave without giving thanks for the work undertaken in the 50's as The Moving Church and so my wife, Dian, read some verses from the Psalms and I followed with a spontaneous prayer of thanksgiving for The Reverend Vivian Symons, his faith and diligence. I was standing in the place where he had prayed and preached often .....now that was a privilege!

Reverend Graham J Kitts

## The Arts Society, Limpsfield

The Arts Society Limpsfield began as Limpsfield Decorative and Fine Arts Society over 40 years ago. It covers a wide range of interests, with a programme of lectures, visits, tours and special interest days.

Future events include:

**The History of Art in Wallpaper** Jo Banham, Wednesday 26 February 2025  
AFTERNOON LECTURE ONLY 2.15pm start Limpsfield Church Hall RH8 ODG

**The Frick Collection and the Wallace collection and their connection with Knole** by Hilary Williams, Wednesday 26 March 2025. AFTERNOON LECTURE 2.15, refreshments served BEFORE. Repeated EVENING LECTURE 7.30.

More details on the website: [theartsocietylimpsfield.org.uk](http://theartsocietylimpsfield.org.uk)

Five Elms PCN

### Biggin Hill Health and Wellbeing Cafe

Join us at our cafe for a health and wellbeing session and other activities.

The cafe will take place between 10am - 12pm on

**the second Friday of each month at**

St. Mark's Parish Centre,

10, Church Road,

Biggin Hill, TN16 3LB

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# Church Registers

## BAPTISMS

“We welcome you in the name of the Lord”

**Mason Michael Songhurst**

## FUNERALS

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

**Patricia Ann Carol Clark**

**John (Jack) Derek Martyn**

**Sheila Blundell**

**Beryl Ivy Stokes**

**Lawrence Ellis Holdstock Thirkell**

**Paul Frederick Wohlgemuth**

**David Mervyn Benest Marquis**

## BURIAL OF ASHES

**William (Bill) Pavitt**

**Violet Sylvia Mould**

**Valerie Ann Musselwhite**

## 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



# St Mark's Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair was held during the Christmas Tree Festival at the beginning of December last year. A good number of people attended, and a good time was had by all! We were beautifully entertained by the Fairchildes Primary School Choir who sang some lovely Christmas songs.

Just over £2300 was raised for Church Funds and thanks go to Fairchildes Primary School and to Coolings, Biggin Hill Newsagent and Post Office, Waitrose and The Original Factory Shop for their kind donations.



# 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
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- > Tablets
- > Televisions
- > Wireless Security Cameras



07375 416 176

dan@kisit.co.uk



# Your Local Councillors

Your truly Independent Councillors – acting on behalf of the community, not only within the Village but also at the Council!

Facebook: follow the QR Code

Maybe a bit late, but Happy New Year and all that it will bring to our Village. At the start of each year, most people think of resolutions, and we are no different, but we also look to our work plan and what hopes with have either finish off projects already started, but also what we hope to achieve for the next 12 months.



Our work diaries are very much driven by you, our residents, but we also have more global ward agendas we like to concentrate on: .....

**Crime & Order** – we work closely with our Safer Neighbourhood Police Team and Borough Chief Super Superintendent, holding regular meetings to ensure the voice of Biggin Hill is heard and listened to. We support The Safer Neighbourhood Watch Road Schemes which have prospered with more people wishing to help themselves by helping each other to live in a safe and harmonious environment. However we need you! Reporting crime, unusual happenings (however innocent it may look, if it has piqued your interest it needs reporting!) and anti-social behaviour will help us to help you and the Police in cracking down on crime in our area. Telephone 101 for non-urgent criminal matters – 999 for crime in action. Log on to the internet for at leisure reporting - [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org) - [met.police.uk](http://met.police.uk)

**Green and Open Spaces** – We work tirelessly to protect and enhance our local environment. We are in the process, and welcome your ideas, of working up plans to improve the offer for our teenagers at in Kings Road Rec, please follow the contact details above. We continue to support interested parties in the development of the Pavilion on Church Road Recreational Ground, as well as assist with the development of plans for the future of the Spitfire Youth Centre and other council buildings.

**Planning & Development** - With the increase of housing targets for Bromley from 700+ to over 3000+ and the potential for central government to review and dictate building on our green belt land, we are very much aware that here, in Biggin Hill, with so much rural land, that we are in danger of having developments forced on us. We will, and would call on our residents, to support us in fighting inappropriate planning applications and development.

Melanie Stevens – [Melanie.stevens@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:Melanie.stevens@bromley.gov.uk) Telephone: 07900 171266  
Sophie Dunbar – [Sophie.dunbar@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:Sophie.dunbar@bromley.gov.uk) Telephone: 07929 365228

## SHIRLEY COX DANCE STUDIO 24, Aperfield Rd. Biggin Hill TN16 3LU

### 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

10.00-12.00 Coffee Dance  
1.30-2.30 Line Dancing

### FRIDAY

9.30-10.15 Fit Dance  
4.15-5.00 Ballet from 6 years  
5.00-6.00 Grade 2/3 Ballet & Acrobatic Dance  
6.00-6.45 Adult Tap Class

### SATURDAY

Private Lessons

All enquiries please tel: 01959 572859  
or email [info@shirleycoxdance.co.uk](mailto:info@shirleycoxdance.co.uk)



# Hedges With Environmental Benefits

New housing sites are emerging, and established properties are welcoming new owners. Installing driveways, enhancing privacy with fencing and new hedge rows. There is a rash of evergreen hedges starting to emerge, particularly the cherry laurel. It is warmly encouraging to see hedges planted but are we planting the right plant?

The cherry laurel, common laurel or *Prunus laurocerasus*, originally from Eastern Europe and parts of Asia, has been with us since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. They have scented flowers, glossy green leaves and produce berries. The flowers are adored by bees and butterflies, its dense structure offers winter protection to wildlife and berries are loved by birds and mammals. But it has its black side. It is poisonous and can be invasive if allowed, potentially harmful and will release cyanide gas, when cut or chipped through a chipper. The operator could breath in the fumes and may cause dizziness. Therefore, if grown along boundaries, eaten by livestock, wildlife and pets, they could potentially become ill. It is invasive if not managed properly, a rapid grower, thrives almost anywhere and undergrowth becomes void over time. It can seed itself, spread by layering and can grow as high as trees. Keeping the hedge cut will not produce flowers or produce berries for wildlife.

Are there alternatives? Yes, there are many, both evergreen and deciduous, (loses leaves in winter). The following are just a few to consider.

The Portuguese laurel or *Prunus lusitanica* has dark green glossy leaves, non-poisonous berries and sweetly fragrant flowers, but is a slower grower. It originates from Portugal and Spain and will tolerate high temperatures and will provide a pleasant appearance.



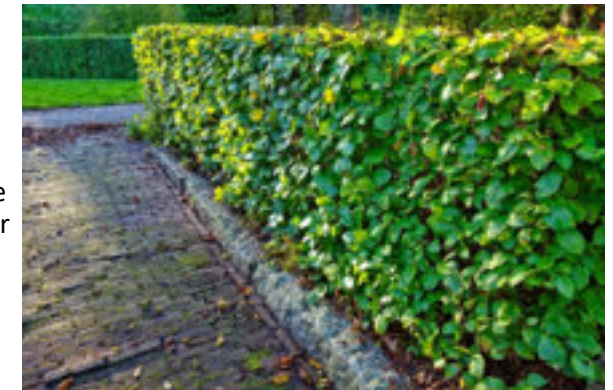
*Taxus baccata* or common yew, historically used and still is in large estates and gardens, it is slow grower but provides privacy, is evergreen and an excellent windbreak. It can be expensive if purchased as a large specimen but cheaper if bought root balled. Grows in a wide range of soils, except wet ground, offers protection and nesting opportunities for birds and mammals. The leaves are poisonous, so too is the seed within the red berry, however birds devour them.

*Photinia 'Red Robin'* is an evergreen with glossy green leaves and brilliant red young leaves. It behaves as a perfect hedging plant or specimen plant, exceptionally hardy and drought tolerant. Will need trimming twice a year to form a dense hedge. It has its flaws like any hedge, is prone to leaf spot, root rot and new growth may be damaged by frost.

*Berberis stenophylla*, produces a spiky dense habit hedge with nectar rich fragrant yellow flowers in late spring, early summer, followed by purple berries. It is an ideal plant for enhanced privacy and will grow in sun or shade.

The deciduous hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) hedge, have both been used extensively for decades, forming an excellent thick hedge and their leaves stay on well into winter. Far cheaper alternative to containerised plants, purchased as bare rooted plants, often used in many private gardens. Will form a decent hedge within five years, tolerates hard pruning if required.

The ideal hedge for wildlife is a mixed hedge, comprising of hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, beech, hornbeam, wild rose or spindle. Provides food for wildlife, shelter, habitats and rich nectar for pollinators. They too will enhance privacy and will blend in with surrounding hedgerows along country roads.



Before deciding, look around, visit gardens, ask homeowners before opting for the cheaper alternative that the nursery offers you. Whatever type of hedge is chosen, management is important for growth and quality of hedge.

When planting a hedge, ground preparation is crucial to ensure the plants establish well, by adding soil improvement such as well rotted compost or manure. Plant during autumn and winter, water the plants well prior to planting. If using bare rooted plants, soak them in water before planting. Dig the soil to a spade depth, creating a trench and place each plant 18" or 45cms apart, using a spade, moving the prepared soil around the root ball and firm with your foot. For bare rooted plants, plant them in a staggered line, 5 to each metre and water well afterwards. For containerised plants, preparation is the same, plant 75cms to one metre apart, depending on the size of plant. If planting out of season, ensure plants are well watered and a mulch will help establishment.

**Biggin Hill & District Horticultural Society - Wednesday March 19th**  
**"Vegetable Growing, Ideas and Advice" by Barry Newman.** Get one step ahead as the season approaches by getting first class advice from a respected and well experienced grower.

All our talks are at St Marks Church Hall, Church Road, Biggin Hill. Doors open at 7.30 for 8pm start, refreshments at 9pm and the evening finishes at 10pm.



Friends of the Parks, are keen and passionate people about their surroundings, particularly managing The Rec, Kings Road, Sensory Garden and Mine Shaw. We know many of you enjoy and appreciate the efforts of the group, but we are a small bunch and would like more help. Not only is it good for the body, soul and exercise, but it also gives you an opportunity to learn more about gardening. We can give practical advice on site from pruning, propagation, weeding and general gardening, while maintaining the gardens and woodlands.

The next work part is on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February in Kings Road, followed by 18<sup>th</sup> February in Mine Shaw and 8<sup>th</sup> March in the Sensory Garden at 9.30am. Please bring your own gardening gloves, suitable footwear and warm clothing. Tools and a cuppa are provided.

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

## St Mark's Christingle Services

Nearly 400 adults and children attended the two Christingle Services held at St Mark's Church on Christmas Eve.

At the services the sum of £305.75 was raised for The Children's Society.



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**BIGGIN HILL**  
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## The St. Mark's Singers at the Carol Service



### **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.

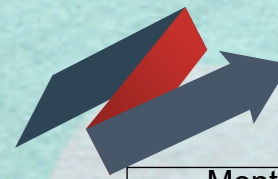
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### **St. Mark's Church, Biggin Hill - People's Prayer**

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 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
01959 572209 or	
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
RAF Biggin Hill Memorial Museum & Chapel	01959 422414
St. Mark's Parish Office	01959 577816
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 (12pm)	Issue Date
April - May	14 <sup>th</sup> March	30 <sup>th</sup> March
June - July	16 <sup>th</sup> May	1 <sup>st</sup> June
Aug - Sept	18 <sup>th</sup> July	3 <sup>rd</sup> August
Oct - Nov	12 <sup>th</sup> September	28 <sup>th</sup> September
Dec - Jan	14 <sup>th</sup> November	30 <sup>th</sup> November

The Moving Church News is published every two months. For more information or for advertisement enquiries please contact Neil Walker - [neil.walkerz@gmail.com](mailto:neil.walkerz@gmail.com) - 01959 700815 or through the Parish Office

Contributions are welcome especially from local community groups or schools. Please contact Neil as above.

Parish office: 01959 577816

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

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



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

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

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

### ADVERTISE HERE!

**An advert in full colour costs from just £60 per year.**

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Provide your own material or we will design an advert for you

Contact Neil for more details

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