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October & November 2026

The Moving Church News A Church and Community Magazine





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

Forthcoming Events

Rock Choir Concert - Saturday October 10th (page 21)

Remembrance Service - Sunday 8th November (page 14)

Contents

Services at St. Mark's	4
Welcome to Biggin Hill - Revd Scott Davies	5
Licensing and Installation of Revd Scott Davies	8
At St. Mark's...	10
Art Group	11
Remembrance Parade and Service	14
Church Registers	19
Flowers for Church	19
Rock Choir Concert at St. Mark's Church	21
Praying for Biggin Hill	24
Inject Some Autumn Colour Into Your Garden	25
Bromley Trading Standards Advice	28
Community Telephone Numbers	30
The Next Moving Church News	31

Front Cover: Bishop of Tonbridge, Revd Scott Davies and
the Mayor of Bromley. Please page 8 for more details.

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 Scott Davies

Church Wardens	Patrick O Sullivan	01959 572684
	Caroline Budimir	01959 576093

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

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

Services at St. Mark's

First Sunday in the month

10.30am All Age Worship

Other Sundays

10.30am Parish Communion

*Please note the service on 8th November
will start at 9.30am (Remembrance Sunday)*

Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion Service

Welcome to Biggin Hill!

At least, that's the case for me! As you read this, I will now have been licensed as Priest-in-Charge (Vicar) of St. Mark's. For reference, I am the one in the middle on the front cover of this magazine. After three weeks of moving and then settling in, it is great to finally get started.

If anyone has ever moved house recently, you will have experienced the joys and the difficulties of what this process is like.

On the one hand, there are the joys of meeting new people. Already, we have been welcomed by a number of you – thank you! There is also the excitement of discovering what the new community looks like, how to get around, and finding out about the different activities that go on. Alongside that, there are the important things to discover, like: when do the bins go out? How long will it take for the Wi-Fi to start working?

On the other hand, there are the frustrations. Like trying to work through emptying all the boxes and stripping many layers of wallpaper. Alongside that, there are the questions of when the bins go out and how long it will take for the Wi-Fi to start working!

Whenever we move somewhere, as well as the excitement, we also experience a sense of loss – this is natural and inevitable of course, as when we move, we must come from another place. Somewhere that was 'home' before. What are the other places you used to call 'home' before Biggin Hill? Do you still look back on them with fondness and nostalgia?

For us as a family, the immediate place before was St. Helens, in Merseyside. If you don't know it, it's somewhere between Liverpool and Manchester. It's a large town which was historically significant for its glass production (and still is), but presently you may have heard of it because of its Rugby League team. It was also the town where I started my life, spent my schooldays, and where I still have some family whom we will miss.

While there, I spent a number of years as Vicar of St. David's Parish Church and Riverbank Café Church. Two very different churches, but both filled with lovely people, and it was very sad to say goodbye.

In the Bible (which is well worth a read!), there are lots of stories of people moving. Sometimes, journeys had to happen quickly, while others took many years, and some covered over a thousand miles! All of them would have been exciting as well as stressful. All of them would have had moments looking back and remembering significant times and places, but also moments of looking ahead excitedly to what was coming next.

For me, one of my most significant moments in life took place as a young person growing up in St. Helens. My Dad was a coal miner for many years, and the community I lived in was full of people who had family and friends who also worked there at the time. Sadly, in the 1980s, my family went through a turbulent period (as did many others) as they got caught up in the Miners' Strike.

However, while it was difficult and stressful for my parents, we were also hugely blessed by the local church. They were a real blessing to the local people and helped practically in many ways, both to my parents and to many other families. It was through this that we then decided to go to church and from then became followers of Jesus ourselves.

One of the overriding memories of that church was its welcome and its sense of community. But also that the time while being a really difficult time to go through as a family, it was also a time when God really blessed us.

There was a promise that God made to some people as they were on a journey of sorts in a difficult place:

Isaiah 41:13:

"For I hold you by your right hand— I, the Lord your God. And I say to you, 'Don't be afraid. I am here to help you.'"

They were facing a difficult part of their lives, both as families and also a nation.

The promise they were to hold on to was knowing that God was there and knowing that God would help them. As they were to find not long afterwards, this promise came to fruition. They found out then, as many times before, from experience that God sticks with them.

Both my family and I have been hugely blessed in St. Helens, but already we have been blessed in Biggin Hill by the welcome we have received. It is clear that there is a great sense of community here, which we will enjoy getting to know.

However, whatever happens in the time ahead, through joys and difficulties, we know that we have a God who is right there alongside us. God was with us as we left one place, moved house, and is with us as we, as a family, learn to settle in with the

big changes we have undertaken. We know that we will be blessed being here.

You too, whether new to Biggin Hill or maybe have been here for many years, will face many joys and difficulties as you move forwards through life. I hope you too accept an invitation to find this God who has been there for us and for many others besides us.

We look forward to continuing our journey here with you in Biggin Hill.

Blessings to you all!

Revd Scott Davies



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***The Licensing by
The Right Reverend Simon Burton-Jones
Bishop of Tonbridge
and Installation by The Venerable Allie Kerr Archdeacon
of Bromley and Bexley
of The Reverend Scott Davies to be Priest-in-Charge
of St Mark's Church, Biggin Hill
took place on Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7.00pm***

The Licensing and Installation of Scott Davies as the Priest-in-Charge at St. Mark's Church was a unique experience. The ceremony included many parts symbolising Scott's role at St Mark's and his continued commitment to his faith. Not only that but also the promise of support from the church, the congregation as well as the local organisations and services. It was therefore a gathering of many aspects of the community of Biggin Hill which was lovely! We were also blessed with the presence of The Mayor of Bromley, Councillor, Christine Harris. This service is very important because it establishes the official start of a new leader for St Mark's which we are truly looking forward to.

You may know that Bishop Simon Burton-Jones started his service by his placement as the curate at St. Mark's in the late 1990's. As such, he knows us very well and we, in turn, know him. So it was lovely to welcome him as the one to preside over Scott's service. Although there was a strict outline which needed to be followed, the service presented as a warm, welcoming experience because of those involved. The hymns chosen were a mixture of old and new- many of you will recognise "Be thou my vision, Oh Lord of my heart" but "Take us to the river" is certainly becoming a favourite. However, "I, the Lord of sea and sky" resounds with so many of us- the chorus says:

***"Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me,
I will hold your people in my heart".***

The organisations represented ranged from W. Uden-Funeral Directors, to the Guides/Brownies and Scouts and the Friends of the Park, the latter of whom offered to Scott an opportunity to do wedding in the park on a Wednesday! There were serious moments but also laughter. Overall, the service was a great success- combining commitment and ceremony with fun and a feeling of joy and reaffirmation.

Using the words of the final hymn:

***"I won't fear what tomorrow brings,
With each morning I'll rise and sing,
My God's love will see me through,
You are my peace in my troubled sea."***

God Bless You!

Caroline Budimir,
Churchwarden.

(You can take a look at the service on You Tube - Hurrah for technology!)



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 please contact the Parish Office.

Bell Ringing

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1st Biggin Hill Guides

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Biggin Hill Community Care Association

Art Group



The Art Group is fortunate to have a number of members who are experienced and talented in forms of art other than painting pictures and who are generous in giving their time and sharing their expertise with other members who wish to join a workshop. We recently held another one of these and this time the subject was Decoupage. This is the art and craft of decorating an object by gluing paper tissue or napkins onto a surface and sealing them with multiple layers of varnish. When finished properly, the layers of varnish make the paper look like flat paintings or inlaid designs rather than stuck-on. Lots of very successful items were the result

of covering various sizes of scallop shells. These are just some of the results achieved during a pleasant and interesting afternoon.

For more information about the Art Group please use the contact details for Biggin Hill Community Care Association on page 13.

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The Lunch Club is held at St. Mark's Centre, Church Road, Biggin Hill,
TN16 3LB from 12 midday until 2pm



Remembrance Parade & Service Biggin Hill War Memorial

Sunday 8th November 2026

• Parade 10:30am • Service 10:50am

As autumn settles over Biggin Hill and the year moves steadily towards winter, our community once again prepares to honour those who gave their lives in service to our nation.

Remembrance is a deeply rooted tradition in our Village, and each year residents, organisations, and local groups come together to pay their respects at the War Memorial.

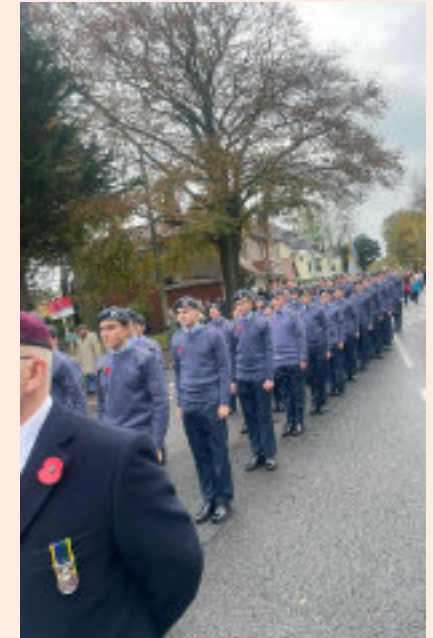
This year's Remembrance Parade and Service will take place on Sunday 8 November 2026. The community will assemble at St Mark's Church, with the parade stepping off at 10:30am. The Remembrance Service at the War Memorial will begin at 10:50am, where we will gather to reflect, remember, and honour those who served from Biggin Hill, the surrounding areas, and across the United Kingdom.

The service will follow the familiar and cherished format, including the Act of Remembrance, the Two Minutes' Silence, and the laying of wreaths. During the event, we will also be collecting for the Poppy Appeal, supporting the vital work of the Royal British Legion in helping veterans and their families. Any contributions made on the day will be gratefully received.

Remembrance is a moment for us all — young and old — to pause, reflect, and honour those who served so that we may live in peace. We look forward to welcoming the community to this important annual event.

If you would like more information, please contact Melanie Stevens by email at bigginhillba@gmail.com or telephone 07900 171 266.

Please note that the Sunday service in St. Mark's will start at 9.30am on the 8th November



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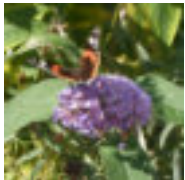
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Biggin Hill Summer Carnival

Our thanks from St. Mark's go to the organising committee of the Biggin Hill Summer Carnival who have made a donation to St Mark's from the money which was raised at the event.



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THURSDAY

10.00-12.00 Coffee Dance (No instruction)

FRIDAY

9.30-10.15 Fit Dance
4.15-5.00 Grade 1 Ballet &
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 Thursday 15 October – (FULL) Mamma Mia Musical, Matinee at Novello Theatre - £55pp
 Friday 23 October – Poleeden Lacey, Dorking - £44pp, £26pp NT
 Wednesday 28 October – Shopping Trip to Bluewater - £26pp
 Thursday 5 November – Shopping Trip to Lakeside - £26pp
 Friday 13 November – Canterbury Christmas Market - £26pp
 Thursday 19 November – (FULL) Brick Lane Christmas Musical New Show for 2026
 inc. Afternoon Tea - £80pp
 Monday 23 November – Winchester Christmas Market - £26pp
 Friday 27 November – Rochester Christmas Market - £26pp
 Thursday 3 December – Penshurst Place Festive Private Tour & Christmas Lunch - £78pp
 Sunday 6 December – Bridgewood Manor for Afternoon Tea & Entertainment - £68pp
 Monday 7 December – Haver Castle for Christmas Lunch, Castle visit & Light Trail - £60pp
 Wednesday 9 December – Petworth House dressed for Christmas - £48pp NTE26pp
 Saturday 12 December – Faversham Christmas Market - £26pp
 Tuesday 15 December – Festive Runnymede River Cruise & Christmas Lunch - £81pp
 Wednesday 16 December – London Lights Tour & Fish & Chips supper - £44pp

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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 Church, 10, Church Road, Biggin Hill, Kent TN16 3LB

Inject Some Autumn Colour Into Your Garden

Plants are recovering, while some are struggling and others have given up altogether producing gaps or dead plants in borders and containers. With temperatures receding and rain bringing much-needed moisture to the ground, as late summer edges into autumn, a splash of colour will give an injection of purpose and pleasure. What an ideal time to visit your favourite garden centre, with plenty of choices to whet your appetite. And hopefully the following will help.



Liriope muscari, or lily turf, is a hardy evergreen with grass-like strap leaves and upright spikes of purple, violet or white flowers that will brighten anywhere in the garden. Preferring partial shade and average moisture, it is flowering now and will continue well into autumn. It will eventually blanket areas, but not invasive and is easy to divide in autumn. Swatches can be seen at Kew Gardens and RHS Wisley. It is ideal for the front of the border or covering a bare area.



There are many cultivars of Anemone, or Japanese anemone, these days. The Fantasy Series really stands out at RHS Wisley and is ideal for the middle of the border. Available in different shades of pink and white, it requires medium moisture. The one that particularly took me by surprise was Anemone hupehensis 'Ariel' from the Fantasy Series.



Sedum is always a good performer at this time of year and has thrived well in the heat. It is now flowering in shades of pink, red and white, ideal for the front of the border, it loves full sun and requires very little watering once established. Sedum attracts pollinators galore

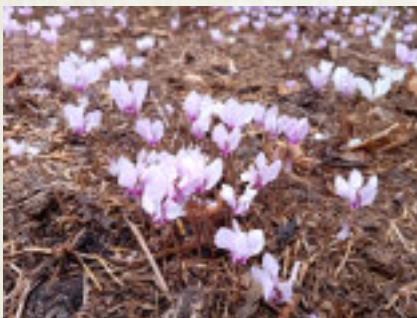
and provides exceptional winter structure, as frost settles on the remaining spent flower heads, providing added interest.

And, of course, we can never forget the various forms of the Michaelmas Daisy. Recent studies have shown differences between the various species, and many have been renamed, such as *Symphyotrichum*. However, they are still commonly known as Michaelmas Daisies, relating to Michaelmas, which traditionally marks the end of the harvest and the start of autumn. This year, Michaelmas falls on 29 September 2026. Currently excellent collections can be seen in full flower at RHS Wisley. They have remarkably tolerated this year's summer heat and are a powerful attraction for pollinators and other flying insects.



They are easy to maintain and available in shades of white, purple, red, pink and blue, and in different heights and prefer full sun. After flowering ends in November, the top growth dies back completely for winter before fresh growth appears the following spring. Cut back any remaining dead growth in February and apply a good mulch to retain moisture.

When we speak about bulbs, we normally think of planting them in autumn to flower in spring. However, several autumn-flowering bulbs can be planted in borders, containers, naturalised in grass or beneath trees now. There are excellent selections available in most garden centres.



One that carpets the ground is *Cyclamen hederifolium*, prolific in shades of white and pink and reaching around 4 inches (10 cm) in height. Visit Wakehurst Place, Hever Castle or, locally, Emmetts Garden and Chartwell for inspiration.

Others to consider include *Sternbergia*, the autumn daffodil, with its glorious shiny yellow flowers. Then there is the autumn saffron crocus, with beautiful purple or blue flowers with bright

orange to yellow stamens. *Colchicum*, also known as the naked ladies, as it gets its name as it pushes through the ground this time of year to flower, without foliage. The leafy foliage emerges the following spring and early summer.

And lastly, *Nerine bowdenii*. There are now different related species available, and they love the warm autumn sun, emerging in bright shades of pink. They prefer milder conditions, so plant them in full sun against the warmth of a house and watch them explode into colour this autumn. They are particularly prolific in many coastal towns and villages as they show off their intense shades of lilac and pink.

Brighten up your garden today and enjoy the last of summer and the beautiful autumn months. Should you wish to know more about the Biggin Hill & District Horticultural Society or become a member, please contact Nick Hagon 01959 575799 between 6.30 and 9pm, visit our website, bigginhillhorticulturalsociety.co.uk or refer to our Facebook page.



Dates for your diary

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

Wednesday October 21st "Fascinating Life of Joseph Banks, Naturalist and Botanist" by Simon Waterfield.

Wednesday November 19th AGM & Festive Cooking Ideas

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

Enjoy your gardening!

Bromley Trading Standards

Report, advice, and guidance

If you believe you or someone you know is at immediate risk of losing money to a scam or doorstep criminal, contact the police directly on 999.

Contact Citizens Advice for help and advice on 0808 223 1133 or on the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

You can also report incidents to Trading Standards directly at trading.standards@bromley.gov.uk.

Contact your bank's fraud team if you think you've been scammed: Call 159 on your phone.

If you have been tricked into sending money by bank payment, check out the Toolkit and UK Finance Authorised Push Payment Fraud guidance for more information on recovering lost money. www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/been-scammed.

Report fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting the Report Fraud website www.reportfraud.police.uk/

Request a No Cold Caller sticker from Trading Standards at trading.standards@bromley.gov.uk

A Prayer

What delight comes to us through the gifts of sight, sound and speech we take so much for granted. Lord, we pray for the blind, living in a world of colours, unable to see their splendour; for the deaf, in a world of sounds, unable to hear their harmonies; for the dumb, surrounded by voices, unable to add their own. Amen.

Barry

THE MOVING CHURCH NEWS

IS THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF

St. MARK'S CHURCH, BIGGIN HILL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Age UK - Bromley & Greenwich	0208 315 1850
Benefit Enquiry Line	0800 88 22 00
Biggin Hill Aperfield W.I.	01959 571360
Biggin Hill Community Care Association	01959 577400
Biggin Hill Councillors: Tim Allitt	07483 539983
Steve James	07483 544953
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
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
St. Theresa's Church	01959 563226
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	
Dec 26 - Jan 27	6 th November	22 nd November
Feb - March	15 th January	31 st January
April - May	5 th March	21 st March
June -July	14 th May	30 th May

Please note the change of dates above to those previously published. In particular the change for the next issue (now one week earlier).

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'

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 with your phone and then select 'web'.

OR

type <https://www.movingchurch.org/support7/> into the app you use to search the web.

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

THANK YOU!

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