

**GOOD  
NEWS  
IS COMING**

**The  
Moving  
Church  
News**

# The Good News is Here!



**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**  
**John 3:16**

# Moving Church News

The bi-monthly magazine of St. Mark's Church, Biggin Hill  
April & May 2017

## Forthcoming Events

### **Easter Services and Activities**

Please see page 7

### **Memory Friendly Services**

Please see page 12

### **Messy Church**

Please see page 12

## Contents

Easter	5
Holiday Club	6
Easter Services and Activities	7
St. Mark's Men's Walk to Downe	8
Fred Driver's Bell Ringing Career	9
St. Mark's Toddler Group	9
At St. Mark's....	11
Keston Parish Church Violin Recital	13
Preparing the Garden for the Year Ahead	14
St. Philip The Apostle	16
Church Registers	19
Should School Do God?	22
Shady Situations	24
How Can We Pray Effectively?	27
Community Telephone Numbers	30
And Finally...	31

Acknowledgements: The front cover photo is by Jon Tyson and the inside front page photo is by Chris M Moore

# St. Mark's Parish Church, Biggin Hill

Church Road, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3LB

Parish office: 01959 577816

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

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

Vicar	Revd. Alison Newman	01959 540482
Church Wardens	Mark Coltman	01959 540164
	Jim Hallinan	01959 576433
Reader/Evangelist Reader	Mark Newman	01959 540482
	David Shannon	01959 700668
Pastoral Assistants	Rose Page	01959 572221
	Steve Stewart	01959 565400

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

**Office hours: Monday to Thursday 9 am to 12 noon  
Friday 10.30 am to 11.30 am (Term time only)**

## Services at St. Mark's

### Sundays

**8.00am Holy Communion (1662)**

**10.30am Parish Communion** (Except 1st Sunday)

**10.30am 1st Sunday** - An All Age Service takes place in the church and is a very informal worship, which is ideal for families, new Christians and those exploring Christianity.

### Wednesdays

**10.00am Holy Communion Service**





# Easter



When the film 'Les Misérables' was first shown a few years ago many people burst into tears. It is a very moving film. I had seen the stage version but in fact I found the film far more compelling. On a large screen and with realistic sets the film captured people's emotions.

It is indeed a highly entertaining and moving story and not least because the message in it has something to say to us about Easter.

Victor Hugo, the French novelist who wrote the original novel, had a deep but unconventional faith in God. Therefore it's not surprising to see the biblical themes of forgiveness, reconciliation, sacrifice and redemption in this work.

The story centres on Valjean, who spent 19 years in prison for stealing a loaf of bread, to feed his sister's starving family, which leaves him a very bitter and resentful man. On parole he repays the Bishop's generous hospitality by stealing his silverware. Yet when the law arrives in the shape of Javert, the Bishop insists it is all a mistake and that he gave Valjean the silver as a gift; that in fact, Valjean forgot to take the two silver candlesticks as well, which he then gives him. Valjean is totally bewildered at this generous act - the Bishop has repaid Valjean's traitorous act, not with the punishment which he deserves, but with understanding and kindness. The Bishop adds "God has raised you out of darkness: I have bought your soul for God."

This whole encounter with grace and forgiveness leads to a complete transformation of Valjean's life. He has been given a second chance. Valjean then goes out to share the generosity and kindness he has received to all those he comes into contact with.

There is a stark contrast between Javert on the one hand, who believes that those who sin must pay the price and be punished, and Valjean on the other, who believes love and forgiveness

should be central. One man lives by the law, and the other by grace.

One memorable line in the story, spoken right at the end by the Bishop, is as follows: 'To love another person is to see the face of God.' That is at the heart of the Easter story. On Good Friday we are reminded that Jesus showed his love for us by dying for us on a cross.

We may not feel we have ever done anything really wrong; we haven't murdered or stolen, but we have all messed up in some way; after all, we are only human. When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we can be restored to a right relationship with God; then, all those wrong things we have done are forgiven and forgotten. The slate is wiped clean and a fresh start is possible. This is only possible through the grace and love of God.

As we enjoy eating our Easter eggs on Easter Day, the eggs remind us that not only did Jesus come to life again on that first Easter Day but that he offers that new life to all who trust and follow him. Easter teaches us that there are always new possibilities, always second chances, that there can be transformation even in the middle of pain and suffering. 'Les Misérables' is a very powerful example of the Easter message and the heart of the Christian faith.

Revd. Alison Newman

### **HOLIDAY CLUB - ADVANCE NOTICE**

St. Mark's Holiday Club will take place from  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July  
9.30am to 12.30am

More details to follow.....

# Easter at St. Mark's

## **Maundy Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

Passover Meal and Communion 7 pm  
By ticket only and there will be a charge.  
Tickets will be available from the Church  
office. Pop in or call 01959 577816

## **Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.00 am** - Good Friday Messy Church.

There will be many creative activities for all, young and not so young. We hope that those who usually attend the Good Friday family service will come earlier and join in with the activities. This is an excellent opportunity for our church congregation to meet up with our Messy Church Congregation.

**11 am** - All Age Worship

**11.30 am** - Hot Cross Buns and drinks.

**2.00 pm** - An hour at the Cross

## **Easter Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**8.00 am** - Holy Communion (1662)

**10.30 am** - Celebration Parish  
Communion,  
followed by an Easter Egg Hunt  
in Church.



## St Mark's Men's Walk to Downe

Twelve of us met in the church car park at 10.30 on 28<sup>th</sup> January and set off along the footpath from Jail Lane which passes close by the perimeter of the airport. There was no longer any hard frost to protect us from the mud which worsened in Leason's Wood but improved as we emerged into the West Kent Golf Club's footpath and up the escarpment to the path running north then sharp east into Downe. We enjoyed bright sunshine in a clear sky, and examined the amazingly ancient yew in St Mary's churchyard. We also noted the two family tombs of Charles Darwin's children and extended family. We adjourned to the Queen's Head nearby for a pint and a snack and returned by skirting Down House and descending to the golf course. The event was appreciated by all, and we hope to attempt another later this year. Meanwhile, we look forward to a curry night at the Bengal Butler on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Gordon Harris



## Biggin Hill Community Fun Day

Biggin Hill Friends of the Park are holding a 'Fun Day' on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May from 12 noon to 4.30pm in the recreation ground.

For more details please see the article on page 15.



# Fred Driver's Bell Ringing Career

Fred must have been nearly 80 when he squeezed up the tower steps keen to know if he could learn. St Mark's tower and bells are small and Fred was big, so an impact was felt immediately in broken stays!

He persevered with great humour and dedication, not at all perturbed by being overtaken in progress by the youngsters who were learning too. (Always the way.) Shouts of "Closer, Fred!" evolved into "Mind the gap, Fred!" to his delight (You know he had a career with London Transport), topped with an official "Mind the Gap" t-shirt presented to him with much ceremony! He wore it almost every practice thereafter.

He came on several visits to other towers, transporting a group of us in a stately manner in his old Jag, and he was thrilled when able to ring on special occasions such as Trafalgar Day and VE/VJ Day in 2005. By then he was ringing call changes with proficiency and was a valued member of the team, regular on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Oh, I must mention the marrows! We were regularly presented with wonderful marrows from the garden at the Cabbage Patch, as big and generous as Fred himself.

Had his heart not begun to trouble him he would have kept on, but after a memorable two and a bit years, Fred tied up his rope for the last time. I believe he never lost his love of the bells.

Nancy Fisher

## **St Mark's Toddler Group**

.....needs some extra hands!! Chris Dilling and Pat West (leaders of the Baby and Toddler Group) need some extra help on Monday and Friday mornings. The group runs from 10 -11.30am and they would love to hear from you if you can help out - it doesn't have to be every week and it could be just occasionally when emergency cover is needed. Call the Parish Office if you can help on 01959 577816.



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## **At St. Mark's.....**

### **The Choir**

Practices take place on Fridays at 7.30pm - all ages welcome! For more details please call the Parish Office - 01959 577816

### **Baby & Toddler Group**

Every Monday and Friday from 10.00 am in the Church Hall during school terms. Contact the Parish Office for details - 01959 577816 - or just come along.

### **Bell Ringing**

Please contact the Parish Office on 01959 577816

### **1st Biggin Hill Guides**

Please contact Rosemary Spurway on 01959 575717

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Biggin Hill Rainbows (5 - 7 years)**

Please contact Pauline Hallinan on 01959 576433

### **Home Groups**

Home groups meet every fortnight for fellowship and Bible Study. For more information contact David Shannon on 01959 700668

### **JAM - Jesus and Me!**

Inviting children from 3 years upwards to join leaders and helpers in the church hall after the first hymn. We aim to learn more about the life of Jesus through Bible stories, singing and having FUN. We return to church following the prayers and will share with the congregation what we have learned. Come and join us!

### **Music Group**

St. Mark's Music Group. Songs and fellowship with a lively touch. 01959 575129 for details

## MEMORY FRIENDLY SERVICES

Anyone with memory problems and their carers are welcome to these short services which will be followed by tea, cakes and conversation.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April      Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July

The services start At 3.30pm

Please note there will not be a service in May



### FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

Our next Messy Church will be on  
Good Friday at 10am

Please see page 7

Then 25<sup>th</sup> June at 3.30pm

### Biggin Hill Community Care Association

St. Mark's Centre, Church Road, Biggin Hill, TN16 3LB  
01959 577400    bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com  
bigginhillcommunitycare.org



**Day Centre** - A friendly and stimulating service for older people

**Wednesday Lunch Club** - Enjoy a home cooked meal every Wednesday and meet new people

**Art Group** - A popular weekly painting and drawing group

**Singing For Fun** - A monthly singing group just for enjoyment

**Stitching Group** - Enjoy tapestry, embroidery or cross stitch

**Friday Assisted Shopping** - A minibus service for people who need support to do shopping

**Home Visiting Service** - A volunteer visiting service for those who are isolated, lonely & housebound

*'Supporting local people over 50'*



Keston Parish Church is hosting a

# Violin Recital

To raise money for Bless the Children  
and Keston Parish Church

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm

Mihai Ionescu of  
Munster Sinfonieorchester, Germany, violin  
and Thomas Reckmann, piano

The programme will include: V.Monti-Czardas; F.Kreisler-  
Liebesfreud; Liebesleid; Schön Rosmarin; Gade-Jalousie;  
Massenet- Meditation de Thais; Brahms- second movement from  
Sonata No.3; Gardel- Por una caveza; Sarasate- Air Bohemien;  
Dinicu- Hora Staccato; Porumbescu – Balada & Dinicu- Hora  
Mărtisorului

Tickets £8 include light refreshments after the recital,  
available from:

John Molnar – 07709 818073 [johndmolnar@aol.com](mailto:johndmolnar@aol.com)  
Tricia Coward – 01689 854373 [kestonconsult@btconnect.com](mailto:kestonconsult@btconnect.com)  
Lidia Toher – 07764 286914 [lidia@johntoher.com](mailto:lidia@johntoher.com)





## Preparing the garden for the year ahead

This time of year the Friends group concentrate on tidying the gardens at Kings Road Open Space and The Sensory Garden at The Rec ready for the season ahead. Many of the perennials such as Nepeta (Cat Mint), Geraniums, Verbena and Asters are a few of many receiving the chop this time of year, by pruning the old growth, now dead, back to the crown of the plant.

This time of year perennials are showing signs of growth as delicate shots start to appear at the base of the plant, warning the gardener they are in their starting blocks ready for the off. Once the shoots elongate, it then becomes difficult to prune the old growth as the new delicate shots could get damaged or bruised.

Some of the grasses too, get the chop, such as the Pennisetum, while the evergreen Stipa, and Anthethela just get a clean out by raking out the dead grass, while the pampas grass, Cortadera, requires a more severe prune with a pair of shears, cutting back to the core of the plant.



Shrubs are not forgotten too, late flowering Caryopteris and Buddleja need to be pruned this time of year as they flower on the same years growth. Pruning them back to live buds, removing two thirds of previous growth will not only remove any old wood, it allows light and air to flow through providing a clear run for shoots to burst into life, preparing for their late summer flowers.



They are also an importance source of nectar for the hoverflies, bees and butterflies at that time of year. Available in different colours and now more compact plants of Buddleja can be found for the smaller garden.

Closely associated with shrubs are roses, pruned in February and March, the same applies, by taking this action, pruning will improve the plants' performance. Removing the dead, diseased and dying wood, allowing more light and air to penetrate the centre of the plant will

improve the plant appearance, shape and the flowers we tend to enjoy whether in the garden or in a vase. There is always a myth as to how low one should prune roses. It varies from gardener to gardener and of course there are more different roses available today. Personally I take the hybrid roses down to two to three buds, therefore removing any diseased wood that was blighted from black spot last year.

Hopefully taking this action allows for healthy wood to arise from the buds below. Always aim for an outward facing bud rather than an inward avoiding congesting the centre, eventually creating a goblet shape rose.

Many of the plants have exhausted much of their food from last year and will need an extra boost to provide that extra push in the spring by applying a handful of fertiliser around each plant such as Growmore or Blood, Fish and Bone or one of the proprietary slow release fertilisers such as Osmocote with an addition of a good mulch of either well-rotted manure or garden compost. This will give that plant an excellent start to its new growing season

The Friends of Biggin Hill, active throughout the year are to celebrate once more the creation of the Sensory Garden, located in 'The Rec' off Church Road. In recognition of this event, the Friends group are to have a Community Fun Day. Hot and cold drinks with homemade cakes will be available in the garden. Accompanied by a bookstall, which many of your favourites will be there to purchase at rock bottom prices, a tombola and plant sales to brighten your garden for the forthcoming summer. Perhaps have a hanging basket or container filled with your favourite plants on the day.

Plenty to see and do, why don't you come and wander around the garden. Plenty of the group will be available to answer any questions. Perhaps you may wish to join us, because it is not only this location we look after in conjunction with Bromley Council, there are others, please ask!

Take the weight of your feet, chill out and enjoy the surroundings, with a cup of tea and cake, starts at 12 noon and finishes at 4.30pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> May

The Friends of Biggin Hill parks are a vital and passionate group of people that care for their environment and their community, but we desperately need your help to maintain our environment around us in Biggin Hill. We meet every second Saturday of the month for a couple of hours to work at any of the three sites we help to manage, but we need your help, even for an hour. Tasks we carry out are weeding, edging, litter picking, cutting down small tree saplings, pruning, sweeping, bulb planting and so on. Tools, rubbish bags etc are supplied.

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.

# St Philip the Apostle - 1 May

St. Philip Apostle by Rubens



May Day celebrates many things, but for Christians it's the day we celebrate the lives of two people who knew Jesus very well – St Philip and St James.

The New Testament mentions three different men called Philip. One, a brother of Herod Antipas, was not a follower of Jesus. Another, known as Philip the deacon, a married man with four daughters, was one of seven deacons chosen to deal with distributing food and supporting widows within the Christian community (Acts 6:1–6). But the one closest to Jesus was Philip the Apostle. He's usually shown as a gentle, middle-aged man, sometimes carrying a cross,

sometimes with five loaves. I particularly like this painting of him by Rubens, because his face shows so much character in keeping with what we know about Philip. He's carrying a cross, yet there is a wonderful sense of peace in his face, and the eyes, looking upward, suggest that his thoughts are not on earthly problems, but on Jesus.

Although we have little direct information about Philip, there's much we can deduce from careful reading of the Bible, notably John's gospel, and from other contemporary texts.

Philip was born about 3AD, and so was only a little younger than Jesus and John the Baptist. He came from Bethsaida, a fishing village at the northern end of the Sea of Galilee, where the brothers Peter and Andrew also lived, and it's very likely that Philip was friendly with them long before they all met Jesus. However, Philip probably wasn't a fisherman. His name is Greek, and he's described as a Hellenist, indicating that he was educated enough to speak Greek, so perhaps he had Greek parents. Those with Greek backgrounds tended to be more cultured, and have a less rigid approach to the legalities of the Jewish faith. This cooler, more studied approach certainly shows in many biblical accounts of Philip's life. Philip,

Andrew and Peter all became interested in the teachings of John the Baptist, and had been present when John declared Jesus to be the Lamb of God. Philip was the one with Andrew when Jesus first invited them to spend the day with Him. That evening, Andrew promptly shot off to find Peter and share the news of Jesus with him, but it's clear that Philip wasn't quite so ready to jump. He needed time to consider carefully before making a decision that was to change his whole life radically.

Knowing this, the next day Jesus sought out Philip and instructed him to 'Follow me' – very different from the 'come and see' invitation of the previous day. This emphatic approach indicates that Philip was naturally more inclined to follow considered instructions than to rush off like Andrew on a tide of enthusiasm.

Yet once he's convinced, Philip is fully committed. Having recognised the authority in Jesus, Philip wants to share the news with his closest friend Nathanael, but his words are subtly different from those of Andrew to Peter. Andrew comes straight out with 'We've found the Messiah', while Philip says 'We've found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and about whom the prophets also wrote — Jesus of Nazareth'. He's backing his statement with evidence, evidence that he's weighed and found convincing. This also shows an awareness of his friend's sceptical nature, apparent when Nathanael makes the derisive retort 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'. Philip doesn't argue the point, but simply invites him to come and judge for himself. He knows the authority of Jesus will convince Nathanael more effectively than his own words.

Philip is thus a man who, after consideration, makes sound evaluations of people and situations. Then, while ready to do whatever he can (as in persuading Nathanael to meet Jesus), he's also prepared to stand back and let others, more qualified, take over when necessary — not false modesty, but an honest assessment of what's best in a given situation. Later, this approach is evident when Hellenists approach him, as one of their own, wanting to come and hear Jesus. Philip, the quiet one, then introduces them to Andrew, the bolder one, and together they approach Jesus, who then speaks to the crowd.

Philip's realistic yet caring nature shows again when Jesus asks him how they're going to feed the thousands who have come to hear Jesus. A thorough assessment of the crowd and a quick bit of mental arithmetic leads Philip to reply that it would take about eight months' wages to feed them all! His friend Andrew looks at what's available — five loaves and two fish — but neither has yet grasped the full implication of what it means to have the Messiah in their midst. Jesus has to remind both that there's another solution, available through the power of God.

By the time of the Last Supper, practical Philip still hasn't grasped the full spiritual implications of Jesus as the Son of God. When Jesus states that 'no-one comes to the Father except through me', Philip asks Him to 'show us the Father'. Saddened, Jesus replies 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after such a long time?', explaining that Jesus is in the Father, and the Father is in Jesus, so that whoever has met Jesus has already met the Father. Philip learned this lesson, and the concept of the unity of God became a mainstay of his later preaching.

At Pentecost, Philip was strengthened both spiritually and in self-confidence. In later years, when persecution forced the disciples to flee Jerusalem, Philip was a leader in evangelising the despised Samaritans, and also took the gospel to Phrygia (now in Turkey) and Greece, where the appeal of his cultured and less legalistic approach brought thousands to Christianity. He was a loyal friend to Andrew, Peter and Nathanael (also known as Bartholomew), the latter accompanying him on some of his travels.

Philip spent the last years of his life in Heirapolis, a spa city now destroyed, but close to the modern city of Pamukkale in Turkey. Although there's no mention of this in the Bible, early Christian writings say that Philip, his sister Mariamne, and their friend Bartholomew, established a strong Christian church there. It was said that men and women had equal status in the church, but (presumably for reasons of dignity and modesty) Philip and Bartholomew baptised the men, while Mariamne baptised the women. In AD 80, through Philip's preaching, and a miraculous healing, the wife of the city's Pro-Consul was converted. This enraged the Pro-Consul, who promptly orders all three Christian leaders to be tortured. Some accounts say that Philip was then beheaded, but others record Philip and Bartholomew were then crucified upside-down. Still Philip, then in his late 70s, preached from his cross. His words so affected the crowds that they released Bartholomew, and would have released Philip, but he insisted on remaining on the cross until he died.

However he met his death, it's clear that, to the very end he had confidence in Jesus, the Messiah. This confidence enabled him to develop many Christ-like characteristics, particularly that wonderful peace that is beyond human understanding.

Philip was a gentle, peaceable, cautious, thoughtful, and committed man, who took Jesus at his words, and became one of the most fruitful workers in spreading the gospel.



# Church Registers

## BAPTISMS

*"We welcome you in the name of the Lord"*

Mason John Pratt  
Megan Elaine Louise Prescott  
Chloe Suzanna Kingston

## FUNERALS

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

David Vincent  
Jean Clark  
Reginald Smith  
Barbara Fentiman  
Cheryl Clark  
Georgina Brown  
Alan Barnes  
Frederick Driver  
Patricia Driver

**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.

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

Don't forget that you can help raise funds for St Mark's by using -

**'Easyfundraising'**

If you use the Internet to order anything at all - using 'easyfundraising' is an easy way to raise money for St Mark's Church. Everyday items plus kitchens, bathrooms, furniture etc can be bought from over 2,700 retailers and a percentage of what you spend is automatically donated to the church at no additional cost to you. Retailers include Amazon, John Lewis, eBay, Tesco and many more. Please register to support us today.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarksbigginhill/>

Use this link to go to the St Mark's page on the website, use the 'Join Us' button, and then follow the instructions. If you have any problems or concerns call Neil on 01959 700815.

At present we have 27 supporters and have raised £408.

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## Welcome!

The Baptism of Mason Pratt took place at St. Mark's on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

He is pictured here with his mum and dad, Claire and John, and sister Poppy



### **BIGGIN HILL ROMANIA GROUP – QUIZ NIGHT**

A fantastic Quiz Night featuring The Quiz Knights will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April at St Mark's Church Hall in Biggin Hill to raise money to support the work of the Biggin Hill Romania Group. Doors open at 7.00pm and the quiz will start at 7.30pm – Maximum team size 8. Tickets are £8 each to include quiz entry, Ploughman's Supper and spot prizes! Bring your own drinks and glasses plus your ticket for the lucky number draw!!  
 Tickets - Chris Walker 01959 700815 or Caroline Budimir 01959 576093.

### **COFFEE MORNING - 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL**

A coffee morning will be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April in St. Mark's Church from 10am to 12pm.  
 There will be a Bring & Buy stall, cakes and Crepes!

## **The Moving Church News and Advertising.**

A valuable part of St. Mark's outreach to the community is the distribution of about 1700 copies of the Moving Church News 6 times a year. There is obviously a cost involved, and the way that some of the costs is recovered is the use of adverts.

We would benefit from having some more advertisers so if you know of anyone who would like to advertise in the magazine, please show them a copy and ask them to contact me if they want any more details. A small advert costs just £50 for the whole year - £8.33 for each issue.  
 Neil Walker - 01959 700815 - neil.walkerz@gmail.com

## Should schools do God? If so, how?

Steve Palmer came to speak at the recent Parish Breakfast. Steve works full time for the Spinnaker Trust, which has been working in primary schools in south-east London, Kent and Sussex for over 30 years. He and a team of volunteer helpers go into primary schools to lead assemblies and RS lessons. Their role is to assist teachers and complement the curriculum, particularly the SMSC elements (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural), which are required by OFSTED. With good presentation skills and Bible knowledge, Steve and the team enrich the spiritual understanding of children. They bring the Christianity parts of the curriculum to classes without evangelising. Thank you to Steve for your clear and challenging message. 'Man shall not live by bread alone,' and this means children too.



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The advertisement is a colorful graphic. At the top left, it says 'Serving the area for over 30 years'. In the center is a large circular logo with 'BIGGIN HILL' at the top and 'AIRPORT CARS' at the bottom, with a silhouette of an airplane in the middle. Below the logo is the phone number '01959 540550'. To the right is a starburst shape containing the text 'Owner Drivers needed'. At the bottom, there's a green hill with a small black car on it, and the text 'MINI CABS, EXECUTIVE CARS & MPV'S' and 'All major credit cards accepted in vehicles'. The background is blue with white clouds and a yellow sun.

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garwoodtm@btinternet.com



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Tuesday 2pm

For those of you who want to have a pilates workout, in a relaxed environment. Laughter encouraged and we try to have a bit of a workout too!. Ideal exercise to increase flexibility and ability, often recommended by osteopaths and physiotherapists.

For further details phone:

**Ruth 01959 532875/07968 002590**

**Email: ruthjonespilates@gmail.com**

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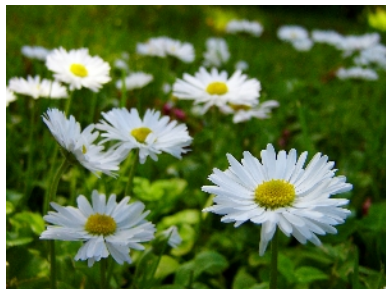
**01959 576161**  
**07762 074542**

7 Juniper Close, Biggin Hill,  
Kent, TN16 3LZ  
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## Shady situations

Shade from adjacent properties and trees is an almost inevitable part of gardens and gardening. Shade is the blocking of sunlight at different levels depending on the object and time of year.



All green plants depend on sunlight to manufacture the sugars, providing the energy for the plant to grow. Plants absorb various wavelengths of light to grow strongly to compete against other plants. However in shade some of these become unavailable or in short supply, therefore plants may grow weakly, stretching their stems towards the light, trying to reach above any structure or plants nearby, becoming weaker and in some

cases dying. However, there are plants that tolerate shade, typically growing broader thinner leaves, with sufficient chlorophyll content to absorb what light there is.

There are a number of practical solutions to consider when growing in shade;

- Thinning trees to decongest the canopy above but can be an expensive project, if not careful. Check with your local authority to find out if the trees have a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). If they have, any work to be carried out must have authorisation, otherwise if ignored, it can be an expensive nightmare.
- Often the soil under trees or beside buildings can be excessively dry, in some cases, too close to a wall can be alkaline as well. Add plenty of organic matter such as well-rotted manure, garden compost or leaf mould to help improve the soil structure and texture at the same time assisting plant establishment, whether by digging in before planting or applied as a mulch every year.
- Prepare the ground in the autumn and plant early winter to take advantage of winter rains as the ground takes advantage of the leafless canopy above.
- Take a walk through your local woodland during spring, admire how spring plants and bulbs adapt naturally by taking advantage by continue to photosynthesise before the leaf canopy above takes over and reduces that light reaching the woodland floor.
- Visit gardens to explore what plants are used in shade and how they are main-



tained. Try Beth Chatto, near Chelmsford, Essex or nearer home, Great Comp near Wrotham Heath.

- Plant at least 18" or 45cms away from a wall or building, to allow precious rain water to reach the plant and ground.
- Consider mulching the ground with a pale coloured material to reflect useful quantities of light back up to the plants
- Check out the RHS web site for further information, visit your local garden centre, some have designated area for plants tolerating shade or ask at your local horticultural society.
- Consider the plants you intend to plant, where they originally come from, what ground and light conditions the plant thrives in, have you seen it grow somewhere else, is it the same as the area where you wish to plant it.
- The same applies to container plants, however they can be moved around the garden to suit the light requirement.
- Conifers are not only evergreen and rains will be difficult to penetrate, they are also extremely hungry feeders and draw huge amounts of water up from the soil, proving very difficult to grow any plants. If the desire is still to plant, remove the lower branches sufficiently, exposing the base of the conifer and prepare the ground as explained above and select the plants carefully.

A few plants to consider for these problematic areas of the garden are; *Viola odorata*, related to the woodland violet, ferns such as *Polystichum* or *Polypodiums*, *Geranium macrorrhizum* which tolerates a range of areas in the garden, *Gallium odoratum* or sweet woodruff found in woodlands near you which has sweet flowers, *Tiarella*, an old favourite *Alchemilla mollis*, *Brunera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost' with its variegated leaves of silver and the evergreen *Epimedium* are just a few to mention.

### **Dates for your diary for the Biggin Hill Horticultural Society**

Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> - Spring Flower Show

Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup> - 'A year round of floral garden interest' by Alison Marsden

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May - 'Growing vegetables in containers' by Vanessa Jones

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Plant Sale

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Coach outing to Savill Gardens

All our talks, plant sale and shows are at St Marks Church Hall, Church Road, doors open at 7.30 for 8 pm start, except for the spring flower show, doors open at 3 pm, while the plant sale doors open at 10 am for members and 10.30 for non-members.

Please join us, contact Nick Hagon, 01959 575799 for further information, between 6.30pm and 9 pm.

Nick Hagon  
Chairman

# **Biggin Hill Community Care Association**

*Supporting local people over 50*



Please join us for a talk on the  
Biggin Hill Memorial Museum,  
honouring the RAF's heritage.

at our Open Meeting on  
**Monday 24th April 2017**  
**from 12.30 – 2pm**

A cold buffet lunch is provided; we ask for a  
voluntary contribution of £3

Let us know you will be coming by telling a  
member of staff, leaving a message on

**01959 577400** or

email: **bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com**

**Biggin Hill Community Care Association**

St Mark's Centre, Church Rd,  
Biggin Hill TN16 3LB

[www.bigginhillcommunitycare.org](http://www.bigginhillcommunitycare.org)

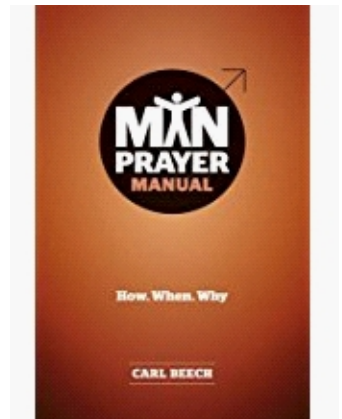
## How can we pray effectively?

Review of *Man Prayer Manual: how, why, when* by Carl Beech.  
CWR, 2016.

This new book takes it for granted that we can transform the world through prayer. Written in short digestible chapters by the President of Christian Vision for Men, the *Manual* includes some breathtaking stories of answered prayer (see chapters 1, 3, 11, 20, 24, 28). It acknowledges the difficulties which we all have in sustaining a regular and powerful prayer life, but the author suggest some guidelines: be regular but spontaneous, thankful, Biblical, persistent. But, writing primarily for blokes, he challenges Christian men to petition as if they're at the gym, and to pray wildly – as C.S.Lewis said, “Aslan is not a tame lion”.

The reason why this short book is so readable is that it treats a wide range of issues in thirty pithy (but not superficial) chapters: healing, evil spirits, fasting, silent retreats, God's silence, discernment, boldness, the workplace, temptation, repentance, everyday language, honesty, selfishness, patience, spiritual warfare, Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, and praying in unknown languages.

If you would like to buy this encouraging book at £7.99, let Gordon know  
([galexharris@hotmail.com](mailto:galexharris@hotmail.com);  
07900157530).  
Gordon Harris



## Flowers for Church

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

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

### 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 email your details to Chris Walker. Her email is [asnail@ntlworld.com](mailto:asnail@ntlworld.com). Your email address will not be passed on to anyone else.

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Contact Neil for more details

01959 700815

[neil.walkerz@gmail.com](mailto:neil.walkerz@gmail.com)

### Acknowledgements

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# 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



# COMMUNITY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<b>Age UK - Bromley &amp; Greenwich</b>	0208 315 1850
<b>Benefit Enquiry Line</b>	0800 88 22 00
<b>Biggin Hill Aperfield W.I.</b>	01959 572591
<b>Biggin Hill Blind Club</b>	01959 572817
<b>Biggin Hill Community Care Association</b>	01959 577400
<b>Biggin Hill Computer Club</b>	bhcc.club@gmail.com
<b>Biggin Hill Evening W.I.</b>	01959 700973
<b>Biggin Hill Horticultural Society</b>	01959 575799
<b>Biggin Hill Musical Theatre Company</b>	01959 701829
<b>Biggin Hill Residents Association</b>	01959 572108
<b>Biggin Hill Rangers, Guides and Brownies</b>	01689 848562
<b>Biggin Hill Romanian Group</b>	07802 575417
<b>Biggin Hill Society</b>	01959 572569
<b>Biggin Hill Scout Group</b>	01959 509247
<b>Bromley Council – Office Hours</b>	020 8464 3333
<b>Bromley Social Services - 24hr emergency number</b>	020 8464 4848
<b>Bromley Assoc. for People with Disabilities (BATH)</b>	0208 663 3345
<b>Carers Bromley Helpline</b>	0800 015 77 00
<b>Childline</b> (confidential helpline for children)	0800 1111 (24 hr)
<b>Citizen's Advice Bureau</b> (Bromley)	0208 315 1940
<b>Community Links, Bromley</b>	0208 315 1900
<b>Crimestoppers</b>	0800 555 111
<b>Dial-a-Ride</b> (For registration and enquiries)	0343 222 7777
<b>Doctor's Surgeries –</b>	
<b>Stock Hill Surgery</b>	01959 580011
<b>Norheads Lane Surgery</b>	01959 574488
<b>FOAL Farm</b> (Friends of Animals League)	01959 572386
<b>GAS</b> Emergency 24 hr freephone	0800 111 999
<b>National Childbirth Trust</b> (Biggin Hill)	01959 572209 or 01959 701765
<b>New Life Church</b>	01959 571667
<b>NHS help line</b> when you need medical advice	111
<b>Police: Non Emergency Reporting</b>	101
<b>Local Safer Neighbourhood Team:</b>	020 8721 2820
<b>Princess Royal University Hospital</b>	01689 863000
<b>St. Mark's Parish Office</b>	01959 577816
<b>St. George's Memorial Chapel</b>	01959 570353
<b>St. Theresa's RC Church</b>	01959 571404
<b>Schools - Biggin Hill Primary</b>	01959 575846
<b>Charles Darwin Secondary</b>	01959 574043
<b>Cudham Primary</b>	01959 572673
<b>Oaklands Primary</b>	01959 573963
<b>Tatsfield Primary</b>	01959 577356
<b>Samaritans</b> (Local branch) - 01689 833 000	24 hr - 08457 90 90 90
Textphone for hard of hearing	08457 90 91 92
<b>Spitfire Youth Centre</b>	01959 574835
<b>St. John Ambulance</b>	01959 701281
<b>Thames Water</b>	0845 920 0800
<b>Trading Standards Rogue Traders Rapid Response</b>	07903 852 090
<b>Valley Hall Community Association</b>	01959 573917/570020
<b>Victim Support Scheme</b>	0208 776 7071
<b>Westerham Hill Baptist Church</b>	01732 867516

# The Next Moving Church News

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Copy Deadline</b>	<b>Issue date</b>
June July	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> May

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

And finally - some light relief as you've got this far.....

## **What they said...**

When the white missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes and when we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land.

Desmond Tutu

Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.

Harrison Ford

The best cure for sea sickness, is to stay at home and sit under a tree.

Spike Milligan

Lawyers believe a man is innocent until proven broke.

Robin Hall

I don't believe in astrology. I am a Sagittarius and we're very sceptical.

Arthur C Clarke

If God had intended us to fly he would have made it easier to get to the airport.

Jonathan Winters

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