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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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Services at St. Mark's

First Sunday in the month 10.30am All Age Worship

Other Sundays 10.30am Parish Communion

Wednesdays 10.00am Holy Communion Service

Front cover photo:

After Alison's last service on the 29th June a lunch was held in the Church Hall. A special cake had been created for the occasion.

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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 - The position is vacant at this time.

Church Wardens

Patrick O Sullivan Caroline Budimir 01959 572684 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

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

Home Groups

Home groups meet every fortnight for fellowship and Bible Study. For more information contact Alison on 01959 540482

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.

Bell Ringing

Please contact the Parish Office on 01959 577816

1st Biggin Hill Guides

Please contact Rosemary Spurway on 01959 575717

Breaking News......Singing is good for you!

It was a particularly sad time during June this year as St Mark's Church prepared, after ten years, to say goodbye to our vicar, Alison, who was retiring. We were truly blessed to have Alison, and her husband Mark, to lead us both in our worship and in the community here in Biggin Hill. They will be missed. A member of our Parish Church Council, Peter Langridge, has been busy interviewing Alison and Mark and has written a very interesting article which you can read here in the MCN.

Whilst we were planning our goodbye, there was a well known celebration of music going on in Somerset – the Glastonbury Festival! Some of you may have watched and sung along to Rod Stewart singing "Maggie May', or raised your voices with one of the other stars. But there was another, unusual singalong on the Thursday – James Partridge, a primary school music teacher, drew such a large crowd with his 'Primary School Bangers' set that officials had to close the field to manage the crowd! The sing-along brought well known hymns from people's school days and everyone who managed to secure a spot sang along to well-known hymns such as Give Me Oil in My Lamp, Lord of the Dance and Shine Jesus Shine. There was a lot of joy, singing with great enthusiasm and a lot of arm waving.. great fun! I wonder if you remember any of those songs from your school assembly days? I know I certainly do and there was no need for song sheets.. the words were remembered from childhood days, sitting cross legged in the school hall.

Part of the enjoyment of singing songs from school days is that it brings back memories, times of childhood, but that is not all. It has been proved that music, and in particular singing, is good for you. It is used in dementia care as it has proved to be powerful in triggering memories long after other forms of communication have ended. And singing releases endorphins which boost your mood and make you feel happy: it doesn't matter if you don't have a great voice...you will be pleased to know that the benefits to health are just the same. Singing is a great communal activity – just listen to the football or rugby crowds. Watching the crowds singing with great enthusiasm shows how this shared experience joins them together almost in a spiritual way. Some of the most famous composers, such as Handel, composed music in worship of a Christian God, and today we have Stuart Townend, to name just one, who continues to write uplifting songs in praise. The Bible includes many songs, encouraging people to sing to the Lord, to praise His name, and it is good for us – it is good for the

soul. Modern research is only confirming what the Bible has said for thousands of years.

Every Sunday, Christians around the world sing songs of praise, singing together to praise God – singing to lift our spirits, to join together, to forget our troubles and give us strength to face our ever-changing world. The saying, "the one who sings, prays twice," attributed to St. Augustine, helps us understand something about the spiritual power of singing and how it takes our words to the next level. So... quoting from the most popular song from childhood memories, according to those at the Primary School Bangers set,

Flow, river, flow

Flood the nations with grace and mercy,

Send forth Your word,

Lord, and let there be light. (Shine, Jesus, shine!)

Amen to that!

Caroline Budimir Churchwarden



RAF Biggin Hill Museum and Chapel

Sadly, after many years of dedication as a Trustee for RAF Biggin Hill Museum and Chapel, Reverend Alison has stepped down due to her retirement. Therefore, we are now hoping to find a new Trustee with links to St. Marks and the local community who will join our board as an advisor for the spiritually focused aspects of our site. If this is something you are interested in please send your CV and a note outlining your interest to mos@bhmm.org.uk

Bronwen Sharp (Director, Maternity Cover) 01959 422414

Alison Newman has retired from St Mark's.

For the final service on 29th June, the church was packed with parishioners, colleagues, friends and family. The service and lunch that followed marked the end of her ten years in Biggin Hill. As well as being the Vicar of St Mark's, Alison has served as chaplain to St George's RAF Chapel, was a trustee for the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum and Padre to the ATC. Under her ministry the Parish has flourished. Weekly congregations are now regularly seventy to eighty people, and many more view the service on the church's streaming service. Four well-attended study groups meet regularly, the singing group has grown and the church holds popular events and festivals throughout the year.

I met with Alison and Mark on a hot afternoon two weeks before her retirement. Alison was considering her final sermon and their new home in Herne Bay was already filling up with furniture and possessions. We sat in the cool nave of St Mark's to talk about the journey of faith they had made together, and about her career as a minister to which she was called, but only reluctantly followed.

Alison's family were not religious but she was sent to Sunday School like most children in the 1950's. One Sunday, when she was seven years old, she was struck by the words of a hymn by William Walsham How:-

I sometimes think about the cross, and shut my eyes, and try to see the cruel nails and crown of thorns, and Jesus crucified for me

These words inspired Alison's interest in the Christian faith, and so began her lifelong relationship with God. "I excelled at RE, it was my best subject at school. I was a member of the Christian Union and as a teenager decided to seek confirmation myself". She was confirmed by the Bishop of Woolwich, David Shepherd, who had been a popular Sussex and England cricketer before his career in the Church. She spent her teenage years in Catford, and smiles when she remembers meeting Mark at her 18th birthday party. Mark was the son of a vicar, and a pupil at St Dunstan's College. Alison's friends had invited him to the party to make up the number of boys. Her friends had always said she should marry a Vicar. They joked "we can't find you a vicar but here's a



vicar's son". It was auspicious. They discovered a shared interest in Christianity and their relationship flourished while Alison studied for a theology degree and Mark studied French. In June 1978, they were married by a family friend in St Katharine's Church, Knockholt.

After their wedding, Mark worked as a French teacher and Alison worked in banking and the civil service. The Newman family grew and by 1984, they needed a larger house to accommodate their children. It was a time of property "guzumping", but by good fortune they found the perfect house and settled in Beckenham. The couple's commitment to God grew as their family grew. They undertook Baptism visiting, and for 18 summers they organised Pathfinder youth camps. The whole family of six children would go and Mark remembers people joked that we bought our own youth group with us!

Alison describes how from the moment she heard the words of Walsham How's hymn, she had always felt she was being guided along a path. She feels akin to St Jeremiah, the reluctant Saint, who was unable to resist his calling when told by the Lord, "I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you hope and a future." In the late 1990's the plan was revealed while Alison was having a conversation with the Director of Ordinands in the Diocese about Mark's possible ordination. The DDO listened carefully to Alison, and after a while looked calmly at her and said, "God is not calling your husband to ordination, it's you.' Alison was shocked by this insight but unable to deny it. She described her reluctance to be guided down the path to ordination. "It was not something I wanted, but it couldn't be ignored. I

didn't think I was good enough and found all sorts of reasons to avoid going to a selection board. When I couldn't avoid it any longer, I thought I would go and finally be done with it." It was with mixed emotions she learned she had passed the selection and was offered a three-year ordination training place.

The training would be demanding and involve week-end and residential courses. Mark, who was still a full-time teacher as well as a Reader and Evangelist, would have to take on more childcare. They discussed this and Mark said that God calls people to different things. He was content to remain in his church roles and would support his wife in her calling.



Alison's Ordination

The ordination of women was still controversial when Alison began her training in 1999. The first females had been ordained in 1994 and women priests were not welcome in many parishes. In 2002, Alison became a Curate at Bromley but remembers there were still hurtful attitudes and remarks such as "I never asked to have a female curate", or "I never want to see you in charge of a church" and even the old insult, that "women belong in the kitchen". Undaunted, Alison and her pioneering colleagues consoled themselves with the knowledge that Jesus had many women disciples, including Mary Magdalene.

From Bromley, Alison moved to Shortlands as Associate Vicar and then to Orpington where she was asked if she would like to take over the vacant parish of Biggin Hill. It was an exciting prospect. Everything had fallen into place, the family was off their hands and Mark was keen to become even more involved in the work of the church. Alison was interviewed and quickly offered the post. Biggin Hill seemed a friendly, welcoming Parish and Alison became the Vicar of St Mark's in October 2015.

In her ten years here, she gave more than two thousand sermons and

services that included communions, festivals, christenings, marriages and funerals. Too many funerals, she joked, but funerals became a special part of her ministry. Alison felt that whether they were religious or not. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to provide a listening ear, to give comfort and to represent the face of the church to people at one of the bleakest times of their lives. Because loss can be a lonely experience and



mourning doesn't end with the funerals, Alison established a Bereavement Support Group that meets monthly to share their experiences.

The greatest challenge came with the COVID crisis. People became isolated in their homes and Church services were suspended. It became a challenge to preserve the church community and continue to bring spiritual services to people when and where they were most needed. Alison recalled the despair of people unable to visit relatives and funerals where only ten people were permitted to be present. "We devised services in the front room of the Vicarage and began streaming them on the internet. People were very grateful". The streaming service has continued and is watched every Sunday by an average of 40 people in places as far away as Yorkshire, Holland and Tanzania.



In the ten years there were many highlights: christenings, weddings and confirmations, family births and the steady growth of the community's respect and admiration for the way in which she and her husband have gone patiently and generously about their work in the parish.

As well as ministering to the parish, an important part of her role was to lead pilgrimages abroad to holy places that including Israel, The Seven Churches in Turkey, Jordan, Armenia, and the "Footsteps of St Paul" in Greece. One of her great memories is serving Holy Communion beside the Sea of Galilee. She believes visiting and experiencing these places brings the Bible to life for people and helps deepen their faith.

Regrets? We are living in an increasingly materialistic and stressed world. Children know more Manga stories than Bible stories. Both Alison and Mark lament the decline of Christian education for children. Schools are quite reluctant to have visits from clergy. She acknowledges that each person is responsible for deciding what kind of relationship they want with God but asks how are adults to make up their minds if no-one has taught them the fundamentals of Christianity when they were children?

Other regrets? "Biggin Hill became special to us and it is difficult leaving all the parishioners and friends made here". Alison looked outside to the bell-tower. The tower has been damaged and declared unsafe because of the over loading with increasingly high masts installed by the telecoms company. One day soon she hopes the bells of St Mark's can be rung again.

Alison and Mark have moved on from the Moving Church. She admits she is looking forward to not having to compose a weekly sermon or getting-up for early morning services, attending meetings and the endless demands and commitments of running a parish. In retirement she intends to research her family history and revive playing the piano. Mark is looking forward to growing vegetables, developing his model railway and enjoying more cycling. "We just want to put our feet up" she says, but I am not sure they are a "feet up" couple. Alison has already agreed to be padre of the Herne Bay ATC. Alison's work as a paid vicar may be over but it may well be that their plans for the future are still not in their own hands.

Peter Landgridge



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GARDENERS EVENING TALK WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20th 8pm

"Gardening & the Five Ways to Wellbeing" Speaker: Alison Marsden

AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13th

Doors open to the public 3pm

(If entering the show please set up between 8.30 am - 11.30 am Saturday morning of the show)

GARDENERS EVENING TALK WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17th 8pm

"Heritage in London Parks and Open Spaces" Speaker Dr Iain Boulton

ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL CHURCH ROAD, BIGGIN HILL KENT

For more information on shows etc. please contact: Show Secretary: Dick Treacher 07817 860553 Chairman: Nick Hagon 07923 017617



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.

You can also visit our website: bigginhillcommunitycare.org or scan the QR code.

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



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 Becky on 07791 436645 (for the Lunch Club.)

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

Tuesday 5 August – A Day in Reading and museum visit to see the Bayeux Tapestry - £33pp
Friday 8 August – Bienheim Palace & Gardens, Oxfordshire - £55pp
Monday 11 August – A Day trip to Whitstable - £25pp
Wednesday 13 August – Marwell Zoo, Hampshire - £40pp Snr, £47pp ad, £32pp child
Friday 15 August – A Day Trip to Brighton - £25pp
Tuesday 19 August – A trip to Tenterden to inc. local museum tour - £30pp
Wednesday 27 August – Day Trip to Eastbourne - £25pp
Friday 29 August – Visit to Saville Gardens, Windsor, & River Cruise with cream tea - £61pp
Tuesday 2 September – Eitham Palace, London - £38pp EH £25pp
Friday 5 September – Day Trip to Salisbury - £28pp
Monday 8 September – Battle Abbey, Sussex - £37pp EH £25pp
Wednesday 17 September - Kenl & East Sussex Steam Railway, Tenterden - £48pp
Friday 3 October – Day at Broadstairs & Autumn Food Fayre - £25pp
Wednesday 15 October – Cockney Museum to include Pie & Mash lunch - £36pp

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Hello Biggin Hill!

Your Biggin Hill Residents Association had a wonderful day at the Biggin Hill Carnival last month. Thanks must go to the Carnival Committee and all the volunteers for making such a wonderful day possible.

It was a great opportunity to tell all our friends and neighbours about what we have been up to so far this year including our fabulous events for our younger residents such as the Chinese New Year at Choi Pin & the wonderful Teddy Bears picnic held at our now famous Spitfire Youth Centre (!)









Once again Biggin Hill showed us the true meaning of community spirit, by throwing your weight behind our petition to 'Save Our Spitfire' centre. With your help, the BHRA managed to raise 2435 signatures that were handed over to The Spitfire Community Project to deliver to the Council. Thanks must go to Waitrose for letting us camp out on their doorstep for quite a few weekends, allowing us to collect all your signatures. You can follow the progress of the Spitfire Community Project by staying tuned to their Facebook page.







Not only have we been focused on community projects and entertaining our younger residents, but we have also been busy with other fundraising events such as our St Georges Day & Summer Celebration and our very own BHRA Quiz night.....









So why not get involved and join us for our next event? Be the change you want to see in your community and

Join your Biggin Hill Residents Association today



Join your Biggin Hill Residents Association TODAY and enter our Xmas Prize Draw for the chance to win a



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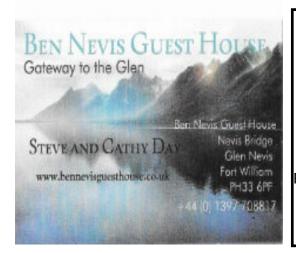


To become a member of the Association costs a mere £5 per year per household, which will help us to make an even greater contribution to all aspects of the community for the benefit of all.

Find us on Facebook or at our website:

info@bigginhillresidentsassociatio n.co.uk

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Church Registers

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"We welcome you in the name of the Lord"

Makai Porteous-Ellington Nevaeh Jean Fielder

MARRIAGES

"Those joined together in Holy Matrimony"

Courtney Louise Selcuk and Michael Adam Clark

FUNERALS

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

> Joyce Beryl Wisdom **Ann Margaret Histed**

BURIAL OF ASHES

Patricia 'Tricia' Joan Elson **Rodney Coomer**

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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WEDNESDAY

4.30-5.15 Children's Ballroom & Latin Classes

THURSDAY

10-00-12.00 Coffee Dance (No instruction) 1.30-2.30 Line Dancing

FRIDAY

9.30-10.15 Fit Dance

4.15-5.00 First Steps Ballet from 4 years

5.00-6.00 Grade 2 Ballet & Acro Ballet

6.00-7.00 Adult Tap Class

SATURDAY

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All enquiries please tel: 01959 572859 or email info@shirleycoxdance.co.uk

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

If you would like us to pray for you, someone you know or for something that concerns you, please let us know and we will be happy to do so. In order to comply with the Data Protection Regulations, please ensure you have the permission of the person to be prayed for.

Please contact the Church office. The times the office is open can be found on page four. A message can be left on the answer machine outside of these times - 01959 577816

If you prefer, you could send your prayer request to St. Mark's Church, 10, Church Road, Biggin Hill, Kent TNI6 3LB

As I watched from my balcony on holiday in Menorca, the glorious sun rise over the horizon, I pondered at how we all depend upon that sun for our life, our light and absolutely everything. It not only dawned on me that day but also dawned upon me that we all depend upon that other "Son", the glorious risen Son of God for our spiritual life and light and the sustaining hand of God for everything. Praise His Holy Name. Amen.

Barry



The Benefits of Outdoors

Gardening offers a wide array of benefits for both physical and mental being. Provides exercise, stress relief, improve moods and self-esteem. It can also lead to a healthier diet, reduce the risk of certain diseases and foster a sense of community and connection to nature. But there are occasions when the activity of gardening can be physically difficult. However, even spending time outdoors is closely linked to greater mental wellbeing. Visiting a garden, woodland or flowering meadow, stretching your legs and breathe in the fresher air, will affect your mood.



Working in inclusive and accessible gardens or just visiting, gives positive emotions, such as happiness, calmness and creativity. Walking towards the front door at home, with the right plant can



remind you of the past. Scented leaves and flowers planted either side of the path, will give that sense of ownership and memories. The Peony epitomises memories of my parents with their fragrant perfume. While the Lemon verbena (Aloysia citriodora) prompts lemon sherbet as a child and the aroma of crushed mint, Sunday lunch time.

The Biggin Hill Friends of the Parks manages the Sensory Garden in Church Road Recreation Ground. The colour scheme reflects the RAF colours of green, blue and white, while the deliciously fragrant Rose Charles Darwin, evokes the historic naturalist connection to Biggin Hill, fills the air with lemon fragrance. The sensory feel is shown by the choice of plants, beneficial to humans and pollinators. Meeting every Tuesday morning provides all the elements mentioned previously with the additional benefits of meeting like minded friendly people and a

cuppa at break time. Join us and help to manage the areas we maintain, not only for yourself but also for the local community.

The Biggin Hill Horticultural Society stages a talk, titled "Gardening & the Five Ways to Wellbeing" by Alison Marsden, on Wednesday 20th August which



provides an insight into benefits and opportunities for all ages and abilities working with nature and the outdoors.

Come and enjoy gardening with the volunteers in the Sensory Garden for some relaxing gardening or wish to know more about gardening. The Friends need more volunteers to help maintain Kings Road Open Space, Sensory Garden, Jugg Hill and Mine Shaw. Should you require any further information about the above, the Friends or the horticultural society, please contact Nick Hagon between 6.30 and 9pm on 07923 017617.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday August 20th "Gardening &the Five Ways to Wellbeing" by Alison Marsden

Saturday September 13th Autumn Flower Show; flowers, fruit, vegetables, handicraft, photographs and floral arrangements plus plants for sale, raffle, refreshments and garden sundries. Doors open at 3pm, presentation of cups and raffle at 4 15pm.

Wednesday September 17th "Heritage in London Parks and Open Spaces by Dr Iain Boulton. Learn more about our London parks.

Wednesday October 15th "The Blue Haze of Castle Farm" by Caroline Alexander. Recently been on television, the magical lavender farm at Shoreham.

Wednesday November 19th AGM

Thank you

Nick Hagon

Biggin Hill Councillors

Law & Order within Biggin Hill – this month saw Melanie and Sophie attend the quarterly Safer Neighbourhood Panel. A meeting in which local residents and organisations meet with the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team to discuss the crime affecting our community. We were joined by our PSCO Ruth and Police Inspector Stuart, who gave us an update of the crime statics for the last quarter



Although reported crimes are very low, we often read on social media of "events and occurrences" that should be reported to the team in order for them to build a better picture and intelligence in which to catch and reprimand criminals. Sometimes we think we are living in downtown Alabama, with the reports we read, but when we check nothing has been reported to the police.

Romans 13:1-2 says "Obey the government for God is the one who

has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. So those who refuse to obey the law of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow"

Criminals are human, humans are humans, they come from all walks of life and commit crime be it petty or serious for a host of different reasons.

What we must do, is within our community help those that stray from the law, by reporting crime, you are taking the first step of helping those that do not abide by the law and those that you live amongst within the community..

Luke 6:31 "And as you wish that other would do to you, do so to them. :27-28 "I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you"

We have seen on social media many comments of anti-social behaviour, which might be deemed as criminal yet no-one has formally reported it. Some people need help to come back onto path, some require corrective measures to bring them back onto the "straight and narrow", but what all people need is help!

We have read of some awful crimes and much activity that needs reporting to help stop serious injury or even death, but yet we hear from our team that no-one has reported any incidents or occurrences to them.

The Police are only empowered to act with information as given to them. "A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth

strength" Let's make our local police team strong, let's give them the strength to tackle the crime in our Village.

Let's get the right help, support and even punishment for those that do against us, that divides our community and let's bring back the spirit of Biggin Hill.

Are you aware of the various different ways in which to report crime? But are you, more importantly, aware of what method to use and when?

Please make a note of the below. Do not be afraid report anything out of the ordinary, help yourself, to help them to become better people or indeed just

Met Police - 999 - for immediate danger and if support is needed immediately.

Met Police – 101 – for non-emergency reporting, the danger has passed but a crime, you have witnessed or been a victim of crime has been committed.

Met Police online reporting met.police.uk – another 'more after the event' tool to be used to report crime, so it is logged.

Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111 or crimestoppers-uk.org - an anonymous reporting tool guaranteeing 100% confidentiality.

If you find yourself still not sure what to do call us and we are happy to advise.

Cllr Melanie Stevens – <u>melanie.stevens@bromley.gov.uk</u> – 07900 171266

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



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Caroline IIR MAR 07870 568 615



Five Elms PCN

Biggin Hill Health and Wellbeing Cafe

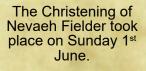
Join us at our cafe for a health and wellbeing session as well as other activities.

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

Congratulations!



Nevaeh is seen here with her mother Kira







Courtney Selcuk and Michael Clark were married at St. Mark's on Saturday 24th May.

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 Benefit Enquiry Line Biggin Hill Aperfield W.I. Biggin Hill Community Care Association Biggin Hill Councillors: Melanie Stevens Sophie Dunbar	0208 315 1850 0800 88 22 00 01959 571360 01959 577400 07900 171266 07929 365228
Jonathan Andrews (Darwin)	07811 313 559
Biggin Hill Evening W.I. Biggin Hill Horticultural Society	01959 700973 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 Childline (confidential helpline for children)	0208 461 7777
Citizen's Advice Bureau (Bromley)	0800 1111 (24 hr) 0208 315 1940
Community Links, Bromley	0208 315 1940
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Dial-a-Ride (For registration and enquiries)	0343 222 7777
Doctor's Surgeries -	00102221111
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 of	
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 RAF Biggin Hill Memorial Museum & Chapel	01689 863000 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
	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
	573917/570020
Victim Support Scheme Westerham Hill Baptist Church	0208 776 7071 01732 867516
vvesternam nim baptist Church	01132 001310



The Next Moving Church News

Month	Deadline	Issue Date
Oct-Nov	12 th Sept	28 th Sept
Dec - Jan 26	14 th Nov	30 th Nov

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

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

Parish office: 01959 577816
Email: admin@movingchurch.org
St Mark's website: www.movingchurch.org



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

Keeping up with everything at St. Mark's.

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

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