



# The Moving Church News

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

June & July 2026



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

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Front cover - Anne Nash, a longstanding member of St Mark's Church was licensed to be a Lay Minister. Please see page 8.

# 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 - The position is vacant at this time.

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

Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion Service

# Where Generations Meet

In recent years, society seems to have become increasingly fascinated with placing people into neatly defined "generations." Hardly a week goes by without hearing someone described as a "Baby Boomer," "Generation X," "Millennial" or "Gen Z," usually accompanied by sweeping statements about attitudes, behaviours or outlooks on life.

We are told that the "Silent Generation" valued duty and resilience, that "Baby Boomers" are hardworking and traditional, that "Generation X" are independent and practical, that "Millennials" seek balance and purpose, and that "Generation Z" are technologically fluent and socially aware. And then there are today's Alpha and Beta generations- children growing up in a world entirely shaped by technology.

Whilst there can sometimes be small grains of truth in these observations, labels can also be unhelpful. They risk reducing people to stereotypes, as though the year in which we were born somehow defines our character, our values or our ability to relate to one another. In reality, every generation has strengths, every generation has weaknesses, and every generation has something valuable to offer.

Perhaps one of the saddest consequences of this labelling is that it can subtly encourage separation. Younger people may feel older generations cannot understand them, whilst older people may feel dismissed or left behind by a rapidly changing world. Yet when generations genuinely spend time together, those assumptions quickly begin to disappear.

The church, thankfully, remains one of the few places where generations still naturally mix. Within one congregation, we may have people who remember wartime Britain sitting alongside children who have never known life without smartphones and the internet. Rather than seeing these differences as barriers, we should see them as opportunities to learn from one another, to share experiences, and to build genuine friendships across the years.

There is something very special about a church community that brings generations together. In a world that can sometimes seem increasingly divided by age, interests and experience, the church remains one of the few places where people of all generations can truly meet, share and learn from one another.

We often hear conversations about what younger generations need from older people - guidance, wisdom, encouragement and experience - but perhaps we do not speak enough about what older generations gain from younger people too: energy, fresh perspectives, laughter, curiosity and hope. Relationships

between generations should never be one-sided; they are a gift to everyone involved.

A friend of mine, Dorothy, belongs to what is often called “the Silent Generation”, while I sit firmly in the middle of Generation X, yet we have so much in common. Despite an age gap of nearly 25 years, our shared love of music and singing has brought us together, as have our careers in teaching. Although education has changed greatly over the years, many of the stories we exchange could just as easily have come from classrooms decades apart.

Dorothy is a remarkable source of knowledge about the people and history of our local area, and I have learned so much from her memories and experiences. My role in the friendship, meanwhile, is usually to remind her to carry her smartphone with her in case of emergencies!

In a similar way, another friend of mine, Leanne, is more than twenty years my junior. A fellow teacher with a love of music, and very much part of the Millennial generation, she and I can “talk for Britain” whenever we get together. Once again, despite the years between us, we find that our interests, passions and outlook on life are strikingly similar.

These friendships show that while generations may span many decades, the things that truly connect us -conversation, shared interests, music, laughter and companionship -remain timeless.

The Bible reminds us of the value of every generation. We read, “*Grey hair is a crown of splendour; it is attained in the way of righteousness*” (Proverbs 16:31).

A few years ago, with this very idea in mind, I set up a link between Fairchildes Primary School in New Addington, and St Mark's Church. Each week, a group of nine and ten-year-olds travel to the church and spend the best part of an hour sitting with some of our ladies, learning how to knit.

Whilst knitting itself may appear to be the main objective, the children gain so much more than simply learning a practical skill. The conversations they have with the ladies are unlike the conversations they have elsewhere. They learn to listen carefully, to enjoy the company of older people, to show patience and respect, and most importantly, to value one another's company.

In truth, knitting has almost become a by-product.

It is not simply the skill of knitting that we hope they carry into adult life, but this appreciation and interest in people who are not of their own generation. In a society where people can so easily remain within their own age groups, these moments matter enormously.

Equally, the ladies themselves gain so much from the children. The laughter, the stories from school, the endless curiosity and honesty of young people bring joy and vitality into the group. It becomes less about teaching and more about companionship.

It has also been lovely recently to see so many younger faces in our congregation —both families with young children and young adults attending independently. It has given the church a different feel and it is heart-warming to watch the interactions between older members of our church community and younger ones.

Young people often receive poor press coverage, and sadly there can sometimes be a fear or misunderstanding between generations. Yet opening opportunities for intergenerational friendships removes those barriers. Once people begin talking, listening and laughing together, those differences no longer seem important. The church is one of the best places for this to happen. After all, every single one of us has something valuable to offer another person — whether we are eight or eighty. We each carry stories, experiences, knowledge and kindness that can enrich someone else's life.

Perhaps this is where true community is found - in the places where generations meet.

Jo Hussey



# Licensed Lay Minister

## Anne Nash – Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, Anne Nash, a longstanding member of St Mark's Church was licensed to be a Lay Minister at Rochester Cathedral, to work in the benefice of Biggin Hill, .

### **What is a Licensed Lay Minister?**

A Licensed Lay Minister in the Diocese of Rochester is a lay person who has been licensed by the Bishop to undertake ministry in and on behalf of the church.

The types of roles, responsibility and duty of a LLM will vary according to the gifts and abilities of the individual, the needs of their parish or ministry setting, and the context of their life. Training for LLM includes developing capacity in Christian leadership and gaining knowledge and skills in different expressions of ministry, as preparation for the candidate's particular situation.

The expectation is that a Licensed Lay Minister will be:

- Theologically articulate
- A reflective practitioner
- A leader alongside others in mission and ministry

Anne was one of 11 candidates who had completed their 2 years of training prior to becoming licensed. Learning for ministry is a never-ending process, and it is expected that the training will give the foundations for continued learning and growth in ministry with colleagues in St Mark's and the other settings in which she is called to serve.

During her period of training, Anne supported St Mark's in leading a variety of services including, All Age Worship, Remembrance Sunday and over the Christmas and Easter period. As well as continuing to support the leadership in St Mark's, Anne is currently completing Funeral and

Chaplaincy modules and would like to explore this facet of Ministry further.

Congratulations Anne!!

*How you see your sense of ministry developing as a result of your training towards being an Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)?*

Anne Nash Reflects over the past 3 years,

I see my call to LLM has strengthened over time. God was calling me to this ministry for a number of years and has led me from leading all age worship services as part of a small team and giving the occasional sermon. Initially I thought this is what being an LLM would look like.

How wrong I was! Very quickly I realised there was much more to the ministry of LLM's that I had imagined or known. Over my first year, my knowledge and understanding of God's word, together with the structure and practice within the Church of England, quickly grew.

By the time I was ready to receive the Bishop's certificate my incumbent (vicar) was retiring and our church was moving into a vacancy. I saw my training and my leadership skills coming together, confirming to me, that becoming an LLM was what God was calling me to. I have now supported St Mark's in leading a variety of services over the Remembrance and Christmas period, and I am actively supporting the leadership in the church.

Over this time, I became aware that God may be calling me to help the local air cadets. After some exploring and training I now support this group of approximately 100 cadets on a regular basis.

So what next? I will endeavour to focus and listen to God and where he may be leading me. I am currently completing the Funeral and Chaplaincy modules and I hope to get a placement in our local hospital. I have always felt my calling from God was to be a nurse and in my 40 years of nursing, I have worked at St Christopher's Hospice since 1991 and have held a senior nursing role since 2010. However, I am intending to reduce my working hours and use my time in ways which will enable my LLM ministry to develop and grow.

Anne



Anne was licensed to be a Lay Minister at Rochester Cathedral



The Very Reverend Fenton Morley, Dean of Salisbury, once said, "There has been a relation between money and religion ever since Noah. He was the only man able to float a company when the rest of the world was in liquidation!"

Barry



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Well hello, if you're not already a valued member then why not join us this year 2026 or maybe you'd like to buy an annual membership for a family member, friend or someone special. It's just something a little extra and different, for maybe a Birthday, Christmas present or just a treat!

If you're interested, all you have to do is give our membership secretary Helen a call on

07866 706165 or email [helen.wanford18@gmail.com](mailto:helen.wanford18@gmail.com)

It is £10 per household for a year's subscription which entitles you to free entry to all our shows and evening talks!



*"We do hope we've  
talked you into  
joining us!"*



## The 'Moving Church News'

The Moving Church News is the bi-monthly magazine of St. Mark's Church, Biggin Hill. Although it is produced by St. Mark's Church it is a community magazine which hopes to reflect the different clubs, societies and organisations in the locality.

If you are involved with one of these, any information about your group or its activities or future events can be sent to the editor for possible inclusion in a future issue.

You can send your contribution to [neil.walkerz@gmail.com](mailto:neil.walkerz@gmail.com) or take it to the Parish Office which is at the entrance to the Church Hall, or post it to St. Mark's Church, Church Road, Biggin Hill, TN16 3LB.

The next issue will be published from the 2nd August and the deadline for contributions is the 17th July. The dates other future issues can be found on page 31.

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# Biggin Hill Community Care Association

## Biggin Hill Day Centre

The Day Centre helps to support those who are experiencing physical disability, isolation, frailty, early stage dementia and carers needing respite from their caring role.

- Professional Care Staff
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- Three course meal & refreshments

**The Day Centre is open on Tuesdays  
and Thursdays (10.15am - 3pm)  
at St. Mark's Centre,  
Church Road TN16 3LB**



BHCCA Office: 01959 577400  
[bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com](mailto:bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com)  
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### Mothers of the Famous

Columbus' Mother: "I don't care what you've discovered, Chris. You still could have written."

Michelangelo's Mother: "Mike, can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?"

Batman's Mother: "It's a nice car, Bruce, but do you realize how much the insurance is going to be?"

Goldilocks Mother: "I've got a bill here for a broken chair from the Bear family. Do you know anything about this, Goldie?"

Albert Einstein's Mother: "But, Albert, it's your school photo. Can't you do something about your hair? Styling gel, mousse, something...?"

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

### Music At St. Mark's

St. Mark's Music - songs and fellowship with a lively touch. Call Chris on 01959 700815 for more details

### Baby & Toddler Group

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

### Home Groups

Home groups meet every fortnight for fellowship and Bible Study. For more information contact the Parish Office

### Bell Ringing

Please contact the Parish Office on 01959 577816

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

Please contact Rosemary Spurway on 01959 575717

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# What's On at The Arts Society Limpsfield

Our Society began as Limpsfield Decorative and Fine Arts Society over 40 years ago. We have adapted to many challenges over that time, particularly Covid. We cover a wide range of interests: famous artists and lesser, re-discovered artists but also design, films, dance and music. Our top-quality speakers bring their subject to life in a fun and inspiring way - proven to be an enjoyable and memorable event that is good for your well-being!

We are also very active in visits, art galleries, historic subjects - The Huguenots for example, London Walks and summer garden and house visits. We have one lecture on the last Wednesday of each month in May and June, an illustrated lecture in St Peter's Hall, Limpsfield. It takes place at 7.15 for 7.30 pm. Before each session we have a social meeting and meet friends, starting 45 minutes before the lecture. New members and guests are very welcome and a half year membership is £21.

**Miniature Portraits** - Tiny Treasures close to our hearts by Cindy Polemis Wednesday 27 May 2026 at Limpsfield Church Hall, RH8 0DG at 7.30pm Guests £10 cash on the door. Evening only lecture - come early to enjoy refreshments

*Whether used for diplomatic gifts or tokens of love, between the 16th-19th centuries miniatures were commissioned as small portraits which could be held in the hand or placed inside lockets creating an intimate relationship between the owner and sitter. I look at the history of these tiny treasures of art.*

**Joseph Duveen: Charismatic crook or the world's greatest art dealer?**  
By Mark Meridith on Wednesday 24 June 2026. At Limpsfield Church Hall Starting at 7.30pm, Guests £10 Cash on the door  
Come early to enjoy refreshments

*"Europe has a great deal of art, and America has a great deal of money," remarked Joseph Duveen. One man who was perfectly positioned to combine charm with creative salesmanship, convincing tight-fisted titans of Wall Street (Frick, Morgan, Mellon etc.) that art was more important than money - art - and, "when you pay high for the priceless, you're getting it cheap". Without Duveen, there is no Frick; and, without Duveen both the Metropolitan Museum in New York and The National Gallery of Art in DC would struggle, or even fail, to be considered world-class today.*

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# Church Registers

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**Ruth Rangecroft**

**Brenda Joyce Mason**

**Frank "George" Orgill**

**Jean Marjorie Davies**

## BURIAL OF ASHES

**Margaret Jane Pyman**

## 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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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



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5.00-6.00 Children's Ballroom & Latin Classes

### THURSDAY

10.00-12.00 Coffee Dance (No instruction)

### FRIDAY

9.30-10.15 Fit Dance  
4.15-5.00 Grade 1 Ballet &  
Grade 1 Gymnastic Dance  
5.00-5.45 Grade 4 Ballet &  
Grade 2 Gymnastic Dance  
6.00-6.45 Adult Tap

### SATURDAY

Private Lessons

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

## Enjoy a warm welcome at our Lunch Club.

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

A three course meal is provided which our kitchen staff cook on the premises. Enjoy the company of others and be served by our friendly volunteers. After the meal, hot drinks are served.

Please call if you would like more information. There is a charge and places have to be booked in advance so please contact us for more details. 01959 577400  
[bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com](mailto:bigginhillcommunitycare@gmail.com)  
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ALLENBY

COACH HIRE

WELCOME TO OUR DAY TRIPS DEPARTING FROM BIGGIN HILL AREA  
Pick up point from opposite Waitrose, Biggin Hill

Tuesday 16 June - Weald & Downland Museum, Sussex - £40pp Sn £41pp Ad  
Thursday 18 June - Kentish Lady Boat Trip & Fish & Chips, Maidstone - £66pp  
Tuesday 23 June - Day Trip to Home Bay - £26pp  
Thursday 25 June - RHS Wisley, Guildford - £41pp RHS £26pp  
Thursday 2 July - Castle Farm Lavender Fields Tour & Pothill Garden Centre - £41pp  
Friday 3 July - Parham House & Gardens, Sussex - £41pp  
Thursday 9 July - Day Trip to Bexhill or Hastings - £26pp  
Wednesday 15 July - Day Trip to Bognor or Littlehampton - £26pp  
Monday 20 July - Day Trip to Southend, Essex - £27pp  
Friday 24 July - Penshurst Place, Kent - £41pp  
Tuesday 28 July - Basingstoke Canal Boat Trip & Pub Lunch, Hampshire - £82pp FULL  
Tuesday 4 August - Kew Gardens, London - £48pp  
Friday 7 August - St Paul's Walden Bury, Hitchin - £42pp  
Monday 10 August - Day Trip to Cambridge - £27pp  
Thursday 13 August - Eastbourne Airshow - £26pp  
Friday 21 August - Day Trip to Whitstable - £26pp  
Wednesday 26 August - Belmont House, Faversham Inc. tour & Ploughman's - £52pp  
Friday 28 August - Day Trip to Deal - £26pp  
Thursday 3 September - RHS Wisley Flower Show & Gardens - £41pp RHS £26pp  
Wednesday 9 September - St Albans Market Day - £26pp  
Monday 14 September - Batemans, Sussex - £43pp NT £26pp  
Tuesday 22 September - Day in Salisbury - £30pp  
Friday 25 September - Mickelham Priory, Sussex - £36pp

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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

# PRUNING SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER FLOWERING SHRUBS

Deciduous shrubs that flower in spring and early summer benefit from annual pruning to encourage strong, healthy shoots and abundant flowers the following year. Pruning promotes vigorous growth, improves the long-term health of plants, helps manage size and structure, and ensures reliable flowers, fruit and extended seasonal interest.

Pruning is also beneficial for wildlife. Woody shrubs are valuable habitats, particularly for birds, as dense growth provides nesting sites as well as flowers, fruit and nectar. This time of year avoid pruning during early spring when birds may be nesting.

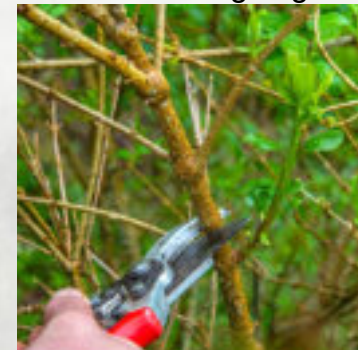


The ideal time to prune is immediately after flowering, allowing maximum time for new growth to develop and form next year's flower

buds before the end of summer.

When pruning deciduous shrubs, always begin by removing the "three d's": Diseased, Dead and Damaged material. It is also advisable to remove any crossing or rubbing branches, as these can create wounds that may allow disease to enter the plant. When renovating older shrubs, removing around 30% of ageing stems will encourage vigorous new growth.

Cut back flowered wood to strong young shoots lower down the stem. Ideally, these shoots should already be actively growing rather than relying on dormant buds. Overgrown shrubs can also be renovated by pruning back hard. This often results in a flush of vigorous new growth, which should later be thinned to



maintain healthy development and improve airflow through congested branches.

Useful tools for the task include a strong, sharp pair of secateurs, loppers, small folding pruning saw for thicker wood and gardening gloves for protection.

Although pruning can sometimes feel drastic, it encourages healthy new growth and better flowering the following year. Shrubs that respond particularly well include, Deutzia, Ribes, Physocarpus, Philadelphus, Forsythia, Weigela.

This work should ideally be completed by mid-July to allow sufficient time for strong growth to develop before the end of summer. As hard pruning can place plants under stress, it is advisable to water thoroughly afterwards and apply a generous mulch around the base to retain moisture and aid recovery.

Mediterranean plants such as lavender should be pruned soon after flowering using a pair of sharp hand shears. Cutting just above the old wood, but never into it, as these plants tend not to reshoot from bare wood.

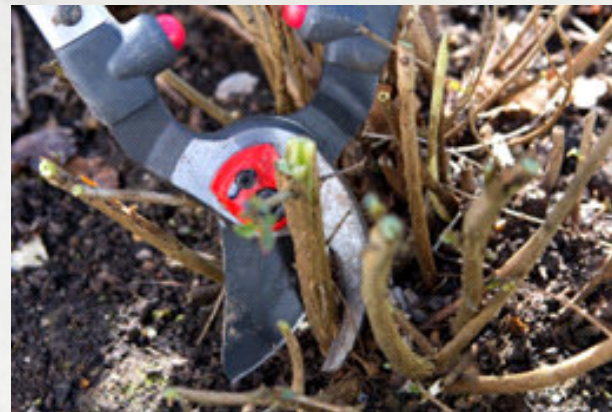


In some cases, you may be rewarded with a second flush of flowers in late summer.

Similar plants, such as rosemary — now reclassified as *Salvia* — should be pruned in late spring or early summer after their first display of

flowers. This helps reshape the plant and encourages further flowering. The same applies to *Cistus*, helping to maintain shape and reduce excessive woody growth.

Hardy fuchsias can become excessively large if left unchecked. Once the threat of frost has passed, they can be cut back hard in mid to late spring. Likewise, *Buddleja davidii* can be pruned in a similar manner. However, its cousin, *Buddleja weyeriana* — originally from South Africa and noted for its mustard-yellow flowers — should be pruned later, from late April into May.



If you are unsure or lack confidence, start by pruning only a small number of stems and observe how the plant responds. Confidence and experience will grow over time.

**The Biggin Hill Horticultural Society** have some forthcoming events to whet your appetite this summer. All talks and event are at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Road, Biggin Hill. Evenings from 8 to 10 pm (doors open at 7.30) refreshments, garden sundries, plants to purchase and raffle are available and our Summer Flower Show opens to the public at 3pm, tea and cake available.

**Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup>** Talk by Kevin Tooher on "The Rights and Wrongs of Pruning"

**Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>** Summer Flower Show

**Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup>** Talk by Neil Miller on "The Famous Roses of Hever Castle"

Call Nick Hagon (Biggin Hill & District Horticultural Society) 01959 575799 between 6.30 and 9pm, should you require further information about joining!

Thank you

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir  
conducted by Robyn Sevastos

# WEST END MUSICALS

7.30pm  
Saturday 27th June

The Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks

Tickets: £19  
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<https://stagsevenoaks.co.uk>

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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



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