

*The Village Connection*  
+ Mendip + Downhead + Stoke St Michael + Leigh

*Wishing  
Anthony &  
Christine a  
Happy  
Retirement*

**Issue 306**

**May 2024**



## Dates for your Diary

### May

- 3 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 10 Leigh Lunch LoM Memorial Hall *See p 15*
- 10 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 11 Leigh Recreation Field AGM 2pm *See p 14*
- 13 Leigh WI AGM LoM Memorial Hall 7.30pm
- 16 Savoury Cream Tea LoM Tower Room 3pm *See p 7*
- 17 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 18 The Children's Society Bake & Brew The Dovecote LoM 10 -Noon  
*See p 14*
- 20 LOMCA Active Living Centre 10.30am *See p 15*
- 24 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 28 East Mendip Gardening Club Oakhill Village Hall 7.30 *See p 21*
- 31 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon

*The Rectory, High Street, Nunney, Frome BA11 4LZ*

*Tel: 01373 837337*

### *From the Rectory*

By the time you read this, the last of our three Annual Parochial Church Meetings will have taken place, new officers elected or re-elected, and plans formulated for the coming year. My heartfelt thanks go out to those who have served on our PCCs; to the churchwardens, treasurers, and secretaries for their time in office, and for all the work that goes into the maintenance and mission of our churches. Many thanks too, to those who contribute to church life in many other ways: our sidesmen, organists, (an increasingly rare breed), the bellringers, flower- arrangers, fund-raisers, and those on Church tea rotas.

Like many other clergy- I expect- life is so busy that one is vaguely aware that retirement is approaching, then suddenly it is only 6 weeks away, and in May I'll be taking services in each Church for the last time! It has felt a little strange talking about services and events which will take place after we have left.

Looking back over the last twelve and a half years as Christine and I prepare for retirement, I'm struck by how quickly the time has passed.

On this subject, a wise priest once said to me- 'Well, you won't have done as well as you hoped, but neither will you have gone down as badly as you feared : it's your ability to take the rough with the smooth, and continuing to turn up that counts'!

I have been fortunate to be serving here at a time when a number of good things have happened. Four of our eight churches have new roofs, (though Nunney's was strictly speaking the ceiling); two churches have new kitchens and toilets; bells have been refurbished and re-hung at Leigh and Nunney; the organs restored at Marston and Witham, and many other works completed to church fabric and churchyards. Mostly, these projects had little to do me, but they are a testament to the will of PCCs and parishioners to keep their valuable churches open as places of worship, and beacons of hope in our much-troubled world.

In the few first years here I grew frustrated that I was spending so much time on the admin. for 'rites of passage', with folk I would often see only a handful of times. It often felt as if I was 'neglecting the flock', and I'm sorry for that. But being spread so thinly among eight parishes this was

inevitable, and I began to see it as an encouraging sign that at least, in these parts, people still want the services of the Church at important turning points in their lives. And of course, every challenge is an opportunity to change hearts and minds.

This has also been a humbling and constant reminder that the vicar doesn't have to be at the centre of everything; that faithful folk can be trusted and relied upon to sustain and develop the life of the parish church for this, and for future generations. So I hope and pray that I'll be leaving people in good heart, and things in a good state for my successor, and that he or she may be a blessing to you, and you to him- or her- as indeed you have been to Christine and me.

With every Blessing,

Anthony

## **FAREWELL ANTHONY AND CHRISTINE**

Anthony will retire at the end of May, and we'd like to thank him and Christine for their time with us, and wish them every happiness for their retirement.

Please join us to say goodbye to them at any of the following occasions:-

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**, 11am - Family Communion Service will be Anthony's last service at Leigh on Mendip

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May**, 11am - Family Communion Service will be Anthony's last service at Stoke St Michael

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**- 11am - Benefices Farewell Service at Nunney Church. The group of churches will get together to wish Anthony and Christine goodbye. Everyone is very welcome .

Following the service there will be a Bring and Share lunch in Nunney Village Hall. If you would like to attend please bring along a dish to share (cold buffet), and you will need to book your place by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/farewell-lunch-for-anthony-and-christine-tickets-886159746657>

or let your Churchwarden know you intend to come



## **Letter from Bishop Michael**

### **A challenge offered**

There's a fascinating exercise I've often undertaken with roomfuls of church members. I've asked them the question 'To what age do you trace back the beginnings of your Christian faith?' The results are almost always the same. About 40% of us think that our Christian journey started at some point before the age of four. Another 40% of us trace the beginnings of our faith back to when we were less than eleven. A further 20% say before we were eighteen. While only one in five of us report having embarked on the journey of faith as adults.

The findings I've described should give us all pause for thought. For most people, the start of our Christian journey (even if we've dropped out for a while in adolescence and early adulthood) starts in childhood.

So if we want to grow our churches and transform our communities this suggests that it's into the faith development of children and young people that we should be putting our energies, priority and resources.

Our data suggests that more than half our churches have no young person worshipping with them on a Sunday morning. I realise, of course, how hard it is for churches to compete with the demands of football, seeing the extended family, doing any of the many things that are otherwise crowded out of busy family lives. Yet experience shows that when we offer worship at other times and in formats that are attractive to children, young people and families they do come.

This year I'm challenging all our benefices to grow their average weekly attendance by one child (net). If we could sustain such an achievement over a number of years the impact would transform our churches, our lives and our experience. The support services of our diocese offer extensive assistance to enable local churches to think what could work with the resources you have, the passions and skills you possess and the reality of the situation where you are. Do ask for their help.

Are you willing to take up the challenge I've offered?

Bishop Michael

# Sidesmen & Flowers



## Leigh on Mendip

	<b>Sideman</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
5 May	Tom and Sue Rodford	Jacqueline Witt
12 May	No service	-
19 May	-	Jo Prandy
26 May	-	-
2 June	tba	Sue Rodford

## Church/Brass Cleaning

May – Caroline Palmer and Vicky Higgins

June – Mary Witts and Lally Lee

## Stoke St Michael

	<b>Sideman</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
5 May	Jane Evans	Janet Gilham
12 May	Janet Gilham	-
19 May	Justine North	Hazel Tucker
26 May	-	-
2 June	Jane Evans	Irene Webb

## Church Cleaning

May - Cicely Middle

June - Jane Evans

## Coffee and Chat at Stoke Church



Please join us for a coffee, cake and chat  
every Friday morning 10 - 12 noon

Come on your own, bring a friend,

Meet and catchup with old friends and make some new ones!

Younger guests also welcome!

More details from Justine North- 01749 840412

[justine.north123@gmail.com](mailto:justine.north123@gmail.com)



Or from the church website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10959/>

# From the Registers

## Funerals

Gladys Spencer Leigh on Mendip (Memorial Service) 12th April,  
Peggy Hillier Nunney and Mendip Crematorium: 16th April,



## FRIENDS OF LEIGH CHURCH

Registered charity number (England and Wales): 1174913

### MAY UPDATE

FOLC coordinated the Spring Clean of St Giles church and churchyard recently and support from the LoMe Rangers and other community members was welcomed. A lot was achieved aided by fine weather; the inside of the building is sparkling; the roofs and ground gullies are clean and clear, and a lot of vegetation growth has been trimmed back. Thank you all so much for your help.

It is with regret that we have decided to cancel the Open Gardens event for 2024 as many supporters are unable have their gardens available this year, with many away on the chosen Sunday. We are still aiming to hold the event next year and are planning it for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in July, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

We have been asked if another Bingo is planned and the answer is yes, we are currently looking at suitable dates in July and will tell you once we can firm it up.

In the rather shorter term, we will be holding a savoury cream tea in the Tower Room from 3pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Do drop in and join us for yummy cheese scones, with toppings.

The Tower Room café remains open daily and provides a peaceful place to rest, work or socialise with free wi-fi, electronic access to the church records, children's toys and self-serve refreshments.

Also, Leigh Lunches continue on the second Friday of the month, next to be served on the 10<sup>th</sup> May in the Memorial Hall. Come and enjoy a home cooked two course meal with friends for £6 each. You will need to book by 7<sup>th</sup> May: contact Vicky Higgins, v.l.higginsfox@btinternet.com, telephone 01373 812087.

Many thanks to all those who already support us, to any others that would like to join the team, please contact us, email: folcleigh@gmail.com

# Sunday Stokers



The Stokers had a lot of fun learning about the story of The Lost Sheep in our April session.

While the 11 and 12 year olds explored Psalm 23 ('The Lord is my shepherd'), the younger children got started on making some sheep finger puppets. It's amazing what you can do with cotton wool and some googly eyes!

After singing two songs, the Stokers became shepherds themselves, working in teams to herd as many 'sheep' (balloons) as they could, using only a straw to blow through. The competition was fierce and no sheep was left behind...although a few popped!

Sunday Stokers will next meet on **Sunday 18th May**; all 3-12 year olds are very welcome to come and join the fun.



## Watch-out there's a thief about...

Calling all members of the community... we have recently updated our risk assessment at Stoke church, and are pleased to still be able to leave the church open every day for visitors to spend some quiet time there, from 9am to 4pm.

However we are aware that this leaves the building vulnerable.

We would ask you all to be good Church-neighbours and keep an eye on the place when you are nearby. Any suspicious activity please let the Churchwardens know, or, of course call 999 if required

Thank you for your help

Jane and Justine, Churchwardens





*Informal evening worship*

# SOUL FOOD

LIVE MUSIC  
PRAYER  
REFLECTION  
COFFEE & CAKE  
@ 6PM

SUN 14 APRIL (NUNNEY)

SUN 12 MAY (STOKE)

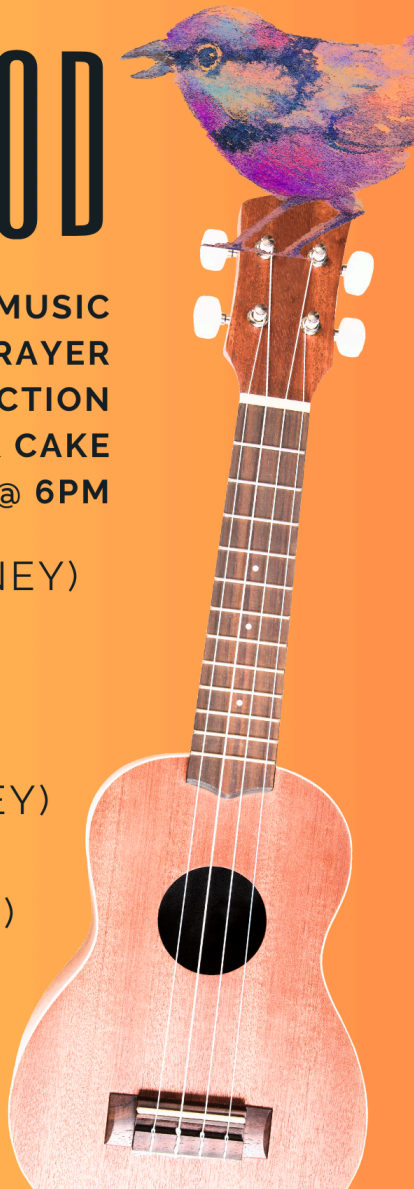
SUN 9 JUNE (NUNNEY)

SUN 14 JULY (STOKE)



[/STOKESTMICHAELCHURCH](#)

[/ALLSAINTSNUNNEY](#)



## Leigh on Mendip WI

Spring feels like it is eventually making its presence known at last, with warmer temperatures and better weather allowing us in to venture out into the garden.



Leigh on Mendip WI members enjoyed a very educational evening with Mary Cross talking willow weaving. We watched a short slide show about its cultivation and versatility and then a lovely demonstration making a willow plant support, all done very deftly whilst enlightening us on willow's many uses.

Our next event in May will be our AGM on the 13th, where amongst other agenda we will discuss the WI Resolution, "Calling on the Government to improve access to Dentistry for all". Plus we shall hold a social event looking through our Archives, and invite members to bring something with which they would like to "Show and Tell".

WI Members and helpers have been busy in doing a Spring Litter Pick around the village, all helping to keep our area a clean and tidy place to live in.

We get together and meet for many other activities such as Tai Chi, Book Club and Crafting to name a few.

We are a jolly bunch of ladies of all ages and welcome visitors and new faces. Please come along to one of our meetings to see if you would like to join.

We meet on the second Monday of each month, in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.

Just turn up or contact Caroline on 01373 812889 for further details.

See our Blog:

<https://leighonmendipwi.blogspot.com/>

## LEIGH RECREATION FIELD

It is with Great sadness that I once again have to ask that everyone that walks their dogs on the Recreation field keeps their dog on a lead and picks up after them. There is an increasing number of people that feel that this does not apply to them.

The Recreation Field is a designated "public space" and as such we have a legal responsibility to ensure that dogs are on leads at all times and that the field is free of dog mess. BUT the greater responsibility lies with dog owners.

The field is used regularly by children falling on the field playing. Do your part in making sure it is safe and pleasant for them.

**Coronation Park** The ground is gradually getting firmer – please pray for dry weather, but in the meantime, avoid the squishy bits! There are still more play items to install, but that will have to wait for **really** firm ground.

### **Rec Events for the Summer:**

The formal opening of Coronation Park is on **Saturday 8 June**, It'll be a lunchtime do with a BBQ and bar.

The lighting the beacon on **6 June** (part of a national event to mark the 80th anniversary of **D-Day**) will happen as the sun goes down.

And lastly, in the absence of a village fair, we plan to have a village day at the rec on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. Get in touch if you want to participate.

**Bonus Club** The winners in March were Roger and Anne Orpwood & Jan and Anne Robson who have no 33. I'm sure they have their £20 by now.

And finally – our **AGM** will be on the rec at 2pm on 11 May, outside in warm sunshine with any luck. Come along and have your say.

Vicky Higgins 812087

**This space is for  
your news  
your event  
your information about.....**

**Send details to  
E-mail - [thevillageconnection@hotmail.com](mailto:thevillageconnection@hotmail.com)**

**LEIGH on MENDIP**

**DON'T  
FORGET  
TO...**

# **GET CREATIVE!**

**WEAVING  
PAINTING  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
MAKING  
TURNING  
JEWELLERY**

**FOR THIS YEAR'S**

**NEEDLEWORK  
FLOWERCRAFT  
ETCHING**

**METALWORK  
TEXTILES  
PAPER CRAFT**

**KNITTING  
DRAWING  
WOODWORKING  
LEATHER  
GLASS  
CERAMICS**

**ARTS** and **CRAFTS**  
EXHIBITION 2024

**12th - 13th OCTOBER  
Memorial Hall**

## VACANCY UPDATE

Across the group of churches we have set up a Vacancy Committee made up of representatives from each church. As a group we have already started to address how to keep things going whilst we are in Vacancy (staffing services, and covering for Occasional Offices etc); and the group will meet with Archdeacon Charlie Peer in May to start thinking about the recruitment process. We will of course keep you updated as things go along.

Our aim is to continue with the current pattern of services, and it will be nice to welcome a range of different clergy to our services!

It is so important to seek God's blessings and guidance for this process as we go along. Please commit to praying about this. Prayer needs:

- Pray for Anthony and Christine as they move, settle in their new home and get used to new routines
- Pray for the Vacancy Committee and Churchwardens as we seek to fill service rotas and keep everything going; and for Claire our church administrator as she copes with many changes.
- Pray for our church life as we continue to reach out to our communities in love.
- Out there somewhere God has a new Vicar lined up for us already! Pray for him or her!

We have set up a monthly prayer meeting to regularly pray together as a group of churches, and you are encouraged to join us for these. The meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, 6pm, and will rotate around the churches in the group. Dates so far are:-

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April- Stoke St Michael Church

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May- Cloford Church

Find out more about this process from you local Vacancy Committee members...

Leigh on Mendip- Mary Witts and Margaret Loten  
Stoke St Michael - Paul Richards and Justine North

# Bake and brew



**Date:** SATURDAY 18 MAY

**Time:** 10 AM - 12 NOON

**Location:** THE DOVECOTE, LEIGH ON MENDIP

Every penny raised will help The Children's Society achieve our goal of overturning the damaging decline in children's wellbeing by 2030, setting a path for long lasting growth.

**Learn more at [childrenssociety.org.uk](https://childrenssociety.org.uk)**

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**The  
Children's  
Society**

## Community Activity

The Active Living Centre (ALC) meetings are open to anyone over 50 years of age, together with any carers attending with them. We are currently holding the meetings in the old skittle alley area at the Bell Inn.

**For more information, or for bookings, please ring Graham on 07561 347891 or e-mail: [graham@grahamcroft.plus.com](mailto:graham@grahamcroft.plus.com)**

### **LOMCA – May 2024**

The next meeting of the **Active Living Centre** is in the Bell Inn at 10.30am on **Monday 20 May** when Kevin Little will give a humorous presentation about his life as a fishmonger, and talk about health inspectors, the police, the customs man and his customers. Please book well in advance, and by 12<sup>th</sup> May at the latest, so that we can arrange the lunch. The cost paid on the day is £2.00 for attending the event and £5.00 for the two-course lunch. For booking, or for further details, please contact Graham.

## **THE LEIGH LUNCH** at Leigh on Mendip Memorial Hall

**Friday 10 May 2024**

and the second Friday of every month

£6 for a 2-course hot lunch, including hot drinks  
Bar available

Dietary needs catered for - just let us know when you book

**Everyone is welcome - all ages!**

**Book now:**

E-mail [v.l.higginsfox@btinternet.com](mailto:v.l.higginsfox@btinternet.com) or call 01373 812087

Please book by **Tuesday 7 May** at the latest  
If you would like help with transport please let us know when you book

# Church Services in the Benefices of Stoke St Michael, Leigh on Mendip and the United Parish of Postlebury

## 3rd May (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)

## Sunday 5th May (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

09.30 Wanstrow Holy Communion & Baptism - Isaac Eaton  
11.00 Leigh on Mendip Family Communion *Graham Witts*  
18.00 Stoke St Michael Evensong *Jane Evans*

## 9th May (Thursday) - Ascension Day

19.00 Stoke St Michael Holy Communion

## 10th May (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)

## Sunday 12th May (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

09.30 Stoke St Michael Holy Communion  
11.00 Witham Holy Communion  
18.00 Stoke St Michael Soul Food *Chris North*

## 16th May (Thursday)

18.00 Wanstrow Compline & Meditation

## 17th May (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)



# May 2024



## Sunday 19th May (Pentecost)

09.30	Marston	Holy Communion	
11.00	Stoke St Michael	Family Communion	
14.00	Wanstrow	Baptism - Hector Jack Masters	
18.00	Downhead	Holy Communion	<i>Graham Witts</i>

## 24th May (Friday)

10.00	Nunney	Holy Communion (BCP)	
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## Sunday 26th May (Trinity Sunday)

11.00	Nunney	Benefices Farewell Service	
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## Sunday 2nd June (Second Sunday after Trinity)

09.30	Wanstrow	Holy Communion	<i>Graham Witts</i>
11.00	Leigh on Mendip	Family Communion	<i>Graham Witts</i>
18.00	Stoke St Michael	Evensong	<i>Jane Evans</i>

## 9th June (Friday)

10.00	Nunney	Holy Communion (BCP)	<i>Chris Foster</i>
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*All services are led by Rev. Anthony Dickson unless otherwise stated*

## INFORMATION PAGE

Vicar: The Reverend Anthony Dickson  
The Rectory, High Street, Nunney Frome BA11 4LZ Tel: 01373 837337

Parish Office, The Rectory email: nunney.rectory@gmail.com

Parish Administrator : Claire Edwards

Office hours - Thursday 1 - 4pm Friday 9am - 12.30pm

### **Leigh on Mendip and Downhead Parochial Church Council**

**Contact email:** sec.lomd.pcc@gmail.com

Churchwarden	Steve Britten	Merryfield Lodge, Merryfield Farm
	01749 880118	Douling BA4 4RF
	Paula Freeland	Honeysuckle Cottage
	07722 359093	Leigh on Mendip BA3 5QQ
Treasurer	Margaret Loten	6 The Old Sawmills
	01373 812922	Leigh on Mendip BA3 5RQ
Secretary	Mary Witts	11 Bellfield
	01373 812369	Leigh on Mendip BA3 5QH

### **Stoke St Michael Parochial Church Council**

**Contact email :** stokestmichaelchurchwardens@gmail.com

**See also :** <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10959>

<https://www.facebook.com/StokeStMichaelChurch>

Churchwardens	Jane Evans	Withybrook
	01749 840660	Stoke St Michael BA3 5JQ
	Justine North	West Phippens Farmhouse
	01749 840412	Stoke St Michael BA3 5JH
Treasurer	Tim Pearce	18 The Mead
	01749 841493	Stoke St Michael BA3 5JD
Secretary	Janet Gilham	Hillside, Withybrook
	01749 840671	Stoke St Michael BA3 5JQ

**Safeguarding Officer for Leigh on Mendip, Downhead & Stoke St Michael**  
Justine North

## **Bishop Michael receives a warm welcome in Zambia**

Bishop Michael has been receiving a wonderful welcome as he travels round in Zambia on his two week visit to the country. On Sunday he was in Ndola where he took part in the English language service at Ndola Cathedral. He was then simultaneously translated into Bemba as the preacher at worship at St Patrick's Church in Chifubu, Ndola – a feast of lively music and prayer. Outside afterwards Bishop Michael spend time chatting to many of those who had attended the service.

His day was rounded off by a visit to the newly constructed St Paul's school in the grounds of St Paul's Church, Ndola Nort parish where classrooms have been constructed through support from 'Hands of Compassion' – a charity based near Wells, which has close links to Bath and Wells. Funds to pay for desks for the children came from St George's Church in Wilton. Admissions to the school began in 2023 and the school is already doing well.

For the second leg of his Zambia journey, Bishop Michael spent two days visiting rural churches and communities in Zambia's Central Diocese, covering lots of miles, along bumpy dirt roads. He said of the visit, "I've experienced amazing welcomes and generous hospitality - almost all accompanied by the extraordinary singing of Zambian choirs.

"I've visited churches, schools, health centres and community projects. It's been a privilege to encounter the remarkable mission work of the diocese here - from programmes that help children's health, nutrition and development to microsavings and credit programmes that are empowering women and families to change their lives for good. Many of the churches I've visited speak with great warmth of their encounters with people from parishes in Bath and Wells over the years.

"In Luapula Diocese, northern Zambia, Bishop Michael met with members of the Mother's Union (MU) and the Guild of St Veronica. The focus of the MU is strengthening families and parenting. The focus of St Veronica is service to the community, though there is often an overlap between the two. Bishop Michael said "We shared in a fascinating discussion that covered parenting in today's world, the situation of the MU in England and what's been happening around the prayers of love and faith.

"It was great to be able to share with those present the work that's happening in Bath and Wells around the 'Growing Faith' programme that's supporting links between families, churches and schools."

Bishop Michael will spend two weeks in Zambia, ending in Lusaka before heading back to Bath and Wells.

## East Mendip Gardening Club

May has arrived and the days are getting warmer and longer. Summer is on its way and it's time to tidy up spring plants, plant out summer flowers and get planning for autumn.

Start planting out summer bedding plants towards the end of this month in warmer parts of the country. For more information about growing bedding plants, head over to our hub page.

Look after your finished spring bulbs for next year. Let the foliage die and break down on its own and add liquid fertiliser all around the clumps. This will give you an even better display next spring.

Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.

Continue dividing herbaceous border perennials to improve vigour and create new plants.

Divide established clumps of hostas as they come into growth.

Prune penstemons now — cut all the old shoots back to the base, providing there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.

Take cuttings of tender perennials, such as fuchsia and pelargoniums (tender geraniums). The new shoots of hardy perennials can also be used for cuttings.

Closely inspect plants for pests and diseases — early prevention is much easier than curing an infestation.

Thin out direct-sown vegetables such as spinach, carrot and lettuce seedlings, then water the rows well.

Pinch out the growing points of broad beans as soon as beans start to appear at the base of the plant to reduce the risk of blackfly attack.

Weed around your onions and garlic to reduce competition for nutrients and water. Apply an onion fertiliser to boost growth.

Regularly check the centre of gooseberry bushes for green gooseberry sawfly caterpillars — they will quickly skeletonize leaves if not removed.

Hang pheromone traps in stone fruit trees from May to August to monitor plum-fruit-moth activity and in apple trees to reduce codling moth.

Sow perennials, like delphiniums, lupins, aquilegia and primula, in seed trays for flowering next year and in the years to come.

Plant up certain varieties of climbing perennials, like Passion Flowers, in a sheltered, warm spot - such as a conservatory or greenhouse, or at the foot of a south-facing wall.

Direct sow sunflower seeds now and direct sow poppy seeds, cornflowers and scabious to attract bees and butterflies into your garden.

Direct sow poppy seeds, cornflowers and scabious to attract bees and butterflies into your garden. Read how to encourage wildlife to your garden and give nature a helping hand. Try a pre-mixed wildflower mixture for nectar rich flowers perfect for pollinators.

Now the ground's warmed up, it's time to plant out of patio shrubs and perennial patio plants, such as lavender and geraniums.

Try sowing comfrey seeds in a neglected corner of the garden — it can be used to make fertiliser or for mulching, and is a rich source of nutrients. Direct sow or sow into seed trays indoors.

Grow your own watercress in containers, making sure the container is sitting in 2-3 inches of water at all times.

Direct sow brassica and leafy green seeds like cabbage and Brussels sprouts. Net them early on to prevent cabbage-white butterflies laying their eggs on the leaves.

Start brassica and leafy green seeds under cover now — yes, it really is time to think ahead to winter cropping!

Take time out from all your hard work to relax and enjoy the garden now that the warmer weather has arrived.

Taken from <https://www.thompson-morgan.com>

### Climbers and wall shrubs

On Tuesday 28th May the East Mendip Gardening Club will meet in the Oakhill Village Hall at 7.30p.m. when Alan Eason will be talking about climbers and wall shrubs. Further details from our Chair Mark Manley [markamanley81@googlemail.com](mailto:markamanley81@googlemail.com) or see <https://www.ashwickparish.org/clubs-and-societies/east-mendip-gardening-club/>

## **Leigh on Mendip Allotment Association**

The Leigh on Mendip allotments are in the field to the west side of the Recreation Playing Field. If you live in the parish of Leigh on Mendip and want to register, or simply discuss having an allotment, please contact :- Tim Spurgeon, 18, Park Hayes, tel 07813 505830 or e mail [timsurgeon@btinternet.com](mailto:timsurgeon@btinternet.com)



## Stoke St Michael Village Hall

Available for hire:

Fully equipped kitchen, modern facilities  
and bar, accessible changing, large screen.

Email [enquiries@stokestmichael.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stokestmichael.co.uk)

or phone 07960295425

Community Activities include

Tuesday afternoons 2pm–4pm

Join us for some crafty activities or  
a Coffee & a chat.

More details on

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



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Accessories

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BA3 5TX

*Family run for  
over 30 years!*



## Mole Catcher

**01373836350**

**07512681111**

**No Mole**

**No Fee**



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Funding available for qualifying 2, 3 and 4 years old (15 or 30 hours p/wk)

For more information on our preschool visit

[www.leighonmendipschool.co.uk](http://www.leighonmendipschool.co.uk) or contact us on 01373 812592

## Leigh on Mendip Parent, Toddler and Baby Group

New members are always welcome at

Leigh on Mendip Memorial Hall

Tuesdays 9am - 11am (term time only)

£1.50 for first child and 50p each for siblings

(including refreshments and resources)

If you need any more information contact

Vicky Williams on 07866 894303

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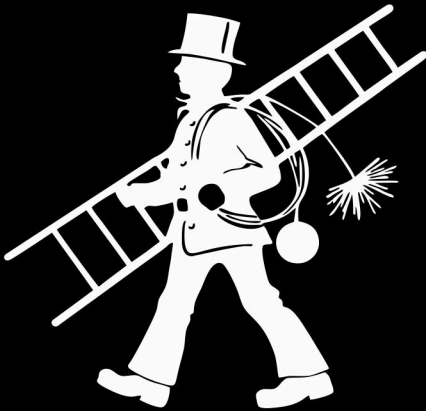
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## Stoke St. Michael Baby and Toddler Group



Come and join our friendly group!

Wednesdays, during term time from 9.30am to 11.30am.  
at the Memorial Hall

£1.50 per family. Your first visit free!

We provide a large range of toys for babies and toddlers, as well as fun weekly activities. Children can enjoy a healthy snack whilst parents can relax with a cup of tea, all included!

Just turn up or contact Karen on 07714 875920 or via Facebook



Stoke St Michael Toddler Group

## Bluebells Early Years Unit at Stoke St Michael Primary School

Moonshill Road, Stoke St Michael, BA3 5LG

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Places available for Reception and Pre-School children.

We offer 15 and 30 hours funded places for eligible families.

To arrange a visit please email [stoke-st-michael@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:stoke-st-michael@educ.somerset.gov.uk) or call the office on 01749 840470. For more information go to [www.croscombstokefederation.co.uk](http://www.croscombstokefederation.co.uk) or visit

 @StokeStMichaelSchool.



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## Leigh-on-Mendip Parish Council

Chair  
Vicki Taylor  
Tel. 01373 813942

Clerk  
**Kate Egan**  
Tel. 01749 343910

Email [parish.clerk@leigh-on-mendip.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@leigh-on-mendip.org.uk)

Meetings are held on the **3rd** Monday of every month in the Memorial Hall unless otherwise advised – see Parish Noticeboards for details of Agenda, Minutes etc. or visit

**[www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk](http://www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk)**



**All parishioners welcome to attend**

## LEIGH on MENDIP MEMORIAL HALL

(Registered Charity No. 304574)



|                                                 |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Monday to Friday (until 6.00 p.m.)</b> ..... | £5.00 per hour   |
| <b>Monday to Friday (6.00pm onwards)</b> .....  | £7.00 per hour   |
| <b>Saturday and Sunday</b> .....                | £7.00 per hour   |
| <b>Business Users - At all times</b> .....      | £10.00 per hour  |
| <b>Sale of Alcohol</b> .....                    | £10.00 per event |

Hire of the hall includes the use of tables and chairs, crockery, cutlery, glasses and use of the kitchen. The hall has WiFi and a comprehensive audio system for playing music or using microphones. It also has a hearing loop.

Some items may also be hired for outside use. A list is available.

**Booking clerks** Ann & Rog Orpwood 01373 812459  
[r.a.orpwood@btinternet.com](mailto:r.a.orpwood@btinternet.com)



**Articles for the next issue to be submitted by the 16th of each month**

**E-mail - [thevillageconnection@hotmail.com](mailto:thevillageconnection@hotmail.com)**

**Post - Janet Gilham, Hillside, Withybrook, Stoke St Michael, BA3 5JQ**

Your Village contacts are:-

|          |               |                            |              |
|----------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Leigh    | Jan Pattison  | Yew Tree Cottage, Tadhill  | 01373 812460 |
| Stoke    | Janet Gilham  | Hillside, Withybrook       | 01749 840671 |
| Downhead | Steve Britten | Merryfield Lodge, Doulting | 01749 880118 |

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Payment for adverts to:-

Janet Gilham, Hillside, Withybrook, Stoke St Michael, Radstock BA3 5JQ

Cheques made payable to Stoke and Leigh Magazine

### **Note from the Editor**

When emailing articles or adverts please use black text and grayscale for all logos and pictures A5 portrait format with 1cm margins 1.5cm bottom margin. Or A4 landscape same margins two columns with central gutter of 2cm.

Leigh on Mendip Village Website:- [www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk](http://www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk)

Police Community Support Officers

Louise Perry for Leigh on Mendip and Sheila Thompson for Stoke St Michael

Tel: 101 for non-emergencies 999 for emergencies only

Or report on line at: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report>

CCS Village Agent Nic Edwards Tel 01823331222