

# *The Village Connection*

Downhead + Stoke St Michael + Leigh on Mendip

A central illustration of a nativity scene. It features a silhouette of Mary kneeling on the right, Joseph kneeling on the left, and the infant Jesus lying in a manger. Above them is a star, and the entire scene is framed by a simple stable structure. The illustration is set against a light gray square background.

**Issue 287**

**December 2025/  
January 2026**



## **December**

- 5 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 8 Leigh WI Memorial Hall LoM 7.30pm
- 12 Coffee & Chat with PCSO Mortimer Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 12 Leigh Lunch, Memorial Hall LoM *See p 11*
- 13 Stoke Cinema Morning Memorial Hall SstM 10.30am *See p 13*
- 13/14 Christmas Tree Festival Leigh Church 11am - 4pm *See p 8*
- 19 Stoke School Christmas Assembly 10am followed by Coffee & Chat  
Stoke Church 10.45 - Noon *See p 9*
- 19 Downhead Carol Service Downhead Church 6pm
- 21 Leigh Carol Service Leigh Church 3pm
- 21 Stoke Carol Service Stoke Church 6pm
- 23 Christmas Walk from Stoke Church 1.30pm *See p 12*

## **January**

- 2 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 9 Leigh Lunch, Memorial Hall LoM *See p 11*
- 9 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 12 Leigh WI Memorial Hall LoM 7.30pm
- 16 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 22 Savoury Cream Tea, Leigh Church Room 2.30pm - 4pm *See p 8*
- 23 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 30 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon

## *From the Reverend Keith Johnson*

### *Nunney Rectory*

Where did the year go? One minute we are enjoying the joys of summer, then before we know it the hours of daylight are fewer, autumn is in full flow, and winter knocking at our door.

Christmas will soon be upon us. I do hope that thought fills you with joy. How easy it has become to lose sight of the heart of Christmas, as we drive ourselves into a frenzy of shopping and preparations, without taking time out to consider the question – what does Christmas mean to me?

The birth of a baby boy in a stable 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem is good news for everyone, because God became human in order to demonstrate the full extent of his love for us all.

I would like to extend a personal invitation to you and your family and friends to come and join us over the advent and Christmas season, as we hear told the story that embodies hope for us all.

Have a look at our schedule of services and put one in your diary – we would love to see you – I hope to be present at all the carol services, so there will be the chance to meet me if our paths haven't crossed yet.

May you be blessed with the peace and the joy of Christ this Christ-mas tide and always!

Keith



# *Letter from the Bishop of Bath & Wells*

## **Christmas joy for all people**

We fear that we live in a world of increasing polarisation. Conflicts between and within nations play their part. The amplification of division and hostility by social media algorithms doesn't help. Culture wars exacerbate matters further. Sometimes it feels like common ground is disappearing from underneath our feet like a sandbar being overwhelmed by the tide.

In such a climate, it's good to return to the message that heralded the arrival of Jesus. 'I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be for all people' says that angel who announces the saviour's birth (Luke 2:10). Jesus' story quickly includes all types and sorts of humanity. From local shepherds to exotic visitors from afar. I wonder what the conversation was like as they all crammed into the stable to see the newborn child?

Jesus's story quickly shows that not only is he for all people but that he needs all people. His family must have needed assistance when they fled as refugees to Egypt. Jesus must have needed help when his parents left him behind on a family outing to Jerusalem aged twelve. Jesus was constantly calling on and engaging with others as he went about his teaching and ministry.

What might counter the polarisation of our day? Amongst our greatest resource is to seek out the emotion that accompanied the news of the saviour's birth – joy. When we encounter joy – from that cup winning goal to the marriage of much loved friends – such moments are never the time for division and enmity. We're all far too busy shouting and hugging each other! The invitation of Christmas is to experience such joy afresh. Often, we see joy most obviously in children's experience of the season. Might we seek it for ourselves too? For joy breaks down divisions, overcomes barriers, reminds us that we are one.

'I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be for all people' says the angel. A very merry and joyful Christmas to you all.

**Michael Beasley**

## **From the Registers**

*A quiet month nothing to report!*

# *Christmas Services and Events at Stoke St Michael, Leigh on Mendip and Downhead Churches*

## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

10am - STOKE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY - Stoke Church

6pm - CAROL SERVICE - Downhead

## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

3pm - CAROL SERVICE - Leigh On Mendip

6pm - SERVICE OF CAROLS & READINGS - Stoke St Michael

## **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

1.30pm - STOKE ST MICHAEL VILLAGE WALK

Local walk, followed by carols, mulled wine & mince pies in Church

## **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Eve**

4pm - CRIB SERVICE - Stoke St Michael

## **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day**

10am- HOLY COMMUNION - Leigh on Mendip

10am- FAMILY COMMUNION - Stoke St Michael

*Please join us at any of our services and events  
as we celebrate Christmas together!*

# Sidesmen & Flowers



## Leigh on Mendip

	Sideman	Flowers
7 December	Alastair & Jane Weston	Advent-No flowers
14 December	No service at St Giles	Advent-No flowers
21 December	Tom and Sue Rodford	Christmas flowers
25 December	Mary Wits & Kate Drinkwater	-
28 December	No service at St Giles	-
4 January	Dave Mattick & Caroline Dove	2026 Rota tba
11 January	No service at St Giles	-
18 January	No service at St Giles	-
25 January	No service at St Giles	-
1 February	Alastair & Jane Weston	-

## Church/Brass Cleaning

December - Caroline Palmer & Vicky Higgins (*apologies for error in Nov ed*)  
 January - Vanessa Barnes & Sarah Middle  
 February - Margaret Loten & Joan Pattison

## Stoke St Michael

	Sideman	Flowers
7 December	Penny Anderson	Advent-No flowers
14 December	Janet Gilham	Advent-No flowers
21 December	Wendy Foulds	Janet Gilham
25 December	Penny Anderson	-
28 December	No service at St Michael's	-
4 January	Penny Anderson	-
11 January	Janet Gilham	Cicely Middle
18 January	Wendy Foulds	-
25 January	No service at St Michael's	-
1 February	Penny Anderson	Karen Pearce

## Church Cleaning

December - Jane Evans  
 January - Cicely Middle  
 February - Jane Evans



**FRIENDS OF LEIGH CHURCH**  
Registered charity number (England and Wales): 1174913

## **DECEMBER/JANUARY UPDATE**

What a treat the choral winter concert by **Last Wednesday** was, enjoyed by all who attended. Many thanks to all who support our fundraising events: recently the concert, November's Christmas Fair and our regular Fourth Thursday coffee mornings and cream teas.

Our popular **Christmas Tree Festival** returns, bigger and better than ever! Please join us at St Giles Church, Leigh on Mendip BA3 5QJ on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 December between 11am and 4pm. Our beautiful 14th century village church will host sparkling, brightly-lit Christmas trees to usher in the festive season. Entry is free and delicious light lunches, home-made cakes, mulled wine and refreshments will be available on both days.

There will be no coffee morning/cream tea in December but our Fourth Thursday returns on Thursday 22 January 2.30-4pm with a **Savoury Cream Tea**, offering cheese scones, butter, cheese, pickle, marmite – you choose!

All our fundraising supports the vital maintenance and repairs for our beautiful Grade 1 listed church. We are currently preparing a grant application to the Lottery Heritage Fund for the next phase of repairs. We will share this with you, once it is finalised.

The Tower Room café remains open every day as a peaceful place to rest, work or socialise. With free wi-fi, electronic access to the church records and children's toys together with self-serve refreshments it is well worth a visit.

Many thanks to all those who already support us; if you would like more information or to join us, please email: [folcleigh@gmail.com](mailto:folcleigh@gmail.com)

***Seasons Greetings from The FOLC Team***

This most enjoyable event is back, bigger and better than ever!

# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025

Sat 13 & Sun 14 December

11am – 4pm

Free entry



**St Giles Church, Leigh on Mendip, BA3 5QJ**

Delicious light lunches, home-made cakes, mulled wine and refreshments available on both days

*Come and see this beautiful 14<sup>th</sup> century church lit up with sparkling, brightly-lit Christmas trees.*

Friends of Leigh Church, Registered Charity No. 1174913

## Mendip Live Wires

At our November gathering, we were delighted to welcome several new visitors—always a joy to see fresh faces joining us!



Our guest speaker was Jane from Gilbert & Swayne, who captivated us with her talk *“From Kosovo to Chocolate – an Unlikely Journey.”* She shared her remarkable story of life’s twists and turns that ultimately led her to establish a thriving artisan chocolate company.

Based in Baltonsborough near Glastonbury, Jane crafts exquisite handmade chocolates using fresh cream, herbs, and spices. She also offers chocolate-making workshops, which sparked great interest among many of us.

Of course, the highlight of the evening was sampling her decadent creations—an indulgence that quickly turned into an opportunity to take some home.

All in all, it was a wonderfully entertaining and delicious evening that left us inspired and sweetly satisfied.

We are a thriving WI group with members from Leigh on Mendip and other surrounding villages, with wide-ranging ages and interests – meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month in the Memorial Hall. More room, of course, for new members. If you think this could be for you just turn up or contact Caroline on 074974 025608. Our new e-mail address is [mendiplivewires@gmail.com](mailto:mendiplivewires@gmail.com)

There is more information on Leigh on Mendip Village Website. (<https://leigh-on-mendip.org.uk/>) via either the Groups button or Events page, where you will find a link to our Facebook group.



# Sunday Stokers<sub>s</sub>

The Stokers have had a wonderful and exciting term! Over the past three sessions, the children have been learning about Joseph's coat of many colours and the incredible story of forgiveness when Joseph's brothers came to Egypt. It's been a term filled with valuable lessons and plenty of fun activities to keep the children (and adults!) engaged!



In November, the Stokers heard how, despite the wrongs his brothers had done to him, Joseph chose the path of forgiveness when they came to him in Egypt, seeking help.

But it wasn't all just storytelling! To make things even more fun, the group enjoyed some lively parachute games, a perfect way to combine energy, teamwork, and laughter, reinforcing the sense of community that Stokers is all about.

Looking ahead, there will be no Stokers in December, but the fun continues in other ways. Instead of our regular session, we invite everyone to join us for the Carol Service on Sunday, 21st December at 6 pm. It's sure to be a joyful evening, full of festive cheer and music for the whole family.

After the holidays, Stokers will return on Sunday, 18th January at 10:30 am. We can't wait to start the new year with more exciting stories, fun activities, and of course, plenty of games to keep the children engaged and learning. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the hall for another wonderful term of Stokers!

## Coffee & Chat at Stoke

Coffee & Chat continues every Friday in Stoke Church from 10a.m to Noon when everyone is invited to drop in for a coffee, a catchup for our regulars, and an opportunity to make new friends.

PCSO Mortimer will attend on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

On 19<sup>th</sup> December the children from Stoke School will hold their Christmas Assembly in the church at 10am.

Coffee & Chat will begin at 10.45 do come at 10 to join the children, their parents and friends to hear the songs and readings the children have been learning.



**EVERY FRIDAY IN THE CHURCH  
10-12 NOON**

## INFORMATION PAGE

Vicar: The Reverend Keith Johnson  
The Rectory, High Street, Nunney, BA11 4LZ Tel: 01373 792344

Parish Administrator : Claire Edwards

Phone: 07404 824355 email: postleburysecretary@gmail.com

Parish Office, The Rectory, High Street, Nunney, BA11 4LZ  
Office hours - Thursday 11am- 5pm

### Leigh on Mendip and Downhead Parochial Church Council

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

Churchwardens	Steve Britten 01749 880118 Paula Freeland 07722 359093	The Old Granary, Green Farm Downhead BA4 4LQ Honeysuckle Cottage Leigh on Mendip BA3 5QQ
Treasurer	Margaret Loten 01373 812922	6 The Old Sawmills Leigh on Mendip BA3 5RQ
Secretary	Mary Witts 01373 812367	11 Bellfield 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>

Churchwarden	Jane Evans 01749 840660	Withybrook Stoke St Michael BA3 5JQ
Treasurer	Penny Anderson 07970 908671 email	Grove View, East End Stoke St Michael BA3 5JD ssmchurchtreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Janet Gilham 01749 840671	Hillside, Withybrook Stoke St Michael BA3 5JQ

### Safeguarding Officer for Leigh on Mendip, Downhead & Stoke St Michael

Post vacant please contact the Parish Administrator

# **THE LEIGH LUNCH**

**at Leigh on Mendip Memorial Hall**

**Friday 12 December 2025 for a festive meal**  
and the second Friday of every month  
Arrive from 11.30am, lunch served 12.30pm

£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 9 December** at the latest  
If you would like help with transport please let us know when you book

Friends of Leigh Church, Registered Charity No. 1174913

## **January 2026:**

Lunch on Friday 9 January, please book by Tuesday 6 January

## **LEIGH RECREATION FIELD**

**Bonus Club** – The winners in November were Mark Humphrey & Karen Stoneley with number 29. They should have their £20 by now.

**Wreath Making Workshop** It's on Sunday 14 December at 1030. Last chance to get tickets. It's £20, everything supplied, a great morning with mulled wine and mince pies. Call or text 0780 1235490

**And lastly**, our 2026 AGM will be on Monday evening, 13 April. Come along if you want to have a say.

David Pattison 812570



Join the  
*Stoke Walkers*  
for our

# CHRISTMAS WALK

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At half past one by the church we'll meet  
For a gentle walk on wandering feet.  
Then back we'll go as daylight dies,  
For carols, mulled wine and mince pies.

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Meet at the church at  
1.30pm on  
23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2025

Stoke St. Michael War Memorial Hall

**SAT 13<sup>th</sup> DEC 10.30 am**

**-- Family Christmas film --**

**The Polar Express**



**Come in your pyjamas (optional)**

**£3 per child including treat bag  
- adults free.**

**Refreshments available.**

### **COMMUNITY BOOK SWAP**

**Did you know, We have over 400 books and 25 puzzles in the summer house at the rear of the hall. These are regularly updated.**

**Please feel free to borrow, no charge.**

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

## 5th December (Friday)

1000 Nunney	Holy Communion BCP	SK
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## Sunday 7th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

09.30 Wanstrow	Holy Communion	
11.00 Leigh on Mendip	Family Communion	GW & KJ
18.00 Stoke St Michael	Evensong	JE

## 9th December (Tuesday)

10.30 Dallimore Mead, Nunney	Holy Communion
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## 12th December (Friday)

10.00 Nunney	Holy Communion BCP (tbc)
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## Sunday 14th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

09.30 Stoke St Michael	Holy Communion	
11.00 Witham	Holy Communion	HP/JK

## 19th December (Friday)

10.00 Nunney	Holy Communion	SK
18.00 Downhead	Carol Service	

## 20th December (Saturday)

17.00 Wanstrow	Nativity & Carol Service
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## Sunday 21st December (4th Sunday of Advent)

09.30 Marston	Holy Communion	
15.00 Leigh on Mendip	Carol Service	
17.00 Nunney	Carol Service	Lay Led HP
18.00 Stoke St Michael	Carol Service	Lay Led
18.00 Witham	Carol Service	Lay Led GP

## 22nd December (Monday)

19.00 Cloford	Carol Service	JC
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## 24th December (Wednesday)

16.00 Stoke St Michael	Crib Service	CN
16.00 Nunney	Crib Service	Lay led - FE
18.00 Marston	Nine Lessons and Carols	Lay led - JN
23.30 Witham	Midnight Communion	

# December 2025 & January 2026



## Christmas Day (Thursday 25th December)

10.00	Stoke St Michael	Holy Communion	CN
10.00	Leigh on Mendip	Holy Communion	
10.00	Nunney	Family Communion	CF & SD

## 28th December (Sunday)

10.00	Cloford	Holy Communion - Combined Benefice Service GW	
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## 5th December (Friday)

10.00	Nunney	Holy Communion BCP	SK
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## Sunday 4th January - 2nd Sunday of Christmas

09.30	Wanstrow	Holy Communion	
11.00	Leigh on Mendip	Family Communion	GW & KJ
18.00	Stoke St Michael	Evensong	JE

## Sunday 11th January - Baptism of Christ 1st Sunday of Epiphany

09.30	Stoke St Michael	Holy Communion	
11.00	Witham	Holy Communion	HP/KJ

## Sunday 18th January - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

09.30	Marston	Holy Communion	
11.00	Stoke St Michael	Family Communion	

## Sunday 25th January - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

09.30	Nunney	Holy Communion	
11.00	Cloford	Holy Communion	

***All services taken by Reverend Keith Johnson unless stated otherwise***

### ***Celebrant key:***

***CF - Bishop Christopher Foster***

***CN - Rev'd Chris North***

***FE - Felicity Evans***

***GP - George Pritchard***

***GW - Rev'd Graham Witts***

***HP - Henry Pomeroy***

***JC - Jonathan Cheal***

***JE - Jane Evans***

***JN - Jane Norris***

***KJ - Rev'd Keith Johnson***

***SD - Rev'd Sally Davenport***



## East Mendip Gardening Club

December is a quiet month in the garden, but there are more things to take care of than you might think. This month's crisp wintery weather can be strikingly beautiful and bitterly cold in equal measure.

Group potted plants together in a sheltered spot in the garden to protect them from the harshest winter weather.

Check climbers and climbing shrubs are securely attached to their supports with ties. Dig over empty borders and pile well rotted manure on top - let the worms and frosts break up the clods of soil.

Dig a trench for next year's beans, fill it with compostable kitchen waste (not cooked food) and re-cover with soil. This will rot down and dramatically improve the growing conditions.

Cover winter brassicas with netting to protect them from pigeons.

Lift and divide established clumps of rhubarb to renew the plant's vigour. Sections taken from the outside of the plant are better than those from the centre.

Apply glue bands or grease bands to the trunks of fruit trees to prevent wingless female winter moths climbing the trunks and laying their eggs in the branches.

If your strawberry plants are over 3 years old, order some new varieties to replace them. Old strawberries can harbour diseases and tend to lose vigour and productivity.

If you haven't already done so, clean out the greenhouse thoroughly. Wash the glass, the floor and the staging with horticultural disinfectant to kill any overwintering pests and diseases.

Work in some manure to greenhouse borders to prepare them for next spring. Leave enough space to add compost later on.

Propagate perennials from root cuttings including phlox, oriental poppies and mint.

Check the security of your shed. This is particularly important in winter when you visit it less often.

Get rid of slimy patches on the patio and paving by scrubbing with a broom or blasting with a pressure washer. For an easy alternative try a liquid patio cleaner.

Carefully plan your vegetable garden's crop rotation for next year to avoid a build up of pests and diseases.

Plant out indoor grown forced hyacinth bulbs in garden beds and borders after Christmas flowering is over. They will flower again next year.

Plant flowering bulbs in large pots of compost ready to fill any gaps in spring borders. Tulip bulbs are a great choice, they will still do well planted this late in the year.

Plant bare-root native hedging to encourage wildlife and create attractive boundaries around your garden

Sow onion 'Ailsa Craig' seeds on a sunny windowsill to give your exhibition-



worthy bulbs time to grow as big as possible.

Plant raspberry canes while they're dormant. Plant other berry fruits like blackberries any time between now and the spring.

Plant blueberries this winter for an attractive addition to the fruit garden. With pretty white flowers, delicious berries and fiery autumn foliage, these acid loving plants provide constant interest. If your soil is too alkali, try growing your blueberries in containers with ericaceous compost.

Request a catalogue to browse next month while the jobs in the garden slow down. Make a list of all the flowers, fruit & vegetables you want to grow in the New Year, and get ordering!

Take an inventory of tools and equipment that you need for next year. Add them to your Christmas list!

And in January use them it is the beginning of the gardening year – a time for fresh starts, renewed energy, and grand plans for the twelve months ahead. It might feel like a dormant month as far as growing is concerned, but there are a fair few flower seeds, fruit plants and vegetable seeds that can be started under glass. Sow Antirrhinum (snapdragons) in a propagator. These plants need a long growth period before flowering so sow now for the best results.

Start sowing Begonia semperflorens, geranium (Pelargonium) and Dianthus barbatus (Carnations/Pinks) for fantastic bedding displays in summer.

Grow potatoes in containers under cover in potato bags for a very early crop (Charlotte potatoes are a good variety for this).

Sow celeriac and celery in a heated propagator.

Grow your favourite herb seeds on your windowsill to bring colour and fragrance into your kitchen and provide fresh greens early in the year.

Sow broad bean 'The Sutton' in pots now. Keep the pots in a cold frame or unheated greenhouse.

Taken from <https://www.thompson-morgan.com/in-the-garden-this-month>

On Tuesday 16th December the East Mendip Gardening Club will meet in the Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall at 7.40p.m for their Christmas Social. Come and join us to meet members and find out what we have been doing in 2025 and discover our programme for 2026 which will begin on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January when Sally Nex will give us an intriguing talk entitled 'Rogues gallery for gardeners'. 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.

Booking enquires through  
[stokestmichaelhall.org](http://stokestmichaelhall.org)

Community Activities include

Tuesday afternoons 2pm–4pm

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

More details on

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



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# PEPPERS



## EVENT CATERING

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*at Leigh on Mendip School*



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email [office@leighonmendip.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:office@leighonmendip.mnsp.org.uk)

## 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

## D. HURLE PLASTERING

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Email-danielhurle@sky.com

# Winter

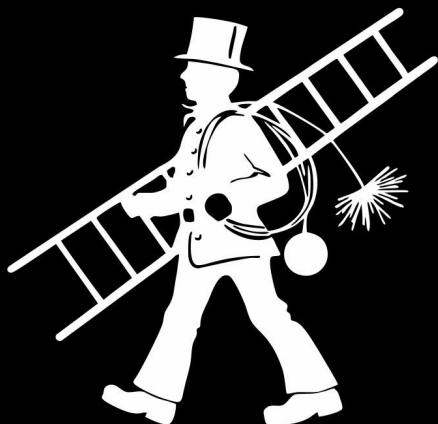
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## Stoke St. Michael Baby and Toddler Group



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

**Specialist Early Years Teacher, Forest School, Sensory Garden, Indoor and  
Outdoor Learning Environments, Sensory Play, Engaging Provision!**

Open Term Time Only: Monday-Friday 9am-3pm

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.



# *The Cottage*

HAIR & BEAUTY ROOMS

01761 233681  
[www.cottagehairandbeauty.co.uk](http://www.cottagehairandbeauty.co.uk)

## CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY	9-6PM
WEDNESDAY	9-6PM
THURSDAY	9-6PM
FRIDAY	9-6PM

We are also working extra days on 15th, 20th, 22nd and 23rd  
December 9 - 6PM

The salon will reopen on Tuesday 6th January 2026  
Have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year!

  
CHRIS INGREM  
painting and decorating

[chrisingrem.co.uk](http://chrisingrem.co.uk)  
07876 301615  
[enquiries@chrisingrem.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@chrisingrem.co.uk)

Based in Leigh on Mendip and  
operating across the wider locality



# **E. EMERY & SONS**

**1 GLADSTONE VILLA, ASHWICK**

**LOCAL FAMILY - INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

**TRADITIONAL & NON TRADITIONAL FUNERALS**

**PRE-PAID FUNERAL CAN BE ARRANGED**

**PERSON TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS**

**HOME VISITS    24 HOUR SERVICE    ALL AREAS COVERED**

**CHAPEL OF REST**

**CONTACT JONATHAN AND FAMILY ON 01749 840350**

**E-MAIL [jbemery22@aol.com](mailto:jbemery22@aol.com)**

**PLACE  
YOUR  
ADVERT  
HERE**

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR**

**ADVERTISING RATES**

## Leigh-on-Mendip Parish Council

Chair  
Vicki Taylor  
Tel. 01373 813942

Clerk  
Joe McGhee  
Tel. 07518 710688

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

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 clerk** Ann Orpwood 01373 812459  
[r.a.orpwood@btinternet.com](mailto:r.a.orpwood@btinternet.com)



**Articles for the next issue to be submitted by the 20th 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, Tadhil	01373 812460
Stoke	Janet Gilham	Hillside, Withybrook	01749 840671
Downhead	Steve Britten	The Old Granary, Downhead	01749 880118

## **Advertising Rates**

### **Commercial**

¼ page £2 per month or £25 per year

½ page £4 per month or £45 per year

Whole page £8 per month or £85 per year

### **Non Commercial**

¼ page 50p per month or £5 per year

½ page £1 per month or £10 per year

Whole page £2 per month or £20 per year

**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 Will Mortimer 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