

The Village Connection

Leigh on Mendip + Downhead + Stoke St Michael +

Issue 331

August 2026



August

- 7 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 10 Leigh WI Memorial Hall LoM 7.15
- 14 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon
- 14 Leigh Lunch Memorial Hall LoM *See p 17*
- 21 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church with PCSO Mortimer 10 - Noon
- 27 FOLC Coffee Morning Tower Room LoM 10.30 - Noon *See p 4*
- 28 Coffee & Chat Stoke Church 10 - Noon

October

- 4 Leigh on Mendip Harvest Supper – LoM Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 10 FOLC Bingo Evening
- 17 & 18 Leigh Arts & Crafts Exhibition *See p 13*
- 19 Downhead Harvest Auction – Green Farm, 6pm

From the Reverend Keith Johnson

Nunney Rectory

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. Psalm 23:1-2

I wonder, when was the last time you found a peaceful place in order to be refreshed by God?

The words of Psalm 23 are probably already familiar to you. Words written by the shepherd boy who would be King, David. His job involved a lot of sitting around, and keeping watch, both day and night, time he used wisely to write Psalms, hymns of praise to God. He was entrusted with the welfare of his father's livestock, and took his responsibilities seriously.

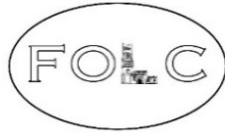
As well as protecting his flock, it would also have been David's responsibility to find good pasture for the sheep. Grass to eat, water to drink – he would have known all the good spots, and as a good shepherd, he tended for the sheep.

I always find it easier to commune with God when I am communing with nature. How about you?

Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd. He cares about his sheep, he always wishes the best for us, and is concerned when we are hurting, or have gone astray, away from the flock, struggling alone. He loves to gather us up in his arms, encourage us to pasture in good places, which will nourish and sustain us.

Why not find some time to sit and commune with the Good Shepherd today?

Keith



FRIENDS OF LEIGH CHURCH

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AUGUST UPDATE

As you will see elsewhere in the magazine, the FOLC team was very sorry to learn of the recent death of Dave Mattick. He has been an inspirational and dedicated Chair to the committee, and will be very much missed. He loved St Giles' church and was instrumental in achieving the major repair works to save the building in 2018.

Our Fourth Thursday events continue with a **Coffee Morning** on Thursday 27 August from 10.30am to 12noon in the Tower Room café.

Our next **Bingo Evening** is planned for Saturday 10 October, a date for your diary.

With Easyfundraising, your online shopping turns into free cashback for Friends of Leigh Church! **£22.38** raised so far – fantastic! Sign up and your favourite retailers will donate every time you shop online – at no extra cost to you: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-leigh-church>

All fund raising enables us to support our grant application to the Lottery Heritage Fund for the next phase of repairs to our beautiful Grade 1 listed church, covering gully, window and parapet repairs.

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

The FOLC Team

David Mattick (1946 – 2026)

Many of you will already have heard the very sad news of Dave Mattick's sudden and unexpected death. Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Sue, his children Karen, Teresa and Paul, and his grandchildren.

After arriving in Leigh with his young family over 50 years ago, Dave was involved in many village activities, from calling the bingo numbers on a Saturday evening for the Village Hall Committee and playing Santa for local children, to being a valued member and Chair of the Parish Council and Vice-Chair of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Among many other contributions to village life, he was also instrumental in helping to co-ordinate the annual village Remembrance Service. This was especially important to him in the context of his distinguished naval career.

His amazing energy as part of the Friends of Leigh Church (FOLC), was remarkable. Dave served on the committee from FOLC's inception and was Chair for the last five years. He was a major organiser for numerous FOLC fundraisers, including bingo, race nights and quizzes, all very much enjoyed by the residents of Leigh, and all raising money to help preserve our much-loved church.

The PCC is immensely grateful for his invaluable help with church maintenance and IT support, much of it done 'behind the scenes', and for his skill in guiding its members through a number of major church repair projects over the years. He also brought his common sense and wisdom to his chairing of the meetings leading up to the appointment of our new vicar.

He will be greatly missed and impossible to replace – despite his frequent assertion that no-one is indispensable!

On a personal level, Dave was a thoughtful and kind friend and neighbour to many.

The funeral service will be held at St Giles Church, Leigh-on-Mendip, on Friday 7th August at 2.00 pm. There will be refreshments afterwards at the hall.

Donations, as an alternative to flowers, for Friends Of Leigh Church.

From the Registers

Baptisms

Margaret Pullen Marston 25th July

Adaline Perks Stoke St Michael 26th July

Funerals

Jane Langley Marston 5th July

Sunday Stokers



Happy Summer Holidays Stokers, see you in September!

Letter from Fiona Bishop of Taunton

What we treasure reveals where our heart really is

This month, the Church will mark the feast of St Laurence. If my calculations are correct, there are seven churches dedicated to St Laurence/Lawrence in our Diocese of Bath & Wells, so happy patronal festival to all of them!

We don't know a lot about Laurence, but what we do know is impressive. He was a deacon martyred by the Romans in a particularly violent way, during a time of brutal persecution of Christians.

It's said that the Emperor ordered him to hand over all the treasure of the Church. He refused. But not in the way you might think. When he was asked to gather and display all the treasure of the Church, he called together the poor of the city to pray. And when the soldiers came to collect the treasure, and found only the poorest of the poor, Laurence declared, "These are the treasures of the Church." For that defiance in the face of tyranny, he was killed.

Laurence's worldview was in complete contrast to that of the ruling powers. Where they saw the poor as worthless and to be despised, he saw them as precious. He valued people above possessions in a way the authorities found baffling, maybe even threatening.

Jesus famously taught that what we treasure reveals where our heart really is.

In our society there are so many competing demands for our hearts and minds. It can be hard to work out where to place our loyalty. If you were asked to gather all your treasure, I wonder what you'd bring, and what that would reveal? If we analysed how we spend our money as individuals, PCCs, and a Diocesan Board of Finance -the body that manages the assets and finances of our diocese - what would that show about our priorities?

Those are provocative questions to ask, and tricky to answer. But in an area where St Laurence is so honoured, maybe we should try.

Fiona Gibson, Bishop of Taunton

Sidesmen & Flowers



Leigh on Mendip

Sideman

2 August	Caroline Dove
9 August	No service
16 August	No service
23 August	No service
30 August	Tom & Sue Rodford
6 September	tba

Flowers

Joan Pattison
-
-
Jenny Wigley
-
Sue Rodford

Church/Brass Cleaning

August - Caroline Palmer and Vicky Higgins
 September - Vanessa Barnes and Sarah Middle

Stoke St Michael

Sideman

2 August	Penny Anderson
9 August	No service
16 August	Wendy Foulds
23 August	Janet Gilham
30 August	No service
6 September	Penny Anderson

Flowers

Linda Strong
-
Irene Webb
-
-
Jane Evans

Church Cleaning

August - Jane Evans
 September - Cicely Middle

STOKE CHURCH
Coffee and Chat
Fridays 10-12



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An apology to those impacted by historical adoption practice

The Church of England has issued an apology to those impacted by historical practices, together with a report on its research into the practice.

Bishop Michael has issued the following apology on behalf of the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

I would like to extend my apology to anyone who has been adversely impacted by the role of the Church of England in the Diocese of Bath and Wells in historical adoption practices. Whether that was in the setting of a mother and baby home or as a result of the influence the church and its ministers had in a society which, at that time, understood compelling mothers to give their babies for adoption to have been acceptable, and even beneficial.

Having had the privilege of meeting with some local people impacted by historical adoption practices recently, it is clear that all those so affected need to receive a proper, heartfelt apology that goes to the heart of their suffering and their rightful desire for acknowledgement and justice, that acknowledges the lifelong impact on so many lives and relationships, and that gives space for lament.

The research that led to this apology is the beginning of the work to learn more fully about our Church's involvement in historical adoption practices. This is learning that we shall be undertaking here in Bath and Wells.

The people impacted with whom I have met generously gave their time to help us get to a point of understanding, where we can begin to atone for our part in such practices by supporting those with lived experiences. We need to continue to listen to them, to work alongside them, and to be genuine allies. I hope we can get to a point where they, and others, can share their stories with us so we can get a common understanding of this deeply distressing part of our history.

I am holding all those affected by historical adoption practices in my prayers. I hope they feel they can draw on any support available to them, whether through the church or specialist agencies.

+ Michael Bath & Wells

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CONTACT JONATHAN AND FAMILY ON 01749 840350

E-MAIL jbemery22@aol.com

Mendip Live Wires



Our July meeting featured the delightful Christina Strang, who introducing members to the fascinating world of graphology—the art of handwriting analysis. An experienced graphology tutor, Christina has been a keynote speaker at conferences in both the USA and China. She has also conducted medically approved research into the use of handwriting analysis in the early diagnosis of disease, making her an exceptionally knowledgeable and engaging presenter.

To begin the evening, Christina invited us to write a short paragraph about either a holiday we had enjoyed or one we would love to take. She then explained the various features of our handwriting and how they can reveal aspects of our personality, from confidence and creativity to communication style and attention to detail.

The interactive session continued with each table receiving a sample of handwriting from an anonymous writer. Working together, we examined the different characteristics of the script, attempting to identify the personality traits of its author. The exercise sparked lively discussion as each group compared observations before presenting its conclusions to the rest of the room.

Christina's enthusiasm and expertise made for a thoroughly enjoyable and thought-provoking evening. Members left with a new appreciation of what our handwriting might reveal about us—and plenty to ponder long after the meeting had ended.

The evening ended with refreshments and a chance to mingle and chat about our thoughts to other members.

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 2nd 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 at 7.15pm or contact Caroline on 07974 025608. Our new e-mail address is 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.

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THE ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION TEAM

It was nice to see so many families taking part in making reptile cut outs and mini plant pot people we organised in the free arts and crafts area on **Village Day**. Some of the profits made at our Exhibition last October went towards supplying the art materials for this.

NOW IT'S TIME TO START MAKING & CREATING

For the Leigh on Mendip Arts & Crafts Exhibition on 17th and 18th October 2026

If you enjoy crafting and creating, we hope you will consider taking part and showing your work, whether you are a long-standing exhibitor or a first-timer, or even not an adult yet!

Our definition of 'arts and crafts' is absolutely anything you have made or created yourself, from cake decorating to ceramics, painting to photography, weaving to woodworking... The possibilities are endless!

Entry forms will be available from 1st September. Deadline for entering is 30th September .

Further details are at leigh-on-mendip.org.uk/arts-crafts-exhibition. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email the Leigh on Mendip Arts & Crafts Exhibition Team at artscrafts.leigh@gmail.com



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

1st August (Saturday)

12.00	Cloford	Marriage of Simon Boddy & Kara Poole	
13.00	Wanstrow	Marriage of Jack Smith & Madeline Gratton	
			<i>Revd. Stephen Kivett</i>

Sunday 2nd August - Ninth Sunday after Trinity

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

7th August (Friday)

10.00	Nunney	Holy Communion BCP	<i>Revd. Stephen Kivett</i>
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Sunday 9th August - Tenth Sunday after Trinity

09.30	Nunney	Holy Communion	
11.00	Witham	Holy Communion	

13th August (Thursday)

18.00	Wanstrow	Compline & Meditation	
			<i>Revd. Sally Davenport</i>

Sunday 16th August - Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

09.30	Marston	Holy Communion	<i>Revd. Graham Witts</i>
11.00	Stoke St Michael	Family Communion (no Stokers)	
			<i>Revd. Stephen Kivett</i>
18.00	Downhead	Evensong	<i>Bishop Rob Martin</i>

August 2026



21st August (Friday)

10.00 Nunney

Holy Communion BCP *Revd. David Gatliffe*

22nd August (Saturday)

14.00 Cloford

Marriage of Charles Collins & Diana Cheal
Revd. Barry Davies

Sunday 23rd August - Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Stoke St Michael

Holy Communion

Revd. Graham Witts

11.00 Cloford

Holy Communion

Revd. Stephen Kivett

Sunday 30th August - Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 Leigh on Mendip

Combined Benefice Holy Communion

4th September (Friday)

10.00 Nunney

Holy Communion BCP *Revd. Stephen Kivett*

Sunday 6th September - Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Wanstrow

Holy Communion

11.00 Leigh on Mendip

Family Communion

18.00 Stoke St Michael

Evensong

Jane Evans

All services taken by Reverend Keith Johnson unless stated otherwise.

Stoke St. Michael War Memorial Hall



Hall available for hire – competitive rates

Booking enquiries via ‘stokestmichaelhall.org’

Facilities include a fully equipped kitchen, large audio screen, wifi, speakers, accessible changing. Bar available.

Regular community activities include:

- *‘Tuesday Friends’ group meets every Tuesday, 2-4pm. Join us for crafty activities or just for a coffee & chat*
- *Monthly cinema Sept – July (see posters)*

We are also proud to host a community ‘Book and Puzzle Swap’ in the summerhouse at the back of the hall. We have hundreds of books and dozens of puzzles, regularly updated.

Come and see for yourself...



LEIGH RECREATION FIELD

Bonus Club – The winners in July were Alan Dagger and Kevin Newbury. Their £20 winnings will be with them shortly.

Car Show and Village Day – The Car show and Village day took place on 5 July and was a great success, it was a lovely sunny day and saw some great cars and a good turn out with many people coming from outside the village. It helped raised money for several village organisations. A huge thank-you goes to the organising committee for all their hard work.

Changes to the Recreation Field Committee – It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to David Pattison who is standing down from the Recreation Field Committee as he is moving away from the area. David has been a stalwart on the committee for over 30 years and has been instrumental in many of the projects delivered, as well as the day to day running of the Recreation Field. We would like to thank David for all his hard work and efforts over the years, he will be sorely missed.

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

Friday 14 August 2026
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

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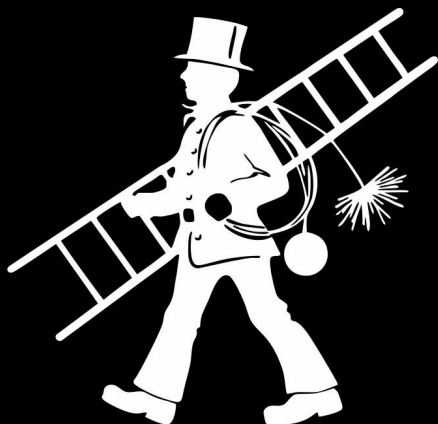
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INFORMATION PAGE

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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	Paula Freeland 07722 359093 Patricia Lawrence 07971 207037 email	Honeysuckle Cottage Leigh on Mendip BA3 5QQ 1 Manor Farm Cottages Downhead BA4 4LG pat.allsaintschapel@gmail.com
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>

Churchwardens	Jane Evans 01749 840660 Wendy Foulds 07851 801310	Withybrook Stoke St Michael BA3 5JQ 2 St Michael's Close Stoke St Michael BA3 5LF
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 Parish Administrator

East Mendip Gardening Club

The last official month of summer is the perfect time to enjoy your garden while, hopefully with this heat, it's still at its best. Children are on school holiday, lawns are in full use, and there's plenty of delicious fruit and veg to fill your dinner plate. August is also the time to start planning ahead if you want colourful autumn and winter blooms, or plenty of produce for your plate over the colder months.

Top up ponds and bird baths regularly.

Water evergreen shrubs like camellias and rhododendrons thoroughly this month to make sure that next year's buds develop well.

As penstemon flowers fade, cut them back to just above a leaf to encourage more flowers.

Collect ripened seeds and store them for next year. Leaving some seed heads in place can be attractive and allows the plant to self-seed in the surrounding soil.

Mow meadows now to help scatter established wildflower seeds.

Take cuttings of your favourite tender perennials such as pelargoniums and fuchsia to propagate them for next year.

Finish dividing clumps of bearded Iris now so they have time to form roots and flower buds for next year before the cold weather arrives.

Look out for symptoms of 'clematis wilt' including black discolouration on the leaves and stems of your clematis. Cut out any infected plant material and dispose of it in your household waste.

Winter-flowering pansies can be sown now for colour in the cooler months.

Sow hardy annual seeds like poppies, cornflower, calendula and larkspur now to provide earlier flowers next year.

Cut back herbs now to encourage a new flush of tasty leaves you can harvest before the frost.

Sow parsley, coriander and chervil in seed trays now for growing under glass throughout the winter.

Look out for symptoms of 'clematis wilt' including black discolouration on the leaves and stems of your clematis. Cut out any infected plant material and dispose of it in your household waste.

Pinch out the tips of your runner bean plants once they reach the top of their support. This encourages side-shooting and more beans at a manageable height for picking.

Remember to feed your lemon tree (and other citrus fruit trees) throughout summer with a special citrus fertiliser.

Cut back herbs to encourage a new flush of tasty leaves that you can harvest before the first frosts. Dry or freeze excess herbs to use in the kitchen later on.

Pinch out the growing tips of your aubergine plants once they have 5 or 6 fruits. Pick fruits while they're young and shiny.

Limit the fruits on a squash plant to about three, but make sure these fruits are well established before pinching out the surplus.

Keep harvesting courgettes before they become too big!

Make final sowings of spring cabbages such as 'April' and 'Durham Early' into seedbeds now — they're a great crop to have next April when not much else is ready to eat!

Swiss chard 'Bright Lights' can be sown in drills now for autumn 'baby leaves' or to over-winter for a spring crop.

Direct sow spinach 'Perpetual' now for autumn and winter cropping.

There's still time to make direct sowings of fast-maturing carrots such as 'Adelaide'.

Sow parsley, coriander and chervil in seed trays now for growing under glass throughout the winter.

Plant newly pot grown strawberry plants (or your own runners as soon as they have rooted) in an area where you haven't grown strawberries for three years or more to avoid disease. Planting now will allow them to establish well before winter.

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

On Tuesday 25th August the East Mendip Gardening Club will meet for their summer social and AGM at Simbriss Farm. Details from our Chair Mark Manley, 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



FOREST MARBLE

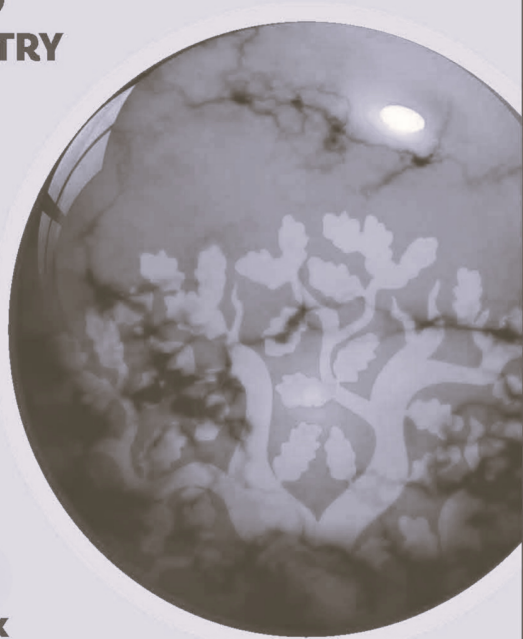
PROPERTY SALES & LETTINGS

With market forecasts looking positive for 2026, and following the excellent sales activity we have seen since the middle of last year, we would be delighted to talk to you. If you are considering a home move, first time purchase or a change of scenery, now may be the time to start your conversation.

The team are here 24/7 to give you the advice and assistance you need.

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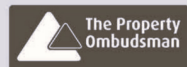
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Leigh on Mendip Parent, Toddler and Baby Group

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



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 Gemma on 07837 121099 or via Facebook



Stoke St Michael Toddler Group

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@StokeStMichaelSchool.



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

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



All parishioners welcome to attend

LEIGH on MENDIP MEMORIAL HALL

(Registered Charity No. 304574)



Monday to Friday (until 6.00 p.m.)	£5.00 per hour
Monday to Friday (6.00pm onwards)	£7.00 per hour
Saturday and Sunday	£7.00 per hour
Business Users - At all times	£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

CHRIS INGREM
painting and decorating

chrisingrem.co.uk
07876 301615
enquiries@chrisingrem.co.uk

Based in Leigh on Mendip and
operating across the wider locality



**SOMERSET
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-
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 - ◇ Ear check prior to Audiology
 - ◇ Fully trained and experienced

Sister Teresa Munro RGN

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teresamunro@hotmail.co.uk

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Enos Way, Frome BA11 2FH

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Articles for the next issue to be submitted by the 20th of each month

E-mail - 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

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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

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