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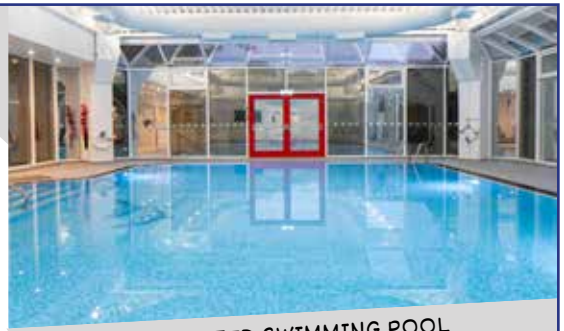
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Dear Readers....



Welcome to the December issue of your community magazine. 'Tis the season to be jolly and this magazine is here to get you into the festive spirit with all the wonderful seasonal events that are taking place in our community.

We share details of local church and carol services, along with a Christmas message from Revd Canon Simon Jones, Vicar at St Michael's Stoke Gifford.

Willowbrook is starting off the Christmas events with their Fayre on Friday 27th November. There are festive performances to look forward to from the Stoke Gifford Ensemble, Bradley Stoke Singers, Filtones Choir and the annual Community Carol Concert. There are also many events taking place at the Armstrong in Thornbury and as illustrated on the front cover, Winterbourne Medieval Barn invite you to Carols in the Barn with their quirky retelling of the Christmas Story. The local historical venue is also hosting Christmas Crafts, and Wreath making sessions. Santa on a bike is back on 5th December- please if you can turn out and support their efforts for the Children's Hospice South West.

We were pleased to visit Little Stoke Social Club and catch up with them as they approach their 60th anniversary in January! It was great to hear from local resident Simon Vowles who has published his first children's book and we are pleased to be new sponsors of the Bradley Stoke Ladies Football Team.

As always, a huge thank you to all our advertisers and contributors who continue to support us, we couldn't produce this magazine without you. Do let our advertisers know that you have seen them within our pages and if you are a business looking to promote your services across the local area in 2027, do get in touch and we will be happy to help. Have a great Christmas and enjoy the read!

Deadline for the January edition is 9th December.

Jaci

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2005 - 2026

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www.bradleystokematters.co.uk

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Join the Matters Mag team


Editors Kerry & Jaci

Looking for a career change in 2027?

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Come and work with the editors of Matters Magazines.

Jaci founded Matters magazines over twenty one years ago when she had young children and didn't wish to return to her corporate career. She saw the potential of a community magazine to link readers with the community groups around them and connect them to local shops and traders. *Bradley Stoke Matters* (BS32) was launched first, closely followed by *Little Stoke Gifford Matters* (BS32/34). Both publications have been in print ever since.

Jaci inspired her good friend Kerry, with a design background, who was looking to return from working in the West Midlands, to becoming her own boss and creating a local magazine in her community. Nineteen years ago the first issue of *Bishopston Matters* hit the doormats of homes in BS6 and BS7.

The editors also work together to produce *Winterbourne & Frampton Cotterell Matters* (BS36/16)

They have worked with a range of talented women over the years when producing the magazines and due to a brilliant sales executive recently having to step back due to ill health, they are now looking for a new person to join their team.

The candidate will need to have good sales experience, excellent communication skills, commitment and determination, great organisational skills and a personality that shines bright!

Matters Magazines builds long-lasting, committed relationships with their clients. Some businesses have been with the publications since the start. **If this sounds like a position you would be interested in please submit your CV, salary expectations and covering letter to: sales@mattersmagazines.co.uk.**



A community at the heart of Little Stoke: Celebrating a local gem

For almost 60 years, one local social club has been doing far more than bringing people together for a drink. At the heart of Little Stoke, it has become a thriving community hub, providing a place for people to meet, celebrate, socialise and get involved in projects that make a real difference to the local area.

The club's story began in 1967, when local residents came together with a shared vision for a space of their own. They secured funding from a brewery and set about making that vision a reality. Five years later, in 1972, the club officially opened its doors.

With its 60-year anniversary approaching in January, it's a fitting time to reflect on just how much the club has become part of the community.

More than just a social club

Today, the club is a hive of activity, with 19 sports teams, two darts teams, regular bingo nights attracting up to 80 people, quizzes and a packed calendar of private functions.

Its function rooms and lounge provide a welcoming venue for weddings, milestone birthdays, wakes and celebrations of all kinds. With bookings already filling the diary well into next year, it's clear that the facilities are valued by the local community.

The club has also invested in its facilities to make hosting events more affordable. Its lighting and sound systems allow people to organise their own parties without the expense of hiring an external DJ. For a small additional charge, guests can bring their own music and create their own atmosphere.

It's all part of an approach that encourages people to use the space and make it their own.

Although the club operates as a business, it has a not-for-profit ethos. Any money generated is reinvested into the building, its facilities, staffing and making sure it remains a warm and welcoming place for everyone.

Growing something special

Beyond the building itself, the club's commitment to the environment and community is equally impressive.



Nicola Pearce, Business Secretary, at the door of the Club

Tim Hewer, the club Chairman and Nicola Pearce, the business secretary are always thinking of new ways to improve the club and support the local community.

One of its latest standout projects is a community orchard, featuring a variety of fruit trees. A club employee who also happens to be an artist helped create beautifully painted stones depicting the different fruits and flowers associated with each tree.

The orchard has also become a place for people to stop, reflect and enjoy the surroundings. Plans are underway to secure funding for a community bench, creating an inviting space for visitors and passers-by.

The fruit doesn't go to waste either. Sandra, a club employee harvests some of the produce and turns it into homemade treats, including quince gin, which is sold at Christmas with proceeds donated to charity.

The club is also home to an apiary, run by the Bristol Bee Society. Through this partnership, bees are not only cared for locally but also used as an educational resource. Tim, who is closely involved with the project, regularly takes bees into local schools to teach children about their importance and the natural environment.



Sustainability is another important part of the club's future. Solar panels have been installed on the roof, with further plans to expand renewable energy provision and move towards becoming increasingly self-sufficient and hopefully go off-grid.

Making a difference together

Volunteering is another important part of the club's community spirit.

Through corporate volunteering days, businesses have sent teams of employees to help with projects around the grounds. Organisations including YTL, the company behind the Brabazon development, have been involved in creating hedgehog boxes, building benches and helping improve the outdoor spaces.

Tim also gives his own time to support these projects, ensuring that the benefits extend beyond the club itself.

Partnerships with organisations such as Southern Brooks are helping to develop even more opportunities. The club is hoping to become involved in an emerging Little Stoke community history project, which aims to collect photographs and oral histories from local residents under the proposed name My Little Stoke.

With funding being explored for the project, there is potential for an exhibition in January or February, which could become part of the club's anniversary celebrations.



Nearly six decades after residents united to realise their vision, the club still offers what they envisioned: a welcoming place to gather and feel a sense of belonging.

In a time when community spaces are increasingly precious, Little Stoke has something genuinely special on its doorstep.

It's not simply a social club. It's a place built by the community, sustained by the community and, above all, here for the community.

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STOKE GIFFORD
PARISH COUNCIL

A Change is Coming in April 2027!

Update from Councillor Keiron Marsden

What's Changing?

- Some of the grassy areas and playgrounds in Stoke Gifford are currently maintained by South Gloucestershire Council
- Stoke Gifford Parish Council will be taking over responsibility for this work from April 2027

Why the Change?

- South Gloucestershire Council has previously charged Stoke Gifford residents directly for this work, via the "Special Expenses" line item in your Council Tax bill
- This way of charging residents is being discontinued
- Local Town and Parish Councils have been given a choice:

  Either South Gloucestershire Council carry on doing the work, but Town & Parish Councils pay them for it, or Town and Parish Councils take over responsibility for the work.

Why has Stoke Gifford Parish Council decided to take on this work?

- We believe we can provide better value for money for our residents
- Parish Councillors will soon be deciding on our budget and Council Tax precept for next financial year
- Our goal is to keep any increase in Parish Council precept to less than South Gloucestershire Council would charge for the work.

Background

What are "Special Expenses"?

- a line item in your Council Tax bill showing how much South Gloucestershire Council charges to Stoke Gifford residents for work they currently perform in maintaining some of the open spaces and play areas within Stoke Gifford Parish
- South Gloucestershire Council sets a different Special Expenses charge for each Town and Parish



within its district, specifically according to the amount and type of extra work they perform within that town or parish

- South Gloucestershire Council has indicated that it intends to hand this work over to Town and Parish Councils from 2027 onwards

Putting it in Context:

During the current financial year (2026-7), for a Band D property in Stoke Gifford, out of every £1 residents spent on Council Tax:

- 79.3p went to South Gloucestershire Council
- 12.1p went to Avon & Somerset Police
- 3.7p went to Avon Fire Service
- Only 3.6p went to Stoke Gifford Parish Council
- A further 1.3p was South Gloucestershire Council's Special Expenses charge to Stoke Gifford residents.

This means South Gloucestershire Council charged residents in Stoke Gifford an amount for this work which was more than one third of the total amount charged in Council Tax by Stoke Gifford Parish Council.

Stoke Gifford Parish Council will pick up this extra work - partly using our own staff and equipment, and partly by employing subcontractors - but will need to increase its Council Tax precept charge to residents from 2027-8 onwards, to cover these extra costs.

However, the amount of Council Tax you pay Stoke Gifford Parish Council should be less overall than continuing to pay Special Expenses on top.

Brooklands Park Community Centre

Brooklands Park Community Centre continues to grow as a busy hub for the local community, with a wide range of weekly activities now taking place for all ages. From fitness classes and community groups to children's activities and local meetings, it's fantastic to see the building being used by so many residents.

Over the past year we've welcomed new hirers, expanded our regular programme of activities, and continued to improve the facilities available to the community. To find out more about hiring a room at Brooklands Park Community Centre, please visit **www.stokegifford.org.uk** or contact the team on **01454 568997**.

Sustainability Improvements

We are also working to make the centre more environmentally friendly. Plans include the installation of EV charging points, helping support residents and visitors who are making the switch to electric vehicles.

A Community Asset

Brooklands Park Community Centre belongs to the whole community, and our aim is to create a welcoming space where local people can meet, learn, exercise, celebrate, and connect. Whether you're attending an activity, hiring a room, volunteering, or simply dropping in for a coffee, you are helping make the centre thrive.

Stoke Gifford Parish Council Meeting Dates

Meetings will be held on a Tuesday. All meetings to take place at 19:00 unless stated but may be subject to change. Please refer to the noticeboards and Parish Council Website.

Venue: Little Stoke Community Hall (BS34 6HR)

Full Council
(Second Tues of Month)

Tuesday 12th January 2027
Tuesday 9th February 2027

Finance & General Purpose
(Second Tues of Month)

8th December 2026
Tuesday 9th March 2027

Recreation & Leisure
(Third Tues of Month)

Tuesday 19th January 2027 (14:00)

Planning & Tranportation
(Fourth Tues of Month)

Tuesday 26th January 2027
Tuesday 23rd February 2027
Tuesday 23rd March 2027

Brooklands Park Community Centre, Clover Way, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8AZ

Poplar Rooms, Stoke Gifford Trust Ground, North Road, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8PE

Little Stoke Community Centre, Little Stoke Lane, Little Stoke, BS34 6HR

Your local Councillors, working for you:


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Stoke Gifford
North Ward


Jan Brunwin
Stoke Gifford
Central Ward


Keiron Marsden
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Central Ward


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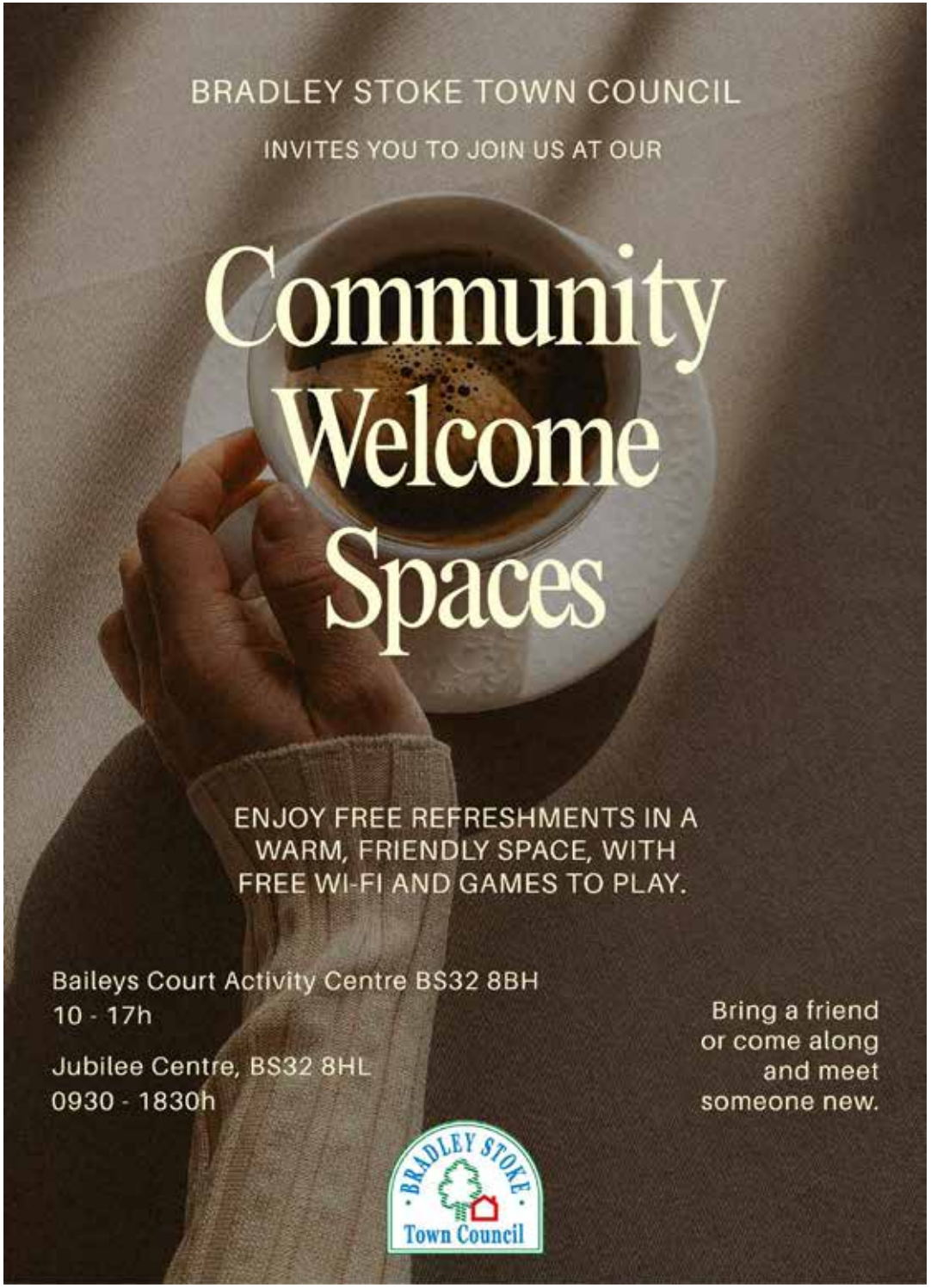

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The Loneliness We Don't Always See: Finding Connection This Winter

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Winter has a way of changing the rhythm of everyday life. The evenings draw in, we think twice about going out, and the familiar routines of work, family and home can begin to feel a little repetitive. We might be busy from morning until night, looking after everyone else, yet still find ourselves wishing for a little more connection. Loneliness doesn't always look like being alone. Sometimes, it's feeling that nobody really knows how we're doing beneath the familiar answer of *"I'm fine"*.



Why connection matters

Loneliness is a normal human experience, but when it persists, it can affect our emotional and physical wellbeing. We are social beings, and meaningful relationships help us feel supported, understood and part of something bigger than ourselves.

Winter can make connection harder. Shorter days, colder weather, financial pressures and competing family commitments can make socialising feel like another thing on an already lengthy list. And when we're feeling low or disconnected, reaching out may feel even harder.

Ask yourself: Am I getting the connection I need, or am I simply getting through the day?

Small steps, meaningful connections

The good news is that connection doesn't have to mean a packed social calendar, expensive outings or grand gestures. Often, it's the small, regular moments that help.

Make the first move. Send a message to someone you've been meaning to catch up with. Suggest a phone call, a short walk or a cuppa. Don't wait until you have a free afternoon or the perfect words. A simple *"I was thinking of you, how are you?"* can be a lovely place to start.

Put connection in the diary. A regular walking date, weekly coffee, shared hobby or family meal gives you something to look forward to. It doesn't need to be elaborate; consistency matters more than creating the perfect occasion. Make that date!

Find your people. Is there a local group, class, volunteering opportunity or community activity you've been curious about? Shared interests can offer a natural starting point for new friendships. This was the very basis on which I created **Walk Mates Winterbourne** in 2023. Come and give us a go!

Be the invitation. Winter can be a particularly difficult time for someone living alone, navigating a life change or quietly struggling. Could you invite a neighbour for a cuppa, check in on a friend or make room for someone who might otherwise be left out? Small acts of inclusion can mean more than we realise.

Give yourself permission to need people

Perhaps the most important thing is to recognise that needing connection isn't a weakness, and feeling lonely isn't something to hide. You don't have to wait until things feel overwhelming before trying to reach out.

Then...

If loneliness is affecting your mood or becoming difficult to manage, talking to someone you trust, your GP or a local support organisation can be a valuable first step.

At Tip the Balance, our Elemental Approach to Wellbeing recognises that looking after ourselves means more than ticking off healthy habits. It also means paying attention to our relationships, our environment and the things that help us feel grounded, supported and 'seen / heard'.

Who helps you feel most like yourself? And who might appreciate you reaching out?

Start with one message, one invitation or one conversation. You don't need to solve loneliness in a day, and sometimes, that little connection can make a long winter feel warmer.

We are here to talk,

Becca x



Dr Rebecca Brooks, Founder, Tip the Balance, The 'Clinic Without Walls' ™
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15 Years in the Making: Stoke Gifford Dad Finally Publishes the Children's Story He Wrote for His 3-Year-Old Daughter



Fifteen years ago, when his daughter Sofia was just three years old, Stoke Gifford dad, Simon Vowles, wrote her a story about a muddy little dog called Stinky.

Like many parents, Simon loved making up silly stories to make his daughter laugh. Their family dog, Marley, then just a young pup, provided some of the inspiration and, before long, Stinky was born – a lovable, slightly chaotic dog who enjoyed singing, getting muddy and going on adventures.

Then life happened. The story was put away, the years passed and Sofia grew up.

She's now 18 years old (inset with Marley, now 15) and earlier this year Simon found himself returning to the character he'd created for her all those years ago. He decided that after 15 years, Stinky finally deserved his own adventure!

The result is STINKY – A Tail-Wagging Adventure, a colourful children's picture book centred around friendship, kindness, belonging, adventure and the importance of being yourself.

Stinky is joined by his best friend, Funky the Monkey, and Simon is now developing a wider world of characters and future adventures around them.

One of the loveliest parts for Simon has been sharing the finished book with Sofia. Something that began as a dad making up a story for his three-year-old daughter has finally become a real children's book. Sofia now works in a local nursery. She is thrilled that her dad's story is finally published and is looking forward to being able to share it with the children she works with - even better if her dad could come in and read it one day!



Photos from Simon & Sofia's visit to ITV West News in October!

The book is now available in paperback and on Kindle through Amazon, and Simon has also committed to donating 5% of proceeds from the book/eBook to Anthony Nolan, a cause close to Simon's heart as he has donated stem cells twice to help those diagnosed with a blood cancer disorder.

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Christmas Is Coming… and so is the Holiday Booking Rush!

Christmas is nearly here, and I have to say, it's one of my favourite times of year!

Not just because of the festive celebrations, but because we're also approaching one of the busiest times in the travel industry – Peaks, our annual holiday booking season!

From Boxing Day onwards, you'll notice holiday adverts popping up everywhere as everyone starts dreaming about their next getaway.

But here's my top tip – why wait until January when you can beat the rush and start planning now?

Beat the January Booking Rush!

January to March is traditionally one of the busiest periods for booking holidays, with everyone searching for the best deals, flight times, family rooms and cruise cabins.

The good news? Many holiday offers are available to travel agents in December, so there's no need to wait until the New Year.

Booking earlier means more choice, better availability and a greater chance of securing those sought-after dates and accommodation before the January rush.

Dreaming of Winter Sunshine?

If you're already tired of the cold, why not swap winter coats for sunglasses?

The Canary Islands, Mexico and the Caribbean are fantastic options for winter sunshine, while Christmas and New Year cruises offer another wonderful way to celebrate the festive season.

Summer 2027 – Start Planning Now!

Summer 2027 might seem a long way off, but popular family resorts are already attracting interest.

Turkey, Egypt and Agadir are fantastic destinations to consider, particularly if you're looking for sunshine and great value.

Turkey and Egypt offer excellent all-inclusive resorts, including fantastic waterparks for families and beautiful adults-only hotels for couples.



Spread the Cost, Not the Stress!

Did you know I offer a Zero Interest Monthly Direct Payment Plan on eligible holidays?

With no interest or additional payment-plan fees, you can spread the cost of your holiday over manageable monthly payments, making planning ahead even easier.

Wishing You a Wonderful Christmas!

Before I go, I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has booked with me, recommended me to friends and family, or supported my business throughout the year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Here's to making more wonderful holiday memories in 2027.

And if you're already dreaming about your next getaway, why not get ahead of the January rush? I'd love to help you plan something special. Whether you'd prefer to meet in person, chat over the phone or arrange a video call, just get in touch.

- Call or WhatsApp: **07863 802342**
- Email: **andy.cunningham@notjusttravel.com**
- **Village Hotel, Bullfinch Close, Filton, BS34 6FG** – by appointment
- Follow me on Facebook: **Not Just Travel Andy Cunningham**

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Always been interested in holistic treatments? Join Dawn Clode on one of her 2027 courses



Dawn has been offering holistic treatments for over 20 years and is now passionate about sharing her skills with others. Whether you are someone who has no professional knowledge and would like to learn more for use at home, or are a practitioner wanting to gain further qualifications, there are courses for you all.

Courses take place both in person at Dawn's holistic garden room in Little Stoke and online. Why not make 2027 the year you do something positive for yourself and book on to one of the following?

Reiki I & II combined – One day course, on Saturday 16th January or 20th February. £125 including lunch, refreshments, workbook and certificate to practice.

Introduction to Reflexology – level 1 – One day course, on Saturday 30th January or 27th February. £135 including lunch, refreshments, workbook and certificate of attendance.



Left to right: therapists Eva, Dawn, Ella & Louise

Online courses

Self- Esteem – the Road to Self Confidence
5 sessions on Monday and Thursday afternoons 12.45–3.15pm – 11th, 14th, 18th, 21st and 25th January. £75 including PDF workbook, PDF journal and PDF certificate attendance.

Introduction to Aromatherapy – level 1
7 sessions on Monday evenings 6–8.30pm – 11th, 18th, 25th January, 1st, 15th February, 1st and 15th March. £125 including PDF workbook, PDF guide to essential oils and PDF certificate of attendance.

Dawn shares the garden treatment room with a team of therapists: Ella a Reiki practitioner; Eva a Massage Therapist and Louise a Chiropodist, Reflexologist and Reiki Practitioner. **All are welcoming new customers in 2027.**

Get in touch to book in for a treatment or if you would like to book onto one of Dawn's teaching courses.

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My name is Richard Willmott and I live in Bradley Stoke. Every year myself and 3 friends organise an event called **"Santa On A Bike"** which is basically 1,000 motorbikes all dressed as Santa, doing a Charity Motorbike Ride through Bristol raising money for the Children's Hospice South West.

In January 2026 The Children's Hospice South West made me their Ambassador. So basically my role is also raising awareness, inspiring support, and promoting fundraising for this amazing organisation.

They not only provide incredible care for terminally ill children, but also provide amazing support for the parents and siblings. Our Registered Charity Number is 1003314.

This year we have the added bonus of "Alex Lovell" our local ITV West Country News TV Presenter not only supporting our ride - but also leading our ride.

Date for this year's ride is Saturday 5th December with bikes meeting from 10:30 and setting off shortly between 12:15-12:30.

The ride starts at Winterbourne Academy (BS36 1JL). All bikes, trikes, quads and scooters are welcome to join - there is no charge to attend but all donations to Children's Hospice South West are appreciated. Meet from 10:30 onwards and enjoy the festive atmosphere. Get there early and you'll be first in the queue for a complimentary hot drink and mince pie!

Route will be from the Winterbourne Academy through Bradley Stoke past the main Tesco Superstore and the Leisure Centre, on to the Aztec Roundabout and along the Gloucester Road into Bristol. The route will be fully marshalled. The ride takes place entirely on open public roads - so all bikes should be road legal and all normal road rules apply!

Every penny raised is donated to the Bristol Children's Hospice South West with our main contact at the Hospice being Lucie Perryman. A limited number of bikes attend the Hospice so it is not too overwhelming for the residents.

Please do look out for the Santas on their Bikes as they pass through on 5th December and support their fundraising efforts for this worthwhile charity if you can.

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Bradley Stoke Ladies FC (BSLFC) – Season 2026 - 2027

Bradley Stoke Ladies FC for the 2026/2027 season have retained (along with Bradley Stoke Youth FC) the award of being an England Football 3 Star Accredited Club (new name for the previous FA Charter Standard Community Club) which is the highest award a football sports club can receive. Both clubs have successfully retained this highest status since 2010 so we are very proud of this as there are only a few clubs in South Glos with this accreditation.

The club provides football training for female's 16 years old and above. We currently play in Division 3 of the Gloucestershire County Women's League. Our current crop of players range in age from 16 to 42 years old. We have very close links with BSYFC to ensure we have a female pathway from Reception age and into adult football.



Last season the Ladies had a strong finish to the season and just missed out on 4th position in the League by one point. We are hoping for another good finish this season. We have started strongly with 5 wins and 2 draws from our first 8 matches and are currently 2nd in Div 3 table.

The club is very pleased to announce we have secured sponsorship from two local companies. This will allow us now to return to our original colours of orange and black with every player receiving a new kit. The club would like to say a big Thank You to **Bradley Stoke Matters** and **Inform Consulting Engineers** who are totally funding the whole kit for the squad. We just hope we can repay them with some good results.

BSLFC train every Tuesday evening at the Bradley Stoke Community School so if you are interested in attending just get in touch with the Manager Martin Lee email mlee1@btopenworld.com

All players are welcome to attend and we try to be a friendly and safe environment where fun and enjoyment is the priority.

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News from Little Stoke Primary School

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year, and we have been delighted to see how well the children have returned to school. There has been a real sense of excitement and enthusiasm as everyone has settled back into school life. Our new EYFS children have made a fantastic start and have settled into their new surroundings remarkably well, quickly becoming familiar with routines, making new friends and showing confidence as they begin their learning journey with us. It has been lovely to see so many happy faces around school!



Year 6 had a fabulous time on camp, making memories that they will treasure for years to come! From the moment they arrived, the children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, courage and plenty of laughter. They had the opportunity to test their skills and teamwork through exciting activities such as climbing and rafting, encouraging one another and stepping outside their comfort zones.

It was wonderful to see everyone supporting their friends, trying new things and enjoying the great outdoors. There were certainly a few tired faces by the end of the trip, but lots of happy smiles too! A fantastic time was had by all, and Year 6 should be very proud of themselves for making the camp such a memorable experience.



Our Reception children have had a fantastic time going on their very own Bear Hunt around the school! They followed clues and explored different areas of our school grounds before eventually discovering that Bear was hiding in Forest School. The children were very excited to find him and thoroughly enjoyed this fun adventure, bringing the much-loved story to life through their exploration and imagination.

A huge thank you to all the parents and staff who gave up their Saturday to support our recent Odd Jobs Day. It was wonderful to see everyone working together to give our school a little extra care and attention. From gardening and painting to making improvements around the school grounds, so much was achieved thanks to your time, energy and hard work. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and for helping to make our school such a welcoming and special place for our children.



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ALL HANDYMAN'S WORK

Update from Stoke Gifford WI

Our President, Jo Janes, welcomed members and visitors to our Meeting on Wednesday 7th October2026.

We were due to be entertained this evening by a musical group called Revival but unfortunately two of their members were unwell and unable to attend. So our Speaker this evening was Helen Grey who kindly agreed, at very short notice, to come and speak to us. Helen is a qualified Medical Herbalist and Wellbeing practitioner who loves plants, particularly wild, hedgerow and common ones, often described as weeds...

She has been foraging for 30 years, and uses wild plants in her daily diet, as well as using them to make medicines for her herbal practice. She told us about the many uses and benefits of some very common garden plants and weeds, and how they can be made into delicious teas, vinegars, and soothing ointments for insect bites, and sunburn.

For instance, bright yellow daises contain arnica, which is good for bruises, and mild rashes. Calendula is a bright yellow flower and is frequently used to comfort skin affected by conditions like eczema or minor scrapes, though it should not be applied to broken skin. Comfrey is a plant with purple, blue and white flowers and is a plant that can be used to make topical creams and ointments and which has been said to ease muscle aches and osteoarthritis pain. Helen went on to list many other properties of certain plants, such as Lavender, Fennel and Yarrow. It was a fascinating talk and some of us might go foraging with Helen sometime perhaps in the Spring.

Visitors will always find a warm welcome at our WI Group which is held on the 1st Wednesday of the month in the Trust Hall, Stoke Gifford so please come along and join us.

ARTS APPRECIATION GROUP

2pm Thursday 17th December:
"Behind the Curtains at the Bristol Hippodrome"
a talk by Katie Bell

2pm Thursday 21st January: an illustrated talk by John Putley on ***"Ugly Mugs, Gloucestershire Gargoyles & Grotesques"***.

Both held at The Greenfield Centre, Park Avenue, Winterbourne, BS36 1NJ
More details from Sally - 07946 508316



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Active Libraries

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Saturday 12th December,
9:30am -10am,
Term Time Only

Free drop in activity for all Dads and their little ones. Uncles and Grandads welcome too!



www.southglos.gov.uk/childrenslibrary

Ambourne House
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We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year!

Autumn is always such a busy and exciting time in our setting as we welcome new children and families, as well as reconnecting with friends who have been away enjoying their summer holidays.

Across the whole setting, we take time to get to know each child as an individual, learning about their interests, personalities, and families, while creating opportunities for them to talk about themselves and share their experiences. We also spend lots of time exploring feelings and emotions, helping the children to develop their emotional intelligence, build strong relationships, and feel more settled, confident, and secure in their new environment.



Alongside our daily learning, we continue to enjoy our trips and extracurricular activities, while getting ready to explore the beautiful Autumn season and all the wonderful colours, textures, and changes it brings to our environment.

Another exciting change this year has been the reconfiguration of our rooms. Our downstairs Baby Room now welcomes children aged 0–2 years, while upstairs we have our Toddler Room for children aged 2–3 years and our preschool environment. This new structure will support the children as they grow and transition between rooms, while giving them wonderful opportunities to explore Montessori materials and experience the Montessori ethos throughout their journey with us.

We are ready for another exciting term filled with learning, adventures, new friendships, celebrations, and lots of wonderful memories!

If you would like your child to join the fun, please call Roberta or Sarah to book a visit on 01454 615352.

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‘Christmas Presence’

The greatest gift maybe ‘presence’ not ‘presents!’

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. The lights go up, the Christmas songs start playing (sometimes before we’ve even recovered from summer), and suddenly we’re all experts at finding presents, wrapping oddly shaped objects and wondering how much food one family can possibly eat in a single day!

There is something rather special about Christmas. It brings people together. We make time for family and friends, remember those we haven’t seen for a while, and aspire to show kindness to people around us. But amongst all the shopping, planning, cooking and celebrating, perhaps one of the most important things we can give each other is something that doesn’t cost a penny: our presence.

Being present means more than simply being in the same room. It’s putting the phone down, listening properly, noticing when someone needs a little encouragement, or making time for someone who might otherwise feel forgotten. Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is simply to show up.

And that brings us to the heart of Christmas.

The Christian story of Christmas is, at its heart, a story about God’s presence. Over 2,000 years ago, in an ordinary stable in Bethlehem, something extraordinary happened. Jesus was born. Not in a palace, surrounded by wealth and privilege, but into the simplicity and vulnerability of human life.

The Bible tells us that Jesus would be called Immanuel, which means “God with us”.

Think about that for a moment. The creator of the universe chose to come close. Not to remain distant or unreachable, but to enter our world, share our humanity and experience life alongside us.

God didn’t send a present. He gave His Presence.

It’s what makes Christmas so remarkable. Jesus came for everyone: the confident and the anxious, the joyful and the grieving, the people who have life neatly organised and those who are still wondering where they put the Sellotape. He came to bring hope, peace, forgiveness and a love that doesn’t depend on how well we’ve managed our lives.

Perhaps this Christmas, some of us will be celebrating with a house full of people. Others may be facing an empty chair at the table, a difficult season, loneliness or uncertainty about what the coming year might bring. Christmas doesn’t magically make all our troubles disappear. But its message reminds us that we are not alone.

God is with us in the celebrations and in the struggles, in the laughter and in the tears. His presence isn’t reserved for church buildings or special occasions. He invites us to know Him in the ordinary moments of everyday life.

And perhaps that is an invitation worth accepting this Christmas.

You don’t need to have all the answers, know all the carols or understand everything about Christianity. You can simply start with a question, a prayer or a conversation. You might even visit a church service and discover something of the welcome, hope and joy that Christmas offers.

As we celebrate this year, let’s look beyond the presents and remember the presence. Let’s make time for one another, look out for those who might need a little kindness, and remember the extraordinary gift at the centre of it all.

Because the first Christmas wasn’t really about what people received. It was about who came.

Jesus -God with us. Then, now and always.

Have a ‘presence’ filled Christmas and a peaceful new year,

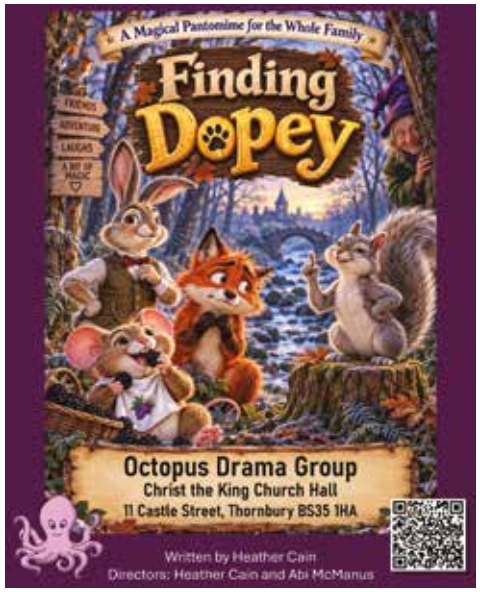
Revd Canon Simon Jones,
Vicar St Michael’s Stoke Gifford







Octopus Drama Group - 'Finding Dopey'



Octopus Drama Group's upcoming pantomime 'Finding Dopey' will be performed 13th to 16th January 2027 at Christ the King Hall in Castle Street, Thornbury. Written by Heather Cain who is also jointly directing with Abi McManus (both members of Octopus Drama Group) this pantomime is set to be another crowd pleaser.

Snow White and the Prince have finally returned from their long, fairytale honeymoon and as they step back into the heart of the kingdom, excitement ripples through the air. The dwarfs are eager for embraces, tales of far-off wonders, and perhaps a glimpse of the souvenirs tucked in Snow White's bag. However, somewhere between their cosy cottage and the Castle the dwarfs realise someone very important is missing… Dopey. Gone. Poof. Vanished! Worried about his safety, some help is called upon. Soon a merry little team gathers – friends who are brave, curious, and occasionally distracted – ready to follow clues and chat with quirky characters as they venture through the forest on a quest to find their favourite dwarf. Their mission is simple: bring Dopey home safe and smiling.

There will be 5 performances: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 7.30pm and Saturday at 11am and 2.30pm. Tickets go on general sale on Saturday 5th December at Rosie & Rex gift shop, 32 High Street, Thornbury. Tickets £10 for adults and £8 for children under 18 can be purchased Wednesday to Saturday 9am – 4.30pm. For those who want a programme it would help if you bring cash.

The Armstrong, Thornbury - What's on in December?

The Armstrong in Thornbury, is a refurbished venue based in the old Armstrong Hall complex. Thanks to the tenacity of a few dedicated people and an army of volunteers, the old venue, closed during the pandemic and due to be sold for houses, is now a vibrant community hub alive with a myriad of activities and a great venue to hire for events of every kind.

We begin on 4th December with some Christmas creativity at a **Wreath Making Workshop** where all materials are provided and expert guidance is on hand to provide inspiration. Next day, on Saturday 5th, the Songbirds, Thornbury's fabulous women's choir will be presenting a **Christmas Concert and Singalong**, then on Monday 7th December Steph and Craig, along with Ollie the Octopus, present **Rock the Tots**, their fun filled family gig featuring music, puppets and bubbles.

Belinda and Peter, our regular dance callers will be presenting a **Festive Tea Dance** in a warm and welcoming atmosphere on Wednesday 9th December so put on those sparkly dancing shoes and trip the light fantastic!

Father Christmas will be here on 12th December with **Mrs Claus List, a Christmas story** in which Father Christmas and his Chief Elves prepare for Christmas Eve. An adventure the whole family can enjoy with magic, songs, loads of jokes and festive cheer AND a chance for each child to meet the man himself after the show.

On Monday 14th the **Bristol Concert Wind Band** are back bringing their concert **'Sounds of the Season'**, featuring Christmas music and songs.

On Sunday 20th December, as part of our regular Armstrong Sessions in the Foyer/Bar, Ian Towers will be leading a **Christmas Sing Song around the piano**, so come along to relax and raise the roof before life gets frantic in the few days before the big day.

Then – drum roll – as a great way to herald the New Year and celebrate The Armstrong's first year of community joyfulness, join everyone for our very first **New Year Party**!! The fabulous live band, Ride the Edge will be guaranteed to get you dancing, and partying will go on until midnight with Auld Lang Syne and all the trimmings. We are delighted to be in partnership with Hawkes House who are offering a special New Year's Eve pre-party menu – so make a night of it with a slap-up meal followed by a fantastic party

For information on all of the events in December and 2027 visit our website: www.thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on

email **sales@mattersmagazines.co.uk** or call **01454 300900** to advertise your business with us





Would you like to join us for Christmas dinner?

We believe no-one should be alone at Christmas. We're offering a free Christmas roast dinner at lunchtime on the day itself. 12noon at Christ the King for a 12:15pm start (ends at 2pm).
BOOKING REQUIRED - please contact the church office via **ctk@bradleystokeparish.org.uk** or call **0117 931 2304**.



Bradley Stoke Community Singers

Christmas Concert

7pm Tuesday 8th December,

Holy Trinity Church, Bradley Stoke



Please let people know you saw them in Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters!

Enjoy a Festive Lunch at Coniston Café



Are you looking for somewhere to enjoy a festive Christmas lunch and soak up some Christmas cheer? Our popular Christmas lunch is returning to Coniston Café during this December!

Christmas lunches will take place on:

- **Monday 7th to Friday 11th December**
- **Monday 14th to Wednesday 16th December**

The cost is £14.50 per person. To book, please visit Coniston Community Centre in person. You can drop by from 8.30am and 2pm.

More than just a Christmas lunch.

Your Christmas lunch does more than bring people together. It also raises valuable funds to support Coniston Community Centre and the services it provides throughout the year.

The centre has a range of community services, including a Community larder and fridge, which are open to the public. People can access food for free or make a small donation, helping households manage their food costs, while prices continue to rise.

Its Coniston Connect service offers a welcoming social club for older people. They can meet every week to enjoy board games, exercise and craft activities together. They also share a freshly cooked, two-course lunch. The club supports older people to socialise and feel belonged and connected.

Like many community buildings, Coniston Community Centre also faces increasing running costs. The centre recently faced significant expenses for essential building repairs and maintenance. This has put extra pressure on its finances.

So your Christmas lunch will also help generate valuable income for Coniston Community Centre. It will contribute towards maintaining the building and its community services, groups and activities that local people depend on.

By booking your Christmas lunch at Coniston Community Centre, you are doing more than celebrating Christmas. You are helping support a community space that makes a real difference to peoples' lives.

Visit **conistoncommunitycentre.org.uk** for more info.

The Gifford Ensemble

Presents a

Christmas Concert

Sunday 13th December 2026

4pm

The Trust Hall, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8PE

Please join us for some Christmas classics and refreshments

All ages welcome, Admission is FREE

Donations welcome

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Festive Season at Winterbourne Medieval Barn

As 2026 draws to a close, Winterbourne Medieval Barn offers a range of festive community activities:



Carols in the Barn – Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December, 3pm

Sing traditional carols and enjoy a quirky retelling of the Christmas Story by members of St Michael's Church. This is a lovely community event and a great start to the festive season. Your ticket includes a cup of mulled wine and a mince pie to enjoy between 2.15pm and 3pm when the carols start. Tickets are just £5 adult, £1 child (aged 3–16) for Early Bird bookings, rising to £7 and £2 the week beforehand. No tickets available on the door.



Christmas Wreath-making – Saturday 5th December, 10.30am or 2pm

Learn the process of traditional wreath-making step-by-step, from mossing the base to adorning it with finest seasonal foliage and decorative flourishes. The workshops last 2.5 hours in the stunning Medieval Barn and are suited to complete beginners aged 16+ or floral enthusiasts looking for a chance to get creative. Tickets include full instruction and all materials, plus tea & coffee, and a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie at the start to add to the festive atmosphere!

Family Christmas Craft Morning – Wednesday 23rd December 10.30am

A relaxed and inclusive session recommended for ages 5+years, but all are welcome. This is not a guided workshop so you are welcome to pop in for as long or as little as you like between 10.30am–12.30pm and do your own thing. Craft volunteers will be on hand with plenty of ideas. The cost of £4.75 per child includes all craft materials, plus squash and a biscuit, and also a scavenger hunt with a sweet treat on completion.

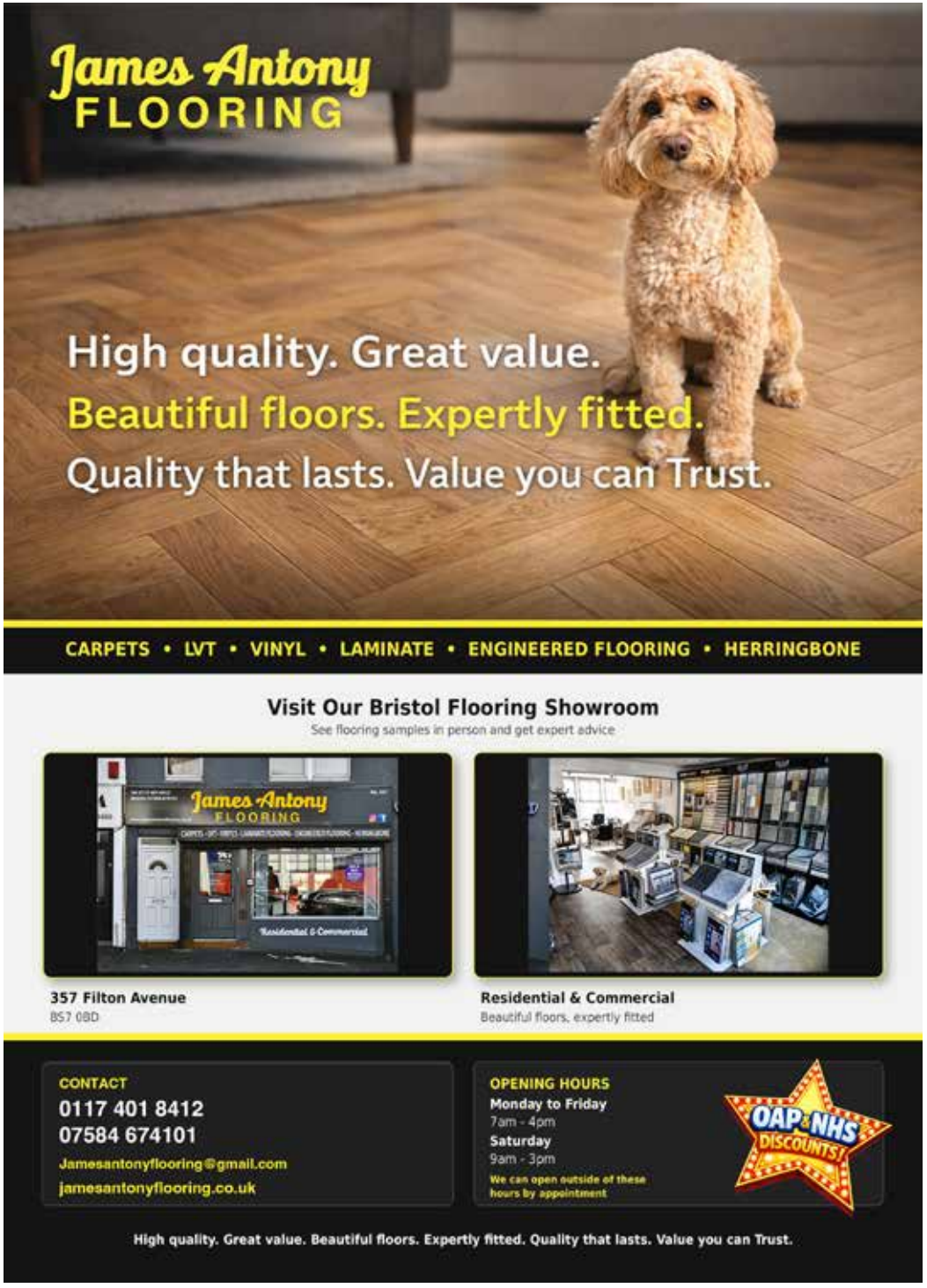
New Year Craft Workshops

The main barn is a bit too chilly in midwinter, so New Year craft workshops are held in a small but warm room. For adults there is **Fused Glass on 22nd January**, **and Woodcarving on 6th February or 14th March**. Young crafters can make their own **fused glass creations during February half term**, with one hour sessions in the morning for ages 7–8 up, and 2 hour sessions in the afternoon for secondary school ages. Full details of all these opportunities can be found on the Barn website and on Ticketsource. A ticket for one of these Craft Experiences makes a wonderful Christmas present for a special person!

All events at the Barn should be booked online at Ticketsource or via the Barn's website. If you do not have internet access, please ring the Barn on 0117 403 1536 to arrange a time to book in person.

www.winterbournebarn.org.uk
Facebook: @winterbournemedievalbarn

Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne, BS36 1SE
WMBT Registered Charity number 1112908



Bradley Stoke Library

Normal Opening Hours: 10am-5pm on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri; 9.30am-12.30pm on Sat or do an Open Access induction and access the library 7 days a week!

Free Drop in Events Term Time Only -
- **Rhymetime** – Every Monday, 10.45-11.15am
- **Stories & Play** – Every Friday, 11am-12noon

Digi Local - Every Saturday Morning
Our great project guides help your child learn about coding, develop their problem-solving skills and build resilience. Your child must have a registered place before attending. For more details see: **https://digilocal.org.uk/digilocal-online/**

Junior Art Club! 4-4.45pm Age 6-11 years, Tuesdays 15th Dec, 20th Jan, 17th Feb,, 17th March

Like getting creative? Come join the Bradley Stoke Library Junior Art Club, where the only limit is your imagination! FREE Children's Drop-in Event

Knit Stitch & Natter
Tuesdays at 1pm and Thursdays at 10am

Join our friendly weekly adults-only textile group. No need to book – just turn up! This is a self-led session. Bring a project to work on, learn from others and catch-up with friends in our warm and welcoming library.

LEGO CLUB 3.45-4.30pm
Tuesdays 8th Dec, 13th & 27th Jan
10th & 24th Feb, 10th & 24th March
Lego™Club

FREE Children's Drop-in Event. Lego™ Clubs are for primary school aged children. All children must bring a grown-up with them.

Chatterbooks 4-4:45pm
Tuesday 1st Dec, 3rd Feb, 3rd March
Our book club for children aged 6-12 has spaces available! *Spaces are subject to change so please ask if you are interested

Free Computer Courses
Want to improve your computer skills and connect with others? Join our FREE digital skills courses at your local library!
When & Where: Tuesdays • Downend Library
Wednesdays • Bradley Stoke Library
Thursdays • Winterbourne Library
The courses begin in mid-September. However, as each week covers a different subject, it's still possible to join later, subject to availability. Find out more on this or any of the above by asking a staff member or visiting: **www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries**









Navigating Christmas as a separated family -

Katie Thomas from AMD Solicitors looks at arrangements for children over the Christmas period



For children, Christmas is a time of joy, excitement and spending time with their loved ones. For separated parents, Christmas can be a complicated time as you try to navigate where the children should spend Christmas.

Both parents are likely to have their own wishes about Christmas and their own traditions.

Where should the children spend Christmas?

There isn't a clear outline or guidance which answers exactly where or how a child should spend their time over Christmas. Ultimately, it is for the parents to work together to make an arrangement which works for everyone, especially the children.

Parents are encouraged to consider Christmas arrangements as soon as possible so they can manage the children's expectations regarding Christmas.

Commonly, parents will choose to alternate Christmas between them, allowing both parents to spend Christmas with the child every two years. Some parents prefer to split the day, so the child can spend the morning with one parent and the afternoon with the other parent. There is no one right answer and it is all about finding what works best for you and your family.

What if the parents can't agree?

If parents are not able to reach an agreement, there are a number of options available to them:-

1. Mediation - This involves a neutral mediator discussing the topic with parents to help them consider the options and each other's views. This can be a useful tool in helping parents to work together to reach an arrangement which not only suits them, but crucially considers the child's best interests;
2. Solicitor involvement – A solicitor can help you by providing you with advice and by drafting a letter to the other parent to set out your proposals. A Solicitor can also advise on other options for resolving matters outside of Court;
3. Court proceedings- If you have tried the above options and still cannot reach an agreement, you can consider an application to the Court.

Tips

1. Plan early - raise the subject with your ex-partner as early as possible to avoid potential disruption to the festive period;
2. Try to establish a pattern. This will help to prepare the children and manage their expectations;
3. Communicate clearly - keep the other parent informed of your Christmas plans and ensure plans are clearly communicated to the children where appropriate;
4. Don't involve the children in these discussions until a plan is finalised as this could make them uncomfortable or feel as though they have to pick a side.

At AMD Solicitors, we understand that Christmas can be a difficult time for separated parents to navigate and one of our supportive team would be more than happy to discuss with you the available options if you are unable to reach an agreement between yourselves.

You can arrange an initial consultation with a member of our team by calling 0117 962 1205 or by email at Info@amdsolicitors.com.

Advice Making a Difference

AMD SOLICITORS

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Speaking up for our whole community - Update from Claire Hazelgrove MP

I hope you are well and enjoying the Autumn. This month I held my regular advice surgery at Aerospace Bristol, and my small team and I worked on 487 cases to support fellow residents.

With fireworks season here, and the Government's recent consultation on reducing the noise level and tackling anti-social use, I held my 'Coffee with Claire' event on this issue in Stoke Gifford. Thanks to all who attended or completed my online survey. I've shared local views with Government Ministers so that our community has a say nationally. Find out more about upcoming events at: clairehazelgrove.co.uk/coffee-with-claire

At the Labour Party Conference, the PM announced a new scheme to help first-time buyers afford a home with a 2.5% deposit. Building on our first Water Bill, he set out how our second will help see greater public control. A new Great British Grid will help bring down costs of electricity, too. Taking the next steps towards our manifesto commitment working towards a National Care Service, he set out its shape: free personal care for older people, beginning at home.

In my ongoing campaign for longer paternity leave, I have written to the PM and met with chancellor John Healey to make the case, which would have huge benefit for local families. I will continue pushing for this

At the Labour Party Conference I also joined panels to speak about our infrastructure boost opportunity if Brabazon is officially designated a 'New Town', accessible public transport for people with disabilities, and the importance of defence funding. I met with a wide range of important charities, including Dementia UK, UNICEF, Shelter and more.

I was grateful to be able to join in with fellow residents at poignant Remembrance events across our community. Thank you to everyone organising these and raising funds and awareness through the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, supporting those who have given so much for our country.

On a personal note, as you may have seen, I spoke in Parliament on the Assisted Dying Bill, where I shared my Mum's story and the impact of the harmful status quo publicly for the first time. I wanted to thank everyone who has been in touch since for your kindness. I'm not only proud to serve our community, but also proud to be part of it.

Please get in touch anytime:
claire.hazelgrove.mp@parliament.uk

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The conversations we have with young people today can help prevent harm tomorrow

Clare Moody , Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Avon and Somerset



Recently, a new national assessment of violence against women and girls provided the clearest picture yet of the scale and nature of the threat facing women and girls across England and Wales. Published by the National Centre for Violence Against Women and Girls and Public Protection, the assessment found that domestic abuse accounts for 65% of all violence against women and girls offences.

It also highlighted the significant role played by repeat perpetrators, who are linked to at least a quarter of offences, and the growing impact of online harm and harmful content. That has been accompanied by the most recent Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) results that 9.6% of people aged 16 and over had experienced domestic abuse in the last year, which equates to about 4.7 million people.

These findings are deeply concerning, but they reinforce something we already know: if we are serious about tackling violence against women and girls, we cannot focus solely on what happens after harm has occurred.

Victims and survivors deserve to be heard, supported and treated with dignity when they come forward. Through my office, I continue to invest in specialist services that support those affected by domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of abuse.

But support after the fact is only part of the solution. We must also do more to prevent harm from happening in the first place.

One of the most striking findings in this assessment is the role that online influences, peer dynamics and unhealthy relationship norms can play in harmful behaviour among teenagers. If we want to change the future, we need to start those conversations early.

That is why I have funded access to Pol-Ed for every school in Avon and Somerset. Pol-Ed is an educational platform that helps schools deliver lessons on topics including healthy relationships, consent, respect, online safety and exploitation. The funding is there so that schools can access it free of charge.

The assessment also makes clear that this is not a challenge for policing alone. Schools, parents, health services, local authorities, community organisations and technology companies all have a role to play.

Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. By supporting victims and survivors, holding perpetrators to account and investing in prevention and education, we can make a difference.

So my ask today is a simple one: if you are a parent, carer, governor, teacher or school leader, ask whether your school is making use of Pol-Ed. **The conversations we have with young people today can help prevent harm tomorrow.**

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Local Clubs and Groups in and around Bradley Stoke, Little Stoke and Stoke Gifford

On these pages we have tried to collate many of the non-profit making groups, clubs and organisations that regularly meet across the Five Stokes area, along with information on the local churches. If your details have changed, please let us know at **community@mattersmagazines.co.uk** and we will update them for you!

BABY AND TODDLER GROUPS

Beehive Baby and Toddler Group, St Michaels Church, The Old School Rooms, Stoke Gifford. Thursdays 10-11.30, term time only. Church office 0117 9692486.

Busy Bees Toddler Group Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church Tuesdays from 10 till 11.30 during school term time phone 0117 931 4716

First Steps Toddler Group - Christ the King Church, Bradley Stoke Thursdays 10.00 am-11.30 am term times. Phone 0117 9312304

Trinity Tots - Mondays 9:30 - 11:00 during term time. Contact Holy Trinity Church Office on 01454 620975

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

1st Bradley Stoke Scouts - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and our marching band meet at Brook Way Activity Centre and Whetafield Primary School. Please have a look on our website for further information for both young people and adult volunteers at www.bradley-stoke-scouts.org.uk/join

1st Little Stoke Scouts - 1st Little Stoke Scout Group, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. E: littlestokescoutgroup@outlook.com W: 1stlittlestokescouts.co.uk

Arts Appreciation Group - Join us as the Greenfield Centre, Park Avenue, Winterbourne on the third Thurs of the month at 2pm, Oct to June. More info from Sally - 07946 508316

Beaufort Model Flying Club Radio control model aircraft flying outdoors year-round plus indoors in winter. For more info visit https://beaufort.bmfa.club

Bradley Stoke Community Singers - Tuesdays term time only at Bradley Stoke Community School 7.15-8.30pm. Free and open to all info@bscsingers.co.uk or call 07725 890120

Bradley Stoke Lions meet every 2nd Monday in the Willowbrook Centre, 1st floor conference room at 7.30 pm Ailsa Young, 07737 106836 ambyoung29@yahoo.com.

Bradley Stoke Radio - The Activity Centre Brook Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 9DS, 01454 616055 bradleystokeradio.org.uk

Bradley Stoke Rotary Club Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Doubletree Hilton hotel in Bradley Stoke. Contact Secretary Karen on 07540 458119

Bradley Stoke Sew and So's - New members welcome! Patchwork and Quilting Group, 3rd Monday in the month 1.30-3.30pm at the Jubilee Centre, Bradleystokesewandsos.weebly.com

Gifford Ensemble - A small and friendly classical music group looking to grow to a full orchestra. We rehearse Sunday evenings from 7.15 to 8.45pm at The Trust Hall, Stoke Gifford, during term time. www.giffordensemble.uk or e-mail giffordensemble@gmail.com.

Gifted drama group Saturday 10-11.30am. Term time at Holy Trinity church. Ages 8-12 years. Contact Hayley Thomas via church office 01454 620975

Girl Guides, Brownies & Rainbows - admingirlguidingbsg.org. uk, girlguidingbsg.org.uk

Goldies - a light hearted weekly fun sing along session for those who enjoy the songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Not a choir, just a get together to have some fun. We meet every Tuesday 2-3pm The Old School Rooms, Stoke Gifford. £3 per session. All welcome.

Knit, Stitch & Natter Bradley Stoke Library Thursdays 10am, bring your own project, just turn up and join our friendly group. Adults only.

Little Stoke & District Ladies Club - meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7.30pm at Little Stoke Baptist Church, Kingsway. T: Julie 0117 931 5007

Severnside Ramblers - walks most Sundays and alternate Fridays. Check out our website for details https://severnside ramblers.org.uk

Silverwinds Flute Choir - meet once a month on a Thursday evening 19:00 - 21:00 at Christ the King Church. For more details please visit www.silverwindsflutechoir.co.uk or email silverwinds@michellekrawiec.co.uk.

St. John Ambulance - 100s of volunteer roles available for 18+. Your local unit meets in Bradley Stoke on a Thursday evening. More information at www.SJA.org.uk or e-mail the New Volunteers Team at BAS-NVTeam@sja.org.uk

Stoke Gifford Community Choir We are a friendly mixed choir singing a wide range of music. No auditions. We rehearse at Stoke Gifford Retirement Village Hall, BS16 1YG, on Tuesdays, 7.00-8.30 pm. For further details, email natasheya.archer@extracare.org.uk.

Stoke Gifford Royal British Legion Looking for members and volunteers. We meet 3rd Mon of each month 7:30pm Little Stoke Park Hall. Contact Ray: sgbinfo@gmail.com See us on Facebook . or http://www.britishlegion.org.uk

U3A - Bristol U3A - For retired or semi-retired. Meet new friends and enjoy an amazing range of interests and activities. See us at https://bristol.u3asite.uk/ Our "Stokes" Social Group welcomes new members. Email Andy: andy.clarke@bristolu3a.org.uk

Willowbrook Townswomen's Guild - Jubilee Centre – 7:30 – 9:30pm the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Call Jannice on 01454 615040 or email Ros - rosalindg@tiscali.co.uk

Winterbourne Wind Band- Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm at Holy Trinity church Bradley Stoke. Brass, woodwind, percussion, bass players wanted. Loan Instruments available. Contact Dan 01172 395210.

Women's Institute (WI) - Bradley Stoke: Jubilee Centre 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm contact bradleystokewi@gmail.com ; FB: Bradley Stoke WI ; https://bradleystokewi.org Women's Institute (WI) - Stoke Gifford WI meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30.pm at Trust Hall, North Road, Stoke Gifford BS34 8PF contact Sue Grimsted 07887 373924

Young At Heart Club meets at the Christ the King Church, Bradley Stoke every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 2pm - 4pm. Set up 20 years ago and aimed at people over the age of 50 who would like to make new friends, enjoy games, speakers, outings.

SPORTS CLUBS

Almondsbury and Bradley Stoke Tennis Club - Opportunities for all levels, inc pay and play lessons for all on Saturday mornings, no booking needed. almondsburytennis.org.uk

Aretians Rugby Club for Cubs, Juniors and Seniors Station Road, Little Stoke www.aretiansrfc.co.uk

Black and Blues Netball - Non-League Social Netball Wednesdays 7.30-9pm Bradley Stoke Community School, contact: blackandblues_netball@outlook.com.

Bradley Stoke Bowls Club - Baileys Court Activity Centre www.bradleystokebowls.com.

Bradley Stoke Jiu Jitsu Club - Chris Harris, maru.jiujitsu@gmail.com We train at Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre Tues & Fri evenings, classes for children and adults

Bradley Stoke Junior Netball Club - Meet at the Jubilee Centre every Wednesday (term time) U12's - 5pm - 6.15pm - U14 & U16's - 5.45pm -7.15pm bsncjuniors@yahoo.co.uk http://bradleystokenetballjuniors.org.uk/

Bradley Stoke Town Football Club - FA Charter Standard Community Club, Adult training, Tuesdays at Patchway Sports Centre. For more info visit www.bstfc.co.uk or contact bstfc2005@gmail.com

Bradley Stoke United Football Club - Football from U7's to U16's see website bsufc.co.uk

Bradley Stoke Youth FC (BSYFC) – FA Charter Standard Community Club, U7s to U18s, mentoring, in-school coaching and football festival. Visit web site www. bsyfc.co.uk or contact mlee1@btopenworld.com

Bradley Stoke Ladies (BSLFC) - FA Charter Standard Community Club, play matches in the Gloucestershire County Women's Football League, females 16 year old and over welcome, mentoring program. Contact mlee1@btopenworld.com

Bradley Stoke Youth Rugby at St Marys Old Boys Rugby Club for Minis, Juniors and Seniors - Trench Lane, Almondsbury website: www.smobrugby.com, 01454 250489 email: clubhouse@smobrugby.co.uk

North Bristol Rugby Club, Rugby teams from 4+ www.pitchero.com/clubs/northbristoljuniorsrfc/ .

North Bristol Running Group friendly group, 3 evenings per week, Tues, Weds, Thurs, in the Bradley Stoke area. Tuesday evening is aimed at Beginners whilst all levels are welcome on any of the evenings. Alan 0789 0182387. Find us on FB.

North Bristol Triathlon Club: Swim, Bike and Run sessions throughout the week around North Bristol/South Gloucestershire. Suitable for all levels. Find us on Facebook or email membership@northbristoltri.co.uk.

Parkrun is a weekly 5km event where you can walk or run that takes place in the Three Brooks nature reserve every Saturday at 9.00. Register with parkrun first to take part.

Sole Sisters - ladies only running group, meets Monday evenings in various locations Bradley Stoke & North Bristol, www.solesistersrc.co.uk

South Glos Hockey Club Trains Tuesday evenings at Bradley Stoke Community School 8pm-9.30pm with league games played on Saturdays and mixed on Sundays. http://www.sghc.org.uk, Facebook - South Gloucestershire Hockey Club

Stokes Cycling Club - Cycling club in and around Bradley Stoke area as well as long distance rides, for adults and families - www. stokescyclingclub.org.uk stokescyclingclub@googlemail.com Stoke Gifford Cricket Club – All ages and abilities welcome at a real community club. Contact Mark Stephens on 07816 962503.

Stoke Gifford Short Mat Bowls Club - Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons. For more information please contact 0117 330 5487.

Stoke Gifford Tennis Club - Tennis for Adults, Teenagers and Juniors all year round! Club night is on Monday's from 19:30. For further information about membership and coaching visit our website http://www.stokegiffordtennisclub.co.uk

Stoke Lane Athletic Football Club -- FA Charter Standard Community Club, u6 to u16 ; U18 Colts and two senior men's teams; FA accredited coaches; contact via www.stokelane.co.uk or email Club Sect 'steve' pspayne@blueyonder.co.uk or Club Mobile 07972 039413 website https://stokelaneafc.co.uk/

CHURCHES / COFFEE MORNINGS

Amberley Road Baptist / Cafe Church, Patchway, 01454 610808

Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church Baileys Court Road www.bsec.org.uk

Christ the King Church Mautravers Close, Bradley Stoke 0117 931 2304. Coffee mornings with bacon butties Fridays at 9-11am. www.ctkchurch.org.uk

City Church Bradley Stoke Community School, 0117 924 3322 www.citychurch/visit/bradley-stoke-site

Equippers Church 1160 Park Avenue, Aztec West Business Park, BS32 4TL. Tel 01454 837990. https://equippers.co.uk

Holy Family Catholic Church Southsea Road, Patchway 0117 9081247 www.holyfamilyrcchurchpatchway.co.uk

Holy Trinity Church Broadcroft, Bradley Stoke 01454 620975 www.htcbradleystoke.co.uk

Little Stoke Baptist Church, Kingsway, 0117 969 6060. The Place community coffee & lunch Thursday mornings 10am-2pm. All Welcome.

St.Michaels Church, The Green, Stoke Gifford 0117 9692486 welcome@stmichaelsbristol.org. Coffee shop open Monday - Friday 8.30am-4pm. Saturdays 10am-1pm

Stoke Gifford Baptist Church 1, Rock Lane, 01454 610808

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This year the judges have called them back. The Window Hub has been shortlisted to defend **Installation Company of the Year at the G26 Awards**, and is also a finalist for the **Business Excellence Award** on the same night. Before that, at the National Fenestration Awards at the end of October, the company is up for **Customer Care Company of the Year** and its Managing Director, Daniel Robb, is a finalist for **Managing Director of the Year**.

Four national finals in one year is rare for any installer. For a local, independent company, it's almost unheard of.

Daniel, who has worked in the industry for over 30 years, says the credit belongs to the whole team. "Being asked to defend the title is a huge compliment, but the judges are really just confirming what our customers already tell us. Every installer, surveyor and office colleague we have is measured on one thing: would that homeowner recommend us to a neighbour? That's the award that matters."

Most of The Window Hub's work is replacing tired windows and doors in homes people already love, so the team is used to working carefully around family life and leaving every room clean and tidy. Installations are FENSA registered, and every job comes with an insurance-backed guarantee from InstallSure, included in the price rather than sold as an extra. Quotes are clear, fixed and free, with no pressure and no gimmicks.

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