



50p

Evercreech News

The Parish Magazine covering
St Peter Evercreech, St Mary Chesterblade,
St Mary & St John Lamyatt
& St James Milton Clevedon,
four of the six churches in the
Alham Vale Benefice



February 2024

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St Peter Evercreech, St Mary Chesterblade,
St Mary & St John Lamyatt and St James Milton Clevedon,
four of the six churches in the *Alham Vale Benefice*

Who's Who

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A Prayer for Candlemas

God our Father,
Whose Son was revealed to Simeon in the Temple
as the light of the nations, and the glory of Israel,
let our candles be to us a sign of his light and presence,
that, guided by the Holy Spirit,
we may live by the light of faith until we come to the
light of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Benefice Prayer Calendar

Here we offer prayers through the month for local and wider issues.
Fill the additional stars with your own concerns.

**Day
1-5**

**Batcombe.
Our church and
community
leaders**

**Day
6-10**

**Chesterblade.
Our beautiful
planet**

**Day
11-15**

**Evercreech.
Our fellow
Christians**



**May your light
guide our
thoughts and
prayers**

**Day
16-20**

**Lamyatt.
All our young
people**

**Day
21-25**

**Milton Clevedon.
Those living
in poverty**

**Day
26-31**

**Upton Noble.
Local farms and
businesses.
Fair trade**

From the Vicar's Study ...

By the time you read this the snowdrops will be out. Whatever the weather their delicate milk-flower blooms push up through the chill earth, promising that the darkest days of winter are behind us, and just ahead spring beckons.

On 2nd February the season of Epiphany draws to an end as the church celebrates Candlemas, and remembers the *Presentation of Christ in the Temple*. The holy infant, to whom the Magi bowed down in the stable, is brought to the temple by his parents in accordance with Jewish law. Anna and Simeon have been waiting for the Messiah all of their lives and now the moment has come. They recognise him instantly. Anna is a prophetess and a widow. She is eighty-four years old and has lived in the temple ever since her husband died. Anna is faithful in her devotions, she prays and fasts both day and night. Simeon lives nearby, he is a righteous and devout man. The Holy Spirit reveals to Simeon that he will come to see the Messiah before he dies. Moved by the Spirit that day Simeon has come to the Temple courts. He holds the infant Christ aloft, lifting him up high and declaring him, 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel'. Anna and Simeon have played their part and can step-down, but the baby Jesus will not begin his ministry for another thirty years, when as a young man he will turn water into wine at a boozy wedding in Cana. Anna and Simeon's faithfulness has been rewarded and a time of transition and change has begun.

For many long years across England countless modern day Annas and Simeons have kept faithful watch over their parish churches. Their sense of duty, self-sacrifice and service have been exemplary, but the time is coming for the next generation to pick up the mantle. As a church we are once again entering a period of transition and change, and we must look to the same Holy Spirit that called Simeon to guide us through it. Don't be afraid to answer the Spirit's call, for it may give you the same sense of wholeness and completion it brought to Anna and Simeon, as they stood in the Temple and looked into the eyes of a baby to see a sacred eternity of love gazing back at them.



Helen

Revd. Helen Drever, Vicar of the Alham Vale Benefice

Church Services in the *Alham Vale Benefice*

SUNDAY 4th February SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
10.00 am	Morning Prayer	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Worship for all ages	St Mary & St John, Lamyatt
11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

SUNDAY 11th February NEXT SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
10.00 am	Parish Communion	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Worship for All Ages	St James', Milton Clevedon
11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

Wednesday 14th February ASH WEDNESDAY

7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
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SUNDAY 18th February FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
10.00 am	Morning Prayer	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Parish Communion	St Mary & St John, Lamyatt
11.00 am	Matins	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

Thursday 22nd February

10.30 am	Midweek Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
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SUNDAY 25th February SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30 am	Café Church	Evercreech Village Hall
10.00 am	Parish Communion	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Parish Communion	St James' Milton Clevedon
11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

SUNDAY 3rd March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
10.00 am	Morning Prayer	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Worship for all ages	St Mary & St John, Lamyatt
11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

Helpers at St Peter, Evercreech – February 2024

Sunday 4th February Second Sunday before Lent <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Sonia Boyle
	Reading: Proverbs 8: 1,22-31	Matthew Dawkins
	Gospel: John 1: 1-14	Janet Rundle
	Prayers	Eleanor Dawkins
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Eric Deyes
	Sound	Gerald Fry
	Sacristan	Nola French
Sunday 11th February Sunday Next Before Lent <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Jane Neill
	Reading: 2 Kings 2: 1-12	Cherry Lawson
	Gospel: Mark 9: 2-9	John Robson
	Prayers	Geoff Hamlet
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Andrew Nicholls
	Sound	Eric Deyes
	Sacristan	Belinda Canning
Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday <i>7.30 pm Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Michèle Hole
	Reading: Isaiah 58: 1-12	Eric Deyes
	Gospel: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21	Peter Sear
	Prayers	Sue Deyes
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Liz Henderson
	Sound	Alan Henderson
	Sacristan	Janine Knapman
Sunday 18th February First Sunday of Lent <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Val Simmons
	Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17	Sue Kewish
	Gospel: Mark 1: 9-15	Paul Robinson
	Prayers	Emily Simper
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Meg Wallis
	Sound	Geoff Knapman
	Sacristan	Janine Knapman
Sunday 25th February Second Sunday of Lent	9.30 for 9.50 am Café Church, Evercreech Village Hall	

Sunday 3rd March Third Sunday of Lent <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Linda Denman
	Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17	Belinda Canning
	Gospel: John 2: 13-22	Alison Stonehouse
	Prayers	Eric Deyes
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Geoff Hamlet
	Sound	Alistair Roach
	Sacristan	Nola French

Your Help is needed

We are looking for people from the village and congregation to help run the church and assist with setting up for the services. The numbers of people currently doing this has reduced as people move away or are no longer able to help for various reasons.

We especially need people to help putting out the wine and wafers and silver for communion services (Sacristan). We also want to encourage people to help with cleaning the church. Recently a couple of us have got together to do this and found it enjoyable to share the work. The cleaning rota is very flexible and all equipment needed is provided.

We are also hoping someone will be encouraged to serve as Churchwarden for St Peter's.

We will guide and help anyone who feels able to join in these jobs. If you feel able to help, or would like more information, please talk to Eric our Churchwarden or myself on 01749 831341

Belinda Canning

Refreshments after the service at Evercreech

4 th February	Sue Kewish & Sonia Boyle
11 th February	Grace Morgan & Val Simmons
18 th February	Hazel Fry & Margaret Elliott
25 th February	Hilary Foster & Louisa Denman
	<i>(Café Church, Village Hall)</i>
3 rd March	Jane Neill & Meg Wallis



St Peter's Church Flowers

	ALTAR	MEMORIAL
3 rd & 10 th February LENT	Mrs R Herlock No flowers	Mrs C Lawson

PEOPLE NEWS

If you have news that you would like to see in print - whether it's a birth, marriage or death, or other life events you would like to share with our readers - we would love to hear from you.

Please email: **Evercreech.news@gmail.com**.



Men's Breakfast We meet on the first Saturday of each month at The Bell Inn at 8.30 am for full English Breakfast and a chat on a topic of current interest.

Further details from Geoff on 01749 830924
geoff@prestleigh.com.

Little Fishes are a relaxed, friendly group for pre-school children and babies who meet on Mondays in St Peter's Church at 10.00 am. We welcome Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Carers to bring their children. We play and do simple crafts, whilst adults have a natter. Around 11 o'clock it's singing with actions to nursery rhymes. You are most welcome to join us.



Hilary



in St Peter's Church

Monthly Coffee Mornings are held in St Peter's Church. There is always Coffee and Cake, Raffle and Stalls. This is a great way to raise money for a charity, organisation or club. If you would like to book a Coffee Morning in St Peter's Church for your organisation, please contact Michèle Hole on **01749 830875** or **holemiche@aol.com**.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning on 13th January when nearly £200 was raised for St Peter's Church.

The Coffee Morning on 10th February will be organised by



Church Publications

Evercreech News is just one of the publications produced. The Angel cards sold as Christmas cards are still available individually as Greetings cards. There are also postcards and booklets on sale and at the back of St Peter's and at Coffee Mornings.

Giving to St Peter's

It costs over £1,200 a week to keep St Peter's Church running. This is money that has to be raised by the Parochial Church Council - mainly from the generous giving of those who attend church.

As is the usual practice, collections at Christmas Services and events are shared equally between St Peter's Church and three chosen charities.



This year over £1,400 was raised, giving each charity approximately £350.

Thank you everyone.

We are very grateful for all the contributions made to the Church. Giving is not just a matter of money but includes time, practical service, food, welcome, worship and prayer. We are also very grateful for all those who already give generously to the work of the Church through their regular giving.

your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God

2 Corinthians 9: 11

If you would like to contribute to the costs of running St Peter's church this can be done on the Ways to Give website www.waystogive.org.uk/evercreech-st-peter where there are details of how to make a one-off bank transfer (a BACS payment), set up a regular standing order, leave a gift in your will, or raise funds while you shop online (the PCC obtains a small donation at no cost to you every time you shop online at participating retailers).

As well as giving online, donations can be given to the Churchwarden, put in the wall safe by the font or sent to our Treasurer: Rob Sage, Portway Farm, Batcombe, Shepton Mallet BA4 6BR. (*Cheques payable to Evercreech PCC please*). Standing Order forms are available at the back of the Church. If you have any questions about giving to our Church, please contact the Treasurer at robsage@uwclub.net

St Peter Evercreech and St Mary Chesterblade PCC

PCC met on 25th January, you will find the minutes of this meeting on the Church notice board. Please contact me if you would like an email copy.

As you can read elsewhere in this issue we are in real need of help to keep St Peter's Church, a beautiful building in the heart of Evercreech, a central focus for worship and strength in the community. We are all stronger for having its presence, I know that Evercreech would be a sadder place without it.

You do not have to be a church goer to be involved - perhaps you could help with the cleaning occasionally or the Church flowers or funding towards on-going maintenance, heating and repairs. Please let us know if there is something that you feel called to help with.

Alison Stonehouse, secretarystpeterspcc70@gmail.com

St Peter's Church Choir

Choirmaster, Michael Castle warmly invites keen singers of all ranges to join the Church Choir to sing at monthly services and occasional concerts with music both sacred and secular.

The choir practise on Wednesdays at 7.00 pm in St Peter's Church. If you are interested please come along or contact mcastlemusic@gmail.com.

FREE DROP IN Sponsored by St. Peter's Church.

There is a FREE "Drop-In" from 2pm – 4pm on the 1st, 2nd and 5th Tuesday of each month in Evercreech Village Hall. Please come in for a chat, cup of tea and biscuits or maybe a piece of cake .

For more information please contact Sue and Eric Deyes 01749 831104



St Michael's Catholic Church, (Diocese of Clifton)

Park Road, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP

<https://stmichaelsshepton.co.uk>

St Mary's Presbytery, Magdalene St, Glastonbury, BA6 9EJ

Tel: 01458 832203 (Parish Priest) or 01458 835931 (Admin Office)

Email: sheptonmallet.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com



News from Lamyatt

February is always a fairly quiet month for St Mary & St John's here in Lamyatt. We are back to our normal service pattern with Worship for All on the first Sunday and Holy Communion on the third, both starting at 11am. If you want to come along, you will find a warm welcome.

We will soon have to start thinking about, and planning, what we will be offering in the coming year. I'm sure Lammas will fit in there, and Harvest, and the veg table, but those are a long way off. The APCM will be happening at some point, possibly March or April too. What would you like to see your church doing - we would love to know - or what could we do better or differently?

Be that as it may, our monthly Coffee Morning will continue. As usual it's on the first Saturday (3rd February) 10.30 am -12 noon in Lamyatt Village Hall, which we will try to make lovely and warm for you. So do come along, we would love to see you there.

Jen Richards

Nest Box Week 14-21 February

Organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, National Nest Box Week, 14-21 February, encourages people to help the birds by putting up nest boxes. With the nesting season about to start, garden birds will be starting to prepare for their busiest time of year. The main nesting season runs from March to August, but rather aptly, birds are traditionally thought to have paired up by Valentine's Day, 14 February, hence the start of Nest Box Week. As well as feeding birds, the Trust says that it is important they have a suitable shelter and site for breeding. With natural habitats such as trees and hedgerows being lost to development and the increase in urban housing, some garden birds can struggle to find a safe shelter to rear their young, hence providing a nest box in your garden can be a positive benefit.



www.nestboxweek.com

Spring Awakening Morning!

Lamyatt Village Hall

10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Saturday 20th April



Do you need to recharge your batteries this spring?

A ‘Spring Awakening Morning’ might do the trick!

An oasis of calm, offering plenty of opportunity to walk in the countryside, with one or two quiet activities. We will start with gentle prayer in the Jesus tradition and end with a light lunch.

Bring wellies if wet and car share if possible

Donations invited to cover costs

Numbers will be limited

For more details or to book
please contact Jen Richards at jen.ern.r@outlook.com



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Living the story. Telling the story.

Our precious gift

By Alastair Redfern, Assistant Bishop for the Diocese of Bath and Wells

As Christians, while we may look to reduce our own carbon footprint, we are called to be stewards and witnesses of a much more radical resource. The clue is in the word ‘ecology’.

‘Eco’ comes from the Greek word *oikos*, meaning house, or dwelling place. Ecology is partly about our responsibility to recognise the precious gift of the Earth, as our dwelling place: to be thankful, and play our part. God made humankind to care for the earthly world: Jesus amplifies the call, as He uses ‘nature’ as the sign of how we can live in order to flourish and to fulfil God’s will.

‘Logy’ comes from a Greek word *logos* interpreted as reason, the ordering of knowledge, logic. In John’s Gospel, *logos* is a word to describe Jesus – through whom all things are made and from whom all true knowledge comes. *Logos* is the word, the source of all goodness and grace, for every human life, and for all of creation.

It is the ‘*logos*’, the word, who inhabits our lives, our creation – inviting us to recognise His light, and allow it to overcome the darkness of our own limited concerns and agendas. We meet the *logos* in scripture, in worship, in prayer, and deeper reflection.

In Jesus, as *logos*, we can find the wisdom, the resources and the commitment to play our part in caring for creation. We are able to invite others to recognise the deeper truths about Eco, our common dwelling place, and to see more clearly how we join with others to work out what to do, how to live, and honour the gift of life that we receive through Him. The *Logos* is the possibility of good news for humankind and for the Earth.

What a responsibility each Christian disciple is called to bear! And what grace can be ours to enable us to fulfil our calling, and help all of God’s children become caught up in the praise and prayer that gives true life to our dwelling place, and to exercise our stewardship appropriately.

Read John 1v1-14. Become an ECO-warrior – committed our common dwelling place – through celebrating the power and presence of the LOGOS.

ECOLOGY: we know it makes sense.

Bishop Alastair

EVERCREECH RELIEF IN NEED Charity Commission Registered – 205527

A Village Charity with historical roots, administered by locally appointed trustees able to offer modest grants to village residents/families who find themselves in specific need. Application for help with a variety of items can be considered, e.g. school uniform, replacement of domestic equipment following sudden unforeseen breakdowns, storm damage, one off transport expenses e.g. hospital visits, hardship caused by recent cost of living rises.

Applications should be sent via letter or email to: The Chairman:

Dr David Lindsay, Southwell House, Shapway Lane, Evercreech BA4 6JS

dlandgl@btinternet.com

or The Clerk: Michèle Hole, Bowns View, Weymouth Road, Evercreech BA4 6JB

holemiche@aol.com



Happy Foodsaving, Evercreech!

We started in February 2020 and now every night a volunteer goes to the Co-op and collects the big bags of food that haven't been sold on time. They re-pack them into smaller bags, and then take them around the village, sharing the food out between our Foodsavers. We have saved thousands of pounds worth of food over the years - it has all gone to good homes instead of being thrown into rubbish bins and landfill sites.

It couldn't be done without all the amazing volunteers who have helped us over the years - thank you so much to all of you. And of course we need people to accept and eat the food too, so thank you also to our Foodsavers.



We have space on our list for new Foodsavers - people who would be happy to accept a bag of food that's on its use-by or best-before date, to save it being wasted - do get in touch if you're interested, on 07535 002279,

or via **evercreechfoodsaving@gmail.com**

We also desperately need volunteers who can cover occasional nights for us - if you can spare an hour or so in the evening now and then, I'd love to hear from you too.

Thank you!

Jenny Newton

Evercreech Food Larder

in the Car Park at the back of
Evercreech Village Hall
open 24 hours a day



The Larder is so very needed all year round, and villagers have really got behind this initiative and shown that they want to help others. We hope that this helps those in difficulties feel that they live somewhere where a bit of help is easy to reach out for, as hard times are set to continue and so the Larder will continue to be needed.

Donations can be placed in the larder 24 hours a day, and people wanting help can access it all the time too. We continue to want consumables to be placed there, whether they be food (in date), personal hygiene items or household cleaning items. Please let others know that bric-a-brac is not to be placed there.

If you come to any meetings at Evercreech Village Hall regularly, please do remember to bring a couple of items and drop them in. You can also buy stamps in the Co-Op for a savings card and then the Co-op will buy items when the card is full. So, it's easy to do and makes such a difference to those who have need of it!

Thank you to all involved. To those who would like to use it, please do!

Deborah Hogg



SHEPTON MALLET SALVATION ARMY FOODBANK

There is a **box at the back of St Peter's Church** for donations (**non-perishable items, unopened and in date please**). Donations are taken to the Salvation Army once a week.

You can donate funds directly to The Salvation Army in Shepton Mallet, so that items which are needed most can be purchased:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tsa-community-support-000374

Many thanks for your generosity

If you need to use the food bank contact Citizens Advice Mendip, Job Centre Plus, MIND, Community Council for Somerset, YMCA, Health Connections Mendip or Social Services to request a referral form.

To contact Citizens Advice Mendip please phone **0808 27 87 842** between 10 am and 4 pm, Monday to Friday, or visit **www.citizensadvicemendip.org.uk**



Mental Health and Wellbeing for Young People



The Hub of Hope is a nationwide mental health database bringing help and support together in one place. The app can be downloaded and is very easy to use, it helps you find much needed support using your phone's location. Hub of Hope believes that no matter what you are going through, you shouldn't have to do it alone. <https://hubofhope.co.uk>.

Other useful websites: Young Somerset's Wellbeing Service
www.youngsomerset.org.uk/wellbeing-support



Somerset Big Tent bring together local organisations that offer support to children and families. They also run weekly virtual hubs for young people and parents.
www.somersetbigtent.org.uk

For further Health and Wellbeing tips, advice and information including self-help support for parents and carers, go to the public health website:

www.cypsomersethealth.org



Safe Families is a national charity that believes that no one should feel alone, and that everyone deserves to belong in community. Safe Families is recruiting volunteers across the whole of Somerset. If you would like to find out how you can be involved then please visit:

www.safefamilies.uk or email: dawnholmes@safefamilies.uk

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (RBL) Support Services:

0808 802 8080 www.britishlegion.org.uk

The Veterans Gateway, offers information, advice and support to veterans and their families. Phone 0808 801 1212, or visit:

www.veteransgateway.org.uk



MID-SOMERSET BRANCH

and Members of the "RAF Family"

All events are open to Branch Members, RAFA Members from other Branches, Current and Ex-RAF Service Personnel (Including RAF Reserves),



For further information please contact the Secretary on

01458 224057 or rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com



providing security and comfort to sick and traumatised babies, children and young adults through quilts.

The local group meet at The Old Stores Studio, Evercreech once a month. We all contribute £4 towards the cost of hiring the space.

As coordinator for Somerset, last year I was able to deliver an amazing number of quilts and blankets across the county, all made by volunteers in this Community Interest Company.

Altogether I delivered 418 quilts, 219 knitted blankets.

The premature baby units at Yeovil hospital and Musgrove hospital at Taunton also received, memory bags, knitted teddies of all sizes and Christmas stockings.



***"A Quilt is a Hug
you can keep"***

These quilts and blankets were also delivered to the children's wards at these hospitals, Homestart in Minehead, Brainwave in Bridgwater, Pastoral care areas in schools, Care Leavers, Street Pastors and to individual children with special needs.

As all of these wonderfully made items are given to the children to take home, more supplies are always needed.

To find out more about Project Linus please contact me:

Jaci Elliott 01749 838809, jaci.elliott@btinternet.com

The Elves and the Shoemaker Panto May 2024

SAVE THE DATES!

Since the last magazine, auditions for our next production "The Elves and the Shoemaker" (written by Eleanor Dawkins) have taken place and a cast is raring to start to rehearse the show, which will be performed in Evercreech Village Hall on **23rd, 24th and 25th May 2024.**



We do still need help with all the other things that go towards a successful production: - backstage, props, wardrobe, front of house, publicity etc. and welcome contact from anyone who would like to find out more. Please do get in touch if you are interested via evercreechdg@gmail.com

Evercreech Youth Club.

Many of St Peter's congregation have supported the Youth Club over the last few years, we would like to update you all about the past, present and future of this club.

We began over a year ago to plan the reopening of the Youth Club after the lockdown pandemic. What was planned was to recruit far more volunteers and a second leader to make safeguarding a priority. We had been offered the old Cricket Club building as our future home. Work was started by the original owners, Cricket Club members, to make this multi room building a terrific venue. It would be owned by the Parish Council and passed to the Youth Club at a peppercorn rent.

In the meantime we would open in the original building and we seemed to have a tenant who would rent this in the daytime to give us an income. Then came a disastrous week, when work seemed to be slow on the old cricket club, our original youth club building was condemned as unfit for purpose and obviously our tenant withdrew.

It would be true to say that the hard working youth club committee was stunned. However we did set to and worked again on our future. The Weston Town Sports Club committee were brilliant and when approached allowed us to meet weekly, at no cost, for the immediate future, reviewing costs as time goes on. So we have had several meetings, for both age groups, their parents attending first meetings to register the young people.

We have "grown our own" new youth leader Alicia Tully, a previous youth club member and she is well into her county training course. Even with the limited space and resources the young people are enjoying the evenings. Better news on the old Cricket Club building, work is progressing and a donated kitchen is being fitted.

Hopefully we will eventually move over to the other side of the park, with much celebrating, the younger members of the club are already making bunting for the celebration.

We thank you all for your continued support, our future will be brighter, a better venue for the village young people.

Jaci Elliott

Evercreech Short Mat Bowling Club

We meet in Evercreech Village Hall on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm, and Thursday afternoons from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm. You will be made very welcome. Membership is £10 per year plus adults £2.75 & juniors £1 per session to play.

For more information about Evercreech Short Mat Bowling Club please contact:
Dawn & Andy Church 831004, Irene Cleverden 01749 346838



**Evercreech Village Hall
Victoria Square,
Evercreech BA4 6JP**

www.evercreechvillagehall.org.uk
bookings@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk
 Run by the Community for the Community
 Charity Number 304538

The next **Hot Potato Lunch** will be on **Tuesday February 20th**. Many thanks to all the volunteers and Committee members who contribute to these in all their different ways.

Can you help us help the community?

After many years of keeping the team in order Marion Covens is stepping down as Secretary to the Hall Committee in March.

The Secretary's role is an important part of the running of the Hall. It can be as big as someone wants to make it but we would like them at least to:

- Create and circulate agenda, take minutes for 4 meetings per year and the AGM.
- Produce the annual return to the Charity Commission
- Request quotes from traders
- Suggest ideas for improvements to the Hall and its running
- Help apply for grants

No experience is required but online and digital skills will make it much easier. To find out more please contact me.

Nic Jefferis Chair, Evercreech Village Hall
 Email: chair@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk
 Mobile: 07810055996

Friends are like angels who lift us to our feet when our own wings have difficulty in remembering how to fly.

Evercreech Friendship Club

"Where Friends are Made"
And visitors always welcome!



On 27th February we have our yearly **"Bring and Buy"** sale, ideal to clear out those unwanted items, anything left will be auctioned off at the meeting, all proceeds to the club's fund. We will also be having the odd game of "HOY" with prizes.

Visitors are always welcome for just £2 (a taster in case you would like to join!). Evercreech Friendship club are currently able to offer free transport for "Bus Pass and Disabled Blue Badge" holders from Gartons Mead and surrounding area. So, if you are over 55 and would like to join our club you would be most welcome. Meetings start at 2.00 pm in Evercreech Village Hall and include a Raffle, Greetings Card Stall, tea and biscuits.

For more information please contact one of the following:

Edward Porter (Chairman) 830015 or Freda Boyce (Secretary) 830703

Evercreech WI

In January, Evercreech WI really did well and ventured out on a really cold evening, to hear Ted Allen talk about his role as Vice Lord Lieutenant of Somerset. It was a really interesting talk and we had a lot of visitors at that meeting who also enjoyed it. Our meetings are always open to visitors and it was lovely to have a good attendance.



This is our Centenary year, Evercreech WI will be hosting events during the year to celebrate, look out for posters and follow our Facebook page for details.

In February we are looking forward to hearing from Amanda Hurst who is going to talk to us about The James Allen Snowdrop Legacy, feel free to join us on 13th February at 7.30pm in Evercreech Village Hall.

Maxine Clinton (President)



A huge thank you to St Peter's Church for their support in nominating the PTFA as the local charity in St Peter's Christmas Charities 2023 in December. We are extremely grateful and the funds donated will go towards the bike shelter that we are currently fundraising for.

Upcoming Diary Dates:

26th February: PTFA meeting in the Bell Inn from 7.30pm. All welcome and we hope to see you there.

15th March: Easter Bingo. Doors open at 6.00. Eyes down at 6.30pm.

Easy fundraising: We've registered Evercreech C of E Primary School - PTFA with #easyfundraising, which means over 7,000 brands will now donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop with them. These donations will help us to raise more funds for the children and the school, so please sign up to support us – it's completely free and doesn't take long:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/evercreech-c-of-e-primary-school-ptfa?&utm_source=adminact22sharebox

Did you know we have a Facebook page you can also find out further information regarding our planned events:

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



have clarified the details regarding Service 1 Shepton Mallet to Yeovil via Evercreech.

Late in 2023 South West Coaches approached Somerset Council to request additional funding OR to change the timetable to be more cost effective. Both these options were not acceptable to the council. South West Coaches have now handed the route back but will run it until the 13th April 2024. The route will then be offered out to all bus operators to tender (put in a price) to run this route. South West Coaches will also put in a price as well. The best price is the one that will be accepted, which could be South West Coaches. The route will continue to operate but may be a new operator.



www.evercreechshowsociety.uk www.facebook.com/evercreechshowsociety/

Membership queries: Andrew andrewctucker@btinternet.com 01749 830695

Annual General Meeting and Social Evening

This is third time lucky so fingers crossed! Due to the flooding recently experienced at The Bell, the date of the Show Society AGM and Social Evening has been rescheduled for Monday 29 January 2024 at 7.30pm in The Bell Skittle Alley. If you want to join the committee, become a member of the Show Society or renew your existing membership you can do so at the AGM, but most of all, come along and enjoy a sociable evening.

Volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to help at further events organised by the Show Society, let us know at the AGM or contact Andy Lee at andrewarlee@googlemail.com

Dates for your diary 2024:

Saturday 10 February: Coffee Morning, St Peter's Church

Saturday 18 May: Plant Sale, Evercreech Village Hall

Maggie Norris



Mid-Somerset Flower Club

We at the Flower Club are looking forward to our first meeting of the year on Wednesday February 14th in Evercreech Village Hall at 2.00 pm, doors open at 1.30pm.

The Demonstration is by Jenny York on the theme 'Barking Mad' and the competition 'I sent a letter to my love'. We hope to have many entries in the competition, let's make a good start to the year. We look forward to seeing members and guests, we hope to see some new faces. As usual the demonstration will be followed by homemade tea and cakes.

For more information please contact

Rose on 830681 or Margaret on 830209

Evercreech History Society

www.evercreechhistorysociety.org.uk

Tuesday, 20th February, 7.30 p.m.

Evercreech Village Hall

Chris Norman – Cutterne Mill



Our speaker for February is Chris Norman. His family have been in this area for over two hundred years and Robert Norman was the last Miller at Cutterne and Alhampton Water Mills. Cutterne stayed in the family so the talk will cover his family, milling, hydroelectric, small holding and lots more!

The cost is £3.00 per person (cash only please) which will also include a cup of coffee or tea. We will have our book table displaying the various publications of local interest for you to purchase.

Val Bath, Secretary



The Arts Society Mendip

Tuesday 6th February *Edward Seago: from Circus to Sandringham.* James Russell, curator and writer, will talk about this popular artist who was overlooked by the critics of his day. His life story is also full of interest; amongst his friends were royalty,

to which can be added a colourful wartime career and a trip to Antarctica in the Royal Yacht. This talk will be available on zoom a link will be sent to members and guests).

Tuesday 5th March *The Arts and Crafts Movement in England's Churches.* Kirsty Hartsiosis, an Arts and Crafts specialist, writer and curator will describe how the movement altered the course of church decoration and eventually the design of modern churches. The talk will focus on the church at Brockhampton, Herefordshire, perhaps the finest Arts and Crafts church in England.

Talks begin at 11.00am in Croscombe Village Hall (and simultaneously via Zoom – a link will be sent to members and guests). Guests are welcome for a fee of £10. Alternatively, annual membership covering 10 lectures is £53 per person or £102 for a couple. Further details and full programme available on our website: www.theartsocietymendip.org.uk

Advance Notice of a **Spring Day of Special Interest** (three lectures on a specific subject). Tuesday 19th March, Croscombe Village Hall, 10am – 3pm approx..
Brilliance and Innovation from Holbein to the Huguenots: European Artists in Tudor and Stuart England with Anne Haworth, lecturer and guide at the V&A, the British Museum and the Royal Collection Trust, Sotheby's Institute and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. Places are £30 for non-members. For more information and details of how to book a place please see our website - www.theartsocietymendip.org.uk.



Evercreech Village Hall

We will be screening 'Mission Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part 1' on Saturday 17th February 2024 at the earlier time of 19.00 in the Village Hall. The running time is 2h 43m.

'Ethan Hunt and the IMF team must track down a terrifying new weapon that threatens all of humanity if it falls into the wrong hands. With control of the future and the fate of the world at stake, a deadly race around the globe begins. Confronted by a mysterious, all-powerful enemy, Ethan is forced to consider that nothing can matter more than the mission - not even the lives of those he cares about most'.

Join us for a relaxing evening with refreshments available at the bar, and comfortable cabaret style seating. Doors will open at 18.30 for a 19.00 start. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3.50 for children 12 and under, and can be booked in advance by emailing evercreechfilms@gmail.com or by calling/texting 07765 892004. (Children must be accompanied by an adult).

We hope to see you there!



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Friday 16th February 2024

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BBFC Insight: racism, moderate violence, threat, sex references, brief strong language

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For further information please contact
Ann Biddle 01749 850307

Evercreech Parish Council

At our meeting on the 9th January we invited members of West Estates (*current owners of the former Greencore site*) to talk to us ahead of the appeal starting on the 10th January. Five of their representatives attended and we had the opportunity to ask questions to clarify some points raised by various people.

At the start of the appeal, representatives Cllr Gail Wakeford and Cllr Roy Williams attended on behalf of the Parish. They were allowed to speak in the public forum to re-enforce our concerns and Cllr Wakeford was invited to attend the site afterwards. If planning permission is granted under the appeal, clean up of the site will take approximately 6/7 months.

We had to make very difficult decisions around agreeing the new budget for the next financial year and indeed the precept needed to balance the budget, As you will be aware the County Council is having difficulties which in turn affects Parish Councils across the County.

The skatepark is complete.



There will be an Official Opening Day on 17th March and we will invite our generous donors and celebrate the new modern equipment that our young people will be able to enjoy for years to come. Look out for more information and please get in touch if you would like to get involved with the opening.

There are still two vacancies for Parish Councillors.

Please contact clerk@evercreech-pc.gov.uk

The next Parish Council Meeting will be February 6th at 7.00 pm in Evercreech Village Hall.

Lesley Parham Chair Evercreech Parish Council
Lesley.parham@evercreech-pc.gov.uk



Your local County Councillor: Cllr Claire Sully
 contact details; Claire.sully@somerset.gov.uk,
<https://cllrclairesully.co.uk/>

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Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30 am – 5.00 pm

Saturday: 9.30 am – 1.30 pm

Closed Wednesday and Sunday

Make sure you are ready to vote in 2024

Residents in Somerset are being encouraged to get 2024 off to a good start by making sure they are ready to vote in elections – both local and Parliamentary.

The next scheduled elections in Somerset are for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Avon and Somerset on Thursday 2 May 2024. More details will be published nearer the time. The Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for holding the Chief Constable and police force to account on the public's behalf. They oversee how crime is tackled in their area and aim to make sure that the police are providing a good service.

Voter registration is at the top of the list as everyone who votes must be on the Electoral Register. For those unsure if they are registered, Somerset Council's Electoral Services team on 0300 123 2224 will be able to help. Voters may need to update their details if they have moved house or changed their name. This can be done by re-registering. It's a quick and simple process:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/register-vote-and-update-your-details>

People planning to vote in person at a polling station must provide photo ID to make sure they can cast their ballot. Accepted forms of ID include a passport, driving licence and older person's concessionary travel pass. Documents must be original, not a photocopy – check out the information from the [Electoral Commission](#). Those without suitable ID can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. Applicants need to provide their name, address, date of birth and National Insurance number.

People can apply for a postal vote if they are away on holiday or because their work schedule means they can't get to polling station. They may also choose to vote by post simply because it would be more convenient.



DIARY

- Saturday 3rd February 8.30 am Men's Breakfast, The Bell Inn
 10.30 am Coffee Morning, Lamyatt Village Hall
- Tuesday 6th February 2.00 pm Free Drop In, Evercreech Village Hall
 7.00 pm Evercreech Parish Council Meeting,
 Evercreech Village Hall
- Saturday 10th February 10.00 am Show Society Coffee Morning
 St Peter's Church
- Tuesday 13th February **SHROVE TUESDAY**
 2.00 pm Free Drop In, Evercreech Village Hall
 7.30 pm Evercreech WI Evercreech Village Hall
 (see page 19)
- Wednesday 14th February **ASH WEDNESDAY**
 Deadline for March Parish Magazine
 2.00 pm Flower Club, Evercreech Village Hall
 (see page 21)
 7.30 pm Ash Wednesday Communion,
 St Peter's Church
- Monday 12th - Friday 16th February Half Term Evercreech CofE Primary School
- Saturday 17th February 7.15 pm Evercreech Films, Evercreech Village Hall
 (see page 23)
- Tuesday 20th February 12 noon Hot Potato Lunch, Evercreech Village Hall
 7.30 pm History Society, Evercreech Village Hall
 (see page 22)
- Monday 26th February 7.30 pm PTFA meeting, The Bell Inn (see page 20)
- Tuesday 27th February 2.00 pm Friendship Club, Evercreech Village Hall
 (see page 19)
- Friday 15th March 6.00 pm Easter Bingo, Evercreech Primary School
- Sunday 17th March Official Opening of Skatepark,
 Weston Town Sports Ground
- Friday 29th March **GOOD FRIDAY**
- Sunday 31st March **EASTER DAY**
- Saturday 20th April 10.00 am Spring Awakening, Lamyatt Village Hall
 (see page 11)



The copy date for the **March Magazine**
is **WEDNESDAY 14th February.**

Please send items and diary dates to **evercreech.news@gmail.com**,
leave in the Evercreech News drawer at the back of St Peter's Church
or contact **07732 783190**.

Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2024 subs.
If you haven't yet paid, please remember you can pay by bank transfer
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Sort Code: 09-01-51 Account: 47765501
with the reference 'Subs' and your name

We are always happy to receive your comments or suggestions for
Evercreech News. Please restrict articles and reports to 350 words, Notices
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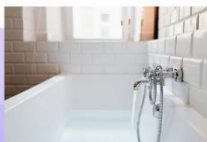
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