



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



March 2024

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Based in Evercreech

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*

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	St Mary, Chesterblade:	www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10896/
	St James, Milton Clevedon:	www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10899/
	St Mary & St John, Lamyatt:	www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10898/
	Bruton Cary Deanery:	www.brutonandcarydeanery.net
	Diocese of Bath & Wells:	www.bathandwells.org.uk

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

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 Lent will have started. In recent years it has become fashionable in church circles to take something up for Lent instead of giving something up. I would like to suggest there is merit in doing both.

It is often said that it takes twenty-one days to establish a habit, though when you dig a little deeper studies show that the length of time also depends on our personalities, and on the nature of the habit we want to establish. However with forty days in Lent there is time to do some productive ground work. I suggest one good habit to work on at this time is that of prayer. This year during Lent I am running a weekly group using Pete Greig's *Prayer Course*. This course covers much of the same ground as his best selling book, reassuringly entitled, *how to pray: a simple guide for normal people*. Using the Lord's Prayer, the course explores different aspects of prayer in a straight forward, accessible way. You definitely don't have to be a world class spiritual athlete to take part, if you were you'd only show the vicar up! As Pete Greig says: "Everyone prays. But no one finds it easy. We all need a little help." Do contact me if you are interested.



These days there is something profoundly countercultural about denying ourselves the things we desire. All around us advertisers encourage splashing out because, as the slogan goes, "you're worth it". But just maybe we are also worth a little self restraint. Sometimes less is more. It can help us focus on what really matters. Nearly all spiritual traditions uphold the value of fasting. But it's not just us religious types who are in favour, Dr Michael Mosley has done much to educate the Great British public on its health benefits too. Perhaps Lent is the perfect opportunity to give mind, body and spirit a rest, to be still for a while in a hectic world, and to learn to breath deeply and live simply.

At the end of our Lenten journey lies the drama and the joy of Easter. Jesus Christ our Saviour will go to the cross for us, and there he will conquer sin and death before rising on the third day, and winning for us the promise of new life. Then will be the time for feasting and celebration.

Helen

Revd. Helen Drever, Vicar of the Alham Vale Benefice

Church Services in the *Alham Vale Benefice*

SUNDAY 3rd March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Purple)

9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
	<i>With licensing of Matthew Dawkins as Reader</i>	
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 10th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Purple)

MOTHERING SUNDAY

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 James', Milton Clevedon
11.00 am	Service of the Word	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

SUNDAY 17th March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Purple)

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

SUNDAY 24th March PALM SUNDAY (Red)

9.30 am	Donkey Procession starts from St Peter Evercreech	
9.50 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	Palm Sunday Communion	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

Thursday 28th March MAUNDY THURSDAY (White)

10.30 am	Midweek Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
7.30 pm	Communion Service and Vigil	St Peter, Evercreech

Friday 29th March GOOD FRIDAY

11.00 am	Devotional Service	St Peter, Evercreech
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Don't forget the

SUNDAY 31st March EASTER SUNDAY (Gold)**6.00 am Sonrise Service****St Mary, Chesterblade****9.30 am Easter Communion****St Peter Evercreech****9.30 am Easter Communion****St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble****11.00 am Easter Communion****The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe****11.00 am Easter Service****St James, Milton Clevedon****SUNDAY 7th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (White)****9.30 am Parish Communion****St Peter, Evercreech****10.00 am Matins****St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble****11.00 am Parish Communion****The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe****11.00 am Worship for all ages****St Mary & St John, Lamyatt****Helpers at St Peter, Evercreech – March 2024**

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	Paul Robinson
	Prayers	Eric Deyes
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Geoff Hamlet
	Sound	Alistair Roach
	Sacristan	Nola French
Sunday 10th March Fourth Sunday of Lent MOTHERING SUNDAY <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Gerald Fry
	Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17	Samuel Dawkins
	Gospel: John 2: 13-22	Daphne Roach
	Prayers	Janet Rundle
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Meg Wallis
	Sound	Eric Deyes
	Sacristan	Belinda Canning
Sunday 17th March Fifth Sunday of Lent <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Sonia Boyle
	Reading: Hebrews 5: 5-10	Gill Lindsay
	Gospel: John 12: 20-33	Eleanor Dawkins
	Prayers	Liz Henderson
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Eric Deyes
	Sound	Geoff Knapman
	Sacristan	Janine Knapman

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday	9.30 for 9.50 am Café Church, Evercreech Village Hall	
Thursday 28 th March Maundy Thursday 7.30 pm <i>Communion & Vigil</i>	Sidesperson	Sue Kewish
	Reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26	Eric Deyes
	Gospel: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35	Peter Sear
	Prayers	Michèle Hole
	Sound	Andrew Nicholls
	Sacristan	Nola French
Friday 29 th March, Good Friday 11.00 am <i>Devotional Service</i>	Sidesperson	Nola French
	Sound	Geoff Hamlet
Sunday 31st March EASTER SUNDAY 9.30 am Parish <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Val Simmons
	Reading: Acts 10: 34-43	Cherry Lawson
	Gospel: Mark 16: 1-8	Alison Stonehouse
	Prayers	Emily Simper
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Gerald Fry
	Sound	Eric Deyes
	Sacristan	Nola French
Sunday 7th April Second Sunday of Easter 9.30 am Parish <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Janet Rundle
	Reading: Acts 4: 32-35	Samuel Dawkins
	Gospel: John 20: 19-end	John Robson
	Prayers	Matthew Dawkins
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Andrew Nicholls
	Sound	Alan Henderson
	Sacristan	Janine Knapman

Refreshments after the service at Evercreech

3 rd March	Jane Neill & Meg Wallis
10 th March	Grace Morgan & Val Simmons
17 th March	Sue Kewish & Sonia Boyle
24 th March	Janine Knapman & Hilary Foster (Café Church, Village Hall)
31 st March	Margaret Elliott & Hazel Fry



St Peter's Church Flowers

LENT
24th March
30th March

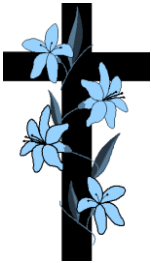
No flowers
PALM SUNDAY
EASTER – All decorators



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.



Deaths

Anthony Baker died on 24th December 2023 aged 86. His funeral took place at St Peter's Church on 1st February 2024, followed by the burial of ashes at Evercreech Cemetery.

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

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



Sunday 24th March

As **Café Church** in March falls on **Palm Sunday** this year, we are planning to begin the donkey led procession from St Peter's Church at 9.30 am and make our way to Evercreech Village Hall for a family friendly service followed by refreshments.

For those who would prefer to wait at the Hall for the arrival of the procession, there will be refreshments and a warm place to wait.



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 awareness and 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.



would like to thank everyone who supported the Coffee Morning on 10th February. £273 was raised towards the cost of the Annual Show in September. A generous donation to Church Funds of £30 was made.

The Coffee Morning on 9th March will be organised by Mid-Somerset Flower Club.

St Peter's Choir


Hello there! Michael Castle from the St. Peter's Choir here, warmly inviting singers of all ranges to join us every Wednesday from 7pm in the church and sing for joy! We practise music in a wide range of styles and contribute to monthly services here at St. Peter's. Our next big event is Easter Sunday (naturally) when we will be singing that glorious 'Easter Hymn' by Mascagni. Plans are afoot for a Summer concert with music to suit the wonderful sunny weather. (I'm sure the sun WILL shine.) Do come and join us. For more details please email me at mcastlemusic@gmail.com - thank you!!

Fund raising concert for St Peter's.

Castle Cary Choir's secretary got in touch, asking whether they could use their new repertoire in a concert in our church. The choir do several concerts during the year in aid of various causes and want to perform for us to boost our finances. They had been let down by a venue they had booked previously, and Belinda who is in the choir, suggested us.

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Or email ericdeyes2012@gmail.com

Or on the door

Castle Cary Choir is a registered Charity no:1188547

This will be an enjoyable opportunity to help raise much needed funds for St Peter's Church.

St Peter Evercreech and St Mary Chesterblade PCC

The minutes from the meeting held on 25th January can be found on the notice board and as always if you would like a copy emailed to you please message Alison at secretarystpeterspcc70@gmail.com.

A few highlights from the meeting -

We are pressing forward with investigating putting Wi Fi into the Church and are hoping that there will be good progress with this over the next few months. It is not as straight forward as putting Wi Fi into a home as the Church is listed and Faculties have to be sorted from the DAC. Hopefully this will help modernise the church and make it a more useable space moving forward.

We are very pleased and excited that Wendi Davis and Eleanor Dawkins are to become Lay Worship Assistants at St Peter's. They both bring experience with Family Worship and great acting skills as those who attend Cafe Church will have seen. We are really pleased that Mathew Dawkins has now been licensed as a Lay Reader for the Benefice and those that saw him preach his first Sermon found it extremely thought provoking and interesting. Prayers have been answered and exciting things are happening in the Worship Team.

As it is proving difficult to find **Church Cleaners** we are going to take a different approach and ask people to sign up in pairs to clean the church once in a month. So we need 12 pairs of volunteers. Hopefully this will make it a more enjoyable and social experience. A new Henry Hoover has kindly been donated by Geoff Hamlet to help with this and a list of what needs cleaning will be available. Please think if you might be able to help with a friend once or twice a year. Please speak to Belinda Canning if you would like more information or sign up on the cleaning rota at the back of the church.

Many Hands Make light Work.

We are looking for people 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.

If the thought of getting involved is daunting why not consider offering to help with one of the small hidden tasks. For example: putting up the hymn numbers, washing the altar linen, changing the altar frontals, collecting supplies of candles, communion wafers etc from Charles Farris Limited in Mere.

Full instructions for all jobs are available and we will guide and help you. If you feel able to help, or would like more information, please talk Revd Helen, Eric our Churchwarden (contact details on page 1), Belinda (01749 831341), Nola (01749 830673) or any PCC member who will point you in the right direction,

St Peter, Evercreech with St Mary, Chesterblade APCM May 2024

We are planning to hold the 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thursday 16th May at 7pm in the Church. At the APCM we need to elect two Churchwardens for the next year and four PCC members to serve for three years. There are 12 ordinary PCC members, each year 4 are elected to serve for 3 years, if anyone resigns before their 3 years are completed a replacement is elected to serve out their remaining time. If you are interested in joining the PCC please have a word with a current member to learn more.

Nomination forms will be available in St Peter's Church during April and from the PCC Secretary, details below. Reports and a list of nominations will be available in St Peter's and from Alison, two weeks before the meeting. If you are unable to attend, you can ask questions on any of the reports and vote by contacting the PCC Secretary. If you would like the reports emailed to you, please email your request to the PCC secretary below

Anyone residing in the Parish or on the Church Electoral Roll can vote for Churchwardens. To vote for a PCC member, or anything else requiring a vote at the APCM, you must be on the Church Electoral Roll. To check if you are on the Church Electoral Roll please look at the list in St Peter's or contact the Electoral Roll Officer, details below. Electoral Roll application forms will be in St Peter's during April or from Janet. The updated Roll will be on display in St Peter's three weeks before the APCM.

PCC Secretary: Alison Stonehouse secetarystpeterspcc70@gmail.com 01749 830193

Electoral Roll Officer: Janet Rundle old-saddlery@talk21.com 01749 830800

Giving to St Peter's

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.

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

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

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



News from Lamyatt

February 100 club winners were Victoria and Simon Lang, anon (number 16) and Kellie Walters. Well done to them! The March draw will take place at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd March (10.30 am to 12 noon in Lamyatt Village Hall). Do come along and see if it's your turn to be lucky. If you don't have a number and would like to be in

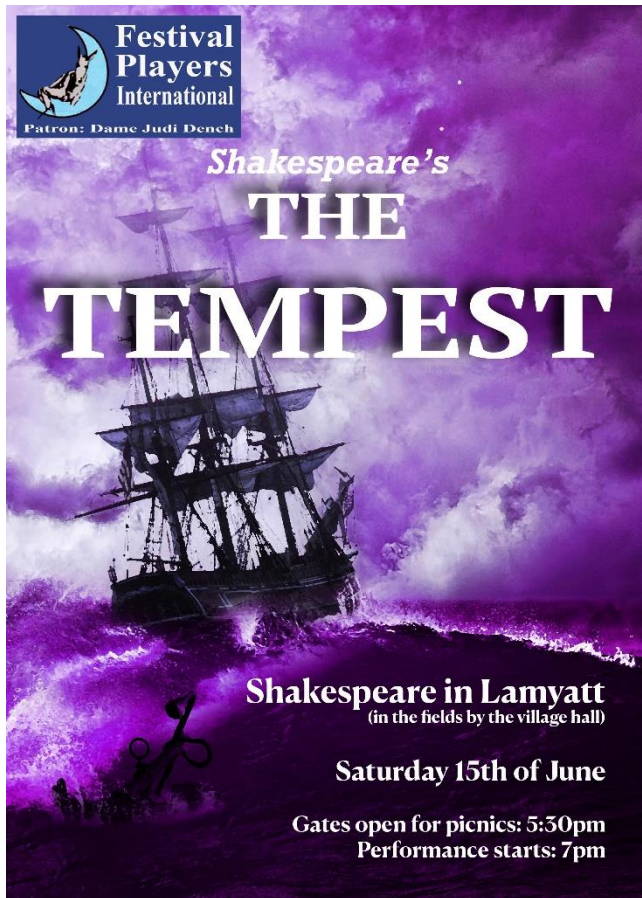
with a chance, or for more details, contact our PCC treasurer on Lamyatt100@outlook.com. For £5 a month you have a good chance of winning, at the same time as supporting St Mary & St John's church here in Lamyatt.

Here also is notification of the church annual meeting, which is open to all who have an interest in the church. Do you want a say on what we do inside or outside the building? Would you consider joining the PCC? We would welcome your input. The meeting is on Tuesday, 12th March at 7.00 pm in Lamyatt Village Hall.

Save the date or two!

On **Thursday 2nd May at 7pm** there will be a talk at **The Chapel in Bruton** (tickets available from The Chapel) by Andrew O'Sullivan (Head of English at Downside School): *A thousand twangling instruments: Music and Noise in 'The Tempest'*

You may like to follow up this talk by attending a production of **'The Tempest'** by **The Festival Players** (patron Judi Dench; director Michael Dyer, formerly of the Minack theatre) in Lamyatt on **Saturday 15th of June**.



Yes, Shakespeare will be in Lamyatt again, with tickets on sale in May. Always a wonderful evening's entertainment with a bring-your-own picnic, drinks available from the 'Cross Garter Bar', and a professional performance. This year madrigals will be sung too – 6.00 - 6.30pm. Proceeds from all this go towards running our church and village hall and all they offer our community. We are so lucky to have people in the village willing to give their time and effort to allow this to happen. However, it is an enormous task, with it becoming more difficult to find sponsorship for the event. So, (and I know this is a big ask in the current climate), if you would

consider joining our group of very valued sponsors, please contact us on sctlamyatt@gmail.com. £60 or above gets you advertising for your business in our sponsor brochure, two complimentary tickets worth £40 and our very grateful thanks! Private sponsors also welcome.

Jen Richards



St James' Church, Milton Clevedon

Last month we had the lanes and the verges of Milton Clevedon covered with a magnificent display of snowdrops. Their numbers seem to increase every year and they reach down Church Lane to where they seem to have taken over the northwest corner of the churchyard. We look forward to the wild daffodils taking their place in time for Easter.

On the farm we continue to keep the cows in the barn which keeps their feet dry and healthy and avoids pasture damage in the very wet weather we have been having. Depending on the weather they will go out to pasture again in March or April or May. Last year's calves have been born and the first of this year's calves are due to be born in July.

In the quiet time after Christmas we have had our usual services of Holy Communion and Worship for All Ages and we are very grateful to the clergy, lay readers and organists who make these services possible. We have been delighted to be able to have our Victorian harmonium completely cleaned and restored to working order and are very grateful to Michael Castle who plays it for our Worship for All Ages services whenever his busy schedule permits.

Tessa Calver

The Elves and the Shoemaker Panto May 2024

SAVE THE DATES!



Auditions for our next production "The Elves and the Shoemaker" (written by Eleanor Dawkins) have taken place and the cast is rehearsing. The show 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



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Sowing seeds, chitting potatoes, choosing varieties. Easter acts as starter's orders for the gardening year. Beds are cultivated, lawns mown, plans for all the growth and new life that spring and summer will bring made and then turned into action.

There's a much greater connection between gardening and Easter than it merely being the time to dust off forks and spades. For in the Bible, a garden is the setting for Easter itself. In John's Gospel (Jn 20:1-18) Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus in a garden. Indeed, Jesus's appearance to Mary is so unexpected that at first she can't believe it's really him. So she mistakes the man she meets 'supposing him to be the gardener' (John 20:15).

In John's account, all the new life contained in the first Easter chimes with a much earlier story set in a garden too. This is of the new life of another man and woman, the creation story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and contained in the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:4- 3:24). In that story, Adam is the gardener (Gen 2:15), only for things to go wrong. In John, Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam – come to bring new life that has no end.

What would happen if we were to think of our churches as gardens, primed to welcome the spring that is the new life of Jesus this Easter? What would happen if we imagined ourselves called to be gardeners – like our father Adam and the new Adam, Jesus? What would we expect to grow? What might need pruning or weeding? What new plans for the coming season would we make and turn into action? What would be the harvest that we'd sow for, tend and then reap?

For I reckon we should see Easter as the starting point of all that God wants to do among us and with us. Jesus's resurrection opens us to being part of God's new creation. Easter offers us a fresh start for life, relationships and the life of our churches: new life for all the world.

Happy gardening and a very Happy Easter to you all.



Bishop Michael
Bishop of Bath and Wells



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

As we continue our journey through Lent in preparation for the wonderful feast of Easter, we offer two opportunities to join with our Christian friends. The first is a series of five weekly sessions of faith-sharing and meditation groups, based on the Lord's prayer. Sessions are running from Thursday 22nd February to 21st March, starting at 10.45am at St Michael's. We are following a resource entitled *We Dare to Say*, and printed booklets are available at £1 each. All are welcome.

Then we are offering a more light-hearted chance to get together for a chat and a bowl of homemade soup as we repeat our popular Lent Lunches again this year. The first is on Wednesday 28th February, the second on Friday 15th March, 12.30 to 1.30 in St Michael's Parish Room. We'll have cream of chicken or a vegan option, served with a fresh roll and butter and a cup of tea. We look forward to welcoming you.

The Catholic Fund For Overseas Development (CAFOD) have organized a BIG LENT WALK to raise funds. One of our parishioners is joining in, aiming to complete 200km in 40 days – that's an average of 5km per day (or around 3 miles per day in old money 😊). She is seeking sponsorship via her JustGiving page:



<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/carolines-fundraising-page2025>

Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. We send our prayers and wish her good weather and good health as she commits to this challenge.

Finally we were delighted to read that our Catholic Secondary School for this area, St Gregory's in Bath, has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its repeated success to bring the world into the classroom through its links with schools around the globe. The International School Award recognises the remarkable efforts of the school to carry out exceptional work in international education, enabling young people to gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

Jadvytė Tuckaitė

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**





Mendip Community Credit Union

Your local, ethical credit union owned by our members & run for our members' benefit.

What We Do

MCCU provides simple savings and affordable loans to people who live and/or work in Mendip. We are run entirely by volunteers who take a real pride in going the extra mile to provide a fantastic service - while much of our activity is carried out online, we also provide the option of meeting up face to face.

We know that life is not always straightforward and we are always understanding when our members come to us with problems (financial and otherwise). We aim to offer the best possible deal for our members - for example, there are no penalties for paying off your loan early, renegotiating your repayments or overpaying.

[Mendip Community Credit Union \(mendipcommunitycu.org.uk\)](https://mendipcommunitycu.org.uk)

info@mendipcommunitycu.org.uk

FREEPHONE 0800 6226036

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**



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 on the second Thursday from 8.30am to 12.30pm. We all contribute £4 towards the cost of hiring the space. All you need can be provided to make quilts in your own home in your own time, wonderful fabrics to use for children from newly born to 18 years.

The picture shows the work brought in this month by our happy group of needle workers. We also welcomed two newcomers to this group in February.

A total of 7 bags containing small quilts, 7 more baby quilts, 5 larger knitted baby blankets, 8 quilts for bigger children, 1 large crochet blanket and 2 very soft knitted teddies. These teddies will go to Ups and Downs, Southwest who support parents of newly born babies with Downs Syndrome.



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

Evercreech Youth Club.



While we wait for the refurbished cricket club to be available to us we continue to meet weekly in the Sports Pavilion on the Weston Town playing fields. We continue to be grateful for the Sports Club in offering this space to meet.

Due to volunteers' commitments we have altered our evening meetings from Tuesdays to Wednesdays.

- 8-11 year olds from 6 pm to 7 pm
- 12-16 year olds from 7 pm to 8 pm.

In the limited space under the supervision of Alicia our Youth Worker, we have been able to offer craft and art sessions, board games, limited physical activities, some really rewarding discussion sessions and of course hot chocolate with plenty of marshmallows.

We continue to plan for our move into our own building.

I am proud to be a part of the team working towards the re-establishment of a club in a bigger building. It is interesting to note that we are not following the national trend, in these financially difficult times, of youth clubs and centres closing.

The National Youth Agency reported in November 2023 that there is a clear association between reduced funding for youth provision and an increase in crime rates in some young people.

Jaci Elliott



Mid-Somerset Flower Club

The next meeting is on Wednesday 13th March in Evercreech Village Hall. Doors open at 1.30 pm for a 2.00 pm start. Demonstration By Ellie North, theme 'Where has all the time gone', competition 'In a Spin', pave arrangement.

It was so nice to see so many at our February meeting. We hope to see you at our Coffee Morning in St Peters Church on Saturday 9th March, 10.00 am to 12 noon, everyone is welcome

For more information please contact

Rose on 830681 or Margaret on 830209



**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

As we crawl out of the wintery depths it's great to see the Hall being used by both regulars and new hirers. The heating has been serviced and checked but we hope for less of the very cold weather. The Hall is 90 years old this year and beside the odd bit of redecorating required outside and inside is providing the centre for the community. It does need community involvement to keep it running and the AGM will be held this year on Wednesday March 27th starting at 7.30pm in the Back Room. This is usually a short meeting but we urge anyone with ideas as to how the Hall could be more useful or made better to bring them along. The Committee appreciates the feedback and the opportunity to discuss its own plans.

Don't miss March's hot potato lunch which will be on Tuesday 19th March starting at 12 noon. Demand has been increasing and with thanks for the leadership of Andrew and Karen Doble plus a regular team of helpers, they made a major contribution to Hall funds last year.

We are still looking for a volunteer to be the Secretary with Marion's leaving the Committee at the AGM. If you, or you know of someone who, might like to be part of the team please contact Nic on 07810055996 / 01749830899 or email chair@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk for a chat.

Please note the Car Parks are for Hall users when they are attending the premises. We know Victoria Square is busy at times but politely ask people not to take over the Hall spaces for long term parking, stopping users attending their sessions in the Hall.

Nic Jefferis Chair, Evercreech Village Hall

Email: chair@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk

Mobile: 07810 055996



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

Membership queries: evercreechshow@aol.com

Annual General Meeting

Thanks to all who came to our AGM and welcome to our new committee members, Christine Toms & Lynda Nichols and thank you to our retiring members Maggie Norris, Jacky & Andrew Tucker.

Our next event is the Plant Sale on Saturday 18th May in Evercreech Village Hall, when we hope to have more quality plants like last year.

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 18th May: Plant Sale, Evercreech Village Hall

Saturday 7th September: Annual Village Show, Weston Town Playing Field

Helen Jenkins

Evercreech Friendship Club

"Where Friends are Made"

And visitors always welcome!



March already, how times seems to fly, still warmer weather on the horizon "*we hope*". This month, March 26th, we welcome the return of old friends with Chloe, her friends and their "tinkling bells", have-a-go is also a favourite! 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 2pm 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 – 2024 is our centenary year

In February Evercreech WI enjoyed a pleasant evening learning about **James Allen** and the **Snowdrop Legacy**, also what was going on in and around Shepton Mallet to commemorate him.



We are also very excited as some members brought along their panels for the new WI Banner to celebrate our centenary this year. On that note there are some events open to all to help us celebrate.

During March & April there will be a **Treasure Hunt** around Evercreech, find letters to form a phrase about the WI. There will be an adults prize and a family prize to be announced at our AGM in April.

On Thursday 27th June there will be a **Craft Event** in Evercreech Village Hall, free to enter, come along and have a go at something new 7-9pm. Open to all.

On Wednesday 17th July we will be holding **Afternoon Tea** in Evercreech Village Hall 2-4pm. 1920's theme. Open to all.

Next month (12th March) Evercreech WI are excited to hear from Alan Stone who will tell us of the technology of cider making.

As always, our meetings are open to visitors for a small charge.

Maxine Clinton (President)



Upcoming Diary Dates:

7 th March	World Book Day event including refreshments	3.15 pm
15 th March:	Easter Bingo.	Doors open at 6.00. Eyes down at 6.30pm.
25 th March	PTFA Meeting	7.30 pm

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>

Evercreech History Society

www.evercreechhistorysociety.org.uk

Tuesday, 19th March, 7.30 pm Evercreech Village Hall
Annual General Meeting “What is it”



Following our Annual General Meeting, we will be opening the evening to YOU. We would like you to bring a curious object for others to guess what it is. (We would ask for no more than two objects please). Or you may have a mystery object which someone just might be able to identify. The items will be put on display and you record your answers. At the end of the evening the object will be identified. See how many items you can detect.

NO PRIZE - JUST FOR FUN

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 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.

Tuesday 2nd April *The Culture of Ukraine*. Rosamund Bartlett, writer, lecturer and translator will describe how shared cultures bind these multi-ethnic peoples together, exploring the sacred art and architecture of Kyiv with its links to Byzantium, and the distinctive characters of Odesa and Lviv. The folk traditions in song and embroidery have influenced modern painting, haute couture and borsch.

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.

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.

Further details and full programme available on our website:

www.theartsocietymendip.org.uk.



Evercreech Village Hall

We will be screening 'One Life' (12A) on Saturday 16th March 2024 at 19.15 in Evercreech Village Hall. The running time is 1h 50m.

Based on the book 'If It's Not Impossible': The Life of Sir Nicholas Winton by Barbara Winton, ONE LIFE tells the incredible, emotional true story of Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton (Johnny Flynn), a young London broker who visits Prague in December 1938. In a race against time, Winton convinces Trevor Chadwick (Alex Sharp) and Doreen Warriner (Romola Garai) of the British Committee for Refugees in Czechoslovakia to rescue hundreds of predominantly Jewish children before Nazi occupation closes the borders. Fifty years later, Nicky (Anthony Hopkins) is haunted by the fate of the children he wasn't able to bring to safety in England. It's not until the BBC show "That's Life!" re-introduces him to some of those he helped rescue that he finally begins to come to terms with the guilt and grief he carried -- all the while skyrocketing from anonymity to a national hero'.

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 19.15 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!

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

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



For further information please contact the Secretary on

01458 224057 or rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com



**THE JUBILEE HALL,
BATCOMBE, BA4 6HE**
Doors open 7.00 pm
Screening 7.45 pm

Friday 15th March 2024

IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK

Dir. Barry Jenkins / 2018 / 119 mins / 15

Barry Jenkins won an Oscar for *Moonlight* and this is another beautifully shot, sensitive film. Adapted from the novel by James Baldwin ("Every black person born in America was born on Beale Street") and set in 1970s New York, it tells the story of how two young people, Tish and Fonny come together but are torn apart when Fonny (Stephan James) is wrongly charged with rape by a vengeful police officer. Fonny's family blame Tish (played by Kiki Layne) for the situation in which he finds himself, but she embraces her pregnancy and sets out to prove her childhood friend and lover innocent of a crime he didn't commit. Beautifully shot and with great performances from the whole cast.

BBFC Insight: infrequent very strong language, strong sex

Free parking ~ Licensed bar
Tea & coffee ~ Wheelchair access

For further information please contact
Ann Biddle 01749 850307

**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

SHEPTON MONTAGUE FILM NIGHTS

These are held monthly in Shepton Montague Church, 6.45 for 7.30, tickets £7 or 5 for £30. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are available. It is advisable to bring a cushion!

Thursday 14th March ONE LIFE (2023/110/12A)

In 1938, on the eve of World War 2, Nicholas Winton, an ordinary stockbroker, became a hero when he coordinated the transport of hundreds of children to safety as the war began. One Life becomes a half-memory piece as the older Winton (Anthony Hopkins) comes to terms with what he did in his youth and a war movie as the younger Winton (Johnny Flynn) races to save more lives. With Helena Bonham Carter as Winton's mother. Directed by James Hawes.

For more information, please contact Sarah Maude 01749 812 14

sarahjmaude@btinternet.com

Somerset Bus Partnership

<http://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Somerset-Bus-Partnership-105704811629827>

Somerset Bus Partnership provides a platform for both current and new bus users in Somerset to make their views heard about the bus services they need.

Somerset people should be able to get around by bus, to where they want to go, when they want to go, and their journey by bus should be reliable, comfortable and affordable.

The Somerset Bus Partnership is supported by both local Councillors and bus user groups from across Somerset. Somerset Bus Partnership seeks to work in partnership with county / unitary, town and parish councils.

Somerset Bus Partnership, who already have 11 groups across the county, wish to set up an Evercreech group to promote and improve bus usage in our area. Anyone interested should email Somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com



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.



Don't forget the £2 flat fare introduced in January still applies. Bus users in Somerset are able to continue to travel on most bus routes in the county and beyond for just £2. This initiative applies to cross-boundary services, which means you can travel for example from Shepton Mallet to Yeovil, Street to Bristol or Wells to Bath for just £2.

Susan Ehmann

Evercreech Parish Council

This month we saw the completion of the skatepark, great feedback has been received from the young people already using the facility. There will be a formal skatepark opening on **Sunday 17th March**. Time to be confirmed. On the day we will have lots of things happening including a visit from Sir Michael Eavis who is one of our main contributors. Look out for further information on What's up in Evercreech and the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council also agreed on the yearly budget in an extremely difficult year. Plans to commission repair works to the Cemetery Lych Gate and Village Cross are underway.

We have 2 vacancies on the council. Easier than you think to join! Please contact the clerk in the first instance for further information. clerk@evercreech-pc.gov.uk

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



**Somerset
Council**

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

Shepton Mallet Library

2 Market Place, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5AZ

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

Saturday: 9.30 am – 1.30 pm

Closed Wednesday and Sunday

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



DIARY

Saturday 2 nd March	8.30 am Men's Breakfast, The Bell Inn 10.30 am Coffee Morning, Lamyatt Village Hall
Tuesday 5 th March	2.00 pm Free Drop In, Evercreech Village Hall 7.00 pm Evercreech Parish Council Meeting, Evercreech Village Hall
Thursday 7 th March	3.15 pm World Book Day Event, Evercreech Primary School (see page 24)
Saturday 9 th March	10.00 am Flower Club Coffee Morning St Peter's Church
Tuesday 12 th March	2.00 pm Free Drop In, Evercreech Village Hall 7.30 pm Evercreech WI Evercreech Village Hall (see page 24)
Wednesday 13 th March	2.00 pm Flower Club, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 21)
Friday 15 th March	6.00 pm Easter Bingo, Evercreech Primary School
Saturday 16 th March	7.15 pm Evercreech Films, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 26)
Sunday 17 th March	Official Opening of Skatepark, Weston Town Sports Ground (see page 29)
Tuesday 19 th March	12 noon Hot Potato Lunch, Evercreech Village Hall 7.30 pm History Society, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 25)
Wednesday 20 th March	Deadline for April Parish Magazine
Friday 22 nd March	7.30 pm Concert, St Peter's Church (see page 9)
Sunday 24 th March	9.30 am Palm Sunday Procession from St Peter's Church to Village Hall (see page 8)
Tuesday 26 th March	2.00 pm Friendship Club, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 23)
Thursday 28 th March	Last day of Term Evercreech CofE Primary School
Friday 29 th March	GOOD FRIDAY
Sunday 31 st March	EASTER DAY
Saturday 20 th April	10.00 am Spring Awakening, Lamyatt Village Hall (see page 12)





The copy date for the **April Magazine**
is **WEDNESDAY 20th March.**

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
Evercreech Church Magazine Account
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
to 100 words. If you do not regularly submit items for the magazine it is
advisable to send in well before the deadline as space is limited. We reserve
the right to edit any item submitted.

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01749 831122











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jpmurrayu3a@gmail.com

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