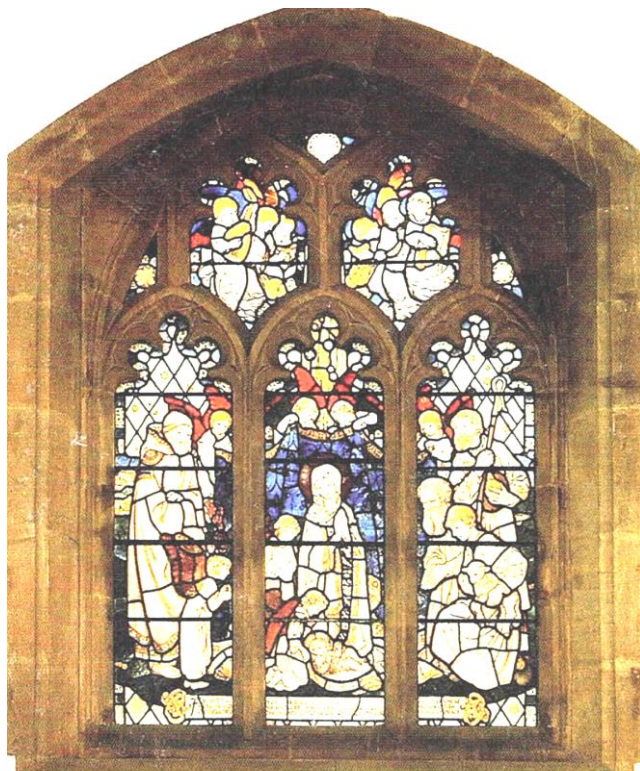




60p

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



December 2025

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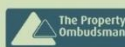
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01749 831122



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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Websites:

Alham Vale Benefice:	www.facebook.com/alhamvale
St. Peter's Church	www.facebook.com/stpetersevercreechevents
All churches	www.achurchnearyou.com
Bruton Cary Deanery:	www.brutonandcarydeanery.net
Diocese of Bath & Wells:	www.bathandwells.org.uk



Member Editor 2025
Association for Church Editors

The copy date for the
January 2026 Magazine is
WEDNESDAY 17th December

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

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of what you find in Evercreech News, but we are reliant on people supplying correct information. We are always happy to receive your photographs, articles, comments or suggestions. 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.

There are always spare copies at the back of St Peter's Church, please do take a free copy for anyone who moves into the area or who you think would like a copy.

Evercreech News Subscriptions for 2026 are due soon.

An Annual Subscription of £6, for a monthly magazine with up-to-date information about Church and Community

Would you like to advertise in Evercreech News?

A Half Page Advert costs £6 per month or
£60 for 12 issues January to December

A Quarter Page Advert costs £3 per month or
£30 for 12 issues January to December

Our regular advertisers are being contacted, we also welcome new advertisers. Most adverts run for the whole year.

If you would like to advertise email: evercreech.news@gmail.com

Are you looking to get married or have a baptism in one of the Alham Vale churches? If so please contact the Benefice Administrator Emily by email at alhamvale@gmail.com

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe but here we are at the start of a new Advent season with Christmas fast coming into view. Today Advent seems to have faded in our public imagination, often it's only noticed when chocolate filled calendars appear in the supermarket aisle, but traditionally it is a special season when we pause to get ready for Christmas. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival" and it serves two purposes. First, it gives us time to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the wonder of the nativity story and the first arrival of Jesus into the world. Second, it is a time of excited anticipation, when we look forward to the future day when Jesus will return again to bring justice and peace to all the world - and right now who doesn't wish for that? During these weeks of waiting we pray and meditate on the themes of hope, peace, joy and love, kindling them in our own lives and praying that we can share these gifts with everyone around us, as we in turn reflect on God's most incredible gift of all, the gift of Jesus Christ.



It is good to spend time dwelling on the real meaning of Christmas too, on the continuing message of hope, peace, joy and love. Christmas is a time when Christians worldwide celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who we believe is God's Son sent to Earth to be a Saviour. The Nativity story reminds us of God's incredible gift to humanity, and the promise that we are never alone and can find peace even in difficult times. Beyond the presents and decorations, the true spirit of Christmas is about reflecting on this gift, showing our gratitude and sharing God's love and generosity with others, especially those in need. For this reason St Peter's and many churches choose Christmas Charities to give their collections to and encourage extra donations to the local food bank. Christmas is about coming together with friends, family and community to spread kindness and create a more compassionate world, and who among us doesn't want that?

This year we would like to extend a special invitation to you to join us at any of the services and events taking place in St Peter's Church over the Christmas period. Christmas time is a time for community and there is a place in it for you.

God bless,

Helen

Revd. Helen Drever, Vicar of the Alham Vale Benefice

PEOPLE NEWS

If you have news of anyone who has moved away or would like to share any life events - whether it's a birth, marriage, death, or anything else significant - we would love to hear from you. Please email: Evercreech.news@gmail.com

Nola being presented with her BEM medal by **Somerset's Lord-Lieutenant, Mohammed Saddiq** at a ceremony at **The Newt** on 16th October, along with five other recipients from Somerset.

The Lord Lieutenant said: "I was delighted to present these medals. They represent the dedication these individuals have given to their communities over the years. They truly deserve this recognition."

Nola was supported at the ceremony by her brother and sister-in-law from New Zealand and Geoff and Hilary from St Peter's Church Evercreech.



DEATHS

Adrian John Douglas Banbury died on 5th October 2025, aged 72 years. His funeral service was held at Mendip Crematorium on 3rd November.

Patricia Anne (Patsy) White died on 13th October 2025, aged 63 years. Her funeral was held at Mendip Crematorium on 3rd November.

Scott Lovell died on 19th October, aged 50. His funeral was held at Mendip Crematorium on 10th November.

Freda Sugg died on 26th October 2025, aged 92 years. Her funeral was held at St Aldhelm's Doultong on 21st November, followed by interment in the churchyard.

Adrian Banbury

We would like to express our sincere thanks to those who attended Adrian's funeral on Monday, 3rd November. We were quite overwhelmed by the number of people there, reflecting the fact that he touched the lives of so many.

Jos, Giles and Jeremy Smith

Church Services in the *Alham Vale Benefice*

SUNDAY 7th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Purple)

9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
9.30 am	Matins	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Parish Communion	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe
4.00 pm	Iona Service	St Peter, Evercreech

SUNDAY 14th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Purple)

9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
9.30 am	Iona-style Service for Advent	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Matins or Informal Service	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe
4.00 pm	Carols & Christingle	St Mary & St John, Lamyatt

Tuesday 16th December

6.00 pm	Carol Service	St James, Milton Clevedon
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Thursday 18th December

10.30 am	Midweek Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
6.00 pm	Carol Service	St Mary, Chesterblade

SUNDAY 21st December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Purple)

9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
9.30 am	Matins	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Parish Communion	St Mary & St John, Lamyatt
6.00 pm	Carol Service	St Peter, Evercreech

Monday 22nd December

6.00 pm	Carol Service with play	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
6.00 pm	Carol Service	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

Wednesday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE (Gold)

4.00 pm	Stories around the Crib	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe
5.00 pm	Crib Service	St Peter, Evercreech
8.30 pm	Welcoming a Joyful Christmas	St Mary & St John, Lamyatt
11.00 pm	Midnight Communion	St Peter, Evercreech

Thursday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY (Gold)

9.30 am	Christmas Family Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
9.30 am	Christmas Service	St Mary, Chesterblade
10.30 am	Christmas Service	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Christmas Communion	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe
11.00 am	Christmas Communion	St James, Milton Clevedon

SUNDAY 28th December HOLY INNOCENTS (White)

9.30 am Parish Communion St Peter, Evercreech

Including Baptism of **Oliver Jack Lampert**

9.30 am Christmas Communion St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble

SUNDAY 4th January SECOND SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS (White)

9.30 am Parish Communion St Peter, Evercreech

9.30 am Matins St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble

11.00 am Worship for All Ages St Mary & St John, Lamyatt

11.00 am Parish Communion The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

Helpers at St Peter, Evercreech – December 2025

Sunday 7th December Second Sunday of Advent <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Gerald Fry
	Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10	Samuel Dawkins
	Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12	Eleanor Dawkins
	Prayers	Janet Rundle
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Andrew Nicholls
	Sound	Geoff Knapman
	Sacristan	Janine Knapman
	Refreshments	Sue Kewish and Sonia Boyle
<i>4.00 pm Iona Service</i>	Sidespersons	Peter & Anne Sear
Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent NATIVITY FESTIVAL <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Geoff Knapman
	Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-10	Janine Knapman
	Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11	Paul Robinson
	Prayers	Belinda Canning
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Meg Wallis
	Sound	Andrew Nicholls
	Sacristan	Belinda Canning
	Refreshments	Paul & Clare Robinson
Thursday 18th December <i>10.30 am Said Communion</i>	Sacristan	Alan Henderson

Sunday 21st December Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>9.30 am Said Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Eric Deyes
	Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16	Cherry Lawson
	Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-end	Sue Deyes
	Prayers	Wendi Davis
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Janet Rundle
	Sound	Geoff Hamlet
	Sacristan	Peter Sear
	Refreshments	Wendi & Martin Davis
<i>6.00 pm Village Carol Service</i>	Sidespersons	Eleanor & Samuel Dawkins
	Sound	Greff Knapman
Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve <i>5 pm Crib Service</i>	Sidesperson	Janet Rundle
	Sound	Alan Henderson
<i>11.00 pm Midnight Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Geoff Hamlet
	Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10	Anne Sear
	Gospel: John 1: 1-14	Liz Henderson
	Prayers	Peter Sear
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Sue Deyes
	Sound	Eric Deyes
	Sacristan	Belinda Canning
25th December Christmas Day <i>9.30 am Family Christmas Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Sue Kewish
	Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7	Sue Kewish
	Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14(15-20)	Michèle Hole
	Prayers	Emily Simper & family
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Eric Deyes
	Sound	Alan Henderson
	Sacristan	Alan Henderson
Sunday 28th December Holy Innocents <i>9.30 am Parish Communion with Baptism</i>	Sidesperson	Dawn Aldworth
	Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-13	Geoff Hamlet
	Gospel: Mark 10: 13-16	Samuel Dawkins
	Prayers	Eleanor Dawkins
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Andrew Nicholls
	Sound	Geoff Knapman
	Sacristan	Alan Henderson

Sunday 4th January Second Sunday of Christmas <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Sonia Boyle
	Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6	Daphne Roach
	Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12	Paul Robinsom
	Prayers	Wendi Davis
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Geoff Hamlet
	Sound	Alistair Roach
	Sacristan	Peter Sear
	Refreshments	Paul & Clare Robinson

St Peter's Church Flowers

Advent: No Flowers
 Christmas: All Decorators



Little Fishes

The last Little Fishes of 2025 will be on Monday 15th December. We will return in 2026 on Monday 12th January.

We are a relaxed, friendly group for pre-school children and babies who meet on Mondays, during termtime, in St Peter's Church at 10am.

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

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



'Have a Break'

Chat, tea and cake for all ages.
 Only once this month on 2nd December.
 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm in Evercreech Village Hall.

For more information please contact:

Sue or Eric on 01749 831104



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.

At the Coffee Morning on 8th November £258.20 was raised for the **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**. The Coffee Morning was run by the St Peter's Coffee Morning Team as there is no longer an RBL branch in the village. However, if the branch is reopened, then it would be possible to book the November 2026 Coffee Morning for the local branch to run, please contact Michèle (*contact details below*) if you would like to discuss this.



The December Coffee Morning will be a special Christmas event on Saturday 13th December 10am - 12 noon, with all proceeds going to the St Peter's Christmas Charities and will form part of the Nativity Festival Weekend (*see page 12*). Offers of help, raffle prizes and Christmas goodies are welcome.

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**

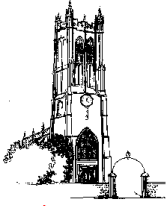
St Peter's Christmas Choir

The St. Peter's Choir are rehearsing for Christmas on Wednesday evenings from 7.00 pm in St Peter's church. If you love singing, especially Christmas carols, please do come along.

For more details contact:

Michael Castle, Musical Director,
mcastlemusic@gmail.com





***St Peter's Church and
Evercreech Sports Club***



Evercreech Bonfire and Fireworks Display

Saturday 1st November 2025



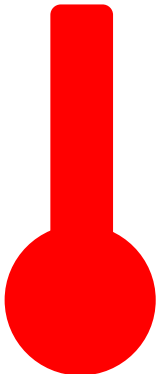
We were again blessed with fine weather, with rain coming before and after the event. This annual event is run jointly between the Evercreech Sports Club and St Peter's Church who share the gate money after payment for the fireworks.

Our thanks must go to the firework display team who put on a magnificent display donating their time for free and providing the fireworks at cost. Thanks to all the other helpers from the Sports Club and St Peter's Church and to all who came along on the night to support the event.

A grateful thanks to the sponsors whose kind donations help to pay for the fireworks:
**Evercreech Plaice Hair@Melita Coiffure
 Melita Coiffure 3 Solutions Ltd The Bell Inn
 Old Mill Accountants Peter Green Haulage**

St Peter's Church have approximately £1,000 from gate receipts plus £700 from the BBQ.

Andrew Nicholls



Thank you to everyone so much for your help and generosity.

We have reached our target for the Organ and sound Appeal. Thanks to you all, we have beaten it and raised

£36,000.

Special thanks go to Mendip Renewables for match funding the first £10,000

Organ & Sound 
 FUNDRAISING APPEAL
St Peter's Church, Evercreech



THANK YOU



Christmas Charities

As is our usual custom, we will split all our Christmas collections four ways; an international charity, a UK based charity and one that is close to the heart of a parishioner. St Peter's church itself is the fourth recipient. This year's chosen charities are:



Located in the Kwa Rhoda rural slum area of Nakuru, Kenya, this is a haven for 400 destitute and vulnerable children - providing food, clothing, education and health / social care. The school relies on charitable donations to operate. The Melon Mission is supported by the small American charity www.themeloproject.org Liz Henderson has worked with the Melon Mission school since 2019.



Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, have launched an appeal for a second helicopter. For more about the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance visit: www.dsairambulance.org.uk



A national Christian charity, working with families during times of struggle or difficulty and providing a friendly, supportive service, in a variety of ways.

For more information visit www.safefamilies.uk or talk to local volunteers Clare & Paul Robinson robinsons.2017@btinternet.com

Christmas Cards

If you would like to send greetings to fellow congregation members, space will be made available on one of the noticeboards to display cards.

Nativity Festival Weekend 13th/14th December

On the afternoon of **Friday 12th December** the church will be made ready for the Nativity Festival weekend, with all sorts of Nativity sets placed around the church, including of course the beautiful St Peter's set which is featured on this year's Christmas Card.

On **Saturday 13th December**, all are welcome to view the Nativity sets at the special Christmas Coffee Morning, in aid of the St Peter's Christmas Charities.

That evening, we are delighted to present **'Lullabies and Light'** where you can join Opera singer Marta Fontanals-Simmons and pianist Nuri Fontanals for a varied programme of festive songs and Christmas classics, readings and audience participation, together with seasonal refreshments.

The Nativity sets will remain in church for Sunday's Parish Communion service.



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Lullabies & Light

TICKETS £15
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or Michèle Holec
01749 830875
holemiche@aol.com

ST PETER'S CHURCH, EVERCREECH
SAT 13TH DECEMBER, 7PM

Christmas Cards

In keeping with the theme, our 2025 Christmas card reflects a picture of St Peter's own Crib Scene and these are available to buy or order. Pick up an order form from the back of St Peter's and hand to Michèle or Carol or leave in the Evercreech News Drawer.

£1 each or 5 for £4



Two Advents

Quietly dignified, lovingly attentive, the young man leads his fiancée, mounted on a donkey, along the hot, dry, dusty road to Bethlehem. Their destiny, a life of simplicity and toil: humbly and obediently they have accepted the responsibility for bringing the priceless gift to an impoverished world.

City centres teem with frenzied crowds persuaded by the marketing teams to purchase sophisticated gifts guaranteed to bring lasting joy. Crowds rush headlong through an arid Advent, deceived by a mirage, poignantly ignorant of the one perfect gift - God's free gift of love.

Twinkling lights and festive decorations seduce the unwary to purchase more than they can afford. Carols blast from every shop door proclaiming love, peace and joy. Harassed mothers and covetous children contradict the illusion and speak of tension - while the retailing magnates smile at their success.

There are no twinkling lights in Bethlehem, no welcoming hotel room, no special provision for the world's Saviour. The birth pains begin in a quiet stable, the animals alone witnessing the love and peace of the arrival of Jesus. Just one bright star tells of the joy of the world - but the world isn't looking.

From Association of Church Editors December Ideas Forum

Evercreech with Chesterblade PCC

As the December magazine goes to press before the PCC meeting on 27th November, a report will be in the January magazine.

Anne Sear (PCC Secretary) sear.a@btinternet.com

St Peter's Church, Evercreech

Afternoon Concert

2:30 pm Saturday 3rd January 2026

Duration: approx. 45 minutes

Rose Hodgson (Violin)

accompanied by Hugh Edwards on Piano.

Retiring Collection

Look out for posters for more details

History Society

www.evercreechhistorysociety.org.uk



Chesterblade Window

A picture of the east window in St Mary's Chesterblade is on the cover of this copy of Evercreech News.

The window was filled with plain glass until a much-loved vicar Rev William Tylden-Dyne, decided to donate a stained-glass window. He commissioned a well-known designer Martin Travers to create one.

Martin Travers came to Somerset to make sketches, and we believe that many of the figures in the Nativity scene are local people. A close look soon reveals that the shepherds are wearing Somerset smocks, boots and gaiters. Down each side of the window are little vignettes of cottages, willows and a stream. The design was displayed at the Royal College of Art in 1913.

William Tylden-Dyne just lived to see his gift installed before he died unexpectedly at the age of 54 early in 1914, so the window became his memorial. Had another year passed the window might never have been put in place once the First world War had started. The Nativity scene is saved from sentimentality by the presence of local people and scenes. If you have never seen it do go and look.

Gill Lindsay

News from Zambia

I have sent congratulations and best wishes to Joseph Mwenya for his marriage to Sandra Kafwanka on 29th November, with prayers for them both in their life together. Joseph grew up in our link parish of St Joseph's, Kamuchanga. Some of us met him when he visited Evercreech during his time as a member of the Community of St Anselm, based at Lambeth Palace. He then trained for ordination in Zambia, and is now a parish priest in Kitwe.



I have not yet received any contact details for the new parish priest at St Joseph's, but I continue to send the magazine to Rose, the Link Correspondent.

Anne Sear, Link Correspondent

News from Lamyatt

It's December, so Happy Christmas!

There is loads going on this month but let's start with something that isn't happening - there is **no first Sunday service** on 7th December.

However, there will be a **Coffee Morning** on Saturday 6th December in Lamyatt Village Hall. With coffee served from 10.30 am. We will be serving delicious homemade parsnip soup, with a roll and glass of red wine for £6 for those who have booked. Sylvia's beautiful Christmas cards will be available, raising funds for the church.

Also the **100 club** when this month's super first prize of £100 will be drawn. Last month the winners were Simon and Victoria L, Jean S and John C.

After a gap of many years, we will be celebrating with **Carols and Christingles** in the church on Sunday 14th December at 4pm. This promises to be a very enjoyable time with well-loved carols. Candlelit - so consider bringing a small torch if you would find that useful. From here the **Posada** (small figures of Mary and Joseph) will start their journey round the village.

As usual in December the **Prayer Tree** will be put up in the church up by the altar. Whether churchgoer or not, you are welcome to add the name of anyone, any issue or situation you are thinking about this Christmas. Bring your own card or write on one of the ones supplied. Let's fill it with our Christmas thoughts!

There is a **Movie Night** – The Family Stone on 5th December; a **Take Arts** event – Tales of Frost and Fire on 13th December, see the next page for details; a **Christmas party** in the Lamyatt Village Hall on Tuesday 16th December 6.30-9pm with music from Lamyatt's Creech Hill Crackers to keep the celebrations going; a **pub night** on 20th December and **Carol singing round the village** on Monday 22nd December (meet at the bus shelter at 6pm).

Finally we will be **'Welcoming a Joyful Christmas'** on Christmas Eve at 8.30 pm, followed by mulled cider and mince pies.

Phew, we will all deserve a little rest after that!

May your Christmas be blessed with lasting gifts of love and friendship!



Jen Richards

Tales of Frost and Fire

A journey into the wonder and enchantment of winter folk tales from these lands and beyond.



Storyteller
Hannah Moore



Cellist and singer
Amy Cox

take
art *HA*

weaving together seasonal
music and myth

Saturday 13 December 6pm
Lamyatt Village Hall

£12 adult | £3 child | £28 family
from 07938 174468 or takeart.org
pay bar for drinks and snacks



DIOCESE OF
Bath&Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

Christmas joy for all people

We fear that we live in a world of increasing polarisation. Conflicts between and within nations play their part. The amplification of division and hostility by social media algorithms doesn't help. Culture wars exacerbate matters further. Sometimes it feels like common ground

is disappearing from underneath our feet like a sandbar being overwhelmed by the tide.

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

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

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

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

Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Manna, the monthly Diocesan newsletter, is available in electronic form, to request a copy please contact evercreech.news@gmail.com



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

01458 835931 (Admin Office)

Email: sheptonmallet.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com

The shops have been proclaiming the Christmas season for several weeks already, but anyone with their eyes firmly focused on the real meaning of Christmas will be trying to ignore the commercial pressure a while longer. The four weeks of Advent, which means arrival, is a time of spiritual preparation and making sacrifices.

There is, however, joy in anticipation, and some parishioners prepared and packed Christmas shoeboxes of gifts, things we take for granted, like soap or socks, which are a luxury for needy people who have nothing. We dispatched eight such boxes this year, bound for Ukraine. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Last month a few parishioners attended the secular funeral of Scott Lovell of Evercreech who sadly died on 19th October after a very long illness. He was just 50. He became a Catholic several years ago but soon sadly became too unwell to attend Mass. May he rest in peace.

Pope Francis decreed 2025 a year of Jubilee, a holy year which happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church. We are called to be Pilgrims of Hope, and applaud the very significant meeting of King Charles and Pope Leo XIV, who recently prayed together at the Vatican. A moment of hope indeed.

I don't know about you, but as I get older, the days seems to flash by at an almost alarming pace. Amid the rush and bustle of December, let us be generous in prayer and in kind, and may I wish all our Christian friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Jacky Tucker

Jesus came to pay a debt he didn't owe
because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.

Source unknown

Tuesday 2 nd Dec.	2.00 pm	Have a Break, Evercreech Village Hall
	7.00 pm	Evercreech Parish Council Meeting, Evercreech Village Hall
Friday 5 th December		Movie Night, Lamyatt Village Hall
Saturday 6 th Dec.	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast, The Bell Inn
	10.30 am	Coffee Morning, Lamyatt Village Hall
	2.00 pm	Happy Landings – Crafts Coffee & Cake, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 33)
	7.30 pm	Christmas Bingo - Evercreech Village Hall (see page 28)
Tuesday 9 th Dec.	12 noon	Christmas Hot Potato Lunch, Evercreech Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Evercreech WI Christmas Meal, The Bell Inn
Wednesday 10 th Dec.	2.00 pm	Mid Somerset Flower Club, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 25)
Saturday 13th/Sunday 14th December – Nativity Festival Weekend		
Saturday 13 th Dec.	10.00 am	Coffee Morning – Christmas Charities, St Peter's Church
	6.00 pm	'Tales of Frost & Fire' Lamyatt Village Hall (see page 16)
	7.00pm	'Lullabies & Light' Concert, St Peter's Evercreech (see page 12)
Sunday 14 th Dec.	4.00pm	Carols & Christingle, Lamyatt
Tuesday 16 th Dec.	12.50 pm	Friendship Club Christmas Lunch, The Bell Inn
	6.00 pm	Milton Clevedon Carol Service
	6.30 pm	Christmas Party, Lamyatt Village Hall
Wednesday 17 th December		<i>Deadline for January Evercreech News</i>
Thursday 18 th Dec.	6.00 pm	Chesterblade Carol Service
Sunday 21 st Dec.	6.00 pm	Evercreech Carol Service, St Peter's Church
Monday 22 nd Dec.	6.00 pm	Carol singing around Lamyatt.

Saturday 3rd January 8.30 am Men's Breakfast, The Bell Inn
 10.30 am Coffee Morning, Lamyatt Village Hall
 2.30 pm Afternoon Concert, St Peter's Evercreech
(see page 13)



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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.

Grants have recently been made to support the 'Have a Break' sessions at the Village Hall which are held two or three times a month and benefit a regular group of village residents.

The Trustees have moved some of their funds to the Mendip Credit Union, to not only earn interest, but also benefit local residents who receive help from this organisation.

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



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 \(mendipcommunitycu.org.uk\)](http://mendipcommunitycu.org.uk)
info@mendipcommunitycu.org.uk FREEPHONE 0800 6226036

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

Thanks to Peter Green's, we have a metal building housing a tall fridge and a shelf unit. This means that we can store cold and room temperature items, with Peter Green doing random drops of both sorts of food. We are so grateful for their support. They are also paying for the electricity to run the fridge so it's a real community boost for us. But we still need villagers to donate the usual items when they can. Please remember us when you do your shop. Every little helps.



Deborah Hogg



Happy Foodsaving, Evercreech!

Every night a volunteer goes to the Co-op and collects bags of food that haven't been sold on time. They re-pack them into smaller bags, and take them around the village, sharing 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.

We always 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. We also 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. Thank you!

Jenny Newton

evercreechfoodsaving@gmail.com 07535 002279



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.

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

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

Ways to contact Citizens Advice:

Call the free Adviceline on: **0800 2787842**

Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm,

Shepton Mallet Community Access Point: Highfield House,

Wednesday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Self-help using website: www.citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk





A national Christian charity, working with families during times of struggle or difficulty and providing a friendly, supportive service, in a variety of ways. Volunteers visit families in their own homes, providing a listening ear, moral support and the benefit of acquired experience, which can make all the difference to someone who is struggling or is feeling isolated or vulnerable. Or perhaps regular contact via WhatsApp or phone provides that contact and lifeline – knowing that the Safe Families volunteer is interested in what is happening in their life and wants to be there for them.

Other volunteers offer emergency overnight accommodation to help families cope during a crisis (eg parent suddenly in hospital); and others commit to praying for the charity and the families we support. Volunteers come from all walks of life and full training and ongoing support is given. If you would like to learn more about volunteering for Safe Families please contact dawnholmes@safefamilies.uk or local volunteers – Clare & Paul Robinson robinsons.2017@btinternet.com – who can talk to you more about this rewarding volunteering role.

As a charity Safe Families relies on donations – if you feel able to support with a one-off or regular financial donation please follow this link: www.safefamilies.uk

Other services offering Wellbeing for Young People



www.hubofhope.co.uk

www.youngsomerset.org.uk/wellbeing-support



www.somersetbigtent.org.uk

www.cypsomersethealth.org



A free phoneline of hymns,
reflections and prayers



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 10.00 am 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.

So far in November 26 quilts and 72 blankets have been delivered.

Thank you to everyone who has donated books, fabrics and sewing paraphernalia , items we cannot use in our meetings will be sold at the Craft 4 Crafters show at the Bath and West showground later this month. This will enable me to supply everything that is needed to make our lovely quilts. I have had so much donated I have had to hire a “Man and a Van “ to deliver it to the balcony at the show.

The picture is of Christmas stockings, small quilts and teddy bears for the premature baby unit at Musgrove hospital. I will have to securely sew in the scarves on the teddies as little fingers will untie these with potentially dangerous results.



To find out more about Project Linus please contact me:

Jaci Elliott

01749 838809 jaci.elliott@btinternet.com

Evercreech Drama Group

After a successful production in October we are now resting!

If you are interested in any aspect of what we do, either on stage or behind the scenes then don't hesitate to contact our Chairman

Greg Jessop on 01749 831122 or via email evercreechdg@gmail.com to find out more.



Evercreech WI

Evercreech WI enjoyed an interesting talk on Che Guevara in November, by one of our own members Jaci Elliot, we all learnt a great deal and were left with many questions after the talk, was he a hero or not?



In December we do not have a meeting, but we are all looking forward to a lovely Christmas meal at The Bell. Meetings go back to normal on 13th January 2026 in Evercreech Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome.

Maxine Clinton (President) 07939 082521 clintonmaxine@gmail.com

Mid-Somerset Flower Club

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 10th December in Evercreech Village Hall at 2.00 pm, doors open 1.30. At this meeting we are making Christmas arrangements for tables, doors, or gifts. Don't miss this meeting, bring along your flowers and items you will need. There will be a Short AGM, Officers have agreed to continue, but we need the approval of all club members. There will be stollen and homemade mince pies, tea and coffee.



For more information please contact:

Rose Herlock 0787 6080127 and Margaret Elliott 01749 830209



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Health Connections is your GP practice social prescribing and health coaching team. Health Connections Mendip started the first UK **Talking Café** in 2013. Talking Cafés are a place to meet new people, make friends and chat to a Health Connector about the support Health Connections can offer. We can also let you know about activities, support groups and services in your community. We have weekly Talking Cafés across Mendip including:

Evercreech Village Hall: Thursday 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm



Evercreech Friendship Club

“Where Friends are Made”

First may we wish everyone a “Very Happy Christmas” and “New Year”. Time certainly flies as once again we hold our Christmas Lunch and party at the Bell Inn, Evercreech on Tuesday 16th December at 12.50pm. Father Christmas (with a new hat) and washed beard (in Persil) hopefully will be there, along with the special Christmas raffle and of course more important “Christmas Lunch”.

Next year we start our 51st year (since the club was formed in 1975). If you live in or near Evercreech, are over 55 and would like to come along in 2026 you would be most welcome.

God Bless and KEEP SAFE!!

For more information please contact:

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

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.

December in history

19th December 1843. Charles Dickens’ classic work, *A Christmas Carol*, was published. Dickens produced this iconic work in a six-week flurry of writing that began in October 1843 and finished on 19th December. By December 24th, the first edition of 6,000 copies had sold out and by 2nd January 1844, a second edition of 3,000 copies had also been sold.

25th December, 1914. During the First World War, when British soldiers heard German troops in the trenches opposite singing carols on Christmas Eve, a World War I Christmas truce was reached. British and German soldiers met in no man’s land; they exchanged gifts, took photographs, and played impromptu football games. Both sides also took time to bury casualties and repair trenches. The truce wasn’t observed everywhere along the Western Front, and in some areas, the fighting continued. This was largely because officers feared that a truce would undermine the fighting spirit. After Boxing Day, the friendly meetings in no man’s land ended and the war continued.



**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

We were delighted to see the Hall full with both old and new faces at November's Hot Potato Lunch. Hopefully it wasn't just everyone looking for warmth after the change to a cold spell. Over the year these lunches will have raised close to £2,000 for Hall funds which has meant we can keep hire charges lower for the community groups. They could not be provided without a team of 12 volunteers who buy, prepare, cook and serve the potatoes, fillings and desserts as well as washing and drying up. On behalf of the Hall Committee and I expect the 50 to 60 people who come, may I say a massive thank you for your time and effort this year. If there are people who haven't ever been to a lunch please come and try it. The Christmas Special lunch is a week earlier than normal on 9th December.

By the time you are reading this there will have been two other events which we hope you have enjoyed. On Saturday 29th November the National Theatre Live production of The Fifth Step looks to be a funny and poignant look at alcoholism. A slightly different evening will be the Bingo on 6th December and there are many big and small prizes already at the time of writing that have been donated by local groups and businesses. There's no NT Live in December but put Saturday 29th January in your diary for a different take on "Hamlet"

The Committee also thanks all the regular hirers of the Hall and wish all users a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing continuing use in the New Year.

Nic Jefferis Chair, Evercreech Village Hall

Email: chair@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk Mobile: 07810 055996

Christmas Carols mis-heard by children

- We three kings of porridge and tar
- On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me
- Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel
- Sleep in heavenly peas
- O come, froggy faithful
- The cattle are blowing the baby away
- Hark, the hairy angels sing



EVERCREECH VILLAGE HALL

"Run by the community for the community"

Charity Number 304538



Evercreech Village Hall
Saturday December 6th

Doors open 6.45 pm
Eyes down 7.30 pm

Refreshments

Raffle prizes

Flyer !



A Evercreech Village Hall Production in aid of Village Hall Funds

The Chilla Youth Club

is open every

Wednesday evening



We celebrated Halloween with a lot of noise, dressing up and Halloween snacks.

Wellbeing issues

We need to promote safe exit at the end of the sessions. The old building was at the edge of the park and under street lights, our current building is in the middle of an large unlit area. We have some outside lighting now and are updating our records of parent's permissions allowed for their children to travel home.

We have also had to limit the amount each young person spends on sweets in the tuck shop, the "sugar rush" was phenomenal. The Co-op has kindly offered to provide fresh fruit each week.

As I write today, new flooring is being installed throughout the building. Non slip in the kitchen and toilets and hopefully better carpet tiles elsewhere.

Planning the Christmas decoration is now in progress, making the most of the walls and door panels. We also plan a Christmas party for the young people and our supporters.

With so much going on, its so good we have volunteers, but we do need a trained enthusiastic youth leader, we cannot afford to pay for one. Unfortunately grant providers are not keen to provide salary for such a post.

It is so good to see in a time when youth clubs across the country are closing we go forward with enthusiasm.

In our new Chilla Building we meet on a Wednesday Evening, times are:

- 8-11 year olds from 6.00pm to 7.30pm
- 12-16 year olds from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm.

Cost each session £2 per person

For more information please call Vikki on 07853 853221

Jaci Elliott

Evercreech Parish Council

Evercreech Cross

The monument has been repaired and made safe, ensuring its preservation. Despite unexpected delays and significant costs, the Parish Council contributed to the repairs, although they do not claim ownership of the cross.

We thank SW Heritage, B2 Architects, and Minerva for their support on this project.

The Planning Application for 40 houses 2024/0406/OUT at Prestleigh Road **was Rejected**. The Parish Council was not given the appropriate time to arrange an extraordinary meeting on the matter. This caused consternation with regards to ensuring that a Councillor could attend the meeting and arrange to speak on behalf of the Parish Council. However, we must thank Councillors Stanley and Williams for stepping in at such short notice. Also our Somerset Councillors Reed and Sully showed full support.



The PC agreed on the Draft Budget with some additions to earmarking items for maintenance. This will include the Village Cross/Preaching Stone, now that repairs are complete it will need ongoing care with regards to moss/algae build up over time.

Regarding The Millennium Gardens; we'd like to reach out to residents for ideas and suggestions regarding its future. It is an area of concern regarding anti-social behaviour and vandalism but belongs to the village, so your thoughts are important. Please email clerk@evercreech-pc.gov.uk with them.

The Parish Council is committed to ensuring the safety of all headstones at the Cemetery. A recent inspection has identified some headstones that were immediately unsafe, which have now been carefully laid down. There are several additional headstones requiring attention. We kindly request that you inspect your family plots and notify us of any unstable or loose headstones by contacting clerk@evercreech-pc.gov.uk. Please arrange for any necessary repairs to be carried out by a qualified Stonemason and inform the Parish Council once this work has been completed. We ask that all required safety measures be implemented by the end of January 2026. If any headstone remains unsafe after this date, the Parish Council will be obligated to lay them down. Thank you for your cooperation.

The PC welcomed our newest Cllr Daryl Issitt. **This means we have the full quota for Parish Council Councillors.**

The next meeting will be 7pm Tuesday 2nd December in Evercreech Village Hall.

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



email Somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com

Website <https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/>

South West Coaches will be running a SATURDAY SERVICE ONLY over the Christmas period from 20th until 31st December.

Weekday services affected:

Mon 22nd - Wed 24th

Mon 29th - Wed 31st

No buses run on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

The normal 2-hrly weekday bus service resumes on Friday 2nd January.

Sue Ehmann



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Support Services

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The Veterans Gateway, offers information, advice and support to veterans and their families. Phone 08088 011212, or visit: www.veteransgateway.org.uk

News from Yeovil Street Pastors

We had a lovely visit from the High Sheriff of Somerset, Janet Montgomery. She sent to us this message:

“It was wonderful to meet you on Saturday and also your wonderful team in Yeovil. I think you all provide a wonderful and caring service for the community of



Yeovil and I completely admire you for what you do. I fully understand and appreciate your underlying calling from God but nevertheless these late nights are a huge task to undertake. I really appreciated learning how you help those that find themselves on the street, in a completely non-judgemental and listening and caring way. Thank you to you all for your wonderful work.

The festive season is upon us, so may we take this opportunity to wish each of you, your family and friends, a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



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SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
2PM—4PM



**THE JUBILEE HALL,
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Doors open 7pm
Screening 7.45pm

Friday 12th December 2025

How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies

(Dir. Pat Boonnitipat / 2024 / 125 mins / 12A / Thai with subtitles)

When laidback M (Putthipong Assaratanakul) learns that his terminally ill grandmother (Usha Seamkhum) is nearing the end of her days, he moves in to take care of her - in the hope of securing her multi-million-dollar fortune. However, it proves harder to win his shrewd grandmother's favour than he first thought, and M discovers he's not the only interested party. A touching Thai drama that pulls at the heart-strings, but is laced with wit, humour and compassion.

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Bruton Choral Society Christmas Concert

Do get your tickets now for our Christmas Concert in St Mary's Church, Bruton at 7.30pm on Monday 15th December. The wonderfully atmospheric and ancient building will provide the perfect backdrop to enjoy some festive music with a glass of wine to add to the good cheer. As well as some well-known Christmas music and carols for all to sing, our main piece will be Cecilia McDowall's Christus Natus Est (a 5 movement Christmas Cantata accompanied by strings, percussion and organ), with Angela Ashworth as our soprano soloist and St Mary's Children's Choir and pupils from Bruton Primary School as our guests. And the occasion would not be complete without Ashley Marshfield and his now famous and virtuosic organ solos!

Advance tickets £12, £15 on the day, including a glass of wine, (children free) from Bruton Convenience Store, 01749 813161 or www.bruntonchoralsociety.org.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



Somerset Council's Libraries service is relaunching its Winter Coat Exchange scheme, designed to support the community by providing access to warm coats for anyone in need. Now in its third year, the scheme has been increasingly successful with 2,470 coats donated and 2,086 taken last winter. The excess donations were given to the charity RAFT – Refugee Aid From Taunton, who support displaced people locally and further afield, and works with other local charities/groups supporting a variety of different

causes. Shepton Mallet Library is taking part again this year. The scheme is simple:

- You can take a coat without making a donation.
- You can donate a coat without taking one.
- All donations must be of good quality and in a clean condition.
- Coats of any shape or size, for adults or children are accepted.

Donors are asked to hand items directly to a member of library staff.

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

Booking site: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theoldstoresstudio>

The Old Stores Studio CIC is a nonprofit art and craft studio and registered learning centre. As well as professional artist and maker led workshops, courses, events and exhibitions, we work in partnership with Somerset Council and DfE to deliver a FREE and low-cost creative learning programme and regular FREE donation only groups that run in the studio in **term time**:

Sunday/Monday Closed
 Tuesday 9am - 12pm & 12.30-2.30pm Bring Your Baby Art & Craft Sessions
 Wednesday 10am - 12pm Drop in Craft and Textile Group
 Thursday 10am – 12 noon Project LINUS (2nd Thursday of each month)
 7-9pm Evening Courses*
 Friday Daytime and Evening Courses and Workshops*
 Saturday Daytime Courses and Workshops*

* We have a wide range of creative learning opportunities on offer, visit our website for more information.



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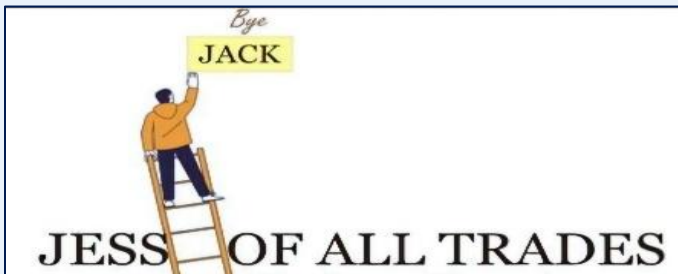
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