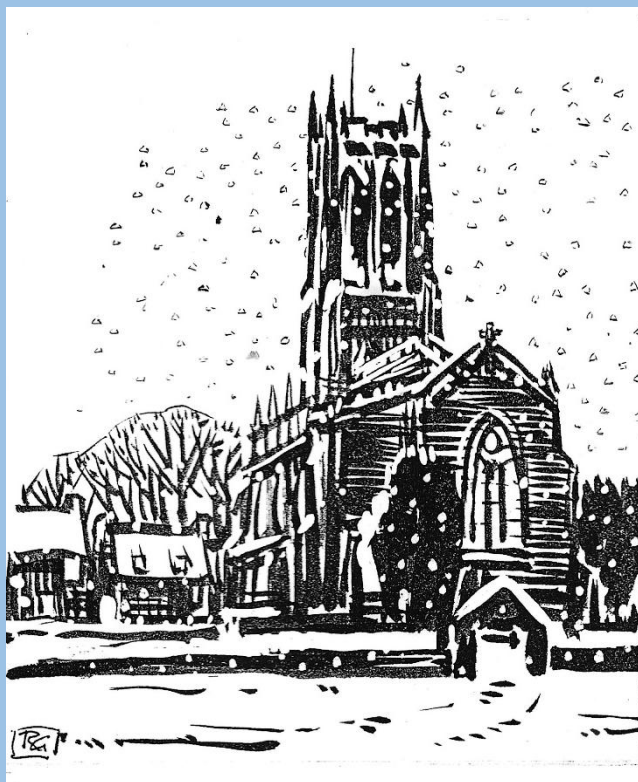




60p

# 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*



January 2026

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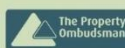
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Member Editor 2026  
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## Evercreech News Subscriptions for 2026 are due now.

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

**Many thanks to those who have already paid.**

The copy date for the  
**February 2026 Magazine is WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> January**

Please send items and diary dates to [evercreech.news@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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[www.redtilesbarn.com](http://www.redtilesbarn.com)

## **Costume Hire**

Evercreech Drama  
Group has a wide  
range of costumes which can  
be hired for any occasion.

Charges are subject to  
negotiation, but broadly £10  
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£10 refundable deposit  
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If you would like to  
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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*

## Who's Who

- VICAR:** Revd Helen Drever Tel: 01749 831053  
Mobile: 07949 181745  
Email: [vicaralhamvale@gmail.com](mailto:vicaralhamvale@gmail.com)
- CURATE:** Revd Jolyon Stonehouse 01749 830193  
[curatealhamvale@gmail.com](mailto:curatealhamvale@gmail.com)
- READERS:** Matthew Dawkins 07443 609124 [matthew.dawkins@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.dawkins@gmail.com)  
Sue Deyes 01749 831104 [sueanndeyes@gmail.com](mailto:sueanndeyes@gmail.com)  
Jen Richards 07846 863963 [jen.ern.r@outlook.com](mailto:jen.ern.r@outlook.com)  
Rob Sage 01749 850934 [robsage@uwclub.net](mailto:robsage@uwclub.net)  
Anne Sear 01749 838843 [sear.a@btinternet.com](mailto:sear.a@btinternet.com)
- LAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:** Michèle Hole 01749 830875  
Eleanor Dawkins [ed.85@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ed.85@hotmail.co.uk)
- LAY PIONEER** Wendi Davis 07927 045350  
[wendidavis@btinternet.com](mailto:wendidavis@btinternet.com)
- CHURCHWARDENS:**
- |                             |                   |  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Evercreech:                 | Michèle Hole      | 01749 830875   |
|                             | Alison Stonehouse | 01749 830193   |
| Milton Clevedon:            | Tessa Calver      | 01749 830242   |
|                             | Winkie Fry        | 01749 831088   |
| Lamyatt:                    | Anna Barnes       | <a href="mailto:banhamav@gmail.com">banhamav@gmail.com</a> |
|                             | Vacancy           |  |
| Chesterblade Chapel Warden: | Sue Carden        | 07970 413382   |
- BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** Emily Johnson [alhamvale@gmail.com](mailto:alhamvale@gmail.com)
- BENEFICE SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:**  
Liz Henderson [libbylonk@btinternet.com](mailto:libbylonk@btinternet.com)
- Websites:**
- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Alham Vale Benefice:     | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/alhamvale">www.facebook.com/alhamvale</a>                               |
| St. Peter's Church       | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stpetersevercreechevents">www.facebook.com/stpetersevercreechevents</a> |
| All churches             | <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com">www.achurchnearyou.com</a>                                       |
| Bruton Cary Deanery:     | <a href="http://www.bرتونandcarydeanery.net">www.bرتونandcarydeanery.net</a>                             |
| Diocese of Bath & Wells: | <a href="http://www.bathandwells.org.uk">www.bathandwells.org.uk</a>                                     |



## From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

As the New Year dawns many of us will find ourselves looking back on the joys and sorrows of the old year. There is a lull that comes after Christmas Day that naturally encourages such reflection. After all the build up to 25th December we might experience this pause with quiet relief, but we may also experience an anti-climax, perhaps even a touch of the “January blues”, if we do, hopefully they will be fleeting as we embrace the tantalising opportunity for a fresh start. I am still wedded to an old-fashioned paper diary and I love the neat blank pages - empty for now but full of possibilities.



The church already has a few things in its diary for January. We would love for you to join us. Epiphany falls on the 6th of the month, the date when most peoples' decorations come down. We will mark the star-led journey of the Magi that Epiphany celebrates on Sunday 4th. Some of you may have had your own special encounter with one of the Magi in St Peter's on the evening of Evercreech's village Christmas Tree light up. Come and join us to find out what happened next, and take inspiration from the Magi's example, trusting that even when the way ahead seems dark or uncertain, there is always a light to follow.

On Sunday 11th January we celebrate the Baptism of Christ. This marks the moment when Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan to begin his public ministry. It's an opportunity for a spiritual reset for all of us. Just as Jesus was affirmed as God's beloved, we are invited to start the year remembering that we too are loved and known. We don't need to make a long list of New Year's resolutions, join a gym, or lose a stone to be worthy of God's grace; we simply need to walk with him.

Finally, back by popular demand, our family friendly Café Church **Tractor Sunday** Service is back on 25th January, but don't go to the Village Hall, we'll be in the skittle alley of our wonderful village pub, The Bell. You won't be able to miss us as Matt Cradock will be parking one of Rodmore Farm's tractors on the forecourt! Do come and join us from 9.30am.

Wishing you a New Year filled with blessings,

*Helen*

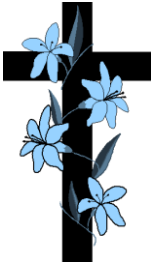
Revd. Helen Drever, Vicar of the Alham Vale Benefice

*This month's cover picture is by English Artist & Illustrator  
Reg Gammon (1894-1997) who lived in Priory Cottage at the east end of  
St Peter's Church in the 1960's.*

*Two postcard reproductions of pictures he drew are available  
in St Peters Church.*

## 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](mailto:Evercreech.news@gmail.com)



## DEATHS

**Nancy Sylvia Vincent** died on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025, aged 91 years. Her funeral was held in St Peter's Church Evercreech on 27<sup>th</sup> November followed by burial at Evercreech Cemetery.

**Joyce Edith Isobel Thorner** died on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025, aged 102 years. Her funeral was held in St Peter's Church Evercreech on 8<sup>th</sup> December followed by burial at Evercreech Cemetery.

## News from Zambia

There is troubling news of a toxic spill during mining operations in Zambia's Copperbelt into the Kafue river. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj6nly288j4o>  
This spillage occurred in the part of Zambia where our link church is situated.



Looking at the map, I assume that Mufulira and Kamuchanga are not downstream of the spillage, so hopefully not directly affected. They may be indirectly affected. Joseph Mwenya now lives in Kitwe, which is on the Kafue river. He has told me that a few months ago they were affected by toxic chemicals and had no water for about a month. Children could not go to school until they were told that the water was good to use.

Joeph also says, "Thank you for your support and prayers our wedding went well."

*Anne Sear, Link Correspondent*



## Church Services in the *Alham Vale Benefice*

### **SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> January      EPIPHANY (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

### **SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> January      BAPTISM OF CHRIST (White)**

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

### **SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> January      SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY (White)**

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
11.00 am	Matins or Informal Service	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe
4.30 pm	Praise & Pizza	St Peter, Evercreech

### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

10.30 am	Midweek Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
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### **SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> January      CONVERSION OF ST PAUL (White)**

9.30 am for 9.50	Tractor Sunday Service	The Bell Inn, Evercreech
9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Parish Communion	St James, Milton Clevedon
11.00 am	Parish Communion	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

### **SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> February      CANDLEMAS (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 – January 2026

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany</b> <i>9.30 am Parish 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
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January Baptism of Christ</b> <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Janet Rundle
	Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-9	Geoff Hamlet
	Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-end	Sue Deyes
	Prayers	Eric Deyes
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Eleanor Dawkins
	Sound	Gerald Fry
	Sacristan	Alan Henderson
	Refreshments	Meg Wallis & Lynda Nichols
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January Second Sunday of Epiphany</b> <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Andrew Nicholls
	Reading: Isaiah 49: 1-7	Mark Payne
	Gospel: John 1: 29-42	Peter Sear
	Prayers	Wendi Davis
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Meg Wallis
	Sound	Geoff Hamlet
	Sacristan	Belinda Canning
	Refreshments	Wendi & Martin Davis
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b> <i>10.30 am Said Communion</i>	Sacristan	Belinda Canning

<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Tractor Sunday</b> <i>9.30 am for 9.50 am</i> <i>Café Church at The</i> <i>Bell Inn, Evercreech</i>	Sidesperson	Samuel Dawkins
	Sidesperson	Sue Kewish
	Reading: Hebrews 2: 14-end	Cherry Lawson
	Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40	Eleanor Dawkins
	Prayers	Janet Rundle
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Andrew Nicholls
	Sound	Eric Deyes
	Sacristan	Peter Sear
<b>Sunday</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> February</b> <b>Candlemas</b> <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Refreshments	Gerald & Hazel Fry



## St Peter's Church Flowers

17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> January

### Altar

Mrs R Herlock

### Memorial

Mrs C Lawson



## Little Fishes

Returning after the Christmas Break on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:geoff@prestleigh.com)



## 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.

On 13<sup>th</sup> December the **Nativity Festival Coffee Morning** raised money for the **St Peter's Christmas Charities**.

The Coffee Morning on 10<sup>th</sup> January will be raising money for St James' Milton Clevedon, see page 14 for news from Milton Clevedon.

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](mailto:holemiche@aol.com)

## 2025 Christmas Charities

Thank you to everyone who has donated towards the 2025 Christmas Charities.



**The Dorset  
and Somerset  
Air Ambulance**



and

**St Peter's Church**

The total raised will be published in the February Magazine.



**'Have a Break'** Returns on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Chat, tea and cake for all ages.  
The first, second and fifth Tuesdays of each month  
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm in Evercreech Village Hall.

For more information please contact:

*Sue or Eric* on 01749 831104

## Nativity Festival Weekend 13th/14th December

It was fascinating to see the many different nativity scenes that members of the congregation brought to St Peter's to display over the weekend; there was everything from a tiny one which fitted into a small jewellery box to a colourful 'blow up' one that fitted perfectly into the Prayer Corner, not to mention some from faraway lands!

On the Saturday morning, a well attended Coffee Morning raised funds for this year's Christmas Charities. During the morning we were beautifully entertained by the Counterpoint Singers.

On Saturday evening we were treated to a marvellous concert, featuring International opera singer Marta Fontanals-Simmons, accompanied by her sister Nuri Fontanals and our former Musical Director Meredith Foster; it was a joyful evening of candlelit music and Christmas spirit.



## Storytelling for Advent

On a rather wet evening, in November, some characters came to the church for a special event. Visitors to the church could meet Mary in her kitchen and hear her story of being visited by an angel. There was dough to knead, herbs to smell and grapes and olives to try. Next stop was to the tent of one of the Magi. The smell of frankincense filled the air as he explained about his journey and showed visitors his star maps other treasures. Visitors then moved to the chilly hillside to meet one of the shepherds' friends, to get warm by the fire, feel the sheep's fleece and make a tree cookie decoration for the Christmas tree in the churchyard.

Storytelling is an important way to pass on all we know about Jesus, his teaching and his kingdom. Who will you share your story with in 2026?

*Wendī*

## Evercreech with Chesterblade PCC

When the PCC met on 27<sup>th</sup> November we heard that work on the organ should begin early in 2026.

The South Aisle door (from the kitchen to the outside) is rotten, and there are plans afoot to repair and repaint it. In due course the other outside doors will also need to be repainted.

Discussions are ongoing about the roof, the best way to approach repairs, and the timescales for fundraising and for the work to be undertaken. Meanwhile, if in wet and windy weather people find that water is dripping on them, they should feel free to move to another seat, even in the middle of a service.

The next PCC meeting will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. If there is anything that you would like PCC to discuss, please tell a PCC member or email me at [sear.a@btinternet.com](mailto:sear.a@btinternet.com), ideally before Standing Committee meets on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

*Anne Sear* (PCC Secretary)



**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

This year's local **Poppy Appeal** has so far raised a fantastic £30,103, with the generous businesses and people of Evercreech donating just over £1,600.

**On behalf of the RBL, serving personnel and veterans, Thank you!**

Did you know that you don't need to have served to become a member of the RBL? Are you interested in becoming a member and supporting your local branch to keep our Standard flying?

Come and join us at the Legion breakfast at The Bell Inn, 9.00 am on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a Legion Breakfast every 3rd Saturday of the month. To book a place please contact Richard on 07506 272669 or

email, [Richard.stevens3707@gmail.com](mailto:Richard.stevens3707@gmail.com)



## St Peter's Choir

We will be taking a break after singing at Christmas. If you are interested in the church choir please contact:

*Michael Castle*, Musical Director, [mcastlemusic@gmail.com](mailto:mcastlemusic@gmail.com)

# NEW YEAR'S CONCERT

JANUARY 3RD, 2026 | 2:30 PM |  
ST PETER'S CHURCH  
EVERCREECH

A violin recital featuring uplifting music  
by Mozart, Beethoven, Dvorak, Elgar,  
Paganini and Wieniawski

Violin: Rose Hodgson

Piano: Hugh Edwards

FREE CONCERT - RETIRING COLLECTION



## Iona-style services in this area

The Iona service for Advent held in Evercreech on 7<sup>th</sup> December went well, and it was good to see some new faces.

The next local Iona service will be

### An Iona Service For Epiphany

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 4.00pm

Castle Cary Methodist Church, BA7 7AT

Organised and led by local members of the Iona  
Community.

Everyone is welcome.



The Iona Community is a Scottish Charity.

Company No: SC096243.

Charity No: SC003794

If you would like to join in and be kept up to date on where the Iona Services are happening speak to Peter or Anne Sear or email David Osborne at

[drosborne2@btinternet.com](mailto:drosborne2@btinternet.com)

## Café Church presents Tractor Sunday



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January,  
9.30am for 9.50am  
The Bell Inn Skittle Alley,  
Evercreech**

A very special cafe church service to ask God to bless the seeds and the land. Whether you are planning on growing cress on your windowsill or a whole field of vegetables, come along to help us give thanks and pray for all that may grow in 2026.

An interactive service, with things to see, hear, do, taste and even smell!

*Wendy*



## Evercreech Church of England Primary School

Paradise Crescent, Evercreech, Somerset, BA4 6EH

Tel: 01749 830447

[www.evercreechprimary.co.uk](http://www.evercreechprimary.co.uk)  
[office@evercreech.ppat365.org](mailto:office@evercreech.ppat365.org)

### School Bibles

At the beginning of December it was a pleasure to be invited to Collective Worship at the school to present bibles to 28 children in Holly Class. Whilst Revd Helen presented each bible it was a pleasure to see how politely the children received them whilst practising their newly learned handshaking skills!

### School Services in St Peter's

It was a privilege to welcome children from the school to two services in St Peter's church during December -

Acorns Pre School and Holly Class presented their Nativity with narration by Oak Class and there were innkeepers, kings, stars, angels, shepherds and sheep aplenty, not to mention a very noble donkey!

This was followed later in the month by the school Carol Service. Thanks you to John for ringing the bells as the children arrived at St Peter's having missed the showers.

*Michèle* Churchwarden



### Evercreech Church of England Primary School and Acorns Preschool, part of PPAT Education

*Preston Primary Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*



### Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance clothing bank behind Evercreech Village Hall.

**It is important to them as much as  
the collecting tins so please donate  
any clothes or shoes replaced by  
Christmas presents.**

## News from Lamyatt

### HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

We will be starting off 2026 with our usual Coffee Morning on Saturday, 3rd January from 10.30 am until 12 noon in Lamyatt Village Hall. This will continue to run on the first Saturday of each month unless we let you know otherwise.



One of the lovely things about running the 100 club is making someone's day just a little bit brighter. So I was really pleased to pay out the December prizes just before Christmas to Kellie W, E R, and Ali S. January's draw will be made at the Coffee Morning with prizes of £50, £30 and £20. Come along and see if I can do the same for you.

It was wonderful to see a full church for our Carols and Christingles, which turned out to be a very fun service (many thanks to Eric and Sue - those who were there will know what I mean).

Our first church service of the year will be on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

**May 2026 be a year bringing increased riches of grace  
and knowing Gods presence more intimately**

*Jen Richards*



**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](mailto:sheptonmallet.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com)

***Very best wishes for a peaceful and blessed 2026 from all  
at St Michael's, Shepton Mallet.***

*Jacky Tucker*

## News from Milton Clevedon

After the excitement of St James Church and Manor Farm being chosen as a filming location for a new Apple TV drama series last year, the moment finally arrived. The first two episodes of Down Cemetery Road were released on 29th October. Lamyatt Village Hall was booked for a community evening and over 35 people came along to enjoy it, the free bar and delicious cheese donated by Westcombe Dairy. It was an exciting opening to the story, with superb acting by Emma Thompson and Ruth Wilson and an excellent script which was both witty and dark.



We decided to keep the event going so two more evenings took place and then the grand finale was on 12<sup>th</sup> December watching Episodes 7 and 8. St James and Manor Farm featured heavily in the explosive (literally) conclusion to the series and there were gasps in the audience when they saw what happened in the church!

Huge thanks go to Richard and Tessa Calver for agreeing to have their lives turned upside down by having a film crew on site for nearly a month and to Nick and Romy Smallwood who helped organise all the evenings at Lamyatt Village Hall, manned the bar and operated the projector.

*Winkie Fry*

## Mid-Somerset Flower Club

We wish all our members a very happy and healthy New Year. There is not a meeting in January but we hope to see everyone again at our February 11th meeting. There will be a Demonstration and as usual delicious home made tea and cakes. A warm and friendly welcome awaits everyone

For more information please contact:

Rose Herlock 01749 830681 and Margaret Elliott 01749 830209





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### **Time to learn to pray**

‘Lord, teach us to pray.’ In Luke’s Gospel it’s these words, spoken by the disciples, that cause Jesus to give them the Lord’s Prayer (Luke 11:1-4). Jesus says to his friends ‘When you pray say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each our daily bread. And forgive

us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.’

Many of us think that we should be able to pray automatically. And that if we can’t, it’s either because ‘it’s not our thing’ or because we’re failing. Yet in Luke’s Gospel, the disciples still need to ask Jesus how to pray, even after they’ve been knocking around with him for ages. So maybe we should give ourselves a break and accept that working out how to pray is not obvious and that all of us need to learn.

In 2026, I’m asking all of us across our diocese of Bath and Wells to make the year one of especial focus on prayer. I’m hoping we’ll all be able to say the words ‘Lord teach us to pray’ and that together we’ll all grow in our experience, understanding, insight and practice.

How can we learn about prayer? We have to make a start. We need to make some mistakes. We need to learn from others. It doesn’t happen in the abstract. Prayer is a ‘learning by doing thing’ where if we stick at it, we grow and change.

How might you learn to pray more this year? There isn’t a master plan designed to get everyone on their knees. Most action will happen locally where we can identify what we need, work out who can help us, and then get underway. Some simple resources designed to be helpful are being made available. More importantly, please do talk to your vicar or other church leaders about what might be possible where you are.

Together, let’s say these words in the year that is to come:

‘Lord, teach us to pray.’ A very happy New Year 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](mailto:evercreech.news@gmail.com)



Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10)

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 4.00 pm Iona Service, Castle Cary Methodist Church  
(see page 11)

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2.00 pm Have a Break, Evercreech Village Hall  
7.00 pm Evercreech Parish Council Meeting,  
Evercreech Village Hall

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 10.00 am Coffee Morning for Milton Clevedon Church,  
St Peter's Church

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 7.30 pm Evercreech WI, Evercreech Village Hall  
(see page 27)

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January ***Deadline for February Evercreech News***  
7.30 pm Evercreech Show Society EGM, Evercreech  
Village Hall (see page 21)

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 9.00 am RBL Breakfast, The Bell Inn Evercreech  
(see page 9)

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm History Society, Evercreech Village Hall  
(see page 22)

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 7.30 pm Evercreech PCC Meeting (see page 9)

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 7.30 pm Hamlet Evercreech Village Hall (see page 24)

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 9.30 am Tractor Sunday Café Church, The Bell Inn,  
Evercreech (see page 11)

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2.00 pm Friendship Club Evercreech Village Hall  
(see page 22)

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 8.30 am Men's Breakfast, The Bell Inn  
10.30 am Coffee Morning, Lamyatt Village Hall



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## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Evercreech Relief In Need** Charity Commission Registered – 205527  
Clerk: Michèle Hole, [holemiche@aol.com](mailto:holemiche@aol.com)

**Evercreech Food Larder** in the Car Park at the back of Evercreech Village Hall open 24 hours a day. Deborah Hogg [deborah.hogg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:deborah.hogg@yahoo.co.uk)

### Evercreech Foodsaving

[evercreechfoodsaving@gmail.com](mailto:evercreechfoodsaving@gmail.com) Jenny Newton 07535 002279

### Shepton Mallet Salvation Army Foodbank

A box at the back of St Peter's Church for donations (non-perishable items, unopened and in date please) or donate funds directly to:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tsa-community-support-000374](http://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.

**Citizens Advice:** [www.citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk)

Free Adviceline: **0808 2787842** Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

**Mendip Community Credit Union:** [mendipcommunitycu.org.uk](http://mendipcommunitycu.org.uk)  
[info@mendipcommunitycu.org.uk](mailto:info@mendipcommunitycu.org.uk) FREEPHONE 0800 6226036

**Safe Families** [www.safefamilies.uk](http://www.safefamilies.uk)

local volunteers – Clare & Paul Robinson [robinsons.2017@btinternet.com](mailto:robinsons.2017@btinternet.com)

### Other services offering Wellbeing for Young People

[www.hubofhope.co.uk](http://www.hubofhope.co.uk) [www.youngsomerset.org.uk/wellbeing-support](http://www.youngsomerset.org.uk/wellbeing-support)  
[www.somersetbigtent.org.uk](http://www.somersetbigtent.org.uk) [www.cypsomersethealth.org](http://www.cypsomersethealth.org)

**Age UK Somerset** [www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset)

**British Red Cross** [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk)

**Samaritans** [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

### The Royal British Legion

Support Services 0808 802 8080 [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

**The Old Stores Studio CIC** [theoldstoresstudio.wixsite.com/theoldstoresstudio](http://theoldstoresstudio.wixsite.com/theoldstoresstudio)  
01749 830498 [theoldstoresstudio@gmail.com](mailto:theoldstoresstudio@gmail.com)

**Wilfs Wood** Leighton Lane

[www.wilfswood.wordpress.com](http://www.wilfswood.wordpress.com)

[wilfswood@gmail.com](mailto:wilfswood@gmail.com)

## Driving an ambulance to Ukraine to help save lives

Mighty Convoy (MC) is a not-for-profit charitable organisation and its aim is to raise funds for the purchase and delivery of second-hand ambulances and 4x4 pick-up trucks packed with medical supplies to Ukraine. MC has partnered with ICMDA in the UK and the Christian Medical Association Ukraine (CMAU) in Lviv, which is where the vehicles are delivered.

Everyone involved is a volunteer, including all drivers, who not only volunteer their time but also pay for their own expenses and flights home. So far, MC has organised 20 convoys to Ukraine, raised over £500,000, and donated over 80 ambulances and pick-up trucks, plus lots of aid.

It costs £7000 to buy an ambulance or pick-up truck and drive it to Ukraine. These vehicles and equipment are making a huge impact in a country that continues to be in desperate need of our support.

I am raising funds to buy and drive an ambulance or pick-up truck with a friend on the journey of approximately three days in January 2026. To do this we need to raise £7,000 to pay for the vehicle, fuel, insurance and passage. The aid we will take is donated.

Ukraine, right now, as you know, is in dire need of help in its fight against Russia and this is the best way I can help in a practical and direct way. And what an adventure it will be!



If you would like to make a donation, please use the QR code which will take you to my Just Giving page. Alternatively, go to Just Giving, enter my name in the search box at the top and click on Convoy Project. Thank you for your generosity and support.

*Winkie Fry,*  
Higher Greenscombe Farm, Milton Clevedon





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. In December, 86 quilts, 6 big blankets 47 Christmas stockings and 17 soft knitted toys were delivered,

The photo shows the deliveries to Yeovil children's ward, Musgrove Hospital children wards and neonatal intensive care unit.

Last month I wrote about the preparation of the stall we had at the Craft 4 Crafters show on the Bath and West Showground. Once again I must thank all who gave us items, we use what we can and the excess is sold to raise money for more children themed fabrics. The amount raised here was an amazing £1550.



On the same Saturday it was the Evercreech Show's Christmas fayre, a group of helpers worked on the Project Linus UK table there and raised another £200.

My 2026 hope is to get as many pieces of our work as possible into the pastoral care areas of Somerset schools.

To find out more about Project Linus please contact me:

*Jaci Elliott*

01749 838809 [jaci.elliott@btinternet.com](mailto:jaci.elliott@btinternet.com)

A banner with a yellow background and black text, flanked by stylized black and white tent-like shapes.

## EVERCREECH SHOW SOCIETY

**SAVE OUR SHOW**

# **Community Meeting**

**Evercreech Village Hall**

**7.30 pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Next year would be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Village Show, but sadly there is every chance that there won't be a show, or a Plant Sale, or a Christmas Fayre in 2026.

Due to several retirements, we just won't have enough people to organise it.

We are holding an Extraordinary General Meeting in Evercreech Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January and invite anyone who is interested in Saving Our Show to attend.

Come along for a chat and find out more. It's a great way to meet new people and get involved in the local community.

For more information contact

[evercreechshow@aol.com](mailto:evercreechshow@aol.com)

[www.evercreechshowsociety.uk](http://www.evercreechshowsociety.uk)

[www.facebook.com/evercreechshowsociety](https://www.facebook.com/evercreechshowsociety)

A banner with a yellow background and black text, flanked by stylized black and white tent-like shapes.

## EVERCREECH SHOW SOCIETY





## Evercreech Friendship Club

***"Where Friends are Made"***

First may we wish everyone

**"A Very Happy and Healthy New Year"**

We hope you had a nice Christmas. We are now preparing our programme for 2026 with new speakers and the return of popular speakers from the past. January 27<sup>th</sup> it's "Sing-a-long" words on the big screen so memory not required! then February 24<sup>th</sup> Bring-and-buy" as they say "every little helps"!

Unlike price increases everywhere, our entrance fees remain the same in 2026, just £1.50 for members and £2 for visitors. 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.

**God Bless and KEEP SAFE!!**

For more information please contact:

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

## Evercreech History Society

[www.evercreechhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.evercreechhistorysociety.org.uk)



Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30 p.m.

Evercreech Village Hall

### **The Exciting Civil War of Dr James Dugdale Vicar of Evercreech**

Our first meeting in 2026 commences with Ben Hodgson, who will be telling us about Dr Dugdale, the Vicar in Evercreech during the time of the Civil War.

Ben has researched this subject extensively and has found some fascinating facts which he would like to share with us; these include gun battles with Parliamentary troopers, incarceration in a notorious hell-hole prison and not forgetting the women of Evercreech who went on the rampage.

To learn more on this subject please join us on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January in the Village Hall, commencing 7.30 p.m.

The cost is £3.00 per person (cash only please). We will have our book table displaying the various publications of local interest for you to purchase.

*Val Bath* Secretary



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

[www.evercreechvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.evercreechvillagehall.org.uk)  
[bookings@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk)

*Run by the Community for the Community Charity Number 304538*

Evercreech Village Hall had a busy December with Christmas Bingo and Hot Potato Lunch. It was lovely to see the place full with people enjoying themselves. As ever many thanks for the teams of volunteers that worked so hard to organise, run and clear up. Also, thanks to the local clubs and businesses for providing an amazing range of Bingo and raffle prizes. These two events raised over £1100 which are a very welcome contribution to the Hall funds. It has not been an easy year for our Treasurer as he has had to pay out for a number of electrical failures of amplifier, dishwasher and screen controller so you have kept him reasonably happy! Thanks Richard.

With all that happening there was no NT Live play in December but the New Year sees a new programme, three of which have been announced. Hamlet on the 24<sup>th</sup> January looks different with a contemporary setting. (Details on page 24) and a trailer is on the [Village Hall Facebook page](#). You can also see the three new ones in the Events on Facebook or the website [evercreechvillagehall.org.uk/ntlive](http://evercreechvillagehall.org.uk/ntlive). As there is a gap in the programme we will be showing the film 'Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale' as a matinee on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

In order to give the Hot Potato Lunch Team a break after a hectic December there will not be a Hot Potato Lunch in January but they will be back to get you through the depths of February on the 17<sup>th</sup> that is Shrove Tuesday, but I'm not sure we can offer pancakes!

Thank you to all our hirers and the members of the Committee for their support and actions. We look forward to keeping the Hall busy in 2026. If it's not too late Happy New Year to all those readers who got this far.

*Nic Jefferis* Chair, Evercreech Village Hall  
Email: [chair@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:chair@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk) Mobile: 07810 055996



## EVERCREECH VILLAGE HALL NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

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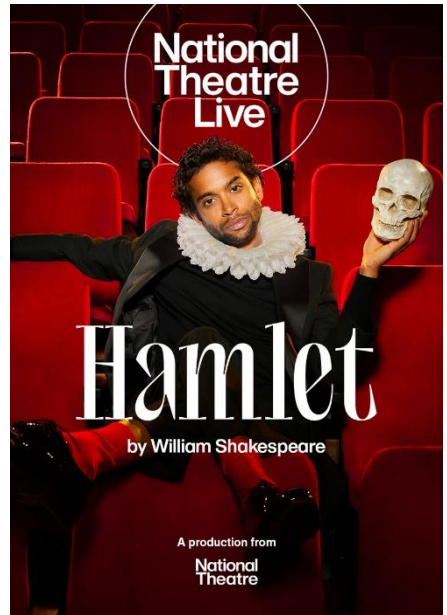
**'Abeysekera's Hamlet is charming,  
cheeky and cunning'**

*Upcoming*

On **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm**

Evercreech Village Hall will be screening a performance from the National Theatre Live of **Hamlet** by William Shakespeare. Directed by Robert Hastie. This performance will be screened as recorded LIVE from London's West End. *Running time Approx 3 hours including interval.* Olivier Award-winner Hiran Abeysekera (Life of Pi) is Hamlet in this fearless, contemporary take on Shakespeare's famous tragedy. Trapped between duty and doubt, surrounded by power and privilege, young Prince Hamlet dares to ask the ultimate question – you know the one.

National Theatre Deputy Artistic Director Robert Hastie (Standing at the Sky's Edge, Operation Mincemeat) directs this sharp, stylish and darkly funny reimaging.



Join us for a relaxing evening with refreshments available at the bar, and comfortable cabaret style seating. Doors open 7pm, feature starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £10. Certificate 12A.

For further information and to book please see [www.evercreechvillagehall.org.uk/ntlive](http://www.evercreechvillagehall.org.uk/ntlive) or scan the QR code which will take you straight to the Village Hall information and booking page. Tickets also available on the door.

# The Chilla Youth Club

## is open every

### Wednesday evening



The changes in the Youth Club in the last month have been quite amazing, the floors are now laid across the building. We have also had a great clear up of building works and we now have a 'quiet room'. If ever there was a greater misnamed room! The first time we used this room it was more packed than the club room.

We had to quickly paper over some inappropriate drawings on the walls, which had previously been a changing room. Stimulated by this, we hope to have the rest of the club rooms painted next month.

The fresh fruit donated by the Coop each night is very welcome, usually bananas satsumas and grapes, children have no time to peel fruit! We celebrated Christmas with our successful Christmas party. Lots of food, games and noise.

With so much going on, it's 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.

At a time when youth clubs across the country are closing it is so good to see that we go forward with enthusiasm. We welcome the government's new pledge to support youth work in the future.

Some evenings in the cool down period before the young people leave or are collected we have a Best Joke competition. The winner last night:

What do you call false spaghetti. Impasta.

If you need more information please call Vikki on 07853 853221

**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

Reflecting on 2025, it has been quite an eventful year for the council.

With the help of Somerset County, we've seen the speed limit reduced on the A371 in order to reduce accidents at the notorious Pecking Mill Corner.

Victoria Square has had a new facelift in terms of lines painted and Car Park spaces identified. Many of the white road markings around the village have been repainted.

The Village Cross recently underwent a successful repair. Several bins have been replaced around the village.

Even the Bus Shelter is now more colourful with designs from the children in Acorns Preschool.

The Parish Council can now receive deed of ownership of the ex-cricket club pavilion. This has allowed the Youth Club to have better facilities. They, with the Cricket Club, have worked tirelessly on its refurbishment to make the pavilion fit for purpose. This will be an asset to the village going forward.

Councillors were glad to see so many residents taking part in community events, with hopefully many more to come in 2026!

***The Parish Council would like to extend our best wishes to you all for 2026.***

The next meeting will be 6<sup>th</sup> January in Evercreech Village Hall at 7pm.

*Lesley Parham* Chair Evercreech Parish Council

[Lesley.parham@evercreech-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.parham@evercreech-pc.gov.uk)



email [Somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com](mailto:Somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com)

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

For information: from 22<sup>nd</sup> December Frome Bus have taken over running the 669 service between Shepton and Street - there are no changes to existing timetable.

Do you use, or might you consider catching, the 162 Shepton-Frome bus? In particular I would like feedback relating to the bus stop at Church Lane, Doulling, travelling from Shepton. Some locals have mentioned they are too afraid to use that stop as they consider it extremely dangerous. Has that stopped you from getting on or off there? Sadly we risk losing services if it appears nobody uses them. Therefore we must utilise what we have by making them safer with the aim to increase usage so we can work on extending the timetables.

Are there other bus stops where you feel vulnerable - perhaps on a busy road, or maybe inadequate lighting? Please let me know.

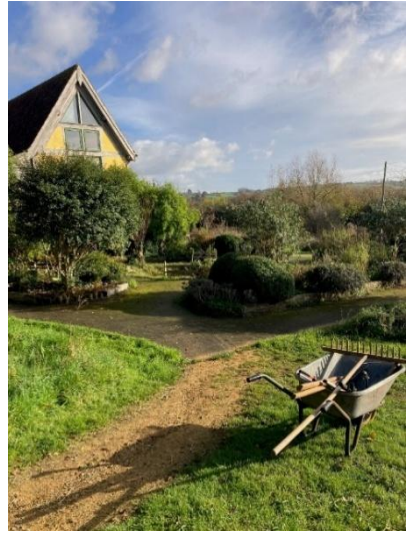
*Sue Ehmman*



## 2026 is a big year for Carymoor.

It is 30 years since we first began our environmental education from the landfill site at Dimmer Lane. Over that time we have had 1,000s of school children and adults visit us to be inspired to care for the environment.

During the year we have planned 30 different events, to showcase what Carymoor is all about. The first event that is open to the public is our Wassail on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm. Do come and join us to learn about this tradition, tour our heritage orchard, and enjoy some mulled apple juice. Booking essential so we know how many people are coming and tickets can be booked via our website.



Why not follow us on Facebook to see what other events and celebrations we have planned or see our website What's on page. [www.carymoor.org.uk](http://www.carymoor.org.uk)

## Evercreech WI

In December, we treated ourselves to a delicious meal at The Bell. It meant we could all relax and there was no clearing up for us to do.

We meet again on 13<sup>th</sup> January, at 7.30pm in Evercreech Village Hall. We are having a social evening, with games, chatter and of course a cup of tea. For anyone wishing to get to know us this would be a great opportunity, so come along and join us. For women thinking of joining us there is no charge to visit.

*Maxine Clinton* (President) 07939 082521 [clintonmaxine@gmail.com](mailto:clintonmaxine@gmail.com)





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*A friendly, family run village pub, serving  
delicious homemade food. The Bell Inn has a  
great selection of ales, ciders, lagers & wines  
that you can enjoy in our beer garden or in  
front of the fire.*

Breakfast Served Mon - Sat: 9 - 11am, Sunday: 9 - 10am

Food Served Mon - Sat: 12 - 9pm, Sunday: 12 - 4pm

Sunday Carvery Served until 4pm

Daily Menu & Specials Board

Senior Citizens eat for £7.95 every Thursday

Ensuite B&B Rooms

Skittle Alley & Function Room

Outdoor Bar & Catering Available

Free Wifi

Dog Friendly

Beer Garden

Bar Open All Day, Everyday

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

