



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*



**February 2026**



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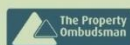
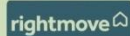
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Member Editor 2026  
Association for Church Editors

## Evercreech News Subscriptions

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  
**March 2026 Magazine is WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> February**

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.

### **Would you like to advertise in Evercreech News?**

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

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|                             | Winkie Fry        | 01749 831088   |
| Lamyatt:                    | Anna Barnes       | <a href="mailto:banhamav@gmail.com">banhamav@gmail.com</a> |
|                             | Vacancy           |  |
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- Websites:**
- |                          |  |
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| 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>                                       |
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## From the Vicarage

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

In February I often gaze out of the sitting room window onto the garden. I try to imagine the cold dark earth being transformed by the incoming spring's warmth back into riotous colour. For now we are very much in the grip of winter, but while the nights are still a bit too long, hope rises again with the first of the snowdrops, heralds of the glories to come. These are the chilly in-between days, but there is still much in our parishes to warm our hearts.



First off we have Pancake Day on Shrove Tuesday, with its simple but joyful pleasures. I wonder what your favourite toppings are; do you go for sugar and lemon, butter and maple syrup, banana and nutella, or something savoury? In my family, true to our northern roots, only golden syrup would do. As an adult I experimented with more sophisticated alternatives but they just didn't hit the spot. Nothing else gives me that same feel good nostalgia rush, and in a time of food inflation a pocket friendly one too.

Of course Shrove Tuesday heralds Ash Wednesday just as the snowdrops herald the spring. I find the Ash Wednesday service with its imposition of ashes one of the most dramatic and meaningful of the church year. To come forward and have a blackened cross of ashes smeared on your forehead is a powerful symbol of faith. It marks the beginning of Lent and the long walk Jesus made to the cross. Traditionally it's a time for giving things up, often chocolate or alcohol. There's no doubt that there's value in this, but I can't help feeling that at this time adding something spiritually nourishing to our daily lives might bring about a greater good.

Perhaps in Lent 2026, amid the clamour of the world, we could practise forty days of small, quiet kindnesses. This might include making time to call an old friend, checking in on a neighbour who lives alone, or simply making time each morning to pray or sit in silence resting in the presence of God. Many of us live at such a pace that the greatest gift we can give ourselves, and those around us, is permission to slow down. The modern cult of busyness is not the work of God. Therefore this Lent I challenge you to turn to Christ and breathe...

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



**Oliver Jack Lampert** was baptised at St Peter's Evercreech on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

This month's cover photo shows snowdrops. Here is a poem from The Green Heart of the Snowdrop, a collection of poems by the late Kate McIlhagga from the Iona Community:

### ***A Green Heart***

*Into a dark world  
a snowdrop comes,  
a benison  
of hope and peace,  
carrying within it  
a green heart,  
symbol of God's renewing love.*

*Come to inhabit our darkness  
Lord Christ,  
for dark and light  
are alike to you.*

*May nature's white candles of hope  
remind us of your birth  
and light our journey  
through Lent and beyond.*



## Church Services in the *Alham Vale Benefice*

### **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

### **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> February    SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Green)**

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

### **SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> February    SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT (Green)**

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

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February    ASH WEDNESDAY**

7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
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### **SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> February    FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Purple)**

9.30 am for 9.50	Café Church	Evercreech Village Hall
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

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

10.30 am	Midweek Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
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### **SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> March    SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Purple)**

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 – February 2026

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February Candlemas</b>  <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	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
	Refreshments	Gerald & Hazel Fry
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February Second Sunday before Lent</b>  <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Sonia Boyle
	Reading: Romans 8: 18-25	Sam Phripp
	Gospel: Matthew 6: 25-end	Samuel Dawkins
	Prayers	Eleanor Dawkins
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Geoff Hamlet
	Sound	Andrew Nicholls
	Sacristan	Belinda Canning
	Refreshments	Wendi & Martin Davis
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February Sunday next before Lent</b>  <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Geoff Hamlet
	Reading: Exodus 24: 12-end	Sue Kewish
	Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9	Liz Henderson
	Prayers	Belinda Canning
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Liz Henderson
	Sound	Alan Henderson
	Sacristan	Alan Henderson
	Refreshments	Sue Kewish & Sonia Boyle
<b>18<sup>th</sup> February ASH WEDNESDAY</b>  <i>7.30 pm Ash Wednesday Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Churchwarden
	Reading: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17	Sue Deyes
	Gospel: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21	Eric Deyes
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Sue Deyes
	Sound	Geoff Hamlet
	Sacristan	Peter Sear

<b>Sunday</b> <b>22<sup>nd</sup> February</b> <b>First Sunday of Lent</b> <i>9.30 am for 9.50 am</i> <i>Caf� Church</i> <i>Evercreech Village</i> <i>Hall</i>	Sidesperson	Dawn Aldworth
	Refreshments	Clare & Paul Robinson
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February <i>10.30 am</i> <i>Said Communion</i>	Sacristan	Alan Henderson
<b>Sunday</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b> <b>Second Sunday</b> <b>of Lent</b> <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Andrew Nicholls
	Reading:	Daphne Roach
	Gospel:	Emily Simper
	Prayers	Mollie Purse
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Janet Rundle
	Sound	Alistair Roach
	Sacristan	Peter Sear
	Refreshments	Lynda Nichols & Meg Wallis

## Help required on Sundays (and weekdays!).

It takes quite a lot of help to properly run a Sunday service at St Peter's and we would like to invite new people to consider the many aspects of the service and where their time and talents lie in relation to this.

Could you read one of the bible readings, help with the sound system or write the Prayers of Intercession? Or maybe you would feel more comfortable 'meeting and greeting' as a Sidesperson, or could make and serve the refreshments after the service? Perhaps Sundays are not for you, but perhaps would like to spend some time in the church doing some cleaning?

Whatever you feel you could offer, we would love to hear from you.

Many thanks,

*Mich le and Alison* (your Churchwardens)



## St Peter's Church Flowers

7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> February  
Lent

**Altar**  
Mrs S Kewish  
No Flowers

**Memorial**  
Mrs C Lawson

## Little Fishes

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)

## 'Have a Break'

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



## Royal British Legion Breakfast Club

I am happy to announce that Anna and the amazing staff at The Bell Inn have agreed to hold a monthly Breakfast Club to support our members, serving armed forces and blue light personnel, veterans, their families and those in our community who are feeling lonely.

The February Breakfast will be at 9.00 am on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February. If you would like to come along for some of Abby's finest mess scoff, or to pull up a sandbag and share tales of derring-do, join in light-hearted banter with your oppo's or just want some company, please let me know

*Richard Stevens* Chair Evercreech Branch  
07506 272669 email: [Richard.stevens3707@gmail.com](mailto:Richard.stevens3707@gmail.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 10<sup>th</sup> January the **Coffee Morning** run by St James' Milton Clevedon raised £261 for them. (see page 12)

The **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February** will be raising money for **Evercreech Show Society** ( see page 21)

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)

## New Year's Concert

Once again the first Saturday afternoon in January proved popular for an afternoon concert performed by talented local violinist **Rose Hodgson**, accompanied by Hugh Edwards on piano.

Around 65 people enjoyed a varied programme including pieces by Elgar, Beethoven and Mozart. Proceeds from the retiring collection will be shared between Macmillan Cancer Support and St Peter's Church.

We look forward to more concerts in St Peter's in the coming year.

*Michèle* Churchwarden

## Fairtrade Easter Egg with 24 page Easter story / activity booklet

Not available from the Supermarket.

On sale at the Fairtrade Coffee Morning in St Peter's Church on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March.  
To be sure of yours order now from Carol on  
**07732 783190** [searlecarol25@gmail.com](mailto:searlecarol25@gmail.com)

Also available from  
[www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)



## Evercreech with Chesterblade PCC

A report on the PCC meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January will be in the March Magazine.

**A date for your diaries:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in St Peter's Church.

The Annual Vestry Meeting, when we elect Churchwardens, followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), reports and accounts will be available before these meetings. This is your chance to vote and to have your say. Please put the date in your diary now.

*Anne Sear* (PCC Secretary)

## Organ and Sound Update

I am pleased to report that work has started on the organ renovation and repairs. Lance Foy Organ Builders have braved the journey from Truro three times since the New Year and are making good progress. Each time leaving the organ loft tidy and the with the organ still being playable. I was actually able to walk behind the organ for the first time and see the beautiful stained glass window that sits behind it.



They are due to return for another two visits and will bring an electrician. This will enable them to put lights within the organ that can be turned on to aid tuning and work inside the organ and update all the electrics for it. At the same time we are hoping that the electrician will be able to re-install back lighting for the west window (which had fallen into disrepair as it could not be accessed) so the beautiful window can be viewed at night.

We are making progress with the new sound system and have visited two churches to listen to their systems and have two further visits planned. It is very important that we make the right decision on which music system and speakers we use, so are taking our time rather than rushing. It is not an easy area and the galleries add a further complexity to it. After all the effort that has gone into the fund raising, it is important that we get it right.

*Alison* (Churchwarden)

Thank you to everyone for lending us your Nativity Sets. We have one left, in half a walnut, we are keeping it safe, please ask us for it.

*Michèle & Alison* Churchwarden

## 2025 Christmas Charities

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the 2025 Christmas Charities. Money raised at the Community Christmas Tree Lighting, Coffee Morning and Christmas Services totalled £998-41. Adding Gift Aid gives a total of around £1,166; £291 for each of the three charities supported (see below) with a similar amount going to St Peter's.

At the Crib Service on Christmas Eve these prayers for the Charities were used:

Lord Jesus, you were born in the poverty of that stable in Bethlehem. We pray for those people who do not enjoy the good things in life we take for granted. And especially we pray for those children who are cared for in the **Melon Mission School** in Kenya. Bless those children with your love, and all who care for them. And we give thanks that Liz encourages us as a church family to support all that she does for those children.

**Amen**



Lord Jesus, you cared for those who were sick and injured and healed them. We pray for the work of the **Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance**, for the doctors and nurses and for the helicopter pilots who use their

differing skills to bring your healing love to those who are hurting. Over the years the lives of at least three of our church family and many others from our village have been saved. And so for this and all their healing work we thank you. **Amen**

Lord Jesus, you grew up in a family that loved you and kept you from harm. We thank you for our own families as we share Christmastime together. But not all children grow up in families where there is lots of love. And so we pray for the **Safe Families** charity who support families where there is need of love, who bring hope and care to children who are distressed. Lord Jesus, we pray that you will show your loving care through us to anyone going through times of difficulty. **Amen**



And lastly, as we pray for families we pray for your own church family here in Evercreech. May we show our love for you each day in our worship, in our caring for your people and your world ... and because you love us and care for us. **Amen**

*Please see news of Liz Henderson's next trip to Melon Mission on page 26.*

## The Glen

As part of St Peter's Church, services are held at the Glen on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00pm. Residents, family and sometimes staff join us for these services. The residents enjoy singing the old hymns that they learnt when they were younger. We would love you to join us to boost the singing and make new friendships with the residents. Some of whom do not have family or friends living locally. The service lasts up to 1 hour and is a lovely interactive way to spend an afternoon.



I also visit residents in their rooms, chatting and offering communion and chatting with the staff.

*Sue Deyes*

## Iona-style services in this area

Local members of the Iona Community hold monthly Iona services in the area (Castle Cary, Evercreech and neighbouring villages) on the first Sunday of every month, at 4pm. The next local service will be:

**An Iona Service  
to celebrate  
St Brigid**



**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 4.00pm  
St Andrew's Church, Ansford, BA7 7LD**

**Organised and led by local members of the  
Iona Community.  
Everyone is welcome.**



**For more information contact  
David or Madron  
on 01963 351275**

The Iona Community is a Scottish Charity.  
Company No: SC096243. Charity No: SC003794



## LENT PRAYER COURSE

An eight-week journey through the Lord's Prayer. For those curious about prayer and for those who have been praying for years. Every evening will start with drinks and snacks. The course uses videos, conversation and activities to explore what Jesus teaches us about prayer.

The Lent Prayer Course will be running on two days in two venues. Pick which venue and day suits you best. If you cannot make a week, don't worry - we can always share links to the videos for the weeks you may have to miss:

Tuesdays at 7.30pm, The Old School, Batcombe

(contact [alison.jolyon@gmail.com](mailto:alison.jolyon@gmail.com) for more info)

24th February, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> April

Wednesdays at 7pm, Evercreech Village Hall

(Contact [wendidavis@btinternet.com](mailto:wendidavis@btinternet.com) for more info)

25th February, 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> April

You can find more information about the Prayer Course at [prayercourse.org](http://prayercourse.org),

*Wendy*

## News from Milton Clevedon

After the atrocious weather at the beginning of the week we were delighted that although cold it was very sunny on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> January when we hoped to welcome friends and neighbours to coffee at St. Peter's Church. This might seem a little strange since we have our own beautiful church at Milton Clevedon but at the present time we have no catering facilities and no efficient heating.



So with the generous co-operation of St. Peter's we had a very well attended mix of both congregations. It was a great start to the New Year!

*Tessa Calver*

## News from Lamyatt

2025 started out a difficult year for St Mary & St John's here in Lamyatt with three key people moving away, at a time when we were busy fundraising for new heating. Well, one year on, we are pleased to tell you that things are back on an even keel now. More than that, recently we were thrilled to be able to send the following round the village:



"The Lamyatt PCC are delighted to let you know that, thanks to the generosity and fundraising efforts of many - and a welcome boost from The Benefact Trust who provided a grant towards the final costs - we now have a new heating system installed and up and running in the Church during services. We very much look forward to welcoming you for future services in a much warmer church."

There is no room here to mention all the many individuals/groups or events involved in raising money and achieving this, but we would like to extend our deep and sincere thanks to everyone who helped. Without you all, we could not have done it.

With well-attended and joy-filled harvest, then Christmas services, *and* new heating, we have a new-found confidence that we can build on this as we go round the seasons again. It won't be long until we are celebrating Easter again, the veg table will be back in the bus shelter, warmer weather will be here with Shakespeare returning to Lamyatt, and we will be thinking possibly about Lammas, Hymns and Pimms etc. We are always keen to have feedback on what we offer, so let us know.

As to other matters, the village Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 7th, February from 10.30 am to 12 noon in Lamyatt Village Hall when the 100 club will be drawn. Last month's winners were: Soo and David C, Simone A, and Anne S - lovely to have two first time winners!

*Jen Richards*

### **Granny is talking to her granddaughter.**

"I will always be 45 years older than your dad but now the digits in my age are the same as your dad's but reversed and the digits are two prime numbers. How old are we?"

### **How do you make the number one disappear by adding to it.**

*See page 22 for the answers*



### **Generations growing in faith together**

Our extended family recently got together for a celebration. We were nine adults from 24-68, one toddler, and one dog, and it was glorious! The joy was simply in being together, whatever our age.

I sometimes wonder what would happen in the life of our churches if we could adopt the same outlook there? Each generation glad that the other is there. Each generation contributing something to the whole. Each generation looking to the interests of the others, making sure there was something that spoke to the others even if not to them.

The writer of the Chronicles records something you could miss if you weren't looking for it. In 2 Chronicles 20, when Judah was facing attack from Ammon and Moab, King Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast and summoned the people. This is what it says in verse 13:

“All Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.”

At a time of great peril, when the king was seeking the LORD, all generations came together to pray.

We often think of intergenerational meaning us older ones passing on wisdom to the younger ones, and that's certainly part of it. But a truly intergenerational family, which the church is, means all generations welcoming one another, valuing one another, learning from one another, and praying with and for one another. It's not a one-way thing.

Our younger generations are ambassadors from the future, with wisdom to give us about their culture, and how to share the timeless truths of the gospel with their peers. They are leaders and learners, just as we all are.

What might it look like across our diocese if we committed to making room for other generations? What might it look like if, like the people of God in ancient times, we came together in our year of especial focus on prayer - adults, young people, and little ones - and sought the power and wisdom of God together? I have a feeling we'd be surprised!

*Fiona Gibson Who will become Bishop of Taunton on 8 February, 2026*

## Welcoming our new Bishop of Taunton

The Venerable Dr Fiona Gibson, Archdeacon of Ludlow, will be consecrated as Bishop of Taunton at a service in Southwark Cathedral, London on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February. This will be followed by a service of Welcome and Installation at Wells Cathedral on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, at 3:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Following this Fiona will take up her role in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.



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

Park Road, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP

<https://stmichaelsshepton.co.uk>

Email: [sheptonmallet.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:sheptonmallet.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com)

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

01458 835931 (Admin Office)

Email: [sheptonmallet.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:sheptonmallet.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com)



The Christmas season is over and the Crib Figures are carefully packed away for another year. We are into Ordinary Time and our young people are well into preparation classes for their First Holy Communion at Easter. They meet on Wednesday afternoons, after school, and Fr Mark has arranged to combine this with a weekday Mass at 5pm instead of Thursday mornings as previously.

In 2024 the Catholic Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland announced minor revisions to the Readings at Mass. This change primarily involved the use of a new, mandatory translation of the scriptures, not a revision of the Order of Mass itself. Frustratingly we were obliged to renew all but one of the six sets of a hundred Mass books used by the congregation each week. All is not wasted though; one clever idea has been to bundle them into individual sets for distribution to the sick and housebound who are unable to attend Mass, or anyone wishing to have the text at home. If this might be of interest please message us via the website.

Anyone visiting the church recently will have noticed a new feature just inside the entrance. Now that card payments have generally taken over from real cash, we have at last embraced this trend and installed a Dona card payment machine. This can receive cashless payment for donations and sales from our cupboard of devotional goods. Cash is still very acceptable though!

*Jacky Tucker*



## DIARY

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2.00 pm Have a Break, Evercreech Village Hall  
 7.00 pm Evercreech Parish Council Meeting,  
 Evercreech Village Hall
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 8.30 am Men's Breakfast, The Bell Inn  
 10.30 am Coffee Morning, Lamyatt Village Hall
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2.00 pm Have a Break, Evercreech Village Hall  
 7.30 pm Evercreech WI, Evercreech Village Hall  
 (see page 20)
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
 2.00 pm Mid Somerset Flower Club,  
 Evercreech Village Hall (see page 19)
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 10.00 am Coffee Morning for Evercreech Show Society,  
 St Peter's Church
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 12 noon Hot Potato Lunch, Evercreech Village Hall  
 2.00 pm Friendship Club, Evercreech Village Hall  
 (see page 20)  
 7.30 pm History Society, Evercreech Village Hall  
 (see page 20)
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February ***Deadline for March Evercreech News***  
 7.30 pm Ash Wednesday Communion, St Peter's Church
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 9.00 am RBL Breakfast, The Bell Inn Evercreech  
 (see page 7)
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm Lent Prayer Course, Evercreech Village Hall  
 (see page 12)
- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 3.00 pm National Theatre Live, Evercreech Village Hall  
 (see page 23)
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm Lent Prayer Course, Evercreech Village Hall
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 8.30 am Men's Breakfast, The Bell Inn  
 10.30 am Coffee Morning, Lamyatt Village Hall

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)



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## USEFUL CONTACTS

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

### **The Royal British Legion: Evercreech Branch**

Chair Richard Stevens: 07506 272669 email: [Richard.stevens3707@gmail.com](mailto:Richard.stevens3707@gmail.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 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

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



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

The local group meet at The Old Stores Studio, Evercreech once a month 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.

The January meeting introduced two new members to our growing group.

I was really delighted to tell the group that across Somerset in 2025 I was able to deliver **913** quilts and blankets and in excess of 200 other items that don't count in our headquarter figures, these are things such as knitted garments, memory bags toys and Christmas stockings.

The numbers have grown so much I have had to develop an Excel spreadsheet to keep track.

This year has started with a huge delivery to 9 schools both junior and senior, to be used by the Emotional Learning Support Assistants (ELSA) in the schools, these will be used in the pastoral care areas within the schools to comfort distressed and poorly children. This is going to be an increasing part of our deliveries.

I shall be making deliveries to Baby Basics in Ilminster this month, I supply them with knitted baby blankets and first and second size baby jackets. They are now asking for booties and mittens BUT NOT HATS! All colours acceptable but not pure wool.

To find out more about Project Linus please contact me:

*Jaci Elliott*

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



## **Mid-Somerset Flower Club**

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. 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



## Evercreech WI

We enjoyed a lovely social evening in January. There was a game of word Bingo (all words to do with New Year celebrations) with several prizes, also the usual quiz. All members attending received a Happy New year gift bag filled with jolly items to brighten up a dreary January evening.

On 10<sup>th</sup> February we are looking forward to hearing from Richard Calver, who is telling us "What is going on in Westcombe?" As always non members are welcome for a small fee. Please join us at 7.30pm in Evercreech Village Hall.

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

## Evercreech Friendship Club

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

This month **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February** we have our yearly **"Bring and Buy"** sale, ideal to clear out those unwanted items, anything left will be auctioned off at the meeting, all proceeds to the club's fund.

Our entrance fee remains the same at £1.50 for members and £2.00 for visitors. If you are over 55 and would like to visit or 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 one of the following:

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



## Evercreech History Society

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

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 p.m.

Evercreech Village Hall

**"Follow the Plough" by Les Davies MBE**

Les Davies has worked on the Mendips, in orchards and on the land, for his whole life, including for nearly twenty years as Senior Warden for the Mendip Hills AONB. He will give an illustrated presentation about his lifetime and will reflect how he has endured the tougher times and embraced change.

Les will also have his book on sale which accompanies his talk at the reduced price of £6.00 instead of £6.99. This should be an entertaining evening full of colourful stories of country life. The cost is £3.00 per person (cash only please).

*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*

Cold and wet January brought the restarting of our regular hirers after the Christmas and New Year break. This didn't include a Hot Potato Lunch but we look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 17th February. However, we hope those that came enjoyed a very different version of Hamlet from the National Theatre. I am always surprised how Shakespeare can become timeless with the right direction and staging. There is another favourite on Sunday 1st March with Helen Mirren in The Audience which has been re-released to celebrate 10 years of NT Live. (Note this is a Sunday matinee at 3.00pm and see the details on page 23) For those who have been looking for something to watch in April, NT Live have just allowed us to reveal an additional play, Arthur Miller's All My Sons which we will screen on Saturday 25th April.

The big bit of news is our plan to replace the clock on the front of the Village Hall with a larger illuminated one which hopefully won't stop or become obscured. We really need the Evercreech community help with this and ask you to consider putting some money towards it as grants require good social justification and we didn't get the one we applied for last year (see page 22).

*Nic Jefferis* Chair, Evercreech Village Hall

Email: [chair@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:chair@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk) Mobile: 07810 055996



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

The Evercreech Show Society meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January was well attended and a number of people expressed interest in volunteering.

As a result it is hoped that the Village Show will again take place this September.

Watch this space and "What's Up in Evercreech" and "Evercreech Show Society", both on Facebook.

For more information contact [evercreechshow@aol.com](mailto:evercreechshow@aol.com)



## EVERCREECH VILLAGE HALL

*"Run by the community for the community"*

Charity Number 304538



### Restoring time at Evercreech Village Hall

As many of you will know or have noticed, time has not been kept by the clock on the front of the Village Hall overlooking Victoria Square for many months now.

For some time, the hall committee have been looking into the feasibility of repairing or renewing the current clock mechanism and face. From our research, investigation and consideration of cost incurred for all options, the decision has been reached to renew both. So, it is time to keep Evercreech ticking with a new clock for the heart of our village. Depending upon funding we would like to make it easier to read with a larger illuminated face.



To do this we are aiming to raise in the region of £2,500 with a view to have the new clock installed for the autumn of 2026. We will be holding various events (keep an eye out for further details in the coming months) and have launched a JustGiving page. We hope the local community who glance up at the clock from time to time will feel they are able to support with a donation no matter how great or small.



If you would like to contribute towards this village asset used by many on a daily basis, please **scan the QR code** which will take you to our JustGiving page. You can also donate by contacting the Village Hall Treasurer, Richard Kewish on

[treasurer@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk)

For further information and updates on our progress in the coming months, please watch this space and keep an eye on

[facebook.com/evercreechvh](https://facebook.com/evercreechvh) and  
[www.evercreechvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.evercreechvillagehall.org.uk)

*Thank you in advance for your support.*

*Answers to questions on page 13: 72 and 27, Add a G to make gone.*



## EVERCREECH VILLAGE HALL NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

*"Run by the community for the community"*

Charity Number 304538

**National  
Theatre  
Live**

### The Audience

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**‘Wholly tremendous.’**

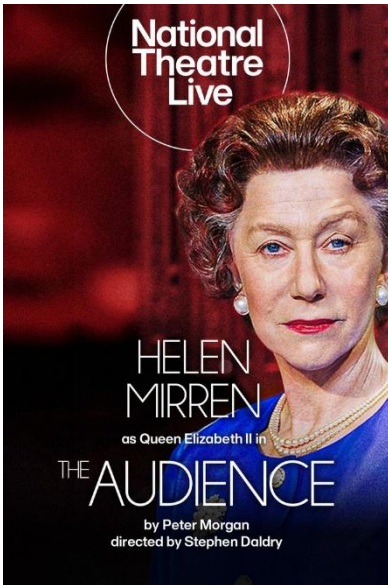
*Daily Telegraph*

★★★★★

**‘Funny and truthful.’**

*Times*

On **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 at 3pm**, Evercreech Village Hall will be screening a performance from the National Theatre Live of **The Audience**. Written by Peter



Morgan. Directed by Stephen Daldry. Running time Approx 3 hours including interval. Helen Mirren plays Queen Elizabeth II in the Olivier and Tony Award winning hit production. For 60 years, Queen Elizabeth II met with each of her 12 prime ministers in a private weekly meeting. This meeting is known as The Audience. From Winston Churchill to Margaret Thatcher and David Cameron, the Queen advised her prime ministers on matters both public and personal. Through these private audiences, we see glimpses of the woman behind the crown and witness the moments that shaped a monarch. Peter Morgan's Netflix phenomenon The Crown was based on this hit play which was captured live from London's West End in 2013 and went on to become one of the most-watched NT Live productions.

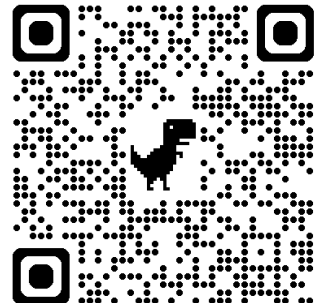
Join us for a relaxing matinee performance with refreshments available at the bar, and comfortable cabaret style seating. Doors open 2.30pm, feature starting at 3pm. Tickets £10. Certificate PG.

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



After a very short Christmas break we met again on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January

Our quiet room is proving very popular with the young boys, currently there's a lot of jumping on the sofa and a little work on the jigsaw set up on a table. We are putting a large TV screen in this room to allow for computer games to be played there.

As yet, we have no older members but a very active younger group.

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. We still need more volunteers; the installation of the quiet room makes supervision more essential to provide good safeguarding.

At the same time, we are delighted to offer a safe space where a lot of non-organised things happen, just as essential as the organised activities. Where else can they go to make a lot of noise and talk with their friends? 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*

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## Evercreech Parish Council

Full Council have now set and agreed this year's budget. This is always a collaborated effort between all councillors, the Clerk and the RFO (Responsible Finance Officer). Ultimately, the agreement on the final budget lies with the councillors.

Decisions are made on previous spending/savings and predictions on costs for the forthcoming year. We have included this year, incurring costs for cleaning our historical monuments which we are in the process of receiving quotes. The Preaching Stone (The Cross) and the War Memorial in the cemetery.

We thank the Clerk for saving the council over £4k in Quoted Data Protection Costs, The Clerk sourced a different means of sharing files between Cllrs and staff at no cost.

We have recently tried to identify any blocked drains around the village and implore residents to continue to report these and other issues such as streetlights and potholes etc directly to Somerset County website: [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk).

Although there are no vacancies on the Parish Council at this time, there are other ways to get involved. The Show Society is need of committee members and volunteers for it to be able to continue every year. It's a great event for everyone but can only survive with your help. Just one example of how to make a difference.

The next full council meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7pm in Evercreech Village Hall.

*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/>

### **Some good news for 2026:**

You may be aware the Government recently announced massive grants for bus funding 2026 to 2030. Somerset Bus Partnership are finalising proposals and costings in advance of discussions with Somerset Council. These County-wide plans include new and improved services for our Mendip area with expected implementation after September.

The poor state of the roads after winter frosts and rain has resulted in numerous potholes which are currently causing damage to car tyres and suspension. Now is a perfect opportunity to save yourself from costly garage bills - so consider the option of leaving the car at home and taking the bus.

*Sue Ehmman*



Our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations began in January with a visit from Sarah Dyke MP, and children from Castle Cary Primary school who officially launched our anniversary. We were also thrilled to be short-listed for the Somerset

Business Awards in the Environmental and Sustainability category so are keeping our fingers crossed for the awards night.

Our volunteer teams have been incredibly busy over the winter, sprucing up the Centre, emptying and redefining the leaking small pond, repairing hurdles around the building, creating benches, scything overgrown areas, creating educational resources for our school groups and generally being an amazing support to our small staff team. If you would like to get involved, do get in touch, we'd love to meet you.



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)



## Melon Mission

Thank you to everyone who has supported our voluntary work at Melon Mission Charity School in Kenya, especially over Christmas. I'm travelling back to Nakuru on 12<sup>th</sup> February with a colleague.

We are currently collecting the following items for activities and crafts (and to give as gifts) whilst working with the school pupils and children with special needs: Metal pencil sharpeners / Beads for bracelet making / Children's scissors / AAA batteries / Small robust toy cars / Colourful pipe cleaners / Plain fabric items for fabric painting / Children's factual books about dinosaurs. We are always happy to accept donations of second hand children's clothes and toys.

If you are able to help out, please bring any item you would like to donate to St Peter's church or The Hawthornes on Bruton Road (opposite the church).

If you prefer to make a monetary donations - these are always much appreciated and will be used to support the running costs (food, supplies, maintenance) of the school and to help a group of special needs families to access support, healthcare and therapeutic equipment.

**THANK YOU!**

*Elizabeth Henderson, Tel. 01749 830887*



The Jubilee Hall,  
Batcombe, BA4 6HE

Doors open 7pm Screening 7.45pm

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**SING SING Dir. Greg Kwedar / 2023 / 106 mins / 15**

John "Divine G" Whitfield (Oscar-nominated Colman Domingo), is imprisoned in Sing Sing Maximum Security Prison for a crime he didn't commit but finds purpose by acting in a theatre group alongside other prisoners, including a wary newcomer. With an ensemble supporting cast of formerly incarcerated actors and based on the real-life Rehabilitation Through the Arts programme (which brings dance, theatre, music and writing workshops to prisons and has been successful in reducing reoffending), this is an inspiring celebration of resilience and the redemptive power of art and presents a very different view of prison life.

BBFC Insight: strong language

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**For further information please contact Bee Smith:**

**07971 789389 or**

**batcombefilmsociety@googlemail.com**

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***Doors open 7.00pm Director: Jay Roach.***

**THE ROSES (2025/105 minutes/15)** A reimagining of the 1989 classic *The War of the Roses* based on Warren Adler's novel. Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch): successful careers, a loving marriage and great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing – as Theo's career nosedives whilst Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites.

**Tickets: £7.00 (£3.50 for under 15)**

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*All proceeds go towards St Peter's Church*

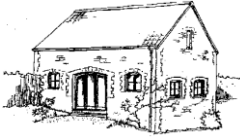
It is advisable to bring a cushion! We look forward to welcoming you.

For more information, contact Sarah Maude 01749 812149

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



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**[richard@redtilesbarn.com](mailto:richard@redtilesbarn.com)**

**[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.

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If you would like to know more, please contact Greg Jessop  
01749 831122



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ELECTRICAL | PLUMBING | CARPENTRY | SOLAR | UPVC WINDOWS & DOORS



01749 344155

## Our Services



### Plumbing & Heating

Gas & oil boiler servicing  
Boiler repairs & replacements  
Plumbing repairs



### Property Maintenance

Painting & decorating  
General repairs & maintenance  
Bathroom & kitchen installations



### Electrical

Electrical testing  
General repairs & new installations  
Solar PV & electric vehicle charging



### UPVC Windows & Doors

UPVC & composite door installations  
UPVC window replacements  
Window & door repairs

## Why Choose Us?

Based in Shepton Mallet and covering the Somerset and Wiltshire areas, 3 Solutions Ltd have over a decade of trusted residential and commercial property maintenance experience, covering all aspects from gutter clearing to complete property renovation. No job is too big or small. Call today for a free quotation.

CONTACT US



[www.3solutionsltd.co.uk](http://www.3solutionsltd.co.uk)



[enquiries@3solutionsltd.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@3solutionsltd.co.uk)

FENSA



## THE BELL INN

01749 830287 | [bellevercreech@aol.com](mailto:bellevercreech@aol.com) | [bellinnercreech.co.uk](http://bellinnercreech.co.uk)  
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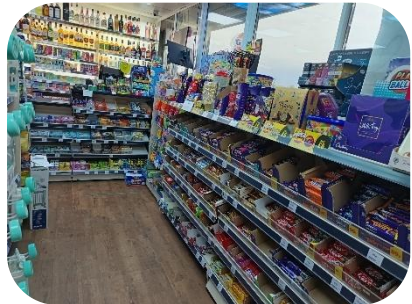


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