



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



March 2026



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The copy date for the
April 2026 Magazine is
Wednesday 18th March

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.

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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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| Bruton Cary Deanery: | www.brutonandcarydeanery.net |
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From the Vicarage

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

During Lent we are encouraged to reflect on our relationship with Jesus and repent of our wrongdoings. This can sound a trifle austere and strangely at odds with the joyful return of Spring and the feeling of brightness and hope the new season brings. Could it be that Lent is out of kilter with Creation? Surely not. When the priest marks us with a sooty cross on Ash Wednesday we are told *'Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn from your sins and be faithful to Christ.'* These words are not a condemnation of our brokenness but a call to healing through God's renewing love for all his children. We are made out of the love of God and it is to that love we shall return. As we journey to the cross with Christ we will experience Maundy Thursday's long watch and the pain of Good Friday (see page 4), the emptiness of Holy Saturday and the joy of Easter Resurrection, with its promise of eternal life: God's faithful love means we shall not perish. This is the same love we hear of in Luke 13.34 where God's love is likened to a mother hen who gathers her downy chicks under her protective wing, offering warmth and shelter. I like to recall this image of God on *Mother's Day* (15th March).

I was going to tell you how *Mothering Sunday* began as an annual day's holiday on which domestic servants would visit their family and mother church, but while this is an interesting historical fact it doesn't convey the depth of love many of us have for our mothers and which our contemporary celebrations honour. Like many mums and daughters, my mum and I did not always see eye to eye, but these moments were nothing more than storm clouds passing over. When seeking wisdom from the Bible I find echoes of these moments in the Psalms. The Psalmist rages against God but their belief in God remains unshaken. I recognise something of my inner teenager in that. The depth of love I feel for my mum is hard to put into words as it began long before I could speak. Poetry brings me closest, these lines from Elizabeth Chase Akers Allen's *Rock Me To Sleep*, move me to tears...

*Mother, dear mother, the years have been long.
Since I last listened your lullaby song:
Sing, then, and unto my soul it shall seem
Womanhood's years have been only a dream.*

With Lenten prayers and blessings,

Helen

Rev. Helen Drever, Vicar of the Alham Vale Benefice



Church Services in the *Alham Vale Benefice*

SUNDAY 1st 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
4.00 pm	Iona Service for St David	St Peter, Evercreech

SUNDAY 8th March

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Purple)

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 15th March

MOTHERING SUNDAY (Purple)

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

SUNDAY 22nd March

FIFTH 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 26th March

10.30 am	Midweek Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
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SUNDAY 29th March

PALM SUNDAY (Red)

9.15 am	Blessing of Palms at Evercreech Village Hall and Procession to	
9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
9.30 am	Matins	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
4.30 pm	Praise & Pizza	St Peter, Evercreech
6.00 pm	Evensong	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

Wednesday 1st April

10.00 am	School Easter Service	St Peter, Evercreech
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Thursday 2nd April MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30 pm	Communion & Vigil	St Peter, Evercreech
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Friday 3rd April GOOD FRIDAY

9.30 am	Easter Garden	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe
11.00 am	Devotional Service	St Peter, Evercreech

SUNDAY 5th April EASTER SUNDAY (Gold)

6.30 am	Sonrise Service	St Mary, Chesterblade
9.30 am	Easter Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
9.30 am	Easter Communion	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Easter Communion	St Mary & St John, Lamyatt
11.00 am	Easter Praise	St James, Milton Clevedon
11.00 am	Easter Communion	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

Holy Week at St Peter's Church**Maundy Thursday - *The Watch***

Maundy Thursday is the day when Christians remember the Last Supper when Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples in the Upper Room before being betrayed and arrested in the garden of Gethsemane. Traditionally a silent watch is kept after the Maundy Thursday evening service recalling Jesus' words to his disciples in the garden, "Could you not watch with me for one hour?". We will be keeping an hour long silent watch at St Peter's after the Maundy Thursday service this year. All are welcome to join in the watch if they wish but please don't feel obliged to stay for the whole sixty minutes. It is fine to just dip your toe into the waters of silence and soak in the peace for a few minutes to think of our Lord before quietly leaving the church.

Good Friday – *Quiet Reflection*

During the service we place pieces of broken wood on the outline of a large cross on the floor of the chancel. So, together, we acknowledge each other's sufferings, and thank God for the gift of his Son Jesus, and thank Jesus for the gift of his suffering, death and resurrection – for love of us.

Helpers at St Peter, Evercreech – March 2026

Sunday 1st March Second Sunday of Lent <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Andrew Nicholls
	Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4a	Daphne Roach
	Gospel: John 3: 1-17	Emily Simper
	Prayers	Mollie Purse
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Janet Rundle
	Sound	Alistair Roach
	Sacristan	Peter Sear
	Refreshments	Lynda Nichols & Meg Wallis
Sunday 8th March Third Sunday of Lent <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Gerald Fry
	Reading: Romans 5: 1-11	Sam Phripp
	Gospel: John 4: 5-42	Paul Robinson
	Prayers	Geoff Hamlet
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Eric Deyes
	Sound	Andrew Nicholls
	Sacristan	Belinda Canning
	Refreshments	Clare & Paul Robinson
Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Janet Rundle
	Reading: 1 Samuel 1: 20-end	Samuel Dawkins
	Gospel: John 19: 25b-27	Eleanor Dawkins
	Prayers	Wendi Davis
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Liz Henderson
	Sound	Alan Henderson
	Sacristan	Alan Henderson
	Refreshments	Wendi & Martin Davis
Sunday 22nd March Fifth Sunday of Lent <i>9.30 am for 9.50 am</i> <i>Café Church</i> <i>Evercreech Village Hall</i>	Sidesperson	Eric Deyes
	Refreshments	Hilary Foster & Belinda Canning

Thursday 26 th February 10.30 am <i>Said Communion</i>	Sacristan	Alan Henderson
British Summer Time - Clocks Spring Forward		
Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday 9.15 am <i>Blessing of Palms at Evercreech Hall followed by Procession to St Peter's for 9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson at Village Hall	Churchwardens
	Palm Gospel: Matthew 21: 1-11	Peter Sear
	Sidesperson at St Peter's	Sonia Boyle
	Reading: Philippians 2: 5-11	Samuel Dawkins
	Passion Drama	
	Prayers	Janet Rundle
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Meg Wallis
	Sound	Geoff Hamlet
	Sacristan	Belinda Canning
Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday 7.30 pm <i>Communion and Vigil</i>	Refreshments	Hazel & Gerald Fry
	Sidesperson	Churchwardens
	Reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26	Belinda Canning
	Gospel: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35	Sue Deyes
	Sound	Eric Deyes
Friday 3rd April Good Friday 11.00 am <i>Devotional Service</i>	Sacristan	Belinda & Alan
	Sidesperson	Churchwardens
Sunday 5th April EASTER SUNDAY 9.30 am <i>Parish Communion</i>	Sound	Eric Deyes
	Sidesperson	Andrew Nicholls
	Reading: Acts 10: 34-43	Sue Kewish
	Gospel: John 20: 1-18	Wendi Davis
	Prayers	Anne Sear
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Janet Rundle
	Sound	Gerald Fry
	Sacristan	Peter Sear
Refreshments	Sue Kewish & Sonia Boyle	



St Peter's Church Flowers

LENT

26th March

EASTER

No Flowers

Palm Sunday

All Decorators

An Iona Service to celebrate St David



Sunday 1st March at 4.00pm
St Peter's Church, Evercreech, BA4 6HY



Organised and led by local
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the
prayer
course

LENT PRAYER COURSE

It's not too late to join this journey through the Lord's Prayer.

Tuesdays at 7.30pm, The Old School, Batcombe

(contact alison.jolyon@gmail.com for more info)
3rd, 10th, 17th March, 7th 14th, 21st, 28th April

Wednesdays at 7pm, Evercreech Village Hall

(Contact wendidavis@btinternet.com for more info)
4th 11th 18th 25th March, 8th, 15th, 22nd April

You can find more information about the Prayer Course at prayercourse.org

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

DEATHS

Peter Bradshaw died on 25th January 2025, aged 79 years. His funeral service was held in St Peter's Church on 23rd February followed by burial in Evercreech Cemetery.



Barbara & Brian Bell

Some of you will remember Brian and Babs Bell who worshipped at St Peter's before moving to Surrey about 15 years ago. I exchange Christmas Cards with them and was saddened to learn that Babs was in a Care Home suffering from Dementia. I sent a package to them with cards from people that remember them well, a copy of the latest Parish Magazine, the St Peter's and Evercreech Booklets; and received a thank you letter from Babs's sister Pam saying that Brian really enjoyed the package and that they would be taking it in to Babs who is settled in a very nice care home. Pam says: *"Many thanks for such kind thoughts, Best wishes and many Blessings to you all."*

Carol

News from Zambia

Last September the parish priest of our link parish, St Joseph's, left to move to South Africa and study for a PhD, and he told me that Fr Douglas Kakoma was taking over. It's taken a while (contact details from the diocesan office in Zambia were not correct), but I am at last in contact with Douglas Kakoma through WhatsApp and email. I have sent him the February magazine, and he has sent me an appreciative note of thanks. I hope that I may soon have some new photos to put on our notice board.



It was thanks to Joseph Mwenya that I finally made contact with Douglas. (Some of you will remember Joseph's visit to Evercreech in 2019.) Joseph has just been transferred to a new parish, and is now the parish priest of St Mary the Virgin, still in Kitwe. In Zambia priests move more often than is usual here. Joseph said that he had just a month's notice of his transfer and move. Zambian parishes do not have to cope with long vacancies: the incoming parish priest usually arrives within a week or so of the previous priest's departure.

Please keep both Douglas and Joseph in your prayers as they settle in to their new parishes.

Anne Sear, Link Correspondent.

Help required

It won't come as a surprise to anyone, that we are always looking for people to help with regular weekly tasks at St Peter's Church, both at our Sunday Services and during the week.

On the basis that 'many hands make light work', we would welcome offers of help with cleaning the church or with the many aspects of running our Sunday services.

If, however, you would prefer a more 'project based' task, perhaps you might consider leading the organisation of the annual Fun Day or the Christmas Festival?

Finally we are hoping to get together a group of people to plan and present concerts at St Peter's and we are also in need of more members to join our Fabric Committee.

Please feel free to speak to us if you would like to know more!

Many thanks,

Michèle and Alison (your Churchwardens)

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

'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

The March Breakfast will be at 9.00 am on Saturday 21st March. 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



in St Peter's Church

Monthly Coffee Mornings are held in St Peter's Church. There is always Coffee and Cake, Raffle and Stalls. This is a great way to raise awareness and money for a charity, organisation or club. If you would like to book a Coffee Morning in St Peter's Church for your organisation, please contact

Michèle Hole on **01749 830875** or holemiche@aol.com

On 14th February the **Coffee Morning** raised £435 for Evercreech Show Society. (see page 25)

The **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 14th March** will be raising money for **Fairtrade**. As well as the usual Raffle, bric-a-brac, cakes and refreshments there will be a display showing you where to buy Fairtrade goods locally. There will also be a Fairtrade quiz entry £1, prize a Fairtrade Easter Egg (see below). Quiz forms will be available on Sunday 8th March so you can do your homework. If more than one person gets all the questions right the winner will be drawn out of a hat.



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Evercreech with Chesterblade PCC

When the PCC met on 22nd January we heard that work on the organ was almost complete, and that the West window is now illuminated, currently from 6pm to 11pm, though timings will change as the days get longer. There was further discussion about painting the outside doors, complicated by the stipulation that linseed oil based paint should be used. The architect's report on the roof arrived too late to allow detailed discussion but it is clear that the work required will require a major fundraising effort.

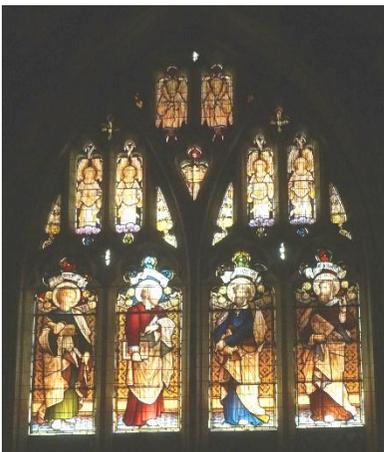
The next PCC meeting will be on 19th March. If there is anything that you would like PCC to discuss, please tell a PCC member or email me at sear.a@btinternet.com, ideally before Standing Committee meets on 5th March.

The Annual Vestry Meeting, when we elect churchwardens, and the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will be held on Thursday 7th May at 7pm. This is your chance to vote and to have your say. Please put the date in your diary now. Only people who are on the church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote at the APCM. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll and would like your name to be added, please contact Janet Rundle, our Electoral Roll Officer on old-saddlery@talk21.com.

Anne Sear (PCC Secretary)

Organ and Sound Update

Work on the organ is mostly complete, although there will be a follow up visit to attend to any issues once the instrument has had time to 'settle' and the organists have had time to play it more extensively.



Very pleasingly the back lighting has been restored to the West Window and it looks beautiful after dark, the only problem now is the unruly yew tree by the church gate which all but obscures the view of the window from Bruton Road.

The team exploring options for the new sound system have travelled far and wide to visit churches similar to ours to hear different sound systems and discuss our options.

Alison & Michèle (Churchwardens)

Hello from Lamyatt

The big news this month is that Shakespeare will be returning to our village in July. Not once but twice!

Firstly, The International Festival players will be bringing the 'Comedy of Errors' on Saturday, 4th July. This will be followed on Thursday, 9th July with The Handlebards performance of 'Macbeth', which will be especially aimed at young people and those who like their Shakespeare perhaps a little less traditional.



All details are yet to be confirmed but please put these dates in your diary. As both these performances will raise money for both our Church and Village Hall, we strongly encourage you to consider coming with your picnic on both occasions. The team work extremely hard to ensure that you will have an enjoyable evening. So do help ensure their success. Tickets on sale soon.

Not only that but there will be a **Shakespeare in Lamyatt** talk at **At The Chapel** on the evening of **Thursday 7th May**: Tom Piper MBE, designer of over fifty RSC productions and creator of the acclaimed '*Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*'

poppy installation at the Tower of London, in conversation with fellow theatre designer Michael Pavelka.

GOOD HABITS
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As for March, our usual Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday, 7th March from 10.30 am until 12 noon, when the 100 club will be drawn. Last month's winners were: Helen D, Emma R and Mary-Clare R. New members always welcome: (Lamyatt100@gmail.com)

Finally, don't forget the many events happening in Lamyatt Village Hall including the Take Art event 'Good Habits', a musical duo on Friday, 6th March at 7.30pm. Book online at takeart.org.

Jen Richards

St. James', Milton Clevedon

Our church is known as 'the church in the farmyard' and I am afraid it is sometimes difficult to approach on foot - especially this rainy year! We are so glad to have a well pebbled car park which helps both week day visitors and Sunday congregations.



On the farm in the wet weather the cows seem also to appreciate the flooring! In the winter they seem to like the concrete floor of the cubical building and the warmth of the individual rubber mats and straw which they lie on. They will be ready as usual in spring time to turn out when they graze on new grass during the day but after the afternoon milking they snuggle down in their cubicles for a good night's sleep.

At present we are preparing for our fundraising events during the year, including the clay pigeon shoot which is being held at Redlands Farm on Saturday 18th April.

Tessa Calver

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

Park Road, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP

<https://stmichaelshepton.co.uk>

Email: sheptonmallet.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com

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

01458 835931 (Admin Office)

Email: sheptonmallet.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com



So we find ourselves in Lent already, a time of solemn preparation for the feast of Easter. The stark lack of flowers in church during this time reminds us to step away from something we usually enjoy, or better still, add something extra we can do to benefit others. Of course, each of us will approach the season in their own way, but at St Michael's there are at least two ways to get involved in a Lenten exercise.

There is a five-week faith-sharing group on Monday evenings when we will work through a publication by Clifton Diocese entitled 'We Dare to Ask'. As in past years, members of other Christian denominations are warmly invited to join us in one or all of these informal gatherings.

And then there are two Lent Lunches on offer – from 12 noon on 19th and 26th March in the parish room we'll be serving homemade soup and a roll (sorry no dessert), the proceeds of which will be shared with St Michael's and Christians Together in Shepton Mallet. Fr Mark plans to join us at these lunches.

Judy Tucker



Draw near this Lent

The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is 'Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent'. It's a very different way of thinking about the season. Often, we identify Lent as a time for prayer and fasting when we 'give things up'. More recently many have decided to adopt an opposite approach – of 'taking something up for Lent'. 'Draw near'

has a much wider remit. Each week, it invites us to explore a different aspect of Christian discipleship – worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

The 'Draw Near' approach fits well with how Lent began. During the Church's earliest days, those wishing to become Christians were known as 'catechumens', people who were learning to live as disciples of Jesus. Preparation was intensive. It took place particularly in the 40 days before new Christians were baptised on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday. Our season of Lent comes from this ancient practice.

When the Church began, it didn't have the trappings we're used to seeing around us such as buildings, hymn books, pews, or paid ministers. Church wasn't an institution. It was known as 'the Way'. Christians met in each other's homes and sought to work out how to follow Jesus in their every day lives. This wasn't so much about head knowledge, believing a particular set of doctrines. It was about the habits and practices that Christians constantly cultivated to help them draw nearer to God who is with us, in us, around us and beside us every moment of every day. 'Draw Near' comes out of this heritage. It's an invitation to make Lent a journey that brings us closer to God.

I invite you to make use of 'Draw Near' this Lent. It includes materials for adults, for families and for children, resources for schools and encouragement for churches. More information can be found at www.cofeio/DrawNear. As we approach Lent, let's draw near and join each other on the journey to God that is the Way.

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



DIARY

Sunday 1 st March	3.00 pm	National Theatre Live, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 25)
	4.00 pm	Iona Service, St Peter's Church (see page 7)
Tuesday 3 rd March	2.00 pm	Have a Break, Evercreech Village Hall
	7.00 pm	Evercreech Parish Council Meeting, Evercreech Village Hall
Wednesday 4 th March	7.00pm	Lent Prayer Course, Evercreech Village Hall
Saturday 7 th March	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast, The Bell Inn
	10.30 am	Coffee Morning, Lamyatt Village Hall
Tuesday 10 th March	2.00 pm	Have a Break, Evercreech Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Evercreech WI, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 24)
Wednesday 11 th March	2.00 pm	Mid Somerset Flower Club, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 27)
	7.00pm	Lent Prayer Course, Evercreech Village Hall
Saturday 14 th March	10.00 am	Fairtrade Coffee Morning, St Peter's Church
Sunday 15 th March	9.30 am	Mothering Sunday – St Peter's Church
Tuesday 17 th March	12 noon	Hot Potato Lunch, Evercreech Village Hall
	7.30 pm	History Society, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 24)
Wednesday 18 th March		<i>Deadline for April Evercreech News</i>
	7.00pm	Lent Prayer Course, Evercreech Village Hall
Thursday 19 th March	7.30 pm	Evercreech PCC Meeting, The Hawthornes
Saturday 21 st March	9.00 am	RBL Breakfast, The Bell Inn Evercreech (see page 10)
Tuesday 24 th March	2.00 pm	Friendship Club, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 21)
Wednesday 25 th March	7.00pm	Lent Prayer Course, Evercreech Village Hall
Sunday 29 th March	9.15 am	Palm Sunday Procession Evercreech Village Hall to St Peter's Church
	3.00 pm	Downton Abbey, The Grand Finale, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 25)
Wednesday 1 st April	7.30 pm	Village Hall AGM, Back Room, Evercreech Village Hall
Thursday 2 nd April	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion and Vigil St Peter's Church
Friday 3 rd April	11.00 am	Good Friday Service, St Peter's Church



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USEFUL CONTACTS

Evercreech Relief In Need Charity Commission Registered – 205527
Clerk: Michèle Hole, holemiche@aol.com

The Royal British Legion: Evercreech Branch

Chair Richard Stevens: 07506 272669 email: 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

Evercreech Foodsaving

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

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

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

Mendip Community Credit Union: mendipcommunitycu.org.uk

info@mendipcommunitycu.org.uk FREEPHONE 0800 6226036

Safe Families www.safefamilies.uk

local volunteers – Clare & Paul Robinson robinsons.2017@btinternet.com

Other services offering Wellbeing for Young People

www.hubofhope.co.uk www.youngsomerset.org.uk/wellbeing-support

www.somersetbigtent.org.uk www.cypsomersethealth.org

Age UK Somerset www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset

British Red Cross www.redcross.org.uk

Samaritans www.samaritans.org

The Old Stores Studio CIC theoldstoresstudio.wixsite.com/theoldstoresstudio

01749 830498 theoldstoresstudio@gmail.com

Wilfs Wood Leighton Lane

www.wilfswood.wordpress.com

wilfswood@gmail.com

Driving an ambulance to Ukraine to help save lives

Thanks to your generosity and support, I am able to say that the trip to Ukraine was a success!

My co-driver, Steve, and I drove a black Mitsubishi 4x4 pickup 2,006 kilometres from Teddington to Lviv. There was also a second-hand ambulance and another 4x4 in the convoy, all loaded up with medical supplies and humanitarian aid. We were a merry band of volunteers and enjoyed good conversation, jokes and mutual support.



Crossing into Ukraine and importing a British vehicle is no mean feat and you quickly realise that you are in a country at war: but what is also strange is how “normal” life is here, with people going about their daily lives, punctuated only by



air raid sirens and drones every few nights. The warmth, courage and stoicism of the people we met will leave a lasting impact on all of us. Nearly everyone has lost friends or relatives. No school is without fully or partially orphaned children. Everyone

has someone they know currently on the front line. And yet life goes on.

I would like to thank you not only for your generosity but also because you have shown the people of Ukraine that we are thinking of them. A recurring theme during our visit was that it is important to the Ukrainian people that they are not forgotten and that the rest of Europe does indeed **Stand With Ukraine**.

Winkie Fry

A fuller report on Winkie's trip can be found on the noticeboard in St Peter's Church, or you can request a copy by emailing Evercreech.news@gmail.com





MELON MISSION

Melon Mission

Thank you to everyone who so generously gave supplies and monetary donations for Liz Henderson's February trip to the Melon Mission Charity School in Kenya.

Liz has sent these pictures of the children with some of your donations and gifts.



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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.

This month is a mixture of good and bad news.

I attended the funeral of one of our most experienced and prolific quilters. She was aged 81 and almost housebound, I took fabrics and wadding to her home in Taunton and her work was amazing, in my three years as a coordinator for Somerset I have delivered 62 of her quilts, mostly to children in our hospitals. In addition she allowed me to raffle her quilts to raise money to purchase more wadding and this raised hundreds of pounds. I am showing one of her beautiful designs here.



The good news,

Our last meeting in the village produced a truly magnificent number of items. 43 knitted blankets, 23 knitted baby garments, 35 quilts. That's a record of items in a month.

I am now preparing a delivery to Homestart in Minehead, and in Bath to children of families seeking refuge from domestic abuse.

Just a reminder we can always donate to a child who is ill or in crisis, this will be done without identifying the family.

To find out more about Project Linus please contact me:

Jaci Elliott

01749 838809 jaci.elliott@btinternet.com

Evercreech Friendship Club

“Where Friends are Made”



Spring hopefully is in the air as we head towards lighter evenings and warmer days, tend to feel the cold more as age advances. On Tuesday 24th March we welcome the return of the popular and energetic Carrie and “**Love to Move it Mendip**”, an afternoon of fun and music.

Our entrance fees remain the same 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 the Village Hall and includes a Raffle, Greetings Card Stall, tea and biscuits, and who knows for this year “*maybe something special?*” *Visitors are always welcome!*

God Bless and KEEP SAFE!!

For more information please contact one of the following:

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

World Book Day Costume Swap

Following the success of the Winter Coat Exchange, Somerset Libraries are looking for donations for the recently launched special World Book Day Costume Swap ahead of Thursday 5th March. People can donate pre-loved costumes at participating libraries (including Shepton Mallet Library) and pick up a different outfit from the rail, helping children celebrate reading without the cost or stress of buying new.



The scheme is easy to take part in:

- Donate a clean, good-quality costume at a participating library
- Browse the costume rail and choose an outfit for World Book Day
- No donation is required to take part

The Costume Swap builds on the popularity of previous community sharing schemes in Somerset’s libraries and supports efforts to reuse items rather than buy new, reducing environmental impact and supporting local families.

For more information about Somerset Libraries, visit your local branch follow

[Somerset Libraries UK Facebook](#) page, or

email: librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk



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Victoria Square,
Evercreech BA4 6JP**

www.evercreechvillagehall.org.uk
bookings@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk
facebook.com/evercreechvh

Run by the Community for the Community Charity Number 304538

February was a quieter month in terms of the Hall's activities but we were glad to welcome back everyone for the Hot Potato Lunch. It's lovely to open the doors at 12 noon (or even before) to a queue and then the Hall fills with conversations, many of which continue over the whole time. Thanks as always to the volunteers who bring their cooking and themselves to serve and clear up. While there was no National Theatre showing in February we hope by the time you read this you will have enjoyed The Audience on Sunday 1st March. We are trying out Sunday matinées again as an alternative to Saturday evening as it proved popular before. We have been asked about films and with a gap in the NT programme will be showing Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale on Sunday 29th of March starting at 3.00pm (details on page 25)



Last month we launched a fundraising campaign **'Restoring Time at Evercreech Village Hall'** and have had a great start with a major donation, however there's still some way to go. With the Hall in the centre of the village an improved clock, and certainly one that works, its face will be visible to many residents and visitors.

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:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/restoring-time-at-evercreech-village-hall

You can also donate by contacting the Village Hall Treasurer, Richard Kewish on treasurer@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk

**To find out more about the new clock and have your say
please come along to the back room of the Village Hall for the
AGM at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1st April.**

Nic Jefferis Chair, Evercreech Village Hall
Email: chair@evercreechvillagehall.org.uk Mobile: 07810 055996



EVERCREECH SHOW SOCIETY

www.evercreechshowsociety.uk

John Parham – Chairman

Michele Gould-Thorpe – Secretary and Vice Chair

Moira Barber – Membership Secretary and Media

A huge thank you to everyone who came to support us at our Valentine's Day Coffee Morning at the beautiful St Peter's Church, Evercreech. The sun was shining, and the church was filled with people enjoying the delicious selection of cakes and refreshments, taking part in the raffle, and browsing stalls selling a range of goods, from homemade cards and books to bric-a-brac and games.



part in the raffle, and browsing stalls selling a range of goods, from homemade cards and books to bric-a-brac and games.

The new Membership Secretary was kept busy with renewals and signing up new members. We wish to extend a very warm welcome to those who signed up on the day and to express our

continued thanks to existing members for their support. Our new compact-design membership cards will be issued shortly.

Last but not least, thanks to St Peter's Church for hosting us.

The event raised £435.00 towards the cost of putting on the annual Village Show. If you'd like to know more about the show and its history, please visit our website: www.evercreechshowsociety.uk.

Our next fundraising event is the Plant Sale on 16th May 2026 at Evercreech Village Hall, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. We hope to see you there.

Moira Barber





Evercreech WI

We enjoyed a fascinating talk from Richard Calver from Westcombe, telling the story of how his farming has diversified and how he now cares for dairy cows as well as making various types of cheese and charcuterie. He brought samples as well, so we very much enjoyed it.

On 10th March we are looking forward to The Shepton Mallet Ukulele band, it will be a lot of fun, why not join us. Visitors are always welcome for a small fee, ladies thinking of becoming members can have three visits for free to see if we suit.

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

Evercreech History Society



www.evercreechhistorysociety.org.uk

Tuesday, 17th March, 7.30 p.m.
Evercreech Village Hall
The Old Shoebox – Ted Udall

Ted is involved with the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society and has been researching his family history for many years. For those considering looking into their own family history, Ted will hopefully inspire us by highlighting some of the things we might have collected or been bequeathed which can get us started on the genealogical trail.

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 Drama Group

2026 dates for your diary:

Saturday 20th June

Family Quiz and Pizza Night in Evercreech Village Hall

22nd - 24th October

Production in Evercreech Village Hall



More details when we have them!

If you are interested in any aspect of what we do, either on stage or behind the scenes then don't hesitate to contact our Chairman Greg Jessop on 01749 831122 or via email evercreechdg@gmail.com to find out more.

The Audience Certificate PG.



LAMYATT VILLAGE HALL

Friday 27th February
7.00 pm (doors open 6.30pm)
Tickets £10 including complimentary canapes.

<https://buytickets.at/lamyattvillagetrust1/2012395>



EVERCREECH VILLAGE HALL

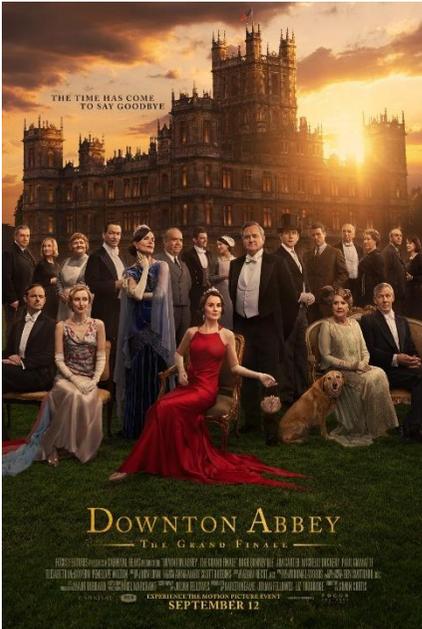
Sunday 1st March
3.00 pm (doors open 2.30pm)
Tickets £10.

www.evercreechvillagehall.org.uk/ntlive



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**Sunday 29th March 2026,
3pm matinee screening.**

Doors open 2.30pm

Tickets: £5 for adults,
£3.50 for children 12 and under
to be paid on the door

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Refreshments available from the bar*

Evercreech Village Hall, BA4 6JP

The Chilla Youth Club is open every Wednesday evening



The picture shows the artwork the young people are producing. They have developed from colouring in downloaded pictures of their cartoon favourites to some really good freehand pictures.

The lighter start to the evening is welcome, but the ground outside is too boggy for games as yet.

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.

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

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 that we go forward with enthusiasm.

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

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

Cost each session £2 per person

For more information please call Vikki on 07853 853221

Jaci Elliott

Evercreech Parish Council

Village Gully Inspection

Recently, members of the Parish Council undertook a thorough inspection of the gullies throughout the village. The aim was to identify any drains that were blocked and could potentially lead to drainage problems. While the task of physically checking the gullies was straightforward, councillors encountered difficulties when it came to collating the information. These challenges made it more complex to compile a comprehensive report on the condition of the village's drainage system.

Based on the findings, by individual Councillors, I have reported the gullies deemed to require attention using the official link:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road>.

If you are aware of any drainage issues or blocked gullies in your area, please report them through the same link to ensure prompt action.

Millennium Gardens Update

Millennium Gardens has recently experienced incidents of anti-social activity which now require external intervention. As a temporary solution, the council has agreed to fence off the seating area within Millennium Gardens.

The effectiveness of this solution will be monitored over a period of three months. Dependent on the outcome, the council may seek professional advice regarding the relandscaping of the area, with the objective of reducing the likelihood of recurring issues. This action aims to deter further anti-social behaviour and promote a safer environment for all visitors.

We kindly request that anyone who witnesses anti-social activity or any form of vandalism to please contact the police.: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report

The next council meeting is on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.00 pm in Evercreech Village Hall.

Lesley Parham Chair Evercreech Parish Council

Lesley.parham@evercreech-pc.gov.uk

Mid-Somerset Flower Club



Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th March at 2.00pm in Evercreech Village Hall, doors open 1.30 pm. Don't miss this excellent demonstration by national flower arranger, **Michael Bower** MBE, theme: *Herald the Spring*; competition: *Spring Delights*. We will have as usual delicious home made tea and cakes. We look forward to seeing members and new friends, a meeting not to be missed. For more information please contact:

Rose Herlock 07876 080127 or Margaret Elliott 01749 830209

Somerset Bus Partnership

email Somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com

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

Do you use the No.1 bus to get to Castle Cary station?

By the time you read this the Ticket Office will be located in a portakabin sited near the bus shelter. A station employee explained this is phase one of the heritage revamp of the station. The best news is that work commences shortly to install long-awaited lifts giving passengers step-free access to all platforms. Completion will be before Glastonbury 2027 so finally a welcome end to hauling luggage across the footbridge!

What we need next are more buses to the station and other local routes, which Somerset Bus Partnership is currently working on. So in the meantime, PLEASE USE THE BUSES WE HAVE, to improve the chances of getting the enhanced services Somerset residents deserve.

Sue Ehmman

Shepton Mallet Library

participates in the



Warm Winter Coat Exchange

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You can donate a coat without taking one.

All donations must be of good quality and in a clean condition.

Any shape or size, for adults or children.

Please hand all donations to a member of staff.



Now in its third year, the Winter Coat Exchange has become a well-established community initiative, helping people stay warm and dry through the winter while reducing waste. Last year alone, 2,470 coats were donated, with 2,086 coats taken by residents across Somerset. Any surplus donations were passed on to [RAFT – Refugee Aid From Taunton](#), supporting displaced people locally and further afield, alongside other community groups and charities.

We will be supporting the Vintage Market in Castle Cary on Saturday 7th March as they have chosen us to run their charity café this month. Do come and say hello if you are in town and sample some of our homemade cakes and bakes.

This winter has been a bit of a challenge on the reserve with the amount of standing water and mud but our school groups have made the most of it and we have run two successful family days in half term for Somerset Parent Carer Forum and Yeovil4Families.

Coming up in Spring we have a super 3-day Green Workout course with Neil, who will be teaching rural skills whilst connecting to nature. He is also running Wildflower ID courses and a Scything course. All these courses are funded by Step up Somerset for low income learners or those with a Health and Wellbeing need.



Hairy-footed Flower Bee

March can be a cold month and not one we associate with insects, the majority of which will emerge a little later in the year. Bumblebees are amongst the first to appear as their hairy bodies give them some insulation against the changeable weather of March; but have a look for another bee, which looks at first glance like a small bumblebee, but which is actually the delightfully named Hairy-footed Flower Bee. The males emerge first and can be found from late February onwards. The male is a rusty brown with a yellow face and long hairs on the middle pair of its six legs. It is these long hairs that give the bee the name of 'hairy footed'. About two weeks later the females emerge, looking completely different. Females are mainly black with orange hairs on their back pair of legs which act like little brushes, collecting pollen as they visit flowers.

Male Hairy-footed Flower Bee – spot the long hairs!





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Friday 20th March 2026

LAST SWIM Dir. Sasha Nathwani / 2024 / 96 mins / 15

Last Swim follows Ziba (Deba Hekmat), an Iranian-British girl as she holds her breath on A-level results day. Desperate to study astrophysics at university, she is equally determined to make the first day of her adult life one to remember. But when her tight-knit group of eclectic friends are joined in a cross-London all-day party by Malcolm (Denzel Baidoo), a year above them at school and now on a youth training scheme as a footballer, Ziba must reckon with a darker truth that none of her friends have been brought into. An impressive young cast led by an excellent Deba Hekmat.

BBFC Insight: strong language, *drug misuse, threat*

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For more information, contact
Sarah Maude 01749 812149

sarahjmaude@btinternet.com



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We have a wide range of creative learning opportunities on offer. Visit our website for more information on all we offer.

Tel: 01749 830498 Email: theoldstoresstudio@gmail.com

<https://theoldstoresstudio.wixsite.com/theoldstoresstudio>

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

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

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

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