

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



April 2026

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Member Editor 2026
Association for Church Editors

The copy date for the
May 2026 Magazine is
Wednesday 15th April

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

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of what you find in Evercreech News, but we are reliant on people supplying correct information. We are always happy to receive your photographs, articles, comments or suggestions. Please restrict articles and reports to 350 words, notices to 100 words. If you do not regularly submit items for the magazine it is advisable to send in well before the deadline as space is limited. We reserve the right to edit any item submitted.

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

Would you like to advertise in Evercreech News?

A Half Page Advert
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£6 per month

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

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

From the Vicarage

The long winter is over. Lent is drawing to a close and the glorious festival of Easter is almost upon us.

Holy Week runs from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday and contains the most profound sequence of days in the Christian Calendar. The “Great Three Days” are called the Easter Triduum. They tell the story of Christ’s death and resurrection beginning with the sharing of the last supper in the Upper Room and ending with the joy of the empty tomb. In the Cathedral city where I once lived I’d immerse myself in the sacred drama of the Triduum annually, attending all the services the Cathedral offered. You don’t have to go to the city to live the full Triduum experience. It is available here in our local parishes if we are willing to move between each other’s churches. I warmly invite you to walk this path with us.



The Triduum begins on Maundy Thursday when we revisit the intimacy and betrayal of the last supper. We learn of the tenderness Jesus has towards his disciples, the way he knelt to wash their feet, and how he shared the first Eucharist with them. The evening ends with the “Watch” where we sit in solidarity with Christ in the Garden, waiting a while in silence after the evening service before gently slipping out into the night. You can experience this rare moment of stillness at St Peter’s Church, Evercreech at 7.30pm on Thursday 2nd April.

Good Friday offers a mood shift as we gather to witness the ultimate act of self sacrifice and love. Through prayer, scripture and symbolic action at the 11am Devotional Service at St Peter’s Church, we stand together at the foot of the cross, reminded that there is no corner of human suffering that God has not inhabited.

Finally on Easter Eve or Easter Day the silence is broken and we light our new Paschal candle, casting out the darkness and celebrating the Resurrection. Love has won and death is defeated as we stand in our local churches and proclaim:

“Alleluia, Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia”.

I promise you that there is a unique spiritual rhythm to these days that cannot be found elsewhere. By walking through the shadows of Thursday and Friday, the light of Easter Sunday feels infinitely brighter. I warmly invite you to join us at one or all of these services and discover this for yourselves! All are welcome.

Helen

Revd. Helen Drever, Vicar of the Alham Vale Benefice

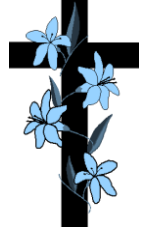
PEOPLE NEWS

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

DEATHS

Robert William Widgery died on 6th February 2026, aged 93 years. His funeral service was held at Mendip Crematorium on 27th February.

John William Alfred Groves died on 30th January 2026, aged 87 years. His Graveside Funeral was held in Evercreech Cemetery on 10th March.



LENT PRAYER COURSE

Tuesdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th April at 7.30pm, The Old School, Batcombe
(contact alison.jolyon@gmail.com for more info)

Wednesdays 8th, 15th, 22nd April at 7pm, Evercreech Village Hall
(Contact wendidavis@btinternet.com for more info)

It's not too late to join this journey through the Lord's Prayer. You can find more information and catch up by watching the videos at prayercourse.org

Easter Garden

We plan to build the Easter Garden at St Peter's on the morning of Good Friday, 3rd April at 9.30 am.
Offers of small flowers and greenery welcomed.

Church Services in the *Alham Vale Benefice*

Thursday 2nd April

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30 pm Communion & Vigil St Peter, Evercreech

Friday 3rd April

GOOD FRIDAY

9.30 am Easter Garden St Peter, Evercreech

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 Sunrise 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 Communion St James, Milton Clevedon

11.00 am Easter Communion The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

SUNDAY 12th April

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (White)

9.30 am Parish Communion St Peter, Evercreech

9.30 am Matins St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble

11.00 am Matins or Informal Service The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

SUNDAY 19th April

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (White)

9.30 am Parish Communion St Peter, Evercreech

9.30 am Matins St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble

11.00 am Parish Communion St Mary & St John, Lamyatt

11.00 am Matins or Informal Service The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

Wednesday 22nd April

10.00 am School Easter Service St Peter, Evercreech

Thursday 23rd April

10.30 am Midweek Communion St Peter, Evercreech

SUNDAY 26th April

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (White)

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

SUNDAY 3rd May**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (White)**

9.30 am	Parish Communion	St Peter, Evercreech
9.30 am	Matins	St Mary Magdalene, Upton Noble
11.00 am	Worship for all ages	St Mary & St John, Lamyatt
11.00 am	Parish Communion	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Batcombe

Helpers at St Peter, Evercreech – April 2026

Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday <i>7.30 pm Communion and Vigil</i>	Sidesperson	Churchwardens
	Reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26	Belinda Canning
	Gospel: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35	Sue Deyes
	Sound	Eric Deyes
	Sacristan	Belinda & Alan
Friday 3rd April Good Friday 11.00 am Devotional Service	Sidesperson	Churchwardens
	Sound	Eric Deyes
Sunday 5th April EASTER SUNDAY <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	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
Sunday 12th April Second Sunday of Easter <i>9.30 am Parish Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Sue Kewish
	Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32	Sam Phripp
	Gospel: John 20 19-end	Sue Deyes
	Prayers	Belinda Canning
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Meg Wallis
	Sound	Alan Henderson
	Sacristan	Alan Henderson
	Refreshments	Wendi & Martin Davis

Sunday 19th April Third Sunday of Easter <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Gerald Fry
	Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41	Mark Payne
	Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35	Peter Sear
	Prayers	Eleanor Dawkins
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Liz Henderson
	Sound	Geoff Hamlet
	Sacristan	Peter Sear
	Refreshments	Pam & Mark Payne
Thursday 23 rd April <i>10.30 am</i> <i>Said Communion</i>	Sacristan	Belinda Canning
Sunday 26th April Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>9.30 am for 9.50 am</i> <i>Café Church</i> <i>Evercreech Village</i> <i>Hall</i>	Sidesperson	Geoff Hamlet
	Refreshments	Hilary Foster & Rosemary Bradshaw
Sunday 3rd May Fifth Sunday of Easter <i>9.30 am Parish</i> <i>Communion</i>	Sidesperson	Sonia Boyle
	Reading: Acts 7: 55-end	Daphne Roach
	Gospel: John 14: 1-14	Janet Rundle
	Prayers	Eric Deyes
	Chalice Assistant & Collection	Eleanor Dawkins
	Sound	Alistair Roach
	Sacristan	Alan Henderson
	Refreshments	Hazel & Gerald Fry

St Peter's Church Flowers



EASTER

All Decorators

Altar

Memorial

April 18th & 25th
 May 2nd

Mrs M Elliott
 Mrs R Herlock

Mrs A Wilcox
 Virginia Moser

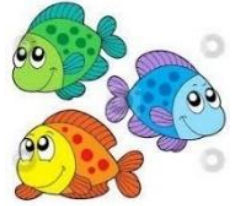
Church Closure - 14th and 15th April

The church will be closed for two days in April for use by a local musician to make a recording.

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 April Breakfast will be at 9.00 am on Saturday 18th April. 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 **Fairtrade Coffee Morning** raised £231.42 for the Fairtrade Foundation who replied:

"Thank you for your donation to the Fairtrade Foundation. Your donation means we can make Fairtrade an even stronger tool for change. This guarantees an income that covers basic needs, and the opportunity to work their own way out of poverty. Marcos Pérez, a coffee farmer from Guatemala, says 'prior to Fairtrade we did not have any chance to survive. Now we see the light at the end of the tunnel'. Visit www.fairtrade.org.uk/ to find out more."



The Coffee Morning on Saturday 11th April in St Peters Church, Evercreech will be raising funds for



and



See page 19.

Wisdom

If your lips would keep from slips
five things observe with care:
of whom you speak, to whom you speak
and how and when and where.

Unknown

Evercreech with Chesterblade PCC

The March PCC meeting took place after the deadline for magazine items, so there will be a report in the May magazine.

Meanwhile, please note that the Annual Vestry Meeting, when we elect churchwardens, and the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will be held on **Thursday 7th May** at 7pm in St Peter's. This is your chance to vote and to have your say.

As well as Churchwardens, we will be electing PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives. Nomination forms will be available at the back of the church or from me. Only people who are on the church Electoral Roll are entitled to stand for election and 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)
01749 838843 sear.a@btinternet.com

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

Park Road, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP

<https://stmichaelsshepton.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



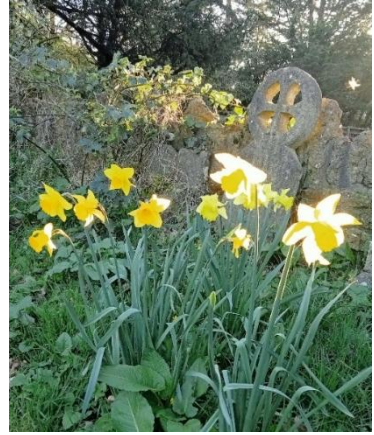
St Michael's was delighted to welcome so many of our Christian friends to the World Day of Prayer on 6th March, and also to our two Lent Lunches in the parish room when delicious homemade soup was enjoyed by all. People also had the opportunity to meet Fr Mark Moran who was able to join us this time.

A group of our young parishioners are continuing their weekly preparation for their First Holy Communion on Sunday April 26th. We pray for them and their families as they take this important step in their journey of Faith.

We send warmest greetings to all our Christian friends. May the blessings of Easter fill our hearts with hope and happiness.

Jadey Tucker

**An Iona Service
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St. James', Milton Clevedon

The early spring brings a lovely show of snowdrops amongst the grass in the churchyard which lasts for several weeks. These are followed by a mixture of large and small daffodils around the car park and in the churchyard ready for Easter.

On the farm the cows are still in their winter quarters as the fields are too wet for them, but we have hope that they will be able to enjoy fresh grass very soon.

We are looking forward to our Easter Sunday service at St. James' at 11.00am on 5th April. As usual we will be having our traditional Easter Egg hunt in the churchyard after the service for children of all ages!

Tessa Calver

Lamyatt News April 2026

March saw St Mary and St John's APCM when we reflected on how this last year has gone and began to look to the future. I am pleased to report that all members of the PCC were happy to continue in their various roles.

We expressed our sincere thanks to all who have arranged flowers, cleaned, locked up, raised money in any way or worked in the background in the past year. Without your help we could not continue.



April begins with our usual Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th from 10.30 am till 12 noon in Lamyatt Village Hall when the 100 club will be drawn. Last month's winners were David and Soo C, Bruno C and Anthea S. Very good to see another first time winner in there.

The following day, Sunday 5th April, we will be ready to welcome you to our Easter Communion service in the church at 11am. It would be lovely to see a full church so do come along and join in the celebration.

Our produce table will be making an appearance very soon in the bus shelter. So now is the time to sow a few extra seeds or start thinking what you can grow or make to put on it. Last year did exceptionally well, so let's see if we can equal it again this year. With thanks to those who donate in goods and money.

Finally, Shakespeare tickets are now on sale from the website:
www.shakespeareinlamyatt.co.uk . Go, have a look and buy yours now!

Jen Richards

The pessimist complains about the wind.
 The optimist expects it to change.
 The realist adjusts the sails.

Unknown



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living and telling the story of Jesus

Grace, truth, love and courage

By Fiona Gibson, Bishop of Taunton

Guilt, shame, mercy, and forgiveness. Four words all linked with Easter, which we shall celebrate this month. The last two of those seem to be in short supply at the moment. The ‘gods’ of social media are ready instantly to punish all offenders, now and in the future.



People often offer George Orwell’s nightmare vision of Big Brother as a way to understand our times. I’m more drawn to the image of Jeremy Bentham’s Panopticon – a building where a watchman could observe all the inhabitants at all times but without the inhabitants knowing whether or not they’re being watched – which ensured compliance. When we hear about online data harvesting it can feel as if everything you say, or do, can be recorded and held against you, ready to be brought out and used if needed.

Where’s the mercy or the forgiveness in that? Where’s the grace that understands we all make mistakes and need second chances? There’s no possibility of wiping the slate clean and beginning again. Which is where the astounding grace and mercy we celebrate on Good Friday and Easter Day comes in. Mark Greene of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity highlights how the wonder of Easter speaks words of grace and hope to our unmerciful world:

All this judgement serves to highlight the majestic, counter-cultural grace of the Christian gospel. Yes, God is a God of justice, opposed to the degrading of any human on any grounds. Yes, he has seen our every furtive action, picked up every sly whisper, logged every darkling thought ... yet his mercy flows from the cross like an ocean, drenching the universe. As today’s media Pharisees rage, God’s offer is ‘mercy, mercy, mercy’ to all who would repent and receive him. And our watchwords: grace, truth, love, and courage.

May this encourage us all as we continue through Lent, experience Holy Week, and finally reach the joy of Easter.

+Fiona

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



DIARY

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
Saturday 4 th April	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast, The Bell Inn
	10.30 am	Coffee Morning, Lamyatt Village Hall
Sunday 5 th April	4.00 pm	Iona Service, All Saints Castle Cary (see page 10)
Tuesday 7 th April	2.00 pm	Have a Break, Evercreech Village Hall
	7.00 pm	Evercreech Parish Council Meeting, Evercreech Village Hall
Wednesday 8 th April	2.00 pm	Mid Somerset Flower Club, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 24)
	7.00pm	Lent Prayer Course, Evercreech Village Hall
Saturday 11 th April	10.00 am	Coffee Morning, St Peter's Church (see page 19)
Tuesday 14 th April	2.00 pm	Have a Break, Evercreech Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Evercreech WI AGM, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 24)
Wednesday 15 th April		<i>Deadline for April Evercreech News</i>
	7.00pm	Lent Prayer Course, Evercreech Village Hall
Saturday 18th April	9.00 am	RBL Breakfast, The Bell Inn Evercreech
	2.30pm	Visiting bellringers St Peter's Church
Tuesday 21 st April		First Day of Term, Evercreech CofE Primary School
	12 noon	Hot Potato Lunch, Evercreech Village Hall
	7.30 pm	History Society, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 25)
Wednesday 22 nd April	10.00 am	School Easter Service, St Peter's Church
	7.00pm	Lent Prayer Course, Evercreech Village Hall
Saturday 25th April	10.00 am	Visiting bellringers full peal attempt (3+ hrs) St Peter's Church
Tuesday 28 th April	2.00 pm	Friendship Club AGM, Evercreech Village Hall (see page 22)
Saturday 2 nd May	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast, The Bell Inn
	10.30 am	Coffee Morning, Lamyatt Village Hall
Thursday 7 th May	7.00 pm	Evercreech Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St Peter' Church (see page 9)

Costume Hire



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

Charges are subject to negotiation, but broadly £10 per complete costume plus a £10 refundable deposit on safe return.

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



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USEFUL CONTACTS

Evercreech Relief In Need Charity Commission Registered – 205527
Clerk: Michèle Hole, holemiche@aol.com See page 22

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

Evercreech Church of England Primary School

Paradise Crescent, Evercreech, Somerset, BA4 6EH

Tel: 01749 830447

www.evercreechprimary.co.uk
office@evercreech.ppat365.org



A busy and exciting spring term.

Over the past term there has been plenty of activity, creativity and learning taking place across the school.

World Book Day was a particular highlight, with this year's theme "Dress as a Word." Children arrived in a fantastic range of imaginative costumes, representing words from *Ambition* to *Zookeeper*, even managing to cover every letter of the alphabet. The creativity and thought that went into the outfits made it a truly memorable day and a wonderful celebration of reading and language.



Several classes have also enjoyed exciting educational visits. Willow Class travelled to the Avalon Archaeology Centre where they stepped back in time to explore the world of the Anglo-Saxons, discovering artefacts and learning about life in the past. Year 6 visited Wells Cathedral to take part in a singing workshop set in the beautiful surroundings of the cathedral, while Year 5 had a memorable trip to *We The Curious* in Bristol. There they explored the science museum, took part in a space workshop and watched a fascinating Planetarium show that brought their learning about space to life. Year 1 enjoyed a memorable trip to Longleat and enjoyed getting up close to some of the animals as part of their science work. They were extra brave and had a wonderful day experiencing all Longleat had to offer.



Science learning has continued in school too. Years 4 and 5 welcomed visitors from Wessex Water who delivered interactive sessions about the water cycle, helping pupils connect their classroom learning with real-world examples through hands-on activities. British Science Week was also celebrated across the school and pre-school with a range of exciting visitors, experiments and investigations from planets and our solar system to the natural world.

Creativity has also been on display through the Year 6 digital media art exhibition, where pupils invited parents into school to view the impressive work they have produced this term. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to celebrate the pupils' effort and innovation.



Younger pupils have been sharing their love of reading as well. Year 1 welcomed parents and carers into Cherry Class for a "Rock Up and Read" session, where children proudly shared books and stories together.



Holly Class have enjoyed exploring and celebrating Chinese New Year as well as Pancake Day this term.

The school community has also taken part in the RSPB Big School Birdwatch. Pupils enjoyed observing the variety of birds that visit the school grounds and made bird feeders to attract even more wildlife. They were delighted to spot house sparrows, starlings, blackbirds, woodpigeons and robins.

Acorns Preschool have been focusing on signs of spring as they appear, looking at changes in their environment with buds on the trees and flowers beginning to bloom. Children have taken part in some gardening recently planting their own flowers and vegetables which they will nurture and watch grow. With the improved weather, children have enjoyed exploring nature outside and in the nearby park.

Alongside all this learning, there has been time for fun and courageous advocacy too, with events such as doughnut sales and the school disco hosted by the PTFA bringing everyone together and raising funds to support the school.

It has been a busy and rewarding term, and the school would like to thank all parents, carers and the wider community for their continued support.

Nathan Hole, Foundation Governor



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

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



Melon Mission Update

Grateful thanks to everyone who made contributions before my last trip to Nakuru in Kenya. The financial donations ensured that all 438 pupils received a box of juice with their lunch one day. This simple gift was met with great joy. In fact, the congregation of St Peter's Church were so generous, that we were also able to make a significant donation towards food costs too.

During the week at school, my colleague and I worked with pupils in most of the class groups (ages 4 to 14), offering a wide variety of curriculum enrichment activities which were enhanced by donated books & craft items. The early years children particularly enjoyed their dinosaur project work. They learnt with fascination that dinosaurs existed millions of years ago, are not mythical, hatched from eggs and sometimes ate each other! Beading, painting, drawing and other crafts were very popular too. Many pupils were given a pencil (crucial and highly sought after) and also a pencil sharpener (which are rarer than hen's teeth).

We spent several mornings undertaking therapy activities with a group of families whose children have special needs. This 'Guardians Group' is supported by Melon Mission school's social workers. The families were happy to receive gifts at the end



of the sessions, including torches for the frequent power cuts and sensory toys – all in drawstring cotton bags made by a group of ladies from Evercreech.

I'm heading back to Nakuru on Easter Monday and would be grateful for donations of good quality second hand 'small world toys' and board books. Plasticine is also on the wish list this time – as the children would love to model some dinosaurs! Labelled donations can be left at St Peter's church or brought to The Hawthornes, Bruton Road (opposite the church).

Asante sana!

Elizabeth Henderson

In memory of Oliver

On 14th February Kathryn, Noah and a small group of friends walked 13 miles from Stourhead to Evercreech in memory of Oliver. It would have been his 13th birthday. They raised in excess of £4,000 for the **Wallace and Gromit Appeal** and the **Children's Hospice South West**, who both helped Oliver and his family.



Approaching the gate into Evercreech.

The Coffee Morning at 10.00 am on Saturday 11th April in St Peter's Church, Evercreech will be raising funds for Children's Hospice South West and the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Please support if you can.

Thank you

Hilary – Oliver's proud Nan



message.

News from Yeovil Street Pastors

Spring is around the corner as we write this to you. How wonderful to see God's creation coming to life after the winter months – a wonderful reminder of the Easter

We are managing to be on the streets of Yeovil every Saturday night of the month at the moment, as we have two newly trained Street Pastors. We are very much looking forward to their Commissioning Service 7.30pm at the Baptist Church in Yeovil on 11th April, with the CEO of our umbrella charity, Ascension Trust, coming to be with us. It's a lovely celebration and everyone is welcome. So do come and be with us that evening if you're free.

It won't be long until Easter, so may we wish each of you a blessed time, filled with God's love, joy, peace, and the hope of eternal life because of our Lord Jesus.

With love from all of us at Yeovil Street Pastors

yeovil@streetpastors.org.uk

Stoney Stratton WW1 Memorial

Thanks to the wonderful work carried out by Gill and David Lindsay – it has come to light that 8 of the young men who died in the first World War were from Stoney Stratton.

The residents of our hamlet decided that it was high time that these young men were honoured locally and their sacrifice recorded, so fund raising began to raise money for a memorial.

Thanks to people's generosity, money has been raised and a site located for the memorial and plans are now being put together on how it should look and what details should be recorded. If you wish to donate – please do so via the justgiving link: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stoneystrattonww1memorial>

These are the men that we wish to honour:

Pte. Harry Edwards, 24
Gnr. Frederick Edwards, 20
Cpl. Victor Harvey, 20
Pte. Thomas Moody, 28
Pte. Alexander Palmer, 20
Pte. Percy Palmer, 23
AB William Rossiter, 20
Dvr. Walter Russ, 26

If you happen to be related to any of these men or know of their families, then we would love you to get in touch. Once the memorial is in place there will be an unveiling, (*date yet to be confirmed*), and it would be wonderful to have any family members who are able to, to be there.

For further information please contact

Gerry Chandler - gerry.chandler@btinternet.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.

In March I made deliveries to Homestart at Minehead, Children of abused families in Bath, Teenagers leaving care in the Banes are of our county and to the Special Care Baby Unit which is reopening in April at Yeovil hospital.

I have purchased a 'Festival Trolley' to help be transport the increasing number of quilts and blankets. The photo was taken of me at Homestart in Minehead by the staff there who were very amused by my trolley! This charity is doing amazing work with families of Preschool children.



They have two new activities focusing on new dads. One is a sponsored barber hair cut with time to chat (sponsored by the Hinkley Point People), the other is a dads' walk ending with a glass of beer in a local pub. Its good to hear that there is somewhere for struggling dads to talk and get help.

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”

Established 1975



Once again it is the month for our **Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 28th April**, also the month when the annual membership fee is due. The yearly membership fee of just **£10** comes with all these added **advantages**: your personal **FREE** Birthday and Christmas card, **FREE** special Friendship Club wall calendar, **FREE** entry to our annual Garden Party, subsidised Christmas lunch and a special reduction on all P & V coach tours. All this for just £10 year!! Not forgetting, of course, the entertainment each month!

Visitors are always welcome for just £2 (a taster in case you would like to join). So if you are over 55 and would like to join our club you would be most welcome. Meetings start at 2pm in Evercreech Village Hall and include: entertainment, 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 RELIEF IN NEED Charity Commission Registered – 205527

A Village Charity with historical roots, administered by locally appointed trustees able to offer modest grants to village residents/families who find themselves in specific need. Application for help with a variety of items can be considered, e.g. school uniform, replacement of domestic equipment following sudden unforeseen breakdowns, storm damage, one off transport expenses e.g. hospital visits, hardship caused by recent cost of living rises.

Grants have supported the ‘Have a Break’ sessions at the Village Hall which are held three times a month and benefit a regular group of village residents. The Trustees moved some of their funds to the Mendip Credit Union, to not only earn interest, but also benefit local residents who receive help from this organisation.

Applications should be sent via letter or email to: The Chairperson:

Alison Stonehouse, The Towers, Stoney Stratton, Evercreech BA4 6EA

alison.jolyon@gmail.com

or The Clerk: Michèle Hole, Bowns View, Weymouth Road, Evercreech BA4 6JB

holemiche@aol.com

NB Please note change of Chairperson



**Evercreech Village Hall
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

The Village Hall AGM is on 1st April, a report will appear in the May Evercreech News. I can report that we had a good year in 2025 with the fundraising covering major items such as insurance and replacement of the amplifier at the heart of the sound system. Thanks as always to our volunteers and members of the committee.

We launched the campaign to replace the clock and I know there have been concerns over the suggestions for size and illumination. We have it on the agenda for the AGM. While we haven't reached our target yet we have received some generous donations and are halfway there. Thank you all who have contributed so far. If you would like to help restore time in Evercreech please make a donation however large or small.

To contribute towards this village asset used by many on a daily basis, you can **scan the QR code** which will take you to our JustGiving page:



<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/restoring-time-at-evercreech-village-hall>

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

We had a good turn out for **The Audience** and will take note of the preference for Sunday matinees during the winter months. While the showing of Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale Film was on Sunday after the clocks went forward, the next three NT Live plays are back to Saturday evenings. The “superb”, “towering” and “ingenious” adaptation of the Arthur Miller classic "All My Sons" has now finished its run In London to rave reviews. Hope to see you there on 25th April (See details on page 29).

Of course you are very welcome to eat, meet and chat at the Hot Potato Lunch on 21st April and sorry to those who missed out on their just desserts last month. We will be making sure there are some left and that the custard is flowing!

If you missed the AGM, please feel free to get in touch with any comments or ideas of how we can make the Hall work better for the Evercreech Community.

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

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 were entertained in March by The Shepton Mallet Ukulele Band, and what a wonderful evening we all had, singing along with some well-known tunes. They even played Jerusalem with us as the start of the meeting, which made quite a difference.

On April 14th we hold our AGM. There will be a round-up of the year, of all of the meetings and events we have held and attended, as well as prize giving for the monthly competition and quiz. We are also going to play a fun game. This is a good opportunity for any woman wishing to join us to find out what sort of activities we get up to.

Upcoming events, August 11th, our annual outing is to Winchester, the coach will leave Evercreech village hall at 9.30am and the day is yours to do as you wish. All welcome, £18 per head for the coach.

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

Mid-Somerset Flower Club

Our next meeting is a practice meeting on Wednesday 8th April 2.00pm in Evercreech Village Hall, doors open 1.30 pm. Bring along some foliage and flowers, maybe tulips, roses or any others. We will help anyone who needs help, Ruth Smith is with us to help with design. We will have as usual delicious home made tea and cakes.



For more information please contact Rose Herlock 07876 080127



Evercreech History Society

www.evercreechhistorysociety.org.uk

Hidden Treasures Evercreech Village Hall

Did you know that the History Society has a cupboard full of maps, documents and some artifacts all related to Evercreech past? On **Tuesday April 21st** you will have an opportunity to come and see a display of some of these interesting items in **Evercreech Village Hall from 7.30pm.**

The society is about to make some changes as I am retiring to move with my husband to Gloucestershire to live nearer to our son. Unless someone has stepped up at the March meeting, long serving committee member Ben Hodgson will carry things forward with the help of our trusty Secretary, Val Bath and a new Treasurer, Sue Ehmann to replace Liz Snelgrove who is also retiring. Liz has been driving over to meetings from Butleigh, and we owe her a debt of gratitude and wish her well.

The society started in 1996; in those thirty years a great deal of research has been done and booklets produced. I hope the following decades will be as productive.

So come along on **Tuesday April 21st at 7.30 pm £3**, cash only please.

Gill Lindsay Chairman



Evercreech Drama Group

2026 dates for your diary:

Saturday 20th June

Family Quiz and Pizza Night in Evercreech Village Hall

More details when we have them!

The Railway is returning to Evercreech!

22nd - 24th October

For 3 nights only we will be whisked back to a time when the railway was central to our life. A new re-telling of E Nesbit's classic story 'The Railway Children' that brings history to life with a local twist on the charming adventure.

Look out for details of auditions coming soon.

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.



**National
Theatre
Live**

All My Sons
by Arthur Miller
directed by
Ivo Van Hove
design by
Jan Versweyeld

Bryan Cranston (*Breaking Bad*) and Marianne Jean-Baptiste (*Hard Truths*) feature in a five-star, triumphantly acclaimed new production of Arthur Miller's classic play, from visionary director Ivo Van Hove (*A View from the Bridge*).

One family, the heart of the American dream. When wartime delivers profits for Joe, it comes at a price when his partner is charged with criminal manufacturing deals, and his eldest son goes missing in action. Will peacetime bring peace of mind, or will he be confronted by the consequence of his actions?

Filmed live from the West End, Paapa Essiedu (*I May Destroy You*), Tom Glynn-Carney (*House of the Dragon*), and Hayley Squires (*I, Daniel Blake*) also feature in this disturbingly prescient play

NB. There is some strobe lighting during this performance

LAMYATT VILLAGE HALL BA4 6NJ

Friday 17th April

7.00 pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Tickets £10 including complimentary canapes.

Pre-performance and interval bar - cash/contactless payment.

<https://buytickets.at/lamyattvillageatrust1/2030897>



EVERCREECH VILLAGE HALL BA4 6JP

Saturday 25th April

7.30 pm (doors open 7.00pm)

Tickets £10. Cash or card accepted

Bar Available

www.evercreechvillagehall.org.uk/ntlive

The Chilla Youth Club is open every Wednesday evening



In the last month we have had very large numbers of young people attending, with over 20 of them the building can be very noisy. The noisiest room is the 'Quiet Room'.

This month we celebrated Chinese New Year of the Fire Horse, with decorations, focused art work, and 'fishing' for Chinese coins with chopsticks in rice. Chaos occurred when they were asked to line up in ascending height order to receive a fortune cookie.

We made Mother's Day cards with a lot of glue, glitter and paper flowers. Our next project an 'Easter Tree' with painted egg shapes.

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. We still need more volunteers, with the installation of the quiet room this 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



Love your Burial Ground Week

Saturday 6th – Sunday 14th
June 2026.

An annual initiative by ‘Caring for God’s Acre’ to celebrate and monitor the wildlife to be found in churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries across the UK.

Promoted by Caring for God’s Acre in partnership with the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. It coincides with National Cemeteries Week, hosted by the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, as well as with the Great Big Green Week run by the Climate Coalition.

Burial Ground managers, PCCs and Friends groups are encouraged to get together with congregations and local residents to run events observing and recording wildlife, whether hosted by a local expert, as a fun activity for families, or any number of options in between.

Feedback from 2025 was overwhelmingly positive, with 97% of participating groups giving either a 4-star or 5-star rating. A fantastic 58% said that attendees included people from outside their usual community, indicating that running an event helped to bring in new people to appreciate the wildlife treasures to be found. When asked to describe the highlight, quotes sent in by participating groups included “Finding hedgehog poo in our city centre churchyard!” and “A lovely evening looking for nature at its best.”

The 2026 focus is on swifts.

Footnote from PCC

Magazine readers will be aware that, as it is a closed churchyard, the routine care of St Peter's churchyard is carried out by Somerset Council. However there is an area on the south-east corner - Hamish's Patch - which (with Somerset Council's agreement) we keep as a biodiversity area. In addition, and bearing in mind the particular concern about swifts, there are two swift boxes on the north side of the churchyard. Sadly these have not been occupied in past years, possibly reflecting the decline in the numbers of swifts.

To find out more about Love your Burial Ground Week, please look at the website [Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature](#)

If you would like to lead an event in the churchyard contact Anne Sear sear.a@btinternet.com to discuss details and practicalities.

Evercreech Parish Council

Street Lights on Prestleigh Road

Several street lights along Prestleigh Road remain unfixed, owing to ongoing discussions concerning responsibility between The National Grid and Somerset County. Residents are encouraged to continue reporting any issues through the Somerset website www.somerset.gov.uk - [Report a problem with a street light](#)

Proposed Café at Queens Road Playing Field

A local business has put forward plans to establish a café at Queens Road Playing Field. The council has given its approval in principle, though this is subject to further detailed plans. The council has also agreed to seek quotations for the extension of access from Shapway Road through to the playing field.

Herris Fencing at Millennium Gardens

The Herris Fencing installed in the Millennium Gardens is currently serving its purpose by helping to prevent anti-social behaviour. The council will continue to monitor the situation.

Council Vacancy: Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

A vacancy has arisen on the council for the position of Responsible Finance Officer (RFO). This role involves working eight hours per week, with pay negotiable and based on candidates' experience. If you are interested in applying, please contact the clerk for further information: clerk@evercreech-pc.gov.uk

The next full council meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th April at 7pm in Evercreech Village Hall.

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



Somerset Bus Partnership

email Somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com

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

Recent military action in the Middle East has already impacted inflation and increased shopping bills for us all. Fuel prices have spiked rapidly hiking the cost of the daily commute and leisure activities, whichever vehicle type we drive (diesel, petrol and also EV charging sites).

However the cost of travel by bus remains unaffected as fares have been fixed by the Government at £3 maximum single journey until 31 March 2027. In the longer term, should there be fuel supply shortages transport providers will be prioritised.

So if the option of a bus journey fits with your work hours, or maybe you are planning a day out or just a trip to the market, I suggest now is the time to hop on. Every extra passenger will help protect our local bus services during these challenging times. (Plus it may also save you money!)

To check timetables, find bus stops and track services in real-time use bustimes.org

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Friday 27th April 2026

THE LAST DANCE Dir. Chan Mou Yin Anselm / 2024 / 127 mins / 15

Our final film of the season, a poignant drama set in Hong Kong which deals with complex issues including family ties, religion and gender inequalities. Wedding planner Dominic (Dayo Wong) is struggling financially, so when his girlfriend's uncle retires he agrees to take over his funeral parlour. There he works alongside Master Man (Michael Hui), a Taoist priest dedicated to performing traditional funeral rituals, and who is antagonistic to Dominic's attempts to modernise the parlour. Things come to a head over a special request from a grieving mother before the two men can begin to accept and respect each other.

Cantonese with subtitles

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or batcombefilmsociety@googlemail.com

SHEPTON MONTAGUE FILM NIGHTS

(in association with SOMERSET MOVIOLA, www.moviola.org)



St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague.

Thursday 9th April at 7.30pm *Doors open 7.00pm for drinks & snacks*

THE CHORAL (2025/113 minutes/15)

Screenplay by Alan Bennett. Director: Nicholas Hytner

Starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam and Alun Armstrong.

Ramsden, Yorkshire, 1916. The chorus master and most of the men of the ambitious local Choral Society have volunteered for the front, so under the direction of the demanding, driven Dr. Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes), the Choral recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls. Together they discover the joys of singing and the urgency of desire as the new boys come to terms with their imminent conscription into the army.

Tickets: £7.00 (£3.50 for under 15)

pay on the door with card or at the bar with cash

All proceeds go to Shepton Montague 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

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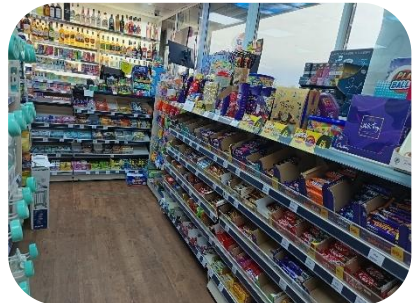
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