

# Ilchester, Northover, Limington, Podimore and Yeovilton

## Church Matters

<b>Services</b>	<b>SMM Ilchester</b>	<b>St Peter Podimore</b>	<b>St Mary Limington</b>
<b>Dec 1st Advent</b>		11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion
<b>Dec 8th</b>	9.30am Holy Communion		11.15am Morning Prayer
<b>Dec 15th</b>	11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	
St Andrew's Families@ 4pm Ilchester School (Infant Dept)			
<b>Dec 22nd</b>	11.15am Carol Service		6pm Carol Service
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>			
	3pm Nativity Panto  11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS	6.30pm Carol Service	10PM 'Nearly' MIDNIGHT MASS
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> ILCHESTER 9.30am Family Holy Communion			
<b>Dec 29TH</b>			11.15am Holy Communion



*Merry Christmas*

## December Readings

### Dec 1st

Psalm 25.1-9; Jeremiah 33.14-16; Luke 21.25-36

### Dec 8th

Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 3.1-6

### Dec 15th

Zephaniah 3.14 to end of chapter; Luke 3.7-18

### Dec 22nd

Psalm 80.1-8; Micah 5.2-4; Luke 1.39-45

### Dec 24th

2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-11 and 16; Luke 1.67-79

### Dec 25th

Isaiah 52.7-10; John 1.14

### Dec 29th

Psalm 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41 to end of chapter

## Prayer Matters!

**We** continue to pray for Palestine and Israel. Syria, Central America, Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Russia. For peace and for wise leadership!

**For** our deanery - We continue to pray for the process to appoint a new incumbent for Curry Rivel, Huish Episcopi et al and for folks from Ham Hill Villages benefice entering vacancy January 1st 2025.

**For** the legal scheme and practical workings as we become the new benefice of Ivelmeads with Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer and Yeovil Marsh joining with us.

**For** all our schools - Ilchester, Tintinhull and Chilthorne Domer.

**For** the sick, those awaiting operations, and those needing care and recovery: Shirley, Jean, Juliet, Barry, Mary.

**For** wisdom in appointing a new Archbishop of Canterbury and for a church concerned above all for the reputation of the Gospel.

**For** the huge financial challenges presented at this time to both the church and many, many charitable bodies.

## Changes in January 2025!

From the 1st of January change is afoot locally. With the reduction in numbers of CofE Clergy available across Somerset we will begin the process of joining together with 3 extra parishes; Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer and Yeovil Marsh.

The process will take most of 2025 and will result in the new **Benefice of IVELMEADS** (Ilchester with Sock Denis and Northover, Limington, Yeovilton with Podimore, Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer and Yeovil Marsh). As such Church Matters will detail services and notices from the new benefice.

At some point in time we will welcome the Bishop to formally license Bruce as the first Rector of this new benefice of churches. The new 'trial' pattern of services is below.

Look Out In January's 'Church Matters' for some introductions from each parish to everyone else.

## IVELMEADS PARISHES

Ilchester w Northover; Tintinhull; Limington; Chilthorne Domer;  
Yeovilton w Podimore; Yeovil Marsh

### Church Matters

Jan 5th	Jan 12th	Jan 19th	Jan 26th
MP 9.30am Podimore	HC 9.30am Yeovil Marsh	HC 9.30am Ilchester	HC 9.30am Tintinhull
HC 9.30am Chilthorne Domer	HC 11.15am Ilchester	MP 9.30am Limington	Morning Worship 11.15am Ilchester
HC 11.15am Limington	St Andrew's Families@ 4pm Ilchester School (Infant Dept)	HC 11.15am Podimore	EP 4pm Limington
		4pm Family Service Tintinhull	

## Notices

Thank you, you FAB PEOPLE!

Shoe Box Appeal 2024—brilliant news folks we managed to send off OVER 100 SHOES BOXES this year and also helped Ilchester School to send some as well. The charity reported they have sent 7 containers full this year, all to folks displaced by war inside Ukraine.

Harvest Donations 2024—The Lord's Larder Food Bank have sent thank you notes for all the churches. In total we managed to donate 1,150 items to the charity. In 2023 the charity donated 170,000 items in 4202 emergency food parcels to help 9684 local people. Already in 2024 they have helped 6,812 people—the demand is ever growing it would seem.

Don't Forget -

Limington Coffee Morning @ St Mary's 12th December from 10.30am

Podimore are hosting Coffee Mornings @ Ilchester Town Hall on Weds 4th and 11th December from 10am—all proceeds to St Peter's.

## 10% in 2025!

2025 will see a sizeable increase in the funds required to keep our churches open and ministered to. The church is not immune for the 'cost of living crisis'; essential building repair costs have rocketed (thankfully there are some grants towards these), gas, electric and water charges, and insurance too has increased (yes we have to insure church buildings).

As a benefice we face a 9% increase in contributions to the Common Fund, which provides for clergy stipends and the support services we rely on to enable and equip us. As much as we may wish it so, the central Church of England is not a magic money tree, and whilst it contributes some funds to dioceses, things are the same as through history, it is up to the local parish to fund its contributions and its bills. This we do through fundraising but the main way is through personal giving.

In 2025 our contributions to the Common Fund equate to £842 for each of us for the year. I know this may be a stretch for some and thank fully some give more. To help us make all our funding needs in 2025 I set a challenge to each and all to increase what you give now by 10% - I will be doing so, and would hope you will join me. With our fundraising efforts this personal giving increase will go a long way to paying our way!