

IVELMEADS PARISHES

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

Church Matters

| Jan 5th | Jan 12th | Jan 19th | Jan 26th |
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| 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 | |

January 2025 Readings

January 5th

Psalm 147.12-20; Jeremiah 31.7-14; John 1.10-18

January 12th

Psalm 29; Isaiah 43.1-7; Luke 3.15-17 and 21-22

January 19th

Psalm 36.5-10; Isaiah 62.1-5; John 2.1-11

January 26th

Psalm 19; Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6 and 8-10; Luke 4.14-21

February 2nd

Psalm 84; Malachi 3.1-14; Luke 2.22-40

SUNDAY REFLECTIONS— For anyone unable to gather with us for worship on any given Sunday we have a reflective service of Morning prayer available on the Benefice Website www.ilchester-district-churches.com Click on the link for SUNDAY REFLECTIONS. Otherwise we hope to see in church!

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.

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, Paul.

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.

Hello from...

St Mary's Church Limington - Limington is a small rural community of 213 souls, with most folks of retirement age. We have a core regular worshipping community who gather for Holy Communion, Morning and Evening Prayer each month. But we are sociable too with monthly village coffee mornings in church and occasional concerts and talks. Through 'The friends of St Mary's' we have an annual village dog show and fete and they support the PCC with our Patronal festival weekend Sausage and Cider Sizzle. St Mary's is an internationally historic church and in some ways the Church of England has its roots here; Thomas Wolsey was rector in the years before he worked for Henry VIII. Unlike Henry, we do not go in for head removal, instead we love to meet folks so do come and join us for worship or social events.

St Mary Major church Ilchester — you might say the last church standing out of the 7 once to be found in the old county town of Ilchester. We are a small mixed, friendly and welcoming group of mostly mature years though younger ones do join us when they can. We share duties using our talents as best we can. We are open to new ideas and in 2025 will be re-introducing a more contemporary service of Morning Prayer. In 2024 we have seen the village fete and flower show locate to the church and grounds as well as the school and local art group holding exhibitions of work. We are looking forward to the journey of joining with new parishes and making new friends within the proposed Benefice of Ivelmeads during 2025.

All Saints' Church Yeovil Marsh - our small church was designed by Charles Benson and built at the expense of George Bullock in 1869–70, who owned much of the area. It was originally built as a chapel of ease to St John's in Yeovil, serving the working and farming folks of Yeovil Marsh hamlet. Today, much of the parish is seen by folks as a part of Yeovil and its village identity is challenged. Whilst the congregation is small, their heart and love for the village remains big!

St Margaret's Tintinhull - At Saint Margaret's Church Tintinhull, we are a welcoming and friendly worshipping community, rooted in faith, love, and service. We warmly welcome new people, enjoy social events, run a Wednesday coffee shop, and foster strong relationships with the other parishes, reflecting God's light in our village and beyond. We are presently looking into restoring our church, which is in need of much repair. We also hope to install audio visual facilities to enhance presentations and services.

St Peter's Podimore with Yeovilton - We are two villages separated by the runway at RNAS Yeovilton. The church at Yeovilton was closed and sold in the 1990s to the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Trust and today is the trust's private chapel and the Navy provide a Chaplain for services on a Sunday. For the parishioners of the villages we have St Peter's, Podimore with a small but faithful congregation who are only too delighted when newcomers to the village join us. Christmas and Harvest services are well attended, the farming heritage is still important here. We are also very lucky to have a village community who are happy to help look after the church and grounds and support our fundraising events. We hope to keep the light of faith alive in our beautiful medieval church, nurture a sense of belonging and place in order to continue the legacy that has been placed in our care. In Podimore the church really is at the heart of the village.

St Mary's Chilthorne Domer - There aren't many of us, and we're all old! The village is small and quite stretched out with the church almost at one end. We have a thriving church school (although most of the pupils live in Yeovil) who support our bi-monthly family service (as Tintinhull school do in their parish). They also come into church for festival services. The wider community in the village are very supportive on special occasions.

Why Ivelmeads? In looking for a simple name for the family of parishes we are becoming, and making sure that there is mutuality between the 6 churches, with no one seeming to be the 'big sister' to the others we realised that there are 2 common denominators we could look to — the meadows all about us (the Meads) and also the river Ivel; even if the Victorians changed its spelling.

What of our Incumbent? Rev Bruce Faulkner was ordained in 2008 and has been ministering to multi-parish rural communities ever since. Before ordination Bruce was a Swiss trained watchmaker and worked for IBM fixing supermarket computer systems and networks (he had responsibility for Boots the Chemist) as well as training all the engineers in the UK. Bruce loves making things; most recently musical instruments. He is married to Ann, a music teacher and assistant musical director for the Yeovilton Military Wives' Choir. They have two grown up sons, Ben who is a writer and film maker and Joshua who is a song writer, music producer and 'content creator'.

Notices

Don't Forget (January is always a slow month for events) -

Limington Community Coffee Morning @ St Mary's — 16th January from 10.30am; great bakes and great conversations

Coffee morning in aid of The Samaritans — Tintinhull Primary School; January 20th, all welcome!

You amazing folks -

Podimore raised £872 at the winter coffee mornings this year, plus over £202 at the Village Christmas meal! A huge thank you also to Wilf and Emily for all the collecting and selling of Walnuts - £50. You are amazing people.

'Chapter and Verse' - coming soon, watch for details!

10% - The Big Challenge of 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!