


# IVELMEADS PARISHES

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

## December Services (January 2026 inside)

<b>Dec 7th</b>	Podimore 9.30am Morning Prayer	Chilthorne 10.30am Christmas Café church	Limington 11.15am Holy Communion	
<b>Dec 14th</b>	Yeovil Marsh 9.30am Holy Communion	Ilchester 11.15am Holy Communion		St Andrew's @4pm Church for all the Family (Ilchester Infants)
<b>Saturday Dec 20th</b>			Limington 6.30pm Carols	
<b>Dec 21st</b>	Ilchester 9.30am Carols	Podimore 11.15am Holy Communion	Chilthorne 6.30pm Carols	Tintinhull 6.30pm Carols
<b>Monday Dec 22nd</b>			Ilchester 6pm Carols on the green	
<b>Dec 24th</b>	Ilchester 3pm Crib Panto	Tintinhull 3.30pm Crib and Christingle	Chilthorne 5pm Crib service	
	Podimore 6pm Carols	Yeovil Marsh 8pm Carols	Limington 10pm Nearly Midnight Mass	Chilthorne Domer 11.30pm Midnight Mass
<b>Christmas</b>	Ilchester 9.30am Holy Communion	Tintinhull 11am Holy Communion		
<b>Dec 28th</b>	Yeovil Marsh 9.30am Holy Communion	Podimore 11.15am Holy Communion		

## December Readings

### Dec 7th

Psalms 72.1-7 and 18-19; Isaiah 11.1-10; Matthew 3.1-12

### Dec 14th

Psalms 146.5-10; Isaiah 35.1-10; Matthew 11.2-11

### Dec 21st

Psalms 80.1-7 and 17-19; Isaiah 7.10-16; Matthew 1.18-25

### Dec 24th

Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14

### Dec 25th

Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14

### Dec 28th

Psalms 148; Hebrews 2.10-end; Matthew 2.13 to end

## Prayer Matters!

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

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

For the sick, those awaiting operations, and those needing care and recovery: Shirley, Jean, Juliet, Mike, Barry, Mick, Vic, Pam, Tracey, Elaine and James. For Albert Hempstead being baptized at Chilthorne Domer on 4th January.

### Ivelmeads Benefice Prayer

Loving God, you alone bring growth to your Church, and transformation to our parish communities. We give thanks for your work in our lives and world today. As we seek your future, send your Spirit, to give vision to our planning, and wisdom in our actions. Help our churches to grow in commitment to you, in numbers and diversity, and in partnership together may we bring your grace, healing and love to our communities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Notices

Thank you, you FAB PEOPLE! Shoe Box Appeal 2024 — brilliant news folks we managed to send off **162 SHOES BOXES** this year. We dropped into the depot near Chard and saw all the checks on boxes taking place and them being boxed ready to go to Ukraine.

*Chapter and Verse* - Wednesday January 28th, 2pm Ilchester Rectory. Time to explore the world and faith in more detail together.

## January 2026 Services

<b>Jan 4th</b>	Limington 9.30am Morning Prayer	Chilthorne 9.30am Holy Communion & Baptism	Podimore 11.15am Holy Communion	Ilchester 6pm Evening Worship
<b>Jan 11th</b>	Tintinhull 9.30am Morning Prayer	Limington 11.15am Holy Communion		St Andrew's @4pm Church for all the Family (Ilchester Infants)
<b>Jan 18th</b>	Ilchester 9.30am Holy Communion	Podimore 11.15am Morning Prayer	Chilthorne 11.15am Morning Worship	Tintinhull 6pm Evening Praise
<b>Jan 25th</b>	Tintinhull 9.30am Holy Communion	Ilchester 11.15am Morning Prayer		Limington 4pm Evening Prayer
<b>Feb 1st</b>	Limington 9.30am Morning Prayer	Chilthorne 9.30am Holy Communion	Podimore 11.15am Holy Communion	Ilchester 6pm Evening Worship

## January 2026 Readings

### January 4th

Psalm 147:12-20; Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:10-18

### Jan 11th

Psalm 29; Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 3: 13-17

### Jan 18th

Psalm 40: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42

### Jan 25th

Psalm 27: 1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23

Christmas Coffee Morning Fundraiser for St Peter's Podimore. 10am on both Weds  
3rd and 10th December at Ilchester Town Hall — great cakes and savouries,  
tombola and raffle - all proceeds to St Peter's

## A Christmas Reflection

*'And they followed the star to where the baby was born, and worshiped'.*

I wonder if any of you managed to see the two recent comets that have visited our part of the solar system. I tried, but failed miserably. However, my watching and waiting was not all wasted as I spied a couple of shooting stars

On another occasion, whilst staying in the Northumberland National Park I was looking to enjoy the dark sky and take some photos of the Milky Way, which still fascinates me every time I see it. So I set myself up late at night and wished the light cloud away and waited for the darkness to fall and the lights to come out. And they did, one by one, star after star, constellation after constellation. And just as the full extent of the night sky gathered in view the moon rose on the horizon and the darkness brightened as if it were dawn – drat!

Sometimes when we are looking for the wonder and amazement of the heavenly something comes along and diminishes things for us, it reduces the view and what we were looking for seems hard to find. At Christmas time I do love the story of the 'wise men', scientists who looked to the heavens for understanding of how the amazing world we live in works. Now that may sound a silly idea but talk to any physicist today and they will tell you that it is to the heavens we need to look to find out how many of the things on our planet work, and more how it all came to be. Scientists know that understanding of how things work requires knowing how they were developed.

For the 'wise men' gazing at the heavens for answers led them to see that what they were looking for was right here on earth, and so they went looking for this answer.

One of the most amazing discoveries for me of the Christian faith is that it has never been about having expert knowledge of the heavens, instead it is about the heavens being fully revealed to us, here on earth. At Christmas we declare 'God with us, Emmanuel'. In the birth of Jesus, God is come to be with us – don't ask me the scientific how, I don't know, and actually it doesn't matter much!

The reality that God is not a concept, that God came and lived with us, knows what human life is about with its celebrations, its heartaches and its possibilities, both bad and good, is simply amazing! I wonder if what made these sages 'wise men' was that they were open to the possibility that God is with us in Christ, with us every day through His Spirit, ready to walk with us on our life's journey. To guide and lead us, to the place where we might worship, where we might know fully 'God is with us'.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL!**

**Don't Forget** — Limington Coffee Morning @ St Mary's 18th December from 10.30am. Also Monday afternoon each week, Chilthorne Damer village hall from 2pm, coffee, cake and chat all in aid of St Mary's.