



Welcome to the Churches of the

OKEFORD BENEFICE

serving the parishes of:
Child Okeford with Manston, Hammoon,
Okeford Fitzpaine, and Shillingstone.

Benefice website: okefordbenefice.org

RECTOR: Rev'd Andrew Gubbins
07734 393906 andrewmgubbins@gmail.com

*(Work Days - Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
Days off - Monday and Thursday)*

The OKEFORD BENEFICE PEW SHEET for week commencing 3rd December 2023

Sunday 3rd December – 1st of Advent

9am Holy Communion at Hammoon (Rev'd Andrew)
Isaiah 64.1-9; 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9; Mark 13.24-end

Bishop Karen's Licensing of Rev'd Andrew Gubbins (Okeford Benefice) as Rector of the Okeford Benefice

2pm Evening Prayer at Child Okeford - BCP Evensong and Licensing
Psalm 25; Isaiah 1: 1-20; Matthew 21: 1-13
3.30pm Pilgrim Group Ecumenical Advent Carol Service at St Gregory's Church, Marnhull.
including the Licensing of Rev'd Gaenor Hockey (Marnhull) ... and Cakes!

Sunday 10th December – Advent 2

10.30am Holy Communion at Child Okeford (Rev'd Andrew)
St Nicholas' Gift Service for Nourish/Women's Refuge
Isaiah 40: 1-11; Mark 1: 1-8

**** PLEASE NOTE the AMENDED TIME of CHILD OKEFORD'S CAROL SERVICE on PAGE 3 ****

Sunday 17th December – Advent 3

10.30am Holy Communion at Shillingstone (Rev'd Andrew)
Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER on Zoom – 9am - strength and fellowship through the week

Tuesday	Morning Prayer	Meeting ID: 477 411 962	Password: 078302
Wednesday	Morning Prayer	Meeting ID: 786 031 572	Password: 022630
Thursday	Morning Prayer	Meeting ID: 612 970 430	Password: 022861
Friday	Morning Prayer	Meeting ID: 943 031 333	Password: 078758



(St Nicholas, Manston)

Church Giving! Please do continue to support the work and ministry of the church. Giving to the church is about supporting the life and work of the local church. On the Okeford Benefice website, just click on the blue 'donate' button, and find the picture of your village church – there are various ways of giving money including by card, PayPal or BACS. (There is a separate tile for the reordering project at St Andrew's, and the re-roofing at Holy Rood).

Thanksgiving Service for the life of Graham Haskell

On behalf of myself and all the family, we would like to say a huge thank you to all who attended the service, which was a wonderful tribute to a special man, and for your generous donations.

Sue, Peter and the Choir made it extra special.

We felt very humbled by the way so many have helped us through a very difficult period. Our thanks and appreciation are endless.

Maureen Haskell



This is a club for children aged 9–14 and runs every Sunday at Okeford Fitzpaine Church from 4.30pm – 5.30pm.

There are games, quizzes, craft, a Bible story and a tuck shop. Apart from the tuck shop, everything is free. Younger/older children can often be accommodated too but please check with Steve first on 01258 450931.



Mighty Okes meets weekly! A lot of fun and a bit of God, this is a youth service for ages 13+. There's no charge to come, but a tuck shop is available. Come along to Shillingstone Church Centre every Sunday, from 6.30pm – 7.30pm. We'd really love to see you!

For more details, contact Steve Sexton on 01258 450931.

Forward to Adventure! - Bishop Andrew

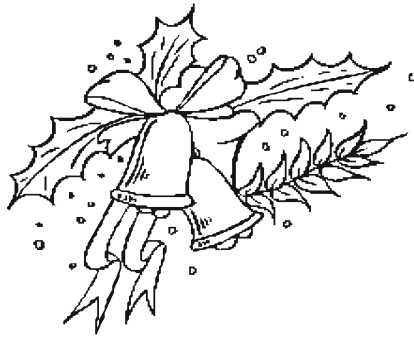


In my former parish, there were various experiments we made to make the most of the unique atmosphere of preparation and excitement accompanying Advent. Shortest-lived was what we called the Nativity Crawl, which involved the familiar festive cast dressed in costume and released in stages onto the high street, to work their way along the five pubs situated there, finding 'no room at the inn' until culminating (with carols and swaddled doll) in carols at the last pub en route. It was fun but didn't quite catch light.

More successful was what we called The Adventure, whereby each evening in Advent, a small space around the benefice – someone's garage, or a school porch – would open for just one hour to give a glimpse of something festive and hope-filled. Different households or groups would take responsibility for one night each, so the load was spread: some would simply sing carols and serve mulled wine, others were more adventurous and creative, but all were exciting steps along the way to Christmas Eve, which took place in the lychgate of one of the churches.

I recall this project (which wasn't my idea, by the way) fondly, because it began to change the rumour about church in the community and brought alive a season that still kindles spiritual yearnings among so many. My seventeen-year-old daughter told me this week that 'getting ready for the party is better even than the party itself'. In Advent, I'm inclined to agree.

+Andrew



CHRISTMAS SERVICES in the OKEFORD BENEFICE

Child Okeford Saturday 16th December at **7pm** – Carol Service

Sunday 24th December at 4pm – Crib Service

Hammoon Thursday 21st December at 6pm – Carol Service

Manston Friday 22nd December at 6pm – Carol Service

Okeford Fitzpaine Sunday 17th December at 5pm – Carol Service

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will be served after the service.

Sunday 24th December at 5pm – Crib Service

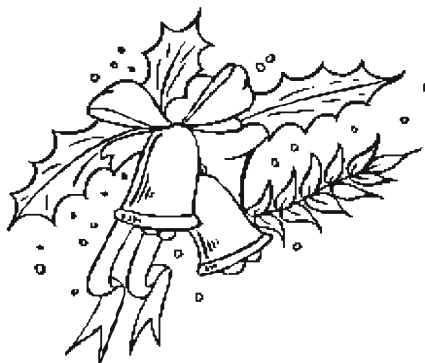
Monday 25th December at 10.30am - HC

Shillingstone Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm – Carol Service

Following this service, Mulled Wine (or soft drinks) and Mince Pies will be served. Come and enjoy the seasonal singing and seasonal goodies!

Sunday 24th December at 3.30pm – Crib Service

Sunday 24th December at 11.30pm – Midnight HC



BENEFICE INFORMATION. The nature of our regular Sunday Services, outreach and pastoral care is shaped by our Ministry Team, made up of the Rector, Lay Minister (PTO), Lay Worship Leader and Lay Pastoral Assistants. Contact details for them are as follows:

RECTOR Rev'd Andrew Gubbins - 07734 393906
Abi Rudd, Lay Worship Leader - 01258 861367
Carolyn Angelucci, Lay Pastoral Asst - 01258 860049

Sue Rawlinson, Lay Minister (PTO) - 01258 863733
Ruth Allen, Lay Pastoral Asst - 01258 860068
Jill Burton, Lay Pastoral Asst - 01258 860487

Contact details for a Churchwarden in each Parish are as follows:

Child Okeford with Manston – Keith Allen – 01258 860068. Hammoon – Charlie Poë – 01258 860325.
Okeford Fitzpaine – Chris Jay – 01258 860153. Shillingstone – Lesley Gasson – 01258 861690.

All enquiries concerning Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals should be directed to the Benefice Priest.

The weekly **OKEFORD BENEFICE PEW SHEET**. For any upcoming events/notices to be included in the '**Pew Sheet**,' please contact me, Diana J Lewis, via email at pentridge@btinternet.com by Noon each Thursday. Emails will receive confirmation of receipt. The '**Pew Sheet**' will also be distributed by me!

Please do use this, and the website, to stay up to date with news and information.

If, dear reader, you know of anyone who would like to receive the weekly Pew Sheet from me, please let me know and I will include the contact's email address on my Mailing List. Thank you.

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