



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

21st January 2024

Sunday 21st January – 3rd of Epiphany

10.30am Holy Communion at Shillingstone (Rev'd Andrew)
Genesis 14: 17-20; Revelation 19: 6-10; John 2: 1-11

Sunday 28th January – 4th of Epiphany

10.30am Holy Communion at Okeford Fitzpaine **IN THE VILLAGE HALL** (Rev'd Andrew)
Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; Revelation 12: 1-5a; Mark 1: 21-28

Friday 2nd February – Candlemas

5pm Christingle at Christmas at Child Okeford (Rev'd Andrew)
Luke 2: 25-40

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, Child Okeford)

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).

Closure of St Andrew's Church, Okeford Fitzpaine

Please note that the first work phases of the "St Andrew's needs a Loo" Project will be commencing on Monday 8th January 2024. These entail electrical re-wiring and new power supply installation works followed by the replacement of rotten flooring.

During this period all Services and 'Trailblazer' activities will be held in the Village Hall. We hope that the works will be completed by the end of February.

Chris and Sue Jay, Church Wardens

The final Book Group on offer is on Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 2pm-3pm in the Shillingstone Church Centre 7.45pm – 8.45pm.

Our book is entitled '**Virtue Reborn**' by Prof Tom Wright, a historian and NT scholar who was formerly Bishop of Durham.

This is a fresh look at debates Christians have had and are still having about the way we live in particular how we draw on the life, love and Spirit of God as practicing Christians. If it is about following the Rules, achieving authenticity, or forming a Christian character, what then are the consequences? Wherever you start, your participation is welcome.

New copies of this book will cost around £12, but second-hand copies might be cheaper - please contact Rev'd Andrew.

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.

From Diana, Editor of the Okeford Benefice Pew Sheet: - Following on the next two pages, I felt the news may be of particular interest to people in the Salisbury Diocese as the article is all about the unveiling of two new items in our very own Cathedral! Please, do spend a little time reading them.

Of course, you don't need to print them unless you wish to!

Thank you.

Salisbury Cathedral unveils two new altars created by sculptor William Pye

On Sunday 14th January 2024 after more than 10 years of planning, selecting and commissioning designs, Salisbury Cathedral formally unveiled two new Altars, which were consecrated by Bishop Stephen during the 10.30am Eucharist.

This is the first time in 500 years that a new Altar has been consecrated in the Cathedral Nave and at least 20 years since the decision was taken to re-order the Cathedral.

The Altars are a unique collaboration between sculptor William Pye and furniture maker Luke Hughes, a former Cathedral school pupil, and will be placed in the Spire Crossing and Trinity Chapel respectively.

The commissioning process began in response to a Liturgical Plan drafted in 2014 and updated in 2016. Design competition entries were invited in August 2018 and presentations made to The Very Rev'd Nicholas Papadopoulos, Dean of Salisbury and the Cathedral Chapter (or governing body) in December of that year.

Luke Hughes, who won the design competition, agreed with the Dean and Chapter that the new Altars should be linked in form and material to the William Pye Font, installed in 2008, making good use of the Cathedral's magnificent end-to-end vista, and from this proposition grew the artistic collaboration that resulted in these two exceptional pieces.

William Pye and Luke Hughes met for the first time in February 2020 and agreed a division of labour. Pye was to concentrate on the detail design of the Altars, while Hughes took on the task of space-planning and designing the daises. Hughes also took responsibility for the clergy seating, movable choir music desks and supporting furniture for the Trinity chapel. Some of this additional work has yet to be commissioned.

Sculptor William Pye, who designed and made the altars said:

"The collaboration with Luke has been a very fruitful one – and his instinct to mirror the materials, architecture and magnificence of the space is very much in line with my own thinking, particularly in relation to the original font – but I also wanted the Altars to feel intimate, using the words and symbols that have been inscribed around the base to capture the inner, individual experience of faith as well as the shared experience. The lettering that form the texts and the way they are deployed aim to arrive at something akin to a Roman tablet, avoiding the suggestion of contemporary design or gothic pastiche. The icons that accompany the texts all make reference to features that can be seen within the Cathedral.

"It is deliberate that the altars strongly echo the vernacular of the font and the Cathedral architecture. I wanted the altars to belong to the space, whilst making a statement. And just as the font has become part of the visitor experience and worship, I hope these two new altars will also form part of that experience."

Furniture maker Luke Hughes, who was responsible for planning the space and building the daises for the altars, said: "My passion lies in creating and crafting 'furniture' that enhances ancient spaces like Salisbury Cathedral. In this case I not only had to respond to the building, but also to William Pye's design. And there were practical considerations too. The platforms had to be easy for the vergers to dismantle and move, and sturdy enough to withstand being regularly taken apart and reassembled. So, the challenge was practical as well as aesthetic."

Hughes' daises, made in oak and shaped to mirror each altar, have been designed and constructed in such a way that what looks like a solid structure is in fact made up of a series of interlocking parts that sit on wheels. The elegance of the design is breathtakingly simple and like the Cathedral itself, a feat of engineering as well as being beautiful to look at.

Celebrating the official installation of the new Altars, The Very Rev'd Nicholas Papadopoulos, Dean of Salisbury said: "We are delighted with the work of these two exceptional artists and craftsmen, which so beautifully and simply complements the aesthetic and design of the Cathedral. By mirroring the shape and materials used in the font - Purbeck stone and inscribed bronze - William Pye has created a sense of permanence and simplicity. And just as the Font's still water reflects the Cathedral's vaulting and the

stained-glass windows, the darkened glass surface on each altar also echoes both vaulting above and stained glass, so that this lofty space and the Altars become one."

The Rev'd Anna Macham, Canon Precentor of Salisbury Cathedral with responsibility for liturgy and music, said: "For a long time we have made good with various arrangements of carpeted staging blocks and temporary Altars, so to see the new Altars in place is inspiring. In both cases the space in which each new Altar stands is significant. The Trinity Chapel is where prayer is offered every morning of the year, and the Spire Crossing is where the principal Sunday services and great seasonal liturgies are celebrated. The aesthetic link between the Font and the Altars is powerful too, tracing the Christian journey that begins at the Font through to the quiet, reflective chapel at the East end of the Cathedral.

Details of each altar

The Spire Crossing Altar is octagonal, as is the space it occupies beneath the Cathedral's Tower and Spire and the oak dais around it. The stone base is inscribed with a text from St Matthew's Gospel:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (St Matthew's Gospel 11: 28-30)

These words (spoken by Jesus) express the welcome that the Cathedral seeks to offer to all. In addition to the inscription, William Pye has also carved images, or icons, drawn from the Cathedral's architecture into the stone, such as the Sudan Candle and Foramina Shrine.

The bronze section of the Spire Crossing Altar is also inscribed with the eight so-called 'O' Antiphons, or chants, which are sung at Evensong on eight evenings before Christmas. These antiphons also feature in the Cathedral's magnificent 'From Darkness to Light' service. The first seven are Biblical titles ascribed to Jesus – and the eighth, unique to Salisbury, addresses his mother, Mary.

The Altar in the Trinity Chapel also carries an inscription - lines from 'The Altar' by George Herbert, one of England's greatest poets, who worshipped in the Cathedral and whose statue stands in a niche on the West Front.

The new Altar project has been made possible thanks to the support of the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral, a substantial anonymous legacy, and resources set aside by Cathedral Chapter for this very special purpose.