



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 okefords.rector@gmail.com

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

OKEFORD BENEFICE PEW SHEET for WEEK COMMENCING 15th March 2026

Sunday 15th March -MOTHERING SUNDAY. See item from Rev'd Andrew on next page

10.30am Family Communion at Shillingstone
Colossians 3.12-17; John 19.25b-27

Passiontide begins

Sunday 22nd March

10.30am Holy Communion at Okeford Fitzpaine
Ezekiel 37. 1-14; Romans 8. 6-11; John 11. 1-3, 17-45

Sunday 29th March - PALM SUNDAY

10am Donkey Procession at Child Okeford Community Car Park.
Matthew 21. 1-11; *(Isaiah 50. 6-8; Phil 2. 5-11)*

6pm Sung Eucharist at Shillingstone
Isaiah 50. 4-9a; Phil 2. 5-11; Matthew 21. 6-11; Passion Text

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**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 continue to support ministry of the church. Giving to the church supports 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 – to give by card, PayPal or BACS. (There are separate tiles for the reordering at St Andrew's, and re-roofing at Holy Rood).

From Rev'd Andrew

Children at Shillingstone School in Years 4/5 talked to ladies from the WI on Tuesday 10th March and identified so many different skills that Mothers possess. Together they made quite a stunning image of 'Supermum'. Holy Rood Church celebrates MUMS for an hour at 10.30am this Mothering Sunday (+ posies that young people can give to their parent). There will be a chance to present their own ideas about what makes Mums special? It would be great to be able to welcome extras on this special day.

Looking Ahead Do not miss our pair of Donkeys and their Palm Sunday Procession at 10am on Sunday 29th March from Child Okeford Community Centre Car Park.

More info? Even more important - do not forget your banner, and if you need the chance to make one - look out for our workshop Saturday morning, the day before. at Child Okeford Church. That Palm Sunday, 29th March, get ready for Holy Week with our Sung Eucharist for Holy Week in Holy Rood Church, Shillingstone at 6pm.

The next **LENT LUNCH** will be on
Wednesday 18th March from Noon – 2pm in
the Shillingstone Church Centre and is in aid of Marie Curie.
The lunch is a simple meal of soup, bread and cheese.
People donate to Charity – there is no charge for the lunch.

Mark My Words!

A teaching course on the Gospel of St Mark will be held on Thursdays in Lent at 2pm in the Shillingstone Church Centre.

Each session will last one hour, and the next dates will be on 19th and 26th March.

The sessions will include some musical input, and discussion time. If you intend to come, please bring a Bible.

Sue Rawlinson

Bach's St John Passion at Milton Abbey

Bournemouth Sinfonietta Choir perform one of Bach's most moving and dramatic choral works in the majestic setting of Milton Abbey on Palm Sunday 29th March at 3pm, conducted by Musical Director, David Gostick.

The choir is joined by Dorset-born and internationally renowned tenor, Kieran White, recognised as one of the most expressive tenors of his generation and widely acclaimed for his performances of Baroque music. Reviews in *Opera Magazine* and *The Guardian* praise his "extraordinary emotional clarity" and "pure, luminous tenor voice."

This afternoon concert will be an ideal opportunity for fans of choral music to hear authentic, Baroque instruments performed by Wessex Baroque Collective, led by Brian Lloyd Wilson.

Tickets £25 in advance, £28 on the door, £5 students and under 18s. Available online at www.bschoir.org.uk or at the door (cash or card)

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
Sue Rawlinson, Lay Minister (PTO) - 01258 863733
Abi Rudd, Lay Worship Leader - 07792 727299
Ruth Allen, Lay Pastoral Asst - 01258 860068
Carolyn Angelucci, Lay Pastoral Asst - 01258 860049
Jill Burton, Lay Pastoral Asst - 01258 860487

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

Contact details for Churchwardens in each Parish are as follows:

Child Okeford with Manston - Simon Baird - 01258 860477. Ruth Allen - 01258 860068
Hammoon - Charlie Poë - 01258 860325. Steven Vestbirk - 01258 860910
Okeford Fitzpaine - Chris Jay - 07884 019750 and Sue Jay - 07884 256447
Shillingstone - Lesley Gasson - 01258 861690

Ela Fitzpayne and John Forde

A Medieval Scandal from Okeford to London

A talk by **Professor Manuel Eisner**,
Wolfson Professor of Criminology,
University of Cambridge



**St Andrew's Church,
Okeford Fitzpaine, DT11 0RD**

Friday 27 March

6pm - Drinks

6:30 - Talk starts

Tickets - £10 (includes a glass of
wine or soft drink)
from

Okeford Village Stores, or

TicketSource



In the spring of 1325, John Forde became rector of Okeford Fitzpaine parish and a trusted administrator on the Fitzpaine estate. Seven years later, the Archbishop of Canterbury publicly accused Lady Ela Fitzpayne of adultery with John Forde. When she refused to perform the public penance imposed on her — including a barefoot walk through Salisbury Cathedral — he declared her excommunicated. Five years after that, John Forde was ambushed and killed in the streets of London. A coroner's jury recorded that Ela Fitzpayne had persuaded five men — including her brother Hugh Lovel — to carry out the attack.

How did events in this quiet Dorset village lead to a violent death in the heart of medieval England? Come and hear the remarkable true story that began at St Andrew's.

Professor Manuel Eisner is a criminologist from the University of Cambridge. His research into Ela Fitzpayne was one of several medieval murder mysteries published in 2025 on an interactive map. <https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/medieval-murder-maps>

In aid of restoration funds for St Andrew's Church