

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. A prominent, steep, light-colored cliff face runs diagonally from the bottom center towards the right, meeting the sea. To the left of the cliff, there are rolling hills with patches of brown, autumnal vegetation and some green fields. A narrow, winding path or road is visible on the hillside. The sea is a deep blue, with white waves breaking against the base of the cliff and further out. The sky is a clear, pale blue with a few wispy clouds.

The Golden Cap Benefice Profile House for Duty Team Vicar

The churches of Bettiscombe, Catherston Leweston, Charmouth, Chideock, Fishpond, Hawkchurch, Lyme Regis, Marshwood, Monkton Wyld, Morcombelake, Whitchurch Canoncorum, and Wootton Fitzpaine

Introduction from the Bishop of Sherborne



Bishop Karen

In the last few years, the Golden Cap Team has developed new energy and vision for the next stage of its mission and ministry and now seek a house for duty team vicar (Sunday plus two days) to join them on this journey. The Team, made up of a part-time team vicar, an associate priest, retired clergy and a significant number of lay leaders (Licensed Lay Ministers, Lay Pastoral Assistants, Lay Worship leaders, an administrator and churchwardens), are looking for a colleague who can be responsible for the building up compassionate communities amongst the villages, towns and hamlets that make up the Golden Cap benefice. This will include developing a new generation of lay pastoral assistants, and ways in which communities can build greater connections, with the team as a whole and outwards from churches to community. There are significant challenges and opportunities within the benefice, including geographical distance, however the benefice enjoys its diversity, and there are many encouraging signs of growth as each church and local community builds on the best it can offer.

Fi, the Team Rector, has worked hard with others on developing a vision for the whole team, described in this profile. This post would suit anyone wanting to settle into a place of beauty and popularity, living in Lyme Regis close to the rural hinterland and who would like to blend ministry with other interests. The Lyme Bay deanery, in which the Golden Cap Benefice is situated, seeks to be a supportive place bringing together the rural clergy with those in the seaside towns. There will be a warm welcome amongst this clergy grouping for whoever comes to this benefice.

Thank you for reading this!

I come from a background in urban-estate ministry, and I find that ministry in rural Dorset is not dissimilar. Community and relationship are key. If you are community minded person, with an ability to gently, lovingly, joyfully and prayerfully immerse yourself in community-based ministry and life, then I'd love to hear from you. I am particularly invested in building up a greater sense of team within the benefice and would love you to be a part of that process.

Yours in Christ.
Rev. Fi

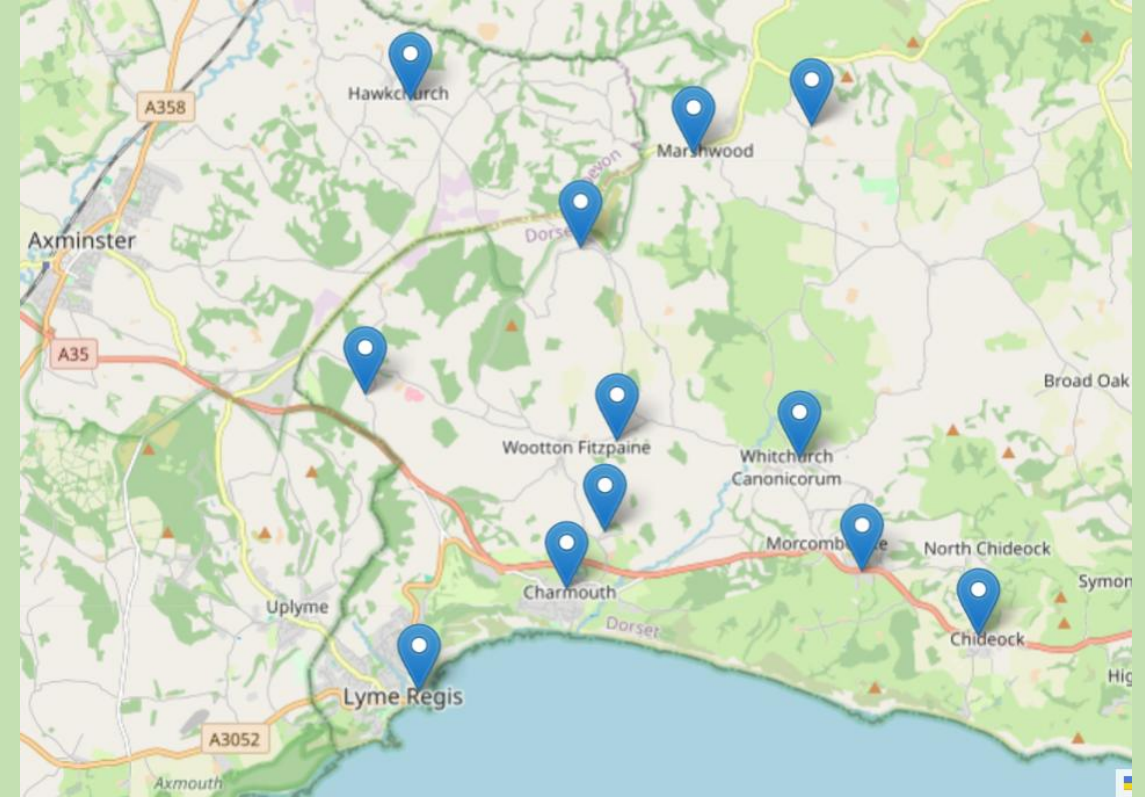
Please do get in contact if you'd like to find out more about this role:

fi@goldencapchurches.org

More recently the deanery has welcomed a pioneer priest into the Bridport team with a remit for chaplaincy to the arts, to work with others in the deanery, and that, together with a diocesan commitment to supporting both rural and coastal ministry in the years ahead, will ensure future resources will be deployed favourably. This post with a creative ministry of welcome and pastoral care will add to the diversity and possibilities of sharing good practice.

Bishop Karen

The Golden Cap Benefice- Coast and countryside



Our stunning coastline stretches from Lyme Regis to Seatown (Chideock) and is part of the World Heritage Site called the Jurassic coast. Golden Cap is a famous landmark on the coast managed by the National Trust. The whole area is a holiday destination all year round and in the summer the population can rise to over 20,000 with many caravan sites in our coastal communities. People come to enjoy the scenery, our beaches, the sea, walking and fossil hunting.

The landscape of the Marshwood Vale is agricultural and consists of narrow winding lanes between farms and small communities. The vale is surrounded by hills to the north including the hillforts of Lambert's Castle, Coney's Castle and Pilsdon Pen. The vale, designated an area of natural beauty has a sacred quality so it is no wonder visitors come to have their souls restored!

The Golden Cap Benefice is an extraordinary place: If you love rural ministry then this is the place for you!

Our 12 church buildings are glorious, iconic, remarkable sacred spaces at the heart of our communities

As a benefice we are excited about:

- Our vision and plans for our church buildings to be sacred spaces at the heart of our communities being used every day by our church, community, pilgrims and visitors.
- The connection people experience with our creator God in our beautiful countryside and coast as they visit our area.
- The arts and the artists and musicians that spark creativity and enrich our church life.
- Our recent and current building projects that will enable more accessible church and community use.
- Our close contact with our local schools with a good working relationship and growing ministry.
- Our great teams working together to make Jesus known in our communities.
- Our openness to changing things to see more people come to know Jesus for themselves.



The Golden Cap Team....Our invitation to you

As our Team Vicar (HfD), we would like help with:

Building a sense of compassionate communities flowing from and across the Golden Cap Churches

Supporting a fledgling pastoral team to walk alongside local people, building on existing relationships and networks

Blessing our church communities through worship and opening arms to our local communities through connections and Life Events Ministry.

Bring your gifts and the all the things that help you flourish!

You are joining a team..

With twelve church buildings, 10 parishes, many worshipping communities, active work in our local schools and wider community partnerships and programmes, teamwork is essential and part of the joy of joining a large benefice.

Golden Cap is blessed to have a large team of lay leaders as well as retired clergy, with two Readers, [James Ashdown](#) and [Richard Knights](#) an Associate Priest [Lucyann Ashdown](#), a full time Rector [Fi Budden](#) and two part time Team Vicars, [Virginia Lockett](#) and this vacancy . Please see our [who's who](#) for more names and faces.

Administration

Margaret is our part time Administrator who plays an important role in the co-ordination of our benefice. We have a team office and photocopier in Lyme Regis.

Joint Team Council

Each Parish has 2 representatives that sit on the Benefice Team Council which meets every other month. There is a team treasurer that looks after the team expenses. We are trying to find ways of centralising much of the administrative burden that falls on our small parishes.



Fi Budden, Team Rector



Lucyann Ashdown, Associate Priest



Ginny Lockett, Team Vicar



James Ashdown LLM



Richard Knights LLM

Growing community



Flower festivals



Weddings



Fetes and fun days



Open Tuesdays



Free Xchange cafes

We would love you to hear about each church. We have a lot to say!

There's more [here](#). (Click on the church photo for more info)



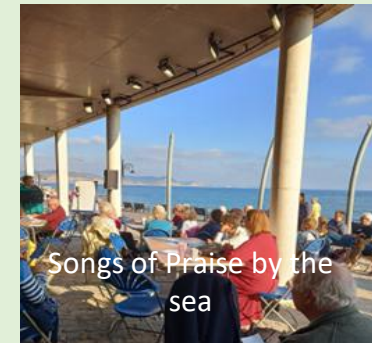
Pilgrimage



Whitchurch CommuniTea



Blessing of the boats



Songs of Praise by the sea



Remembrance

Growing Younger

Our schools....an exciting local partnership

With three C of E Primary schools, (Hawkchurch, Marshwood and Lyme Regis), a community primary school (Charmouth) and Woodroffe, the secondary school in Lyme Regis, we are kept busy and have a great team of volunteers and governors.

Year 6 transition pilgrimage days are run at St Wite's and the music department at Woodroffe School use St Michael's as a venue for concerts.



Penny Cox
Schools Work Lead



Ros Woodbridge
Short and Sweet Lead



And finally [Short and sweet....](#)
30 minute services for families
And also online for Christmas!



Our fledgling Pastoral team...

Pastoral care is one of the Church of England's 5 Marks of Mission and a way of showing God's love and care, in response to Jesus' call to love God and love each other.

Having 10 parishes with 12 churches within the benefice, there is a great need to develop a pastoral team. Being able to reach out in the love of Christ and listen to the needs of the community is foundational to mission in this area, and so building up our pastoral team is a priority for the benefice.

We are delighted that Sue Knights has been commissioned as our first Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) to the benefice, and we plan to run further courses to build up this team. We hope that our new Team Vicar would feel drawn to encourage, support and develop this ministry, alongside our Team Rector, and lay and ordained leaders.



Sue Knights LPA

Growing deeper.... Spirituality and pilgrimage

The Vale is an extraordinary sacred space

The church of St Candida and the Holy Cross in Whitchurch Canonichorum is called the Cathedral of the Vale. It is one of the rarest of holy places in England and has been a site of pilgrimage for over 1000 years. The medieval shrine contains the body of St Wite (Dorset's patron saint) . It has three holes in it's base where sick medieval pilgrims would place body parts praying for miraculous healing.

Today visitors come from all over the world and place prayers for healing in the 'limb holes'. Each month we gather up all the prayers and hold them before God.



St Wite's Way.....come and find rest for your soul

We are excited by our new pilgrimage project led by Rev Virginnia Luckett
A transformative pilgrimage experience for those who are seeking rest, restoration and renewal.

Launched by our bishop in 2023 **St Wite's Way** is a pilgrimage experience and guided walks in the heart of West Dorset. Come and find rest for your soul walking in the footsteps of Dorset's patron saint.

Developing music and worship



In 2009 a new Skrabl organ was built and installed in **St Michael's Lyme Regis**. Organists come from far away to play it and the South West Organ School uses it to teach and encourage the next generation of church musicians. St Michael's partners with the Lyme Bay Chorale to stage concerts through the year.

Help us develop music in worship

We have two excellent organists and musical directors and have recently formed the St Michaels' Festival Chorus to sing at special services. Pictured are the chorus and friends from Salisbury Cathedral rehearsing for a concert to raise money for our RNLI.

Lay worship leaders

We have a team of 8 lay people that lead worship across the team. Please our website Who's Who for more details. Thanks



'**Soul soak**' is our monthly service of an hour of curated contemporary worship music and prayer. We would love to form a band in the future and are hopeful that this is becoming a fresh expression

Bell ringing

There are 4 towers with bands of ringers in Lyme Regis, Hawchurch, Chideock and Whitchurch with regular practise nights and Sunday ringing. With it's 10 bells, Lyme Regis has a reputation for advanced ringing and attracts people from a wide area to ring complicated methods.

Taize services

Regular evening Taize services are led by our lay reader James in **Wooton and Fishpond churches**.

Courageous Christian Leadership

The Pilsdon Community-sharing a common life of prayer hospitality and work

The Pilsdon community is a well-established Christian Community located in the benefice. Its Chapel is a lovely old church consecrated for Anglican worship, but the community operates independently from the benefice. Nonetheless there are significant links between us, for instance our associate priest Lucyann regularly takes the 6:30pm Sunday Eucharist

Since 1958, the Pilsdon Community has been offering a refuge to people in crisis, welcoming those from all backgrounds and from many different walks of life – whether young or old, rich or poor.

It is a great blessing to have the community located amongst us; relationships are warm and supportive and it adds a really interesting and positive dimension to ministry in the benefice: it challenges, resources and inspires us.

Please see [the Pilsdon community website](#) for more information



Where will you live?

In Lyme Regis - the pearl of the Jurassic Coast!

Lyme Regis is popular and characterful seaside town that attracts many visitors over the holiday season. Hospitality and fishing are the main industries. However, there is an active community and the town is thriving. It has two primary schools and a secondary school and is well connected to the main bus routes in the area. It's great place to live.

Here's a [video walk through](#) of the house before the it was decorated and the kitchen and one of the bathrooms upgraded. It's a three bedroom, 2 bathroom bungalow in a close. It has spectacular views across the valley and out to sea. A floor plan is available on request.



Sunday Worship

2024	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
Bettiscombe			11am Morning worship	
Catherston Leweston		9.30am BCP Communion		11am Morning worship
Charmouth	9.30am Communion service	9.30am Morning worship	9.30am Communion service	9.30am Morning worship 5pm Soul Soak
Chideock	11am Morning worship	11am Communion service	11am Chideock Praise	9.30am Communion service
Fishpond	9.30am Communion service		11am Morning worship	
Hawkchurch	11am Communion service	11am Morning worship	11am Communion service	11am Morning worship
Lyme Regis	8am BCP Communion 11am Communion Service	11am Communion service	11am Communion service	11am Communion service
Marshwood	Festival services			
Monkton Wyld	Festival services			
Morecombelake		9.30am BCP Communion		9.30am Communion service
Whitchurch Canoniconum		11am Holy Communion	11am Morning worship	11am Healing service
Wotton Fitzpaine	11am Meditation		11am Communion service	
Pilsdon Community	6.30pm communion	6.30pm communion	6.30pm communion	6.30pm communion

Our morning services are at 9.30am and 11am to allow for travel time between. We group our churches geographically to enable the leader to stay and chat for as long as possible after the 9.30am.

We have two festival churches St Andrew's Monkton Wyld and St Mary's Marshwood which has services 4 times year when the whole village turns up.

Regular attendance in Bettiscombe 12, Charmouth 25, Lyme 35, Catherston 6, Morcombelake 4, Chideock 25, Fishpond 6, Hawkchurch 20, Wootton 8, Whitchurch 12. We have an online service with a following of around 35 people a week.

Life events in 2025

Baptisms 8

Weddings 10

Funerals and burial of ashes 45

Golden Cap Team.....
This is your invitation

Come and '*be*' with us.

Bring everything you are under God
because...

Golden Cap can offer you space;
to breathe, to work hard, to try new
things, to swim in the sea and the Holy
Spirit.

This is not a place to retire quietly but a
place to put down roots and flourish in
your ministry with us, led by God.

For an informal chat contact
fi@goldencapchurches.org



Fishpond church