

**Bishopstone**  
orders to perform  
penance in Church  
dated 1706



*Transcribed from the original document held by WSHC, Chippenham*

Original reference: 2082/33

Schedule of penance acknowledgment orders the  
Reverend Thomas Coker of arts pebendary of Bishopstone  
in North Wilts at his pebendary as follows -----

There as at ye Visitacon Court held at Bishopstone Church on the Thirtieth day of  
May 1706 the Churchwardens of that & ye did ye sent Richard Payne of the same &  
ye for Adultery & begetting a bastard Child on the body of Martha Jacob of ye [??]e  
of St..... in Marlborough and the crime being openly often confest by ye Rd Payne  
The said Revd Thomas Coker pebendary aforesaid & ye judge did there upon order  
and decr ..... that ye said Richard Payne appear in the lye Church of Bishopstone  
aforesaid on Sunday the ffive and Twenyeth day of August instant at time of Divine  
Service and after the publick prayer and before Sermon Standing before ye reading  
pe[??] & minister there officiating repeat after him as follows -----

for Sunday the ffirst of  
September next

*I Richard Payne doe acknowledge that I was guilty of the sin of Adultery committed with Martha Jacob and  
begetting on her a Base born child And that thereby offended Almighty God and gave ill example scandall to  
all christian neighbours, for which I am right heartily sorry and begg forgiveness of God and the Charity and  
prayers of my neighbours promising by God's help not to be guilty of the like offence , ffor the avoiding of  
wch I desire their Congregcon to pray for me Saying – Our Father &c*

This was reformed by the sd Richard Payne

on \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
1706 in place & time above directed

Wittness my Hand

Directed to me John Smith Vicar of Bishopstone in North Wilts  
Or other Clerke officiating there  
Dated at Sarum with usual and authentick seal the Twelfth day of August 1706