

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

Christmas & New Year 2022

Welcome to our **Christmas and New Year Monthly Edition 2022.**

The weekly bulletin in our regular service sheet will keep you up to date with what's happening week by week.



This Christmas we invite you all to Follow The Star and join with us in our services and Christmas events across the Pershore Benefice and online

A full list of services taking place can be found on [Page 3](#)

ADVENT COMPLINE CONTINUES BY ZOOM MONDAYS IN ADVENT AT 1900: Please join us for this quiet and reflective service as we prepare for our Christmas celebrations. Once again we will be meeting on Zoom from the comfort of our own homes for this 20 minute service which will enable us all to pause and reflect on our Advent journeys. Join us live at **1900** on **5, 12 and 19 December.**

If you would like to be part of this service, please email me at vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the Zoom link and a copy of the order of service. *Claire*

PERSHORE ABBEY CHRISTMAS CARD DISPLAY

From December, this will be available again for you to display a single message to all your Abbey friends whilst supporting the Christmas Christian Aid Appeal



SCHOOLS RETURN TO PERSHORE ABBEY FOR THEIR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS:



We are absolutely delighted that we are once again able to welcome our local school children, teachers and their families back into Pershore Abbey this year for their wonderful Christmas Presentations and services

We are very much looking forward to welcoming them all!

THIS MONTH . . .

- Christmas Services
- New Year News
- Pipe Dreams - Organ Installation News
- 60 Years A Deacon - A Snowy Reflection

Read on for more details . . .

LISTEN OUT FOR THE PERSHORE ABBEY BELLS RINGING OUT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



FOLLOW THE STAR - THE GREAT INVITATION: Following a series of difficult Christmases, the Church of England's campaign for 2022 focusses on encouraging everyone to share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with their family, friends and neighbours - especially after two years where this has been impossible for many.

If you would like to order one of the **Follow The Star: The Great Invitation Reflection Booklets**, consisting of 12 reflections from a range of authors sharing personal stories exploring themes of invitation, please contact the office@pershoreabbey.org.uk as we will have a limited stock available from the middle of December priced at just **£1.00**.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND NATIONAL ONLINE SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS: In collaboration with a range of Christian charities and organisations, the C of E will produce online services for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas. They will all be broadcast on the C of E YouTube channel and Facebook page.

You can find more information on this year's theme from the Church of England website: **Follow the Star - The Great Invitation**

PERSHORE ABBEY CHRISTMAS TREES: Thank you to everyone who gave towards the trees - it was a splendid result! A big thank you too, to everyone who attended the tree dressing coffee morning, Barbara and Jennifer who served the coffee, Claire who blessed the trees and Ivan on the organ, spurring us on. We could not have done it without you. A further big thank you to the team who put the trees up on Sunday evening. We hope they will be a beacon of light for every one who comes into the Abbey over the festive season and as we head into a New Year. *Ann Bray*



MINCE PIES PLEASE! Following the Abbey Carol Service on Sunday 18 December at 1700, Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's Social Committee will be serving mince pies and refreshments. Contributions of mince pies (home-made or shop bought) would be very welcome. Bought donations can be given at any time, but please can we have homemade donations on the day at either the 0800 or 1030 morning service to give us time to warm them up! Queries or collection requests to PASA Secretary Jane Knox.

GOOD COMPANY AND AFTERNOON TEA 28 DECEMBER! Pershore Abbey & St. Andrew's Social Committee (PASA) are planning an afternoon get-together with afternoon tea for anyone who would appreciate company after Christmas. The event will take place on **Wednesday 28 December 2022** from **1400** until **1600** in **St. Andrew's Centre**.

We are hoping to provide a warm space for company and fellowship, so please do bring along a friend or neighbour too. If you are interested, tickets must be pre-booked and are available from PASA Secretary Jane Knox. Please call Jane or **email** the office to book your place. We do hope you will be able to join us. *PASA*





We invite you all to join us in church and online
In addition to these special seasonal services and activities,
our regular Sunday worship services will continue

Sunday 4 December

1030 Edible Nativity - Booking Essential (*St Andrew's Centre*)
Email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or call 01386 552071 by 27 November

Sunday 18 December

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
1030 Tinsel-Free Morning Praise (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
1030 Holy Communion and Carols (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
1700 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
1800 Carol Service (*St Mary's, Wick - followed by party and panto at Wick club*)
1800 Carol and Christingle Service (*St James', Birlingham*)

Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December



1530 Christingle Service (*Pershore Abbey*)
Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle!
1600 Christingle Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)
1700 Christingle and Crib Service (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
2315 Midnight Mass with choir (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Christmas Day Sunday 25 December

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
0900 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)
1030 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)
1030 All Age Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*



New Year's Day Sunday 1 January

0800 BCP Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

**Join in with our LIVESTREAM services at the time advertised on the
Pershore Abbey Community YouTube Channel or catch up later*

Advent Compline continues on Mondays in Advent via Zoom



@pershoreabbeycom



@AbbeyPershore



@pershoreabbeycommunity

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk  office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

01386 552071

CHRISTMAS AT PERSHORE ABBEY . . .

TINSEL-FREE MORNING PRAISE



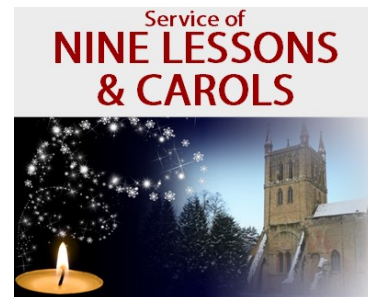
PERSHORE ABBEY SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 1030 - TINSEL-FREE

MORNING PRAISE: The last few years have not been easy and we know that many in our congregation and community will continue to face tough challenges in the months ahead. Christmas will be a more reflective, and perhaps even difficult period, but one in which they will still want to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

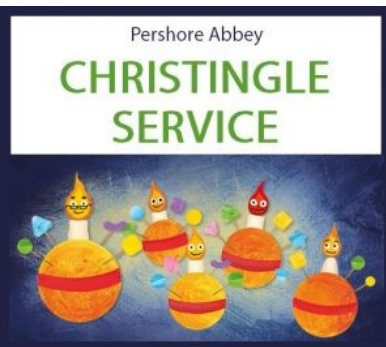
On Sunday 18 December we will be holding a Tinsel-Free service which will focus on remembering the coming of the Christ Child and reflect on what Christmas truly represents.

PERSHORE ABBEY SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 1700 - NINE LESSONS

AND CAROLS: The Abbey choir is busy rehearsing for this much-loved traditional candle-lit service which features well-loved carols interspersed with readings and choir anthems. We hope you will be able to join us for this lovely service and for some mulled wine and mince pies afterwards!



Service of **NINE LESSONS & CAROLS**



Pershore Abbey

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTINGLE 1530 AT PERSHORE ABBEY: We look forward to welcoming you and your family back to the Abbey this Christmas Eve!

We would love all of our little ones (and big ones too) to dress up in their favourite nativity costumes, but do remember to bring coats, hats and scarves as the church could be a little more chilly than usual!



And of course we look forward to welcoming you to our

MIDNIGHT MASS SERVICE

on Christmas Eve and our

ALL AGE EUCHARIST

on Christmas Day

Pershore Abbey

MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS EVE 23:15
Pershore Abbey

Follow The Star THE GREAT INVITATION

A special service celebrating the birth of Christ, the Light of the World, in the midst of darkness.

ALL WELCOME

This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
Pershore Abbey Community

www.pershoreabbey.org • office@persshoreabbey.org.uk
01386 552071

[@persshoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/pershoreabbeycom) • [@AbbeyPershore](https://www.instagram.com/AbbeyPershore) • [@persshoreabbeycommunity](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Pershore Abbey

ALL AGE EUCHARIST

CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30
Pershore Abbey

Follow The Star THE GREAT INVITATION

A family-friendly Christmas Day service for everyone, followed by refreshments

ALL WELCOME

This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
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MINISTRY NEWS

WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY CHRISTMAS VISIT TO TRADERS: Angela Gerrard, Revd Alma Organ, David Oldham and Emily Miller will be delivering cards to Pershore Traders as part of the Workplace Chaplaincy between 11 & 17 December. If anyone would like to join them please contact Angela Gerrard for details of dates and times. *Angela Gerrard*



A WARM WELCOME SPACE FROM PERSHORE CHURCHES: Everyone is welcome to come in from the cold and enjoy a hot drink and chat with friends this winter. **Pershore Baptist Church** will be open from **1000-1600** on **Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays, 1300-1600** on **Wednesdays** and **1000-1600** on **Fridays** from early December.

Holy Redeemer opens from **4 January** on **Wednesdays 1000-1300** and **Thursdays 1300-1600** whilst **Pershore Abbey** are holding an **Afternoon Tea** on **28 December** in the **St Andrew's Centre** (see [page 2](#)). **Pershore Library** will also be offering a warm space during their regular opening times, Monday -Saturday.

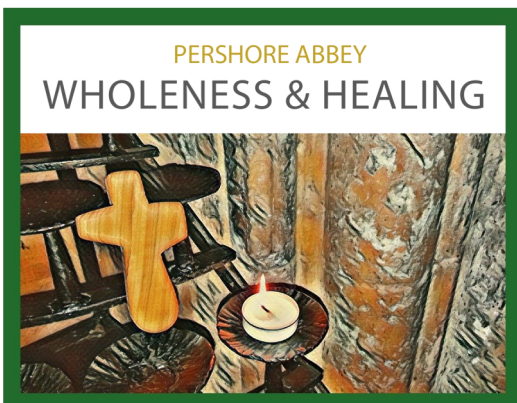
REGULAR SERVICES



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER & SUNDAY 8 JANUARY
0945 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

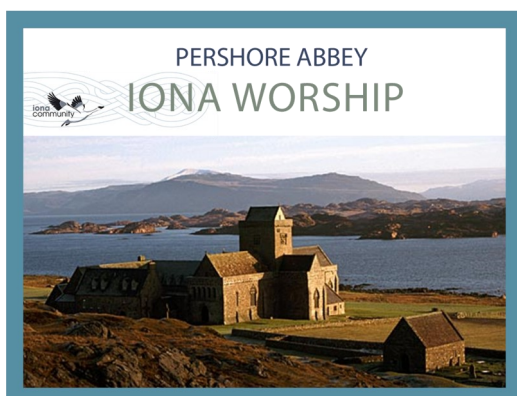
Come and join in with our family friendly and informal café-style worship as we meet in St Andrew's for worship, music and refreshments.



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 1700 IN ST ANDREW'S
SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 1700 IN PERSHORE ABBEY

Don't forget, we also offer the opportunity to receive the ministry of healing prayers with two of the Wholeness & Healing team in the St John Chapel after communion has been received at every 3rd Sunday 1030 Eucharist



THERE IS NO IONA WORSHIP SERVICE
IN DECEMBER

NEXT SERVICE:

22 JANUARY 1700 IN PERSHORE ABBEY

We hope you will join us

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18 JANUARY - 25 JANUARY 2023: This year's Community Unity service is called "Do good: seek justice". It will be led by Pershore Community Church and will focus on social justice.

This year the Service for the
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
will be held at
1500 on 22 January
at Abbey Park Middle School



CTIP LENT 2023 A PREVIEW OF OUR PLANS

IN PERSON LENT GROUPS BEGIN WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH

This year's in-person Lent course will run for 5 sessions over two venues during Lent. Details of the course material will be available in the New Year.

St. Andrew's sessions will take place on **Thursday afternoons** after Lenten Lunches on the following days from **1400-1530** (*please note there is no Lenten Lunch on 30 March*):

- Thursday 2 March
- Thursday 9 March
- Thursday 16 March
- Thursday 23 March
- Thursday 30 March

Sessions in the **Baptist Church** will take place on **Wednesday evenings** on the following days from **1900-2030**:

- Wednesday 1 March
- Wednesday 8 March
- Wednesday 15 March
- Wednesday 22 March
- Wednesday 29 March

**CTIP LENTEN APPEAL LAUNCH
SHROVE TUESDAY
21 FEBRUARY
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE**

Pancakes at **13:30**

followed by presentation

Please do not arrive earlier than 13.20

**LENTEN LUNCHES
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE
THURSDAY
2, 9, 16 & 23 MARCH
12:00 - 14:00
Last orders at 13:30**

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

REMEMBERING IN WICK:

The churchyard of St Mary's in Wick was crowded on a very warm afternoon as Villagers and Veterans gathered to pay their respects during the Annual Remembrance Sunday Service held at the War Memorial.

The service was led by Canon Claire Lording with the names of the Fallen read by Charles Hudson whose family lost 3 men during WW1 - all commemorated on the War Memorial. Following the act of Remembrance, wreaths were laid and prayers offered.

Picture shows Charles Hudson (left), Pershore & District RBL Chairman Simon Dudfield and Canon Claire Lording.



AND IN PERSHORE:

A special act of remembrance this Armistice Day in Pershore saw its ancient Abbey floodlit in poppy red light.

The Lantern tower, which can be seen for miles across the district, was most striking.

It served as a poignant reminder of the human cost of war which saw the town lose 101 young men during the First World War and a further 24 during the Second World War.

On Remembrance Sunday the parade of Veterans and Cadets marched through the town to Pershore Abbey to attend the annual Remembrance Service led by Canon Claire Lording.

Following the parade, a short service of Remembrance organised by creator Sue Cosnett (centre) was held at Pershore Warhorse Memorial and was attended by a great many people, horses and dogs ending with the national silence being observed at 1100.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS & MORE . . .

NEW GIFTS FOR THE PERSHORE ABBEY BOOKSTALL: As well as the wide range of wonderful cards and gifts that the bookstall already offers our congregation and visitors, don't forget we now have a gorgeous selection of Pershore Abbey souvenir bears and jute shoppers to complete the collection. Bears will be available at **£6.00** each, with the shoppers available soon at just **£8.00**.

We are sure that our bags and bears are going to be very popular and desirable, so if you are a bookstall volunteer or welcomer, please do make sure that you are on hand for your session to help customers and to keep an eye on our stock! More volunteers are always needed, so if you are thinking of taking up something new in January, speak to Jean Andrews about this rewarding role.



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

PERSHORE ABBEY TRAIDCRAFT DATES

(1st and 3rd Sundays)

- 04 DECEMBER
- 18 DECEMBER

More dates to follow in the new year

We look forward to seeing you!

We now have our very own Pershore Abbey Christmas Cards on sale too - so do visit the Bookstall next time you are near Pershore Abbey and see what's on offer!

**And don't forget to visit the
Pershore Abbey Traidcraft Stall
for great Christmas gifts**

If you would like to volunteer for the Traidcraft Stall please reach out to them on one of these Sundays

SAVE THE DATE!

ABBEY VOLUNTEER COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 28 JANUARY 2023 IN ST ANDREW'S: All of our wonderful Abbey volunteers will receive an invitation to attend our Volunteer Coffee Morning early in the New Year, so do look out for yours.

More information, including timings, will be available in the New Year, but for now, please save the date so we can say thank you!



ECO CHURCH

**NEXT ABBEY
ECO CHURCH MEETING:**

WEDNESDAY 18 JAN 2023 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM
Please feel free to join us at one of our meetings

**NEXT ABBEY
LITTER PICK DATE:**

SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2023 1000
Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Equipment Provided

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

THE PINVIN CHRISTMAS EVE ROCKET: The idea of a Rocket on Christmas Eve was originally conceived back in the late 1980's. The father of one of the Pinvin village resident families suggested we set off a big rocket at the end of the Christmas Eve church service to symbolise the Star that the three kings would follow to locate baby Jesus and pay homage to him with gifts. The idea was discussed and approved, and we have been setting off our Christmas Eve rocket ever since! As we see the rocket explode in the night sky it symbolises the 'Star and Light': the way to follow Christ. We use as big a rocket as possible so that all around us the rocket can be seen, as it will be this Christmas Eve when we launch at around 1800, following our Christingle and Crib service at 1700. Come and join us!

AUTHORISATION OF WICK CHURCHWARDEN, PENNY GORDON: The Morning Praise Service at St Mary's Wick on Sunday 27 November was extra special as it included the authorisation of our Churchwarden Penny Gordon as an ALM (Authorised Lay Minister) – Worship Leader at St Mary's Wick.



For Penny, pictured here with Canon Claire Lording, receiving her certificate signed by Bishop John, this was the culmination of a process which started with an initial enquiry way back in March 2021. Having been accepted, Penny started her training in November 2021, this being a mixture of live sessions, Zoom and some thought provoking homework with the sessions being led by Canon Claire and Revd. Doug Chaplin the Discipleship and Lay Training Officer. Penny found the training both interesting and challenging as it gave insights about faith, the meaning of our services and how best we can communicate with others. Penny would highly recommend this route to ALM for anyone to both grow in faith and offer service to the church.

OH YES IT IS!!: Wick Church Players are back by popular demand performing their panto 'The Real Christmas Crisis Panto' at the party at Wick Club after the uplifting Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's at 1800 on 18 December. Come along to both and sing glorious carols, laugh, boo & hiss as Father (whoops, no,) Parent Christmas fights back against the dreaded AMAZEBAY and his henchmen Boris and Donald to keep Christmas real, helped by his Elves (or is it Elvies??) We look forward to welcoming you on the 18th December - get this date in your diary now!

CANDLELIGHT CAROLS & CHRISTINGLE AT ST JAMES BIRLINGHAM 18 DECEMBER 1800:

A family-friendly service with the chance to sing well known carols and listen to the contributions of villagers of all ages as they take us through the story of The First Christmas. We are hoping to conduct this service by candlelight...so perhaps it would be a good idea to bring a torch in case the light is too low to read the service sheet! After the service there will be seasonal refreshments served in the Village Hall. So do come and raise a glass (or a cup) to the start of Christmas Celebrations at St James.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF CLOSURE: Access to St James will be limited at the beginning of **January 2023** for maintenance of the organ blower and blower box.

PIPE DREAMS - PERSHORE ABBEY ORGAN

PERSHORE ABBEY PIPE DREAM PROJECT - THE WORK BEGINS!: We have already communicated an outline of the schedule of work to complete our long awaited organ installation. A copy of this document can be found in the November Monthly Bulletin and also on the Pipe Dreams board in the Abbey.

We now want to take this opportunity to give you advance notice of the impact this work will have on the Abbey in early **January** and into **February 2023**. We will update you on the impact on the Abbey during March as the work progresses.

ABBEY CLOSED 9 JANUARY - 18 JANUARY 2023:

There will be an intensive period of activity from **0700 to 1200 midnight every day** from **9 to 18 January 2023** to install scaffolding within the Abbey. During this period the Abbey will be **CLOSED**.

Our services on **15 January** will therefore take place in **St Andrew's**.

During this period there will be increased activity at the octagon roundabout to the west of the Abbey for the delivery of scaffolding and site personnel. The erection of the scaffolding internally will make use of hand held impact drivers to secure the connections. This will be noisy but we are hopeful that the noise should be contained within the Abbey.

ABBEY OPEN WITH RESTRICTED ACCESS TO SOME AREAS 23 JANUARY - 24 FEBRUARY 2023:

Work will take place in the Abbey from **0700 to 1900 Monday - Saturday**. During this time we expect the Abbey to remain open, but access to areas where work is taking place may be restricted. The start date is currently flexible.

ABBEY CLOSED 27 FEBRUARY - 3 MARCH 2023: The work to remove the scaffolding will take place between **27 February** and **3 March**. This work will take place between **0700 and 1200 midnight** over this period. The Abbey will be **CLOSED**.

We will, of course, be communicating closely and clearly with all of our volunteers, congregation and visitors over this period to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum.

Our **Daily Offices** and **Sunday Services** will continue to be observed throughout the period, but the venue may change, so please keep an eye on the weekly bulletin

If you have any questions at all, please do contact us via [**office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) and we will be more than happy to advise.

As with all works, it may be necessary to adjust this schedule. We will use the weekly bulletin and the Monthly Edition, together with clear signage in and around the Abbey, to keep you informed.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we make our
Pipe Dream a reality

PIPE DREAMS ORGAN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

PERSHORE ABBEY ORGAN FESTIVAL THURSDAY 20 APRIL - SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2023



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ORGAN FESTIVAL AS WE COME TOGETHER TO
CELEBRATE OUR PIPE DREAM BECOMING A REALITY**

Full details of our Organ Festival will be announced in the New Year,
but we are very excited to share our planned programme of events
with you as we move into the final stage of the project.

PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS

Wednesday 19 April 1600

**BBC Radio Three Broadcast from Pershore Abbey
Evensong**
with Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge

ORGAN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Thursday 20 April

School Outreach Event

Friday 21 April at 1900

Festival Choral Concert

with Gonville & Caius College Choir, Cambridge

Saturday 22 April at 1900

Festival Organ Recital

with Robert Quinney, Director of New College Choir,
Oxford and former Sub-Organist at
Westminster Abbey

Sunday 23 April at 1030

Festival Eucharist with Bishop John

Sunday 23 April at 1700

Festival Evensong

PERSHORE ABBEY ORGAN FESTIVAL - CALL FOR STUDENT HOSTS

We are very excited to be welcoming student from Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, to be part of our Organ Festival, along with their Precentor and Director of Studies in Music, Matthew Martin, who is our organ consultant. We are now looking for hosts to provide our students with meals and a bed on 20 and 21 April. Students will ideally be hosted in pairs. If you can offer a spare room please contact Claire as soon as possible. *Thank you.*

A SNOWY REFLECTION ON 60 YEARS A DEACON

In 1962 Bishop Oliver Tomkins had arranged that I would be ordained deacon at Bristol Cathedral at Michaelmas, shortly before my 28th birthday. However, the bishop wrote to say that my predecessor as assistant curate at St. Gregory, Horfield, was unable to move on, as his new appointment had fallen through. There was nowhere for me to move in, and since he was continuing in post for the time being, the diocese had no money allocated to pay the two of us in that post. He was sorry for this delay, and would write to me when the situation could be resolved.

I had to swallow my disappointment, find myself a temporary job, and somewhere to live at short notice. I began as a hospital porter at the Whittington Hospital in Highgate, and rented a room in Muswell Hill. In the middle of December the bishop wrote again to say that, although the previous curate had still not moved on, they had found some money to pay me, the parish would find me temporary digs with parishioners for the time being, and he would be able to make me a deacon at the Advent ordination on December 23.

I resigned from my hospital job, and reported to Barrow Court, near Bristol, for the pre-ordination retreat. The weather had been warm for late December, but the ordination day dawned very clear and sunny, with a biting cold stiff breeze. I was ordained with three other deacons and one priest, and was asked to read the short Gospel from St. Matthew, chapter 9. After lunch with a small group of family and friends at a hotel near the Cathedral I went to my new parish and met the parishioners who had offered me a room.

That evening my duties began: I presided at the singing of choral Evensong, and was installed as their new curate. I was then plunged into the full range of services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

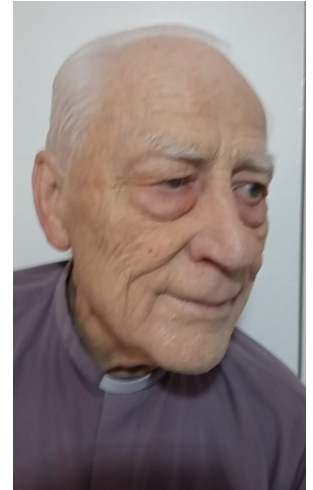
Bristol had three theatres: the famous 1766 King's Theatre, the Little Theatre in the Colston Hall (now renamed due to Edward Colston's association with the slave trade) and the 2,000 seat Hippodrome, where the annual Christmas pantomime was staged. My vicar, Kenneth Preston, was the chaplain at the Hippodrome. The panto began shortly before Christmas, but the theatres closed on Christmas Day. For many years the three theatre chaplains combined to host a Christmas evening party for the actors, especially the large cast of the panto who did not have enough time to go home, and would otherwise have been marooned in theatrical digs over Christmas night, before reporting for duty on Boxing Day.

On the way back home in a car late on Christmas evening, my feet had not touched the ground for about sixty hours, and I fell asleep in the back seat with my head on somebody's shoulder. Every day for the following week the temperature fell further. I don't think I have ever felt so cold in my life. On Sunday 30 December I rose to go to church for the 8.00 am service. When I opened the front door I was confronted by a wall of snow piled high against it. The wind had driven the snow in the streets into hills and

A SNOWY REFLECTION CONTINUED . . .

valleys, some as high as one's head. The cold continued for weeks, some drifts of snow remaining in side streets until April. It was very difficult trying to reach the elderly, the sick and the housebound to administer Holy Communion to them. In the New Year I was back at the Hippodrome on a weekday afternoon preparing, in one of the dressing rooms, some members of the Hippodrome cast for Confirmation, and in one case, Holy Baptism.

It was a strange start to my ministry, but not as strange as that of my vicar, who had arrived as a deacon at St. Helier, in Jersey in 1940, a few days ahead of the invading German army, and could not be ordained priest for another five years, when he was able to return to the mainland at the end of the war. *Revd Philip Hughes*



Congratulations to Philip on his 60th Anniversary from Pershore Benefice!

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK



Artwork: Betty Haines



Volunteers at the Pershore Foodbank will be rewarded with their first social get-together since before the pandemic at a special Christmas function this coming Saturday. Their stalwart response to the challenges presented by the cost-of-living crisis has been inspiring as has the continuing generosity of you, our fantastic donors. Despite what we know must be the squeeze on household budgets, we continue to see foodstuffs piled high in the collection bins at supermarkets and a steady stream of donors "just popping in" to St Andrew's with bags of extra groceries. Your kindness can thus be rapidly conveyed to our clients in crisis, many of whom are first-time users of the Foodbank and some of whom are in considerable distress. We try to offer them comfort, warmth and a listening ear as well as a better stocked larder and some practical help for the future.

Nicola Ainsworth

**THE PERSHORE FOODBANK IS OPEN IN THE ST ANDREW'S CENTRE ON
TUESDAYS 1100 - 1300 AND FRIDAYS 1300 - 1500**

For further info please see our website www.pershore.foodbank.org.uk or contact us on
01386 555347

The Foodbank aim to have a Citizens Advice representative available at Friday sessions

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE ONLINE

The Pershore Abbey 1030 service will be live-streamed every week and available to view on our YouTube Channel. We will continue to provide a copy of the online service sheet with a weekly bulletin update to aid your worship at home.

Do continue to check out our activity on the following platforms:

- Our YouTube channel is called **Pershore Abbey Community**
- Our Facebook page can be found at **#pershoreabbeycom**
- Our Facebook posts, latest Instagram posts and a Twitter feed can also all be found on our website at **www.pershoreabbey.org.uk** at the bottom of every page.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

C OF E LAUNCHES WORSHIP PHONE LINE:

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services 24 hours a day.

Please share this with those who are not online.



C OF E ONLINE SERVICES AND SUPPORT:

The Church of England continues to broadcast online each Sunday via social media at 09:00. For simple daytime and night prayer services, download the free Church of England App “Time to Pray”.



The “Daily Prayer” App is free to download and is now available through our website.

There is also an accompanying daily audio offering on SoundCloud and iTunes led by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

STAYING UP TO DATE: The best way to stay up to date with all the current news and information at this time is through our website and Facebook pages.

All of our platforms can be easily accessed directly from **www.pershoreabbey.org.uk**



SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN AND DIARY: If you would like to receive email updates and a copy of the Benefice Service Sheet direct to your inbox, please email the office at **office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**. A copy is also uploaded to the website every Friday.

PASTORAL SUPPORT: Our Pastoral Team continue to work hard to reach out to everyone in our congregation and community. If either you, or anyone you know, would benefit from their support please contact Claire on **vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk**, speak to Angela Gerrard or contact the office.

Facebook: **#pershoreabbeycom** YouTube: **Pershore Abbey Community**

Website: **www.pershoreabbey.org.uk**

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR 2022

Details of the our planned **Sunday** worship services within the Pershore Benefice are given below, but please do check our social media pages and website in case of changes.

We look forward to welcoming you in person, but don't forget that the 1030 Sunday Service from Pershore Abbey is livestreamed and available to view on our YouTube Channel: [Pershore Abbey Community](#)

PERSHORE ABBEY

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER

Advent 2

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

Advent 3

0800 Eucharist

0945 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

Advent 4

0800 Eucharist

1030 Tinsel Free Morning Praise

with LiveStream

1700 Nine Lessons and Carols *with LiveStream*

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

Christmas Day

0800 Eucharist

1030 All Age Eucharist *with LiveStream*

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY

Naming of Jesus

0800 Eucharist (BCP)

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY

Epiphany

0800 Eucharist

0945 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

1800 Carol Service

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

0900 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist Pershore Abbey

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY

1030 Morning Praise

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER

1030 Patronal Sunday Praise

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

1030 Holy Communion and Carols

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist Pershore Abbey

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

1800 Carol and Christingle Service

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist Pershore Abbey

OFFICE STAFFING OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The Benefice Office will not be staffed over the Christmas period.

Our office staff will be on annual leave from:

12 noon on Thursday 22 December 2022 until Tuesday 3 January 2023

All email enquiries and answerphone messages will be dealt with on their return. If your enquiry is urgent please call the answerphone service on **01386 552071** to access the latest emergency contact details over the Christmas period.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Pershore Benefice for their support over the last 12 months and to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

PERSHORE ABBEY CONCERTS & EVENTS CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

SATURDAY 03 DECEMBER 1400

Worcester Federation of WI's & Rock Choir Christmas Kick-Off

SOLD OUT

FRIDAY 09 DECEMBER 1900

Worcester Male Voice Choir
Christmas Concert

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 1900

Worcester Male Voice Choir
Christmas Concert

FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER 1930

Pershore Town Choir
Christmas Concert

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER 1930

Pershore Choral
Christmas Concert

SATURDAY 7 JANUARY 1430

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra
New Year Concert



**PERSHORE
CHORAL**

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2022 7.30PM
PERSHORE ABBEY

CHRISTMAS CONCERT MUSIC & CAROLS

CONDUCTOR
CARLETON ETHERINGTON
ORGANIST
OLIVER EDWARDES

GUEST APPEARANCE
BY PRINCE HENRY'S
CHAMBER CHOIR

**BOX OFFICE:
Anne Howells
01905 770557**

anne.horsellhowells@gmail.com

OR FROM BLUE,
18 BROAD STREET, PERSHORE

Pershore Choral invites you to visit its website: www.pershorechoral.co.uk

For full details and booking information, please visit our website
www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/service-events/#events