### CHURCH NEWS Monthly Edition

March 2023

### Welcome to the March 2023 Monthly Edition!

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

Spring is here and we look forward to renewed life and activity at the Abbey as we approach the final stages of the organ installation and look forward to Easter . . .

### As we embrace new beginnings, we welcome a new placement student to the Pershore Benefice

### Prajna Lad, who is on the Auxiliary Pathway, joins us on placement in the Benefice from All Saints, Evesham for four weeks leading up to Easter.

I am Prajna Lad, and I normally worship in All Saints Parish church in Evesham. My husband and I have lived in Evesham for about fifteen years, but for longer in Worcestershire. My life is a bit mad with children and jobs, and now I find myself taking part in the Auxiliary Pathway, which is discernment and training for ordained ministry, much to my surprise. On one hand, this has been a long time coming, but now that I am immersed in the course, and been assigned my placement here, it feels slightly surreal!

I am finding this post pandemic phase of church growth fascinating; it is very exciting to be part of something where we are reassessing our priorities, refocusing our faith and trying and understand our vocation as the blessed and broken body of Christ.

Revd Canon Claire Lording delightfully informed me that your Babies and Toddler group was one of the things that survived Covid and is thriving. That was wonderful to hear!

I look forward to meeting and working with you in this season of Lent. Judging from the service rota and Vicar's diary, my assigned four weeks will pass very quickly indeed! *Prajna* 



#### IN THIS EDITION . . .

- Benefice News
- Lent 2023
- Easter 2023

...& MORE

**ABBEY LIVE STREAMING SOS:** Given some recent illness, we could really do with some more help in operating our **Live Streaming**. Full training will be given, and it is really worthwhile knowing you are bringing our services to those who cannot join us in person. If you can help, please speak to the current operators, a Churchwarden, Claire or contact the Office. *Thank you* 

### **MINISTRY NEWS**

CHORAL EVENSONG 1700 05 MARCH PERSHORE ABBEY WITH PEAL BOARD **DEDICATION:** Please join us on Sunday 05 March for this Choral Evensong service with Pershore Abbey Choir which will include special dedication of our Peal Board.

Peal Boards are often used to record bell ringing that has taken place to mark significant local, national, or international events. These boards are normally mounted on the wall in the ringing room where the bells are rung, though they are occasionally placed on public view within churches. To date, Pershore has had no such peal boards.

We knew that the first peal to be rung on the bells of Pershore Abbey took place on 25 April 1814. On 5 May 2014, a peal was rung at Pershore Abbey to mark the bicentenary of this first peal. We rang 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples and completed our peal in 3 hours 2 minutes. To mark this bicentenary, a peal board has been made to record our performance and the fact that it was rung to mark this 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The peal board is now being dedicated before it is mounted for display at the end of the walkway leading onto the ringing platform.

Stuart Piper, Tower Captain



### **REGULAR SERVICES**

### **NEXT SERVICES: SUNDAY 26 MARCH 1700 PERSHORE ABBEY** We hope you will join us either in person or via Zoom.

Contact iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the Zoom link



### **NEXT SERVICES: SUNDAY 12 MARCH 0945 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE**

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



### **NEXT SERVICES: SUNDAY 12 MARCH 1700 PERSHORE ABBEY**

You can also 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 2

### MINISTRY NEWS CONT.

#### FAIRTRADE SUNDAY 12 MARCH 1030 PERSHORE

**ABBEY:** The Abbey's 1030 Sung Eucharist will be an opportunity for us all to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight and to see how we can support the Fairtrade Foundation as individuals and as a church. We recommit ourselves as a Fairtrade Church to do all that we can to buy Fairtrade products which support growers and communities across the world.



Find out more at <u>https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-</u> involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/

### FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT TAKES PLACE FROM 27 FEBRUARY - 12 MARCH 2023 FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT CHALLENGE:

This 2023 Fairtrade Fortnight try to find a further item of imported food that you buy that is fairtrade. Asking a shop assistant for help, widens awareness.



SEE PAGE 9 FOR SOME GREAT FAIRTRADE NEWS FROM PINVIN!

**POSIE MAKING FOR PERSHORE ABBEY MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE:** Posies for the Mothering Sunday service will be put together on **Friday 17 March** at Suzanne Clarke's home from 1300 onwards. Suzanne would be most grateful for any donations of flowers and foliage or any monetary donations to buy flowers. Please speak to Suzanne if you can help in any way. *Thank you, Suzanne* 

**MOTHERING SUNDAY 19 MARCH 1030 ALL AGE EUCHARIST AT PERSHORE ABBEY:** Everyone is welcome to join our All Age Eucharist service when we give thanks for mothers past and present. We also celebrate the family of the Church.



**EASTER LILY SUNDAY AT THE ABBEY:** At services on 26 March it will be possible for people to make a donation towards the Easter lilies that will be used to decorate the Abbey from Easter Day. Mary Cope, a member of the Abbey Flower Guild, will be on hand to write down any names of loved ones that you may wish to be remembered as you give your donation. Donating Easter lilies in memory of a loved one is a beautiful tradition and reflects our hope and joy in the resurrection for us all. *Claire* 

<u>**CIVIC SERVICE 26 MARCH 1400 AT PERSHORE ABBEY:</u>** The Civic Service is an opportunity for the town to gather to give thanks and pray for the work of the Mayor and Town Council. Please come and support Pershore Mayor, Cllr Matthew Winfield, and all those who serve our town as Town Councillors.</u>

### LENT IN THE PERSHORE BENEFICE

# "A PLACE FOR US" - CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE (CTIP) LENT COURSE 2023: "A Place for Us" is an original Lent course based on the recent film production of West Side Story. Through study and discussion of key scenes from the movie, related to Lent passages from scripture, Lavinia Byrne and Jane McBride help us to reflect on fear, love, betrayal, death, and reconciliation. If you still wish to join a course, please contact Claire at vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

**LENT COMPLINE BY ZOOM MONDAYS AT 1900:** Our Zoom sessions will take place on Mondays in Lent from 27 February and on Monday 3, Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 April in Holy Week. All of our half-hour services will begin at 1900. Please contact Claire at **vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk** for the Zoom link each week.

**MEAT FREE FRIDAYS IN LENT:** General Synod Representative, Lynn Nichol from Pedmore, has been hitting the headlines with her proposal that we should all try to have meat-free Fridays during Lent. Lynn asked a question at the recent General Synod as to whether the House of Bishops would commit to not eating meat on Fridays as part of the Church of England's commitment to reducing Carbon emissions. You can read more about Meat Free Fridays in Lent here at the Worcester Diocese website: <u>https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/meat-free-fridays-in-lent.php</u>.

Can you make a commitment to being meat-free on Friday's this Lent?

**DUST & GLORY: - LENT REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND:** Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings,

to seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them. Find more about how to access the daily reflections here: <u>https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/</u> <u>lent-holy-week-and-easter/dust-and-glory-lent-reflections</u>

### DUST+ GLORY



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(Last orders 13:30) THURSDAYS 2, 9, 16 & 23 MARCH BISHOP JOHN'S LENT APPEAL IN 2023 IN AID OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF PERU: As a country, Peru has had a very turbulent few years. It had one of the world's highest Covid mortality rates and has experienced considerable political unrest. Read more about the Appeal here: <u>https://www.cofeworcester.org.uk/news/bishop-johns-lent-appeal-</u> 2023.php

**POETRY FOR LENT:** Jill Williams from the Wick Church Community has a lovely book recommendation for Lent. **A Smudge of Ashes : Poetry for Lent, Holy Week and Easter** by **Liz Crumlish**. Why not make some time for reflection this Lent and take a look at Jill's suggested read!

### Pershore Benefice Easter 2023

## **HOLY WEEK**

### Palm Sunday 2 April

**0800 BCP Eucharist** (Pershore Abbey) 1000 Palm Sunday Procession on Abbey Park to Abbey. Meet at St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road

crossroads. Come and join us singing and drumming to the Abbey. **1030 Sung Eucharist** (Pershore Abbey) with LIVESTREAM

**1030 Morning Praise** (St James', Birlingham)

**1700 Evensong** (Pershore Abbey)

### Monday in Holy Week 3 April

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation

### **Tuesday In Holy Week 4 April**

**1900** Compline (Zoom) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation

### Wednesday in Holy Week 5 April

**1900** Compline (Zoom) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation

### Maundy Thursday 6 April

### 2000 Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars

and the Office of Tenebrae (Pershore Abbey) with LIVESTREAM TO BE CONFIRMED This service will be approximately one and three-quarter hours and will be followed by the Watch until Midnight. You are welcome to leave after the Office of Tenebrae.

### **Good Friday 7 April**

### **1000-1415 Children's Activities (5-10 years)** (St Andrew's Centre)

No fee - donations welcome. Booking essential via Suzanne Clarke 01386 553293. 1015 Walk of Witness to Chapman Court followed by a short service at 1030

Meet on the south side of the Abbey around the outdoor preaching cross .

- 1500 Bredon Hill Service at the Folly please contact the Bredon Group for details of this service on acbhteam@gmail.com
- 1400 Service of the Last Hour with LIVESTREAM

### Holy Saturday 8 April

**1700** Evening Prayer with Short Easter Vigil (Pershore Abbey) This service will last approximately one hour.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Daily Offices will also continue to be observed as usual

### JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: @pershoreabbeycom YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

Pershore Benefice **EASTER DAY** 

## April 9 2023 HE IS RISEN

- **0600** Dawn Service and First Eucharist of Easter (Pershore Abbey) followed by breakfast of boiled eggs and rolls at St Andrew's Centre. (Please bring an egg cup with you!)
- **0800 Eucharist** (Pershore Abbey)
- **0900** Parish Communion (St Mary's, Wick)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (Pershore Abbey) with LIVESTREAM
- **1030** Holy Communion (St James', Birlingham)
- **1030 Holy Communion** (St Nicholas', Pinvin)

### **ALL WELCOME**

### JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: @pershoreabbeycom YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY BULLETIN AND WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES TO OUR EASTER SERVICES

### SALZWEDEL VISITORS 16 - 21 MAY 2023

Nine of our friends from our twin parish in Salzwedel, Germany have made plans to visit us in May. Three visitors intend to travel by train, arriving as an "advance party" on Tuesday 16th May. The others will arrive on Thursday 18th May at Birmingham Airport where they will be collected. They aim to arrive in time for our evening Benefice Ascension Day service in the Abbey.

On Friday 19 May we hope to take our guests to see the Mappa Mundi at Hereford Cathedral – and get them back to Pershore in time for the Friends of Pershore Abbey Lecture in the evening. A visit to the Malvern Hills is planned on Saturday followed by skittles in the evening and a fish and chip supper at the Sports Club in Defford Road.

Our guests will leave shortly after the Sunday morning service at the Abbey on the 21 May.

We do hope that as many members of the Benefice community as possible will be able to meet with our guests during their stay. Do think about when and where you might be able to offer a lift, join for a visit or offer hospitality. We are also looking for accommodation for one guest from Thursday to Sunday. We are hoping that as many members of the community as possible will join the skittles evening – for which a signup list will be made available.

Volunteers to assist with lifts, visits and accommodation should contact Revd Canon Claire (552071) or Michael Hodges.

### **OTHER NEWS**

THE FIVE VILLAGES PROM 10 MARCH 2023: Singers from the Pershore Abbey Choir will be joining talented musicians of Charlton, Cropthorne, Fladbury, Hill & Moor, Wyre Piddle, and beyond at St John the Baptist Church, Fladbury at 1930 on Friday 10 March to perform a fabulous evening of music by Handel, Parry, Gershwin, Elgar and others. This event is raising money for the Five Alive Parish and the charity, "Evesham Vale welcomes Refugees". Tickets are £12 and available online from: The Five Villages Prom Tickets, Fri 10 Mar 2023 at 19:30 | Eventbrite or in person from the Fladbury Pie Shop."

ECO CHURCH	
NEXT ABBEY ECO CHURCH MEETING:	WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH 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**



#### ST NICHOLAS' PINVIN BECOMES A FAIRTRADE CHURCH:

Huge congratulations to Pinvin Church on making this fantastic commitment and becoming a Fairtrade Church.

In becoming a Fairtrade Church, Pinvin has asserted their support for a fairer trading system that values people and planet and pledges to undertake some simple, practical actions with Fairtrade.

BIRLINGHAM BULB TEAS: The much Birlingham Bulb Sundav -loved Service was held on Sunday 5 February and was followed by a delicious Snowdrop Tea in Birlingham Village Hall. Sales of snowdrops went very well and everyone enjoyed their tea and cake surrounded by the newly-made bunting in the village hall!



PLEASE CONTACT THE BENEFICE OFFICE FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM WICK AND WE WILL PUT YOU IN TOUCH! BENEFICE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH MORE NEWS FROM **BIRLINGHAM** PLEASE VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE AT **WWW.BIRLINGHAM.ORG**  FOR MORE NEWS FROM **PINVIN** TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST EDITION OF PINPOINT MAGAZINE AVAILABLE TO VIEW NOW FROM <u>WWW.PINVIN.ORG.UK</u>

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS (APCM)**

**APCM MEETINGS IN THE BENEFICE:** In April and early May we will be holding the meetings to elect churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meetings for each parish. These are an opportunity to reflect on the past year and to thank all those who have been involved in the life of our churches. Everyone is welcome to attend them. The meetings are also when we elect and appoint officers for the current year. Several of our parishes will be needing additional churchwardens and there is also always room for more volunteers who would like to serve as PCC members. If you think this could be you please speak to me or an existing churchwarden for more details. Thank you *Claire*.

**Birlingham -** 19 April 1830 in church **Pinvin -** 25 April 1930 in church Wick - 24 April 1900 in church

Abbey & St Andrew's - 2 May 1900 in St Andrew's

**BISHOP JOHN'S INVITATION TO PARISH VOLUNTEERS:** Bishop John would like to invite anyone who gives their time to volunteer in their parish to one of two thank you events:

- Wednesday 29 March, 1900-2100, The Guildhall, Worcester: Book at <u>https://</u> <u>bit.ly/3RffCyP</u>
- Thursday 30 March, 1900-2100, Hartlebury Castle: Book at <u>https://</u> <u>bit.ly/3kQ3p7y%C2%A0</u>

Bishop John says: "I am hugely grateful for the time that is given by so many to ensure that our churches can continue to worship God, make disciples, share hope and transform our communities. I hope you will come to one of these events so that I can say thank you in person for the many ways in which you and many other people serve God. It will be a chance to enjoy a glass of wine together and meet others who serve in this way." Further information from: <u>www.cofe-worcester.org.uk</u>

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH ABBEY SUNDAY COFFEES?:** The "new look" Sunday morning coffees and time for fellowship in St Andrew's Centre is proving to be popular. However, our team of helpers is somewhat depleted and we could do with a few more volunteers on the rota. In addition to serving the refreshments, there is also the exciting opportunity to join the washing up team and operate the new dishwasher - each load takes less than 2 minutes!. For more details please contact Sara Speed via the Benefice Office or chat to any of the helpers on Sunday mornings. *Sara Speed* 

**ABBEY LINK VOLUNTEERS STILL URGENTLY NEEDED:** We had a positive response to our request, but still urgently need volunteers to deliver the Abbey Link Magazine 4 times a year to a number of areas:

- Station Road 25-51 (odds) & 50-88 (evens)
- Hurst Road & Furlong Road.
- Kingfisher Fields & Skylark Drive.

If you are thinking of volunteering to deliver 4 times a year and live in or near these areas please contact Roger Piper via **office@pershoreabbey.org.uk** 

**MISSIONALLY ENGAGING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**: An eight-session course running from March to May 2023 aimed primarily at helping churches develop effective ways of engaging with new housing communities. All Boulton is a Baptist minister who has developed church in a new housing community and is a member of the Archbishop's Commission on New Housing Communities. Please contact the Office for further details.

**INTRODUCTION TO WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY ONLINE COURSE:** The next online course will run on Monday evenings at 1900 on March 13, 20, 27, April 17, 24. It is a great introduction for those considering workplace chaplaincy and also a way of refreshing our understanding of our role for anyone who is already a chaplain. For more details and to book visit <u>https://www.workchaplaincyuk.org.uk/resources/training/an-introduction-to-workplace-chaplaincy/</u>

### **PIPE DREAMS - PERSHORE ABBEY ORGAN INSTLLATION SCHEDULE**

We are now entering the final stages of the physical installation and moving towards the voicing stage of the Organ works. A revised schedule of works is now available, so please be aware of the new proposed timings (all subject to change):

- Up to and including **8 March**: Abbey **PARTIALLY OPEN**. Please use the Wick Door and keep to marked areas when inside.
- 9 10 March & 15 17 March: Abbey CLOSED. The scaffolding will be removed and there will be NO ACCESS to the Abbey.
- **17 March 23 March**: Abbey **PARTIALLY OPEN.** Clearing and a sparkle clean will take place
- 24 March 26 March: Abbey OPEN.
- **27 March onwards**: Abbey **OPEN.** The Voicing period begins and although the Abbey will be open, **ABSOLUTE SILENCE** is necessary, so please be aware of this at all times during this period.

Our **Daily Offices** and **Sunday Services** will continue to be observed throughout the period but do please keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for updates.

Our Italian installation team have been working hard and doing a marvellous job and the Pipe Dreams team hope you will all agree that this period of disruption will be well-worth it, if early pictures of the finished console are any indication!

Keep up to date with all of the installation news on our Facebook page or visit <u>https://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/pipe-dreams/</u>



### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK**

The Foodbank continues to be incredibly busy providing vital support to members of our local community.

You can help support them too with donations of the following items:

### DONATION REQUESTS:

Tinned goods: Vegetables, Meat, Fish, Soup, Fruit Long life milk Cleaning products

### 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 <u>www.pershore.foodbank.org.uk</u> or contact us on 01386 555347

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

### PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES MARCH 2023

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: <u>Pershore Abbey Community</u>

#### PERSHORE ABBEY

### SUNDAY 5 MARCH LENT 2

0800 BCP Eucharist 1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream* 1700 Evensong with Peal Board Dedication

### SUNDAY 12 MARCH LENT 3 / FAIRTRADE SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist 0945 Café Church *(St Andrew's)* 1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream* 1700 Wholeness & Healing

#### SUNDAY 19 MARCH MOTHERING SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist (BCP) 1030 All Age Eucharist *with LiveStream* 

### SUNDAY 26 MARCH LENT 5 / PASSION SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist 1030 Morning Praise *with LiveStream* 1400 Civic Service 1700 Iona Worship

We aim to Livestream all of our 1030 Sunday services, but please bear with us if we are unable to do so.

We are looking to grow our Livestreaming team to continue to bring your church into your home ST MARY'S, WICK

#### **SUNDAY 19 MARCH** 1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 26 MARCH

0900 Parish Communion

#### ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

**SUNDAY 5 MARCH** 1030 Holy Communion

### SUNDAY 19 MARCH

1030 Sunday Praise

#### ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

**SUNDAY 5 MARCH** 1030 Morning Praise

### SUNDAY 19 MARCH

1030 Holy Communion

PLEASE SEE PAGES 2 & 3 FOR A PREVIEW OF OUR EASTER SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**FIVE LIVE PROMS 10 MARCH 1930 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, FLADBURY:** Support Pershore Abbey choir as they join local singers in a concert raising money for the Five Alive Parish and the charity, "Evesham Vale welcomes Refugees. See **page 7** for details.

**NEXT PERSHORE ABBEY PARISH COFFEE MORNING & FEATURED DISPLAY:** Saturday 18 March 1030-1200 noon in St Andrew's. This coffee morning will be run by the Pershore Abbey Choir.

The coffee morning will also feature a special display of Music of the 30's,40's,50's & 60's used by a Dance Band at Norton Barracks Army Depot, Worcester. The images on the front of the sheet music are unique - perhaps you will remember having danced to the music! Enjoy a trip down memory lane with this display put together by Ivan Steele.

**PIANOSCAPES WITH CHRIS LONG 1430 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE:** Join Chris for a Sunday afternoon of piano pleasure at 1430 26 March in the St Andrew's Centre. Tickets: **chrislong2008@live.co.uk**. Information: **www.chrislongmusic.co.uk** 

### **PERSHORE ABBEY FORTHCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS**



OUR CONCERT PROGRAMME WILL RESUME IN MAY ONCE THE ORGAN INSTALLATION IS COMPLETED

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL SELECTION OF ORCHESTRA'S, CHOIRS AND OTHER PERFORMERS AND A NEW CONCERT PROGRAME FOR SPRING & SUMMER 2023 WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING ALL OF OUR PERFORMERS, OLD AND NEW BACK TO PERSHORE ABBEY SOON

NEWS OF OUR RE-SCHEDULED ORGAN FESTIVAL WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE SOON

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