

**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 14 May 2023**  
**EASTER 6 / ROGATION SUNDAY**

**SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY**

Our worship today will be accompanied by our new Pipe Organ.

The 1030 will be live-streamed and available to view on our YouTube channel.

You can join in live or catch up later in the day or week.

Please use this sheet in conjunction with the service booklet provided.

*Please leave the service booklet, but do remember to take this sheet and bulletin home with you when you leave and recycle when you have finished with it.*

**THE COLLECT**

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**Acts 17.22-31**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

### **1 Peter 3.13-22**

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **John 14.15-21**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## HYMN SHEET

### FIRST HYMN

**A&M 532**

**(LASST UNS ERFREUEN)**

1 All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;  
ye lights of evening, find a voice:

4 Dear mother earth, who day by day  
unfoldest blessings on our way,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,  
let them his glory also show:

3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou fire, so masterful and bright,  
that givest us both warmth and light:

5 Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness;  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

William Henry Draper (1855-1933)  
Based on St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

### GRADUAL HYMN

**A&M 509**

**(GLANHAFREN)**

1 What shall our greeting be?  
Jesus is Lord!  
Sign of our unity?  
Jesus is Lord!  
May we no more defend  
barriers he died to end:  
give me your hand, my friend:  
one Church, one Lord!

*(Cont.)*

2 What is our mission here?  
One world, one Lord!  
He makes his purpose clear:  
one world, one Lord!  
Spirit of truth descend,  
all our confusions end:  
give me your hand, my friend:  
Jesus is Lord!

3 He comes to save us now,  
Jesus our Lord!  
To serve him is to know  
life's true reward.  
May he our lives amend,  
all our betrayals end:  
give me your hand, my friend:  
Jesus is Lord!

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

**THIRD HYMN**

**A&M 539**

***(DARWALL'S 148<sup>TH</sup>)***

1. Let all creation dance  
in energies sublime,  
as order turns with chance,  
unfolding space and time;  
for nature's art  
in glory grows,  
and newly shows  
God's mind and heart.

2. God's breath each force unfurls,  
igniting from a spark  
expanding starry swirls,  
with whirlpools dense and dark.  
Though moon and sun  
seem mindless things,  
each orbit sings:  
'your will be done.'

3. Our own amazing earth,  
with sunlight, cloud and storms,  
and life's abundant growth  
in lovely shapes and forms  
is made for praise,  
a fragile whole,  
and from its soul  
heaven's music plays.

4. Lift heart and soul and voice:  
in Christ all praises meet,  
and nature shall rejoice  
as all is made complete.  
In hope be strong,  
all life befriend,  
and kindly tend  
creation's song.

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

**COMMUNION MOTET**

For the Beauty of the Earth - Rutter  
*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**A&M 568**

**(WOODLANDS)**

1. Take up the song, and sing the praise of God,  
    who gave the world its skies and lands and seas,  
    then formed the fish and creatures of the earth;  
    our God be praised for wondrous gifts like these!
2. Take up the song, and sing the praise of God,  
    who gave the power of choice to humankind,  
    that we might rule the earth through servanthood,  
    and so find joy in all that God designed.
3. Take up the song, and sing the praise of God;  
    proclaim to all the open mystery  
    that Christ, whose death destroyed the power of sin,  
    was raised by God and reigns in Trinity.
4. Take up the song, and sing the praise of God;  
    with music make both earth and heaven ring,  
    for God is good and loves all he has made;  
    so now to him all thanks and praises bring!

*Rae E. Whitney (b. 1927)*

**FINAL HYMN**

**A&M 546**

**(HOW GREAT THOU ART)**

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
    consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
    I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
    thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
    'How great thou art! How great thou art!'  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
    'How great thou art! How great thou art!'*

*(Cont.)*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;:
3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin:
4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home - what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"

Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)

Pershore Abbey CCLI No. 46441

**This service is being live streamed to the Abbey's YouTube Channel**

To find the recording visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for **Pershore Abbey Community**

[Pershore Abbey Community on YouTube](#)

If you have any queries or concerns please do speak to a sidesperson or churchwarden

*If you need any help in accessing any of the online features mentioned in the service sheet or bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact the office or Canon Claire Lording for support.*



Facebook: [#pershoreabbeycom](#) Youtube: [Pershore Abbey Community](#)

Website: [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk)

# PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

## 14 MAY 2023

**As a Kingdom People we are churches that seek to:**

- Worship God
- Welcome All
- Reach out to the world

**Vicar: Canon Claire Lording**

**Email:** vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

**Abbey Wardens:** Mrs Suzanne Clarke (01386 553293) Mrs Sam Andrews (01386 556083)

**The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham**

Alveston House, 11, Broad Street, Pershore, WR10 1BB (01386 552071)

**Email:** office@pershoreabbey.org.uk **Website:** www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

---

### **BENEFICE OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

**TUESDAY - THURSDAY 1100 - 1200 ONLY**

*(excluding Bank Holidays)*

*The Benefice Office will be closed on Monday 01 May*

The office staff will also be available to answer enquiries by phone or email on  
weekday mornings from **0930 –1300**

*Please email your enquiry to [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) or leave a message on  
01386 552071 and they will get back to you as soon as they can.*

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**WE PRAY FOR ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY WAR AND WHO CONTINUE TO BE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT OR DISASTER, ESPECIALLY IN SUDAN.**

We pray for those whose weddings, blessings and baptisms are taking place and for all those who are making new plans to celebrate these special life events.

We pray for all those welcoming new life into their families.

We pray for those in need.

We pray for those who have died and for their families and friends.

We pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs in the coming week.

## MINISTRY NEWS

### SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID WEEK AT PERSHORE ABBEY 14 - 20 MAY:



- **Envelope Collection:** There will again be an envelope collection using the delivery-only system. Please let me know if your house was not included last year and you would like to be involved.
- **Coffee Morning:** On **Saturday 20** there will be a coffee morning in **St Andrew's** for Christian Aid. As well as refreshments we will also have Bring and Buy and Plant Stalls. Please join us and bring your friends too from **1000-1200 noon**.
- **Street Collection:** There will be a Street Collection on **Saturday 20**. Could you spare an hour to help? If you can help, please get in touch.

*Sarah Thomson, Christian Aid Coordinator*

---

### THY KINGDOM COME 2023

Once again we are joining this global wave of prayer which takes place from Ascension Day to Pentecost. Christians throughout the world are invited to hold as a focus for their prayers a desire for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

#### ASCENSION DAY SUNG EUCHARIST - PERSHORE ABBEY 1900

**THURSDAY 18 MAY:** We begin these days of Thy Kingdom Come 2023 with a special Eucharist to remember the moment Jesus ascended into heaven before his disciples. We will be joined by our visitors from Salzwedel.



**NOVENA OF PRAYER 19 MAY - 27 MAY:** During this special nine day period of prayer (which is what Novena means) we shall be holding Zoom services so we can join with others in the Benefice, and across the world, praying for the Holy Spirit to come. The services will start at 1900 and will last between 10-15 minutes on each of these days.

If you'd like to join this time of prayer on any of the days please contact Claire on [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk) and she will arrange for you to have the Zoom link.

**RESOURCES:** Limited copies of Thy Kingdom Come resources are now available from the Abbey, so please help yourself. Alternatively they can be downloaded from [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global) or via these links:

- For the Novena Prayer Booklet click here: **Novena 2023**
- For the Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Journal click here: **Prayer Journal 2023**

**CHEEKY PANDAS:** For children and little ones take a look at the Cheeky Pandas resources which are designed to help children and families grow in their faith. More Cheeky Panda resources are coming soon and will be available from [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global) or click on the following link: **Cheeky Pandas 2023**



**CAFÉ CHURCH GOES PAPERLESS:** As we celebrate Rogation Sunday, Café Church takes an environmental stance this month with a paperless Café Church service embracing all of the wonderful technology on offer in St Andrew's. If all goes well it could become a permanent change. As a result you won't be able to find the service sheet online this month, but do pop along to this fresh and vibrant service at **St Andrew's** at **0945** on **Sunday 14 May**. The theme for this service will be **'We Are Not Alone'**.

**MAY IONA WORSHIP - THE WORD WITHIN:** The Word Within is the topic of May's Iona service at **1700** on **Sunday 28 May** in the **Abbey** and via **Zoom**. Everyone is most welcome to join this small, reflective and informal service. If you would like a Zoom link please email Helen at [iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**WELCOMING OUR VISITORS FROM SALZWEDEL:** Nine visitors from our twin parish of Salzwedel in Germany will be arriving on the 16 May and leaving on the 21 May 2023. In addition to attendance at scheduled services and events at the Abbey, the following visits and occasions have been arranged to which members of the Pershore Abbey and Benefice Community have been warmly invited. We very much hope our visitors enjoy their time in the Pershore Benefice.

- ♦ **Tuesday 16 MAY 1900**                      **Pizza Evening at Wick Club**
- ♦ **Friday 19 MAY 1030**                    **Trip to Hereford Cathedral & Mappa Mundi**
- ♦ **Friday 19 MAY 1600**                    **High Tea in St Andrews Parish Centre**
- ♦ **Saturday 20 MAY 1000**                **Guided Walking Tour of Malvern**
- ♦ **Saturday 20 MAY 1900**                **Skittles Evening with Fish and Chips at Pershore & District Sports Club**

**URGENT PLEA FOR HELP WITH SALZWEDEL VISITORS:** German speaker still needed for afternoon tea on Wednesday 17 May to join Angela Gerrard and also to accompany Angela and Claire to Worcester on Thursday morning. If you have any spare time on Wednesday and/or Thursday, please get in touch ASAP. *Angela*

**NEXT ABBEY PASTORAL GROUP MEETING:** Our next meeting will be at **1000** on **May 16** at 1 Hunter Rise.

**PASA PERSHORE CARNIVAL TEAS MONDAY 29 MAY - HELP AND DONATIONS NEEDED:** If you are able to make and provide cakes for this years carnival teas, please speak to Hilary Fowler. Sara Speed is now taking names for this years reduced 90 minute helper sessions. Please contact her by phone or after a Sunday services at the Abbey to choose which session & role you would like. We do hope all you excellent bakers & lovely volunteers will be able to help, but if you would prefer to give a donation instead of a cake, we will be most grateful. The money given goes towards our wonderful cake maker who provides extra homemade cakes for the Carnival & Plum Fayre. Thank you in advance. *Jane Knox (PASA - Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's Social Committee)*

**JOHN WILDERSPIN:** Donations towards Johns leaving gift as he moves to pastures new in Warwickshire can still be paid by BACS: Account name - Pershore Parochial Church. Sort Code - 20-98-61 Account No - 00695416. Please use the reference **"JW GIFT"**. John's last service will be on May 28, when we hope to make a presentation. *Claire*

**BUS SIGN UP SHEET TO JAYNE PARKER'S ORDINATION ON 2 JULY NOW AVAILABE:** We hope that as many of you as possible will join with the congregation at Worcester Cathedral on **2 July** to support and celebrate with Jayne as she is ordained deacon. Sign up sheets are now available at the back of the Abbey and village churches or alternatively, sign up at [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk).

## PERSHORE ABBEY CONCERT PROGRAMME SPRING / SUMMER 2023

**FRIDAY MAY 12 1930**

**Vocal High and Chaps Choir**

**SATURDAY MAY 13 1930**

**Pershore Choral Spring Concert**

**FRIDAY MAY 19 1830**

**Friends of Pershore Abbey CIO Memorial Lecture**

**SATURDAY MAY 20 1500**

**Sinfonia Scintille**

**SATURDAY JUNE 10 1430**

**Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra**

**SATURDAY JUNE 17 1900**

**Roger Gay Memorial Concert with the Oakville Singers**

**SATURDAY JULY 1 FROM 1000**

**Pershore Midsummer Brass**

**SATURDAY JULY 8 1930**

**Birmingham Festival Chorus**

**SATURDAY JULY 15 1930**

**Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra in aid of FOAG**

Join us over the **August Bank Holiday Weekend** as we celebrate Pershore Plum Fayre with our Classic Car Show, Teddy Bear Activities, Tower Tours, Pershore Town Choir and much more!

Coming in **Autumn 2023:**

**The Pershore Abbey Pipe Dreams Organ Festival,  
28 September - 1 October**

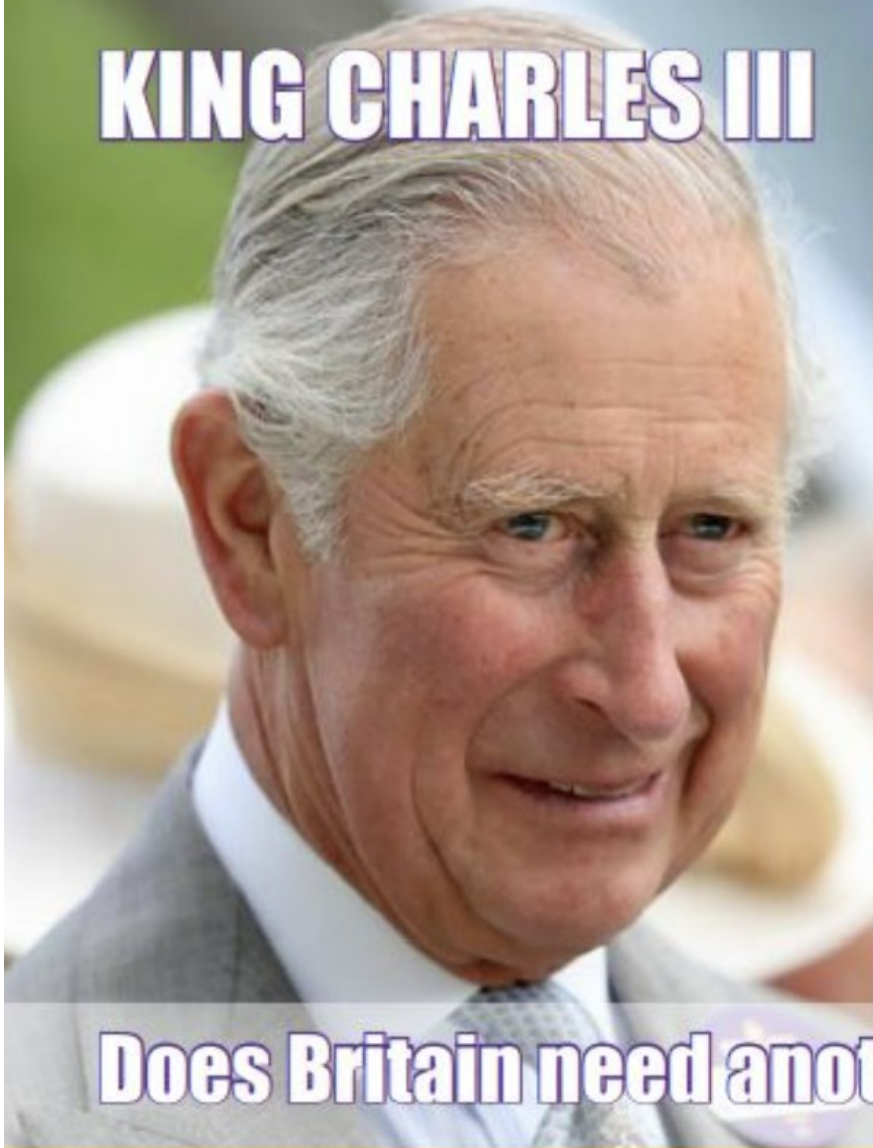
For all concert and booking information scan the QR code, visit [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/service-events/#events](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/service-events/#events) or call the Pershore Abbey & Benefice Office on **01386 552071**



**KING CHARLES III**



THE FRIENDS OF  
**PERSHORE ABBEY**  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation



**Does Britain need another Monarch?**

**Don't miss this topical presentation from top  
historian, best selling author and  
consultant for TV series The Crown**

**ROBERT LACEY**

**PERSHORE ABBEY • 19TH MAY 2023 • 6:30PM**

**TICKETS £16 (Concessions £10)**

**Available from**

**Blue (19 Broad St.) • The Gallery (51 High St.)**



**TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FROM BLUE AND THE GALLERY, SO DON'T MISS  
OUT AND BUY YOURS TODAY!**

## ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

Canon Claire's usual day off is Friday. Claire will not be available for commitments on this day.

### **Sunday 14 May - EASTER 6 / ROGATION**

- 08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 09:45 Café Church (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 10:30 Sung Eucharist with *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 10.30 Rogation Service (*Owletts Farm, Pinvin*)
- 14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 17:00 Wholeness & Healing (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES TO TAKE PLACE IN CHOIR VESTRY**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

#### **Monday 15 May**

- 10:00 PASA Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 10:00 School Visit (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
- 13:15 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 15:45 V & W (*Vicar's Vestry*)
- 18:30 Bell Ringing practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Wick PCC (*Wick*)
- 19:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 19:00 Pershore Community Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

#### **Tuesday 16 May**

- 10:00 Pastoral Group (*1 Hunter Rise*)
- 11:00 Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 15:00 Funeral Service for the late  
Barbara Abbott (*Vale Crematorium*)
- 19:15 Private Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)

#### **Wednesday 17 May**

- 11:30 Volunteer Lunch Club (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 15:00 U3A Singers (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:00 Craft Happy Sea Glass Workshop  
(*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 19:00 Vale Harmony (*St Andrew's Main*)

THE ABBEY WILL BE LIT TONIGHT IN SUPPORT OF  
"SHINE A LIGHT ON NEUROFIBROMATOSIS"

#### **Thursday 18 May - ASCENSION DAY**

- 12:00 Funeral Flower Preparation  
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 17:45 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Sung Eucharist with *LIVESTREAM*  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

#### **Friday 19 May**

- 09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 12:00 Funeral of the late Jobie Haynes  
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 13:00 Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:30 Visiting Bell Ringers (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 16:00 Salzwedel High Tea (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 18:30 FOPA CIO Lecture with Robert Lacey  
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Novena of Prayer (*Zoom*)

#### **Saturday 20 May**

- 10:00 Christian Aid Coffee Morning  
(*St Andrew's Main*)
- 10:00 Concert Prep (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 15:00 Sinfonia Scintille Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Novena of Prayer (*Zoom*)

#### **Sunday 21 May - EASTER 7**

- 08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Sung Eucharist with *LIVESTREAM*  
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
- 12:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:30 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Novena of Prayer (*Zoom*)