

Welcome to the **Church News Monthly Edition for July and August 2023**

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

EMBRACING THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Pershore Abbey will once again be embracing nature and giving thanks outdoors on **23 July** at **1030** with a special Morning Praise service in the Wildflower Area, which forms part of the Biodiversity Project running in conjunction with Wychavon District Council, Pershore Town Council and Pershore Rotary.



One Bank Holiday **Sunday 27 August** at **1415**, the **Abbey Park Bandstand** will provide the backdrop for the much-loved Teddy Praise service!

Wick have already celebrated nature and the wonderful abundance of flowers with their Confetti Fields service held at Wick Confetti Fields - a service greatly enjoyed by all.

Keeping our outdoor spaces clean, tidy and safe is just as important as maintaining our inside spaces. You will have seen lots of work going on lately with gutter cleaning at the Abbey and Birlingham have had a very successful litter picking session. Pershore Abbey will be looking for volunteers to join them on **22 July** for their regular litter pick session too - more details in our Eco Church pages on [page 5](#).

Do come along and join us at our remaining outdoor services and events, but please don't forget to bring a brolly, just in case



JAYNE PARKER'S ORDINATION DAY: I wanted to say a huge thank you to all who have celebrated ordination day with me. I have truly felt your prayers during my preparations, the retreat and the day itself. Thank you for those who could make it to the cathedral whether in spirit or in person, and especial thanks to Peter, our Honorary Bus Monitor extraordinaire, and for those who

could make it to the Abbey to share in some lunch. I have been blessed with cards, photographs, letters, emails, hugs and wonderful conversations, but most of all by your prayers. I look forward to walking with you and Christ as we grow together.

I don't know how many of you were able to see my stole on Sunday? It will be worn on the most special of days during the year. This is very dear to me as it is a gift from you all in the benefice and this means that wherever ministry may take me, I shall take you with me. *Jayne*

MINISTRY NEWS

OUTDOOR MORNING PRAISE SUNDAY 23 JULY 1030: A special outdoor service which will take place by the newly established wildflower area, which is part of the Pershore Abbey Biodiversity Project. The service will celebrate and focus on Pershore Abbey's Eco Church mission. Please bring your own chairs and possibly brollies!

BENEFACTORY SERVICE SUNDAY 30 JULY 1030 AT PERSHORE ABBEY: Join us on this fifth Sunday as the whole Benefice comes together to worship as one at Pershore Abbey.

TEDDY PRAISE SUNDAY 28 AUGUST 1415 ABBEY PARK BANDSTAND: Join us in Abbey Park at the Bandstand for our special Plum Festival Teddy Praise service on this bank holiday weekend. Don't forget to bring your Teddy!!

EVENSONG WITH GREAT MALVERN PRIORY CHOIR: We are delighted to welcome the choir from Great Malvern Priory, Malvern, who will be singing Evensong at **The Abbey on Saturday 5 August at 1700**. Their Director of Music and Organist, Piers Maxim, is very much looking forward to being with us. All are welcome to this service. *Claire*

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH AUTUMN STUDY GROUPS: Following the decision by General Synod to allow the blessing of same sex relationships we thought it would be a good idea to run the Living in Love and Faith course again.



This course enables people to think about Christian teaching and learning on identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. This autumn LLF study groups will take place at St Andrew's at 1900 on the following Thursdays:

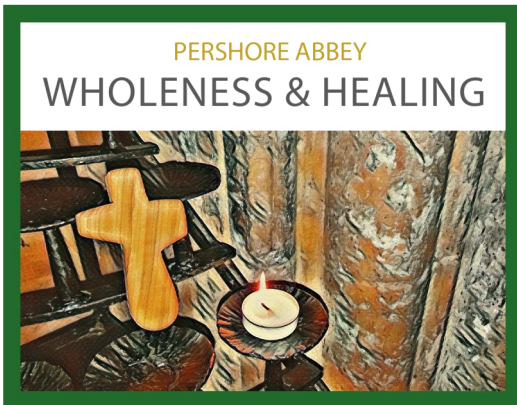
- **5 OCTOBER**
- **12 OCTOBER**
- **19 OCTOBER**
- **26 OCTOBER**

If you would like to know more about the course please contact me. Those who have participated before have found it a very worthwhile and thought provoking course. *Claire*

DEANERY SERVICE OF CELEBRATION 12 JULY 1930, AT ST PETER'S, BENGWORTH: On Wednesday 12 July at 1900 St Peter's, Bengeworth, there will be a Deanery Eucharist for the Celebration of Gifts for Mission with Archdeacon Robert Jones giving the reflection. This is an Open Synod meeting – do join us.

The service celebrates the many and various types of ministry taking place across the Pershore & Evesham Deanery. You are asked to bring a small symbol representing the type of ministry you undertake in your parish - you can be as creative as you wish to be in choosing your item! We look forward to this celebratory worship together with Archdeacon Robert Jones before his retirement this Autumn. Parking is available courtesy of Lidl in the **BROADWAY** Road section of their car park. *Judy Dale, Pershore Abbey PCC*

WHOLENESS & HEALING



THIS SERVICE USUALLY TAKES PLACE ON EVERY SECOND SUNDAY 1700 IN PERSHORE ABBEY

NEXT SERVICES: 9 JULY & 13 AUGUST

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

CAFÉ CHURCH

**JOIN US ON 9 JULY
0945 IN ST ANDREW'S CENTRE**

Come and join in with our family friendly and informal café-style worship

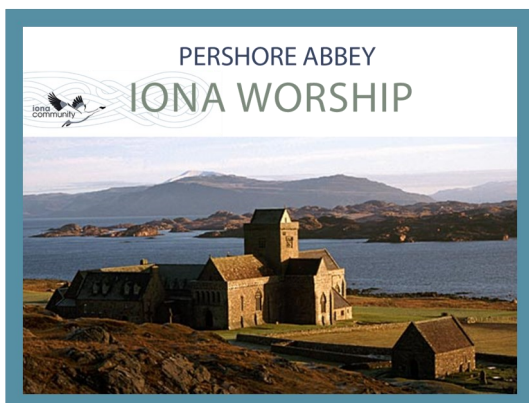
All Welcome

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS
NO CAFÉ CHURCH IN AUGUST**



**CAFÉ CHURCH WILL RETURN IN SEPTEMBER -
WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE DETAILS!**

IONA WORSHIP



OUR IONA SERVICE USUALLY TAKES PLACE ON EVERY FOURTH SUNDAY 1700 IN PERSHORE ABBEY

NEXT SERVICE: 23 JULY 1700

Those unable to join us in person are welcome to join us via Zoom

**PLEASE NOTE:
THERE IS NO IONA WORSHIP IN AUGUST**

HELLOS & GOODBYES

IT'S HELLO FROM STEVIE



INTRODUCING PERSHORE ABBEY'S NEW EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR - STEVIE QUICK:

We are delighted to report that we have been successful in appointing a new Events Coordinator to replace Roger Batty.

Stevie started with us on **1 July**. Here are a few words from Stevie:

“Hello! I live in Worcester (but please don't hold it against me!) and am very happy to be joining the Abbey family.

I've got experience in running venues (theatres) and theatre companies and I've also taught, lectured and spent seven years in prison...as a teacher! I can also be found with a camera in my hand, writing poetry, or painting.

As Events Co-Ordinator my brief is to make sure that everything runs smoothly when we host an event: Fortunately, there's a bunch of you already here to show me the works! I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and working with you.

Please say hello. I promise to say hello back. “ *Stevie*

AND GOODBYE FROM GAIL!

A FOND FAREWELL: This will be my final monthly edition for the Pershore Benefice!

Thank you so much for all of your kindness and support over the last 7 years (I can't quite believe it has been that long!) and for your lovely wishes for the future.

I have enjoyed my time with you all, and am so grateful for the opportunities my role at the Benefice Office has provided, but I'm looking forward to spending the summer with my family and concentrating on fundraising for my 'Calendar Girls' project and learning my lines! *Gail*

And a huge thank you from all of us Gail. We are going to really miss you but wish you well for the future! *Claire*

We very much hope to have a new person starting in the office before too long and look forward to introducing the newest member of the team very soon.

In the meantime, please be aware that Elizabeth will be maintaining the office and conducting staff training throughout August and we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as the office settles into a new routine.

OUR STAFF WILL OF COURSE BE ON HAND, AS ALWAYS, TO HELP AND SUPPORT YOU.
THE OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN OPEN TO VISITORS
TUES –THURS 1100-1200

ECO CHURCH

As we start thinking about **Climate Sunday** which will take place at **Pershore Abbey** on **Sunday 24 September**, why not take this opportunity to look at your own footprint with the World Wildlife Fund Footprint Calculator?



<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>

RIDE+STRIDE 9 SEPTEMBER 2022

Help raise funds to support Grant applications from churches and chapels across the country.

More information and details on participating churches at <https://ridestride.org/>

NEXT ECO CHURCH LITTER PICK

SATURDAY 22 JULY

MEET AT THE WEST END OF THE ABBEY AT 1000

Come along and help us make a difference to our church and our world

Litter picking equipment and bags provided - all we ask from you is an hour of your time.

NEXT ECO CHURCH MEETING

TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 1915

Our next meeting will take place in Pershore Abbey

Watch out for news of our Eco Film show!

BAT WALK AROUND PERSHORE ABBEY 14 JULY: We will walk around the Abbey environs at dusk with Evesham Bat Care on Friday 14 July, meeting at 2115 at the St Andrew's Gardens. With Evesham Bat Care's knowledge and equipment, we will be able to hear and see bats as they become active. This is a free event but donations on the day will be welcomed towards the work of Evesham Bat Care. We hope you will join us for this fascinating opportunity to experience Pershore Abbey's bats.



FRIDAY 14 JULY, MEET AT 2115, ST ANDREW'S GARDENS.

SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS OF THE ECO CHURCH GIVE AND TAKE STALL ON 15 JULY

PLUM FESTIVAL AUGUST 2022

We are delighted that the Pershore Plum Festival and Classic Car Event returns in August 2023!



Join us at Pershore Abbey and Abbey Park on **Monday 28 August** for Classic Cars, Teddy Bear Zip Wire, Teddy Bear Parachute Drop, Pershore Town Choir, Pershore Arts, refreshments in the St Andrew's Centre and more . . .

Teddy Praise also returns on **Sunday 27 August** at **1415** in the **Abbey Park Bandstand**, so please bring along your special bears to take part in this lovely service.

More details of the full programme of events, including an update on this years Tower Tour plans will be available closer to the date, so keep an eye on the weekly bulletins!

For more information on the Classic Cars event or details on how to book a place, please contact office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or download the form here: [Classic Car Application Form](#)

The Pershore Plum Festival has events through July and August ending with the August Bank Holiday Weekend Extravaganza **27-29 August**. For more information on the Pershore Plum Festival visit www.pershoreplumfestival.org.uk

HELPERS NEEDED PLEASE: Refreshments of tea and cakes will be served in St Andrew's Centre, so we are looking for helpers for sessions between **10:00** and **16:00** on **Monday 28 August**. We would also be grateful for any cakes, or, if you don't want to make a cake, a donation would be appreciated. Sign up sheets will be made available at the back of the Abbey or contact **Sara Speed** on **01386 710776**. Thank you.

TEDDY BEAR VOLUNTEERS: We need volunteers to help with all of the teddy bear based activities in the Abbey from parachuting bears to tower desk helpers. If you would like to help please contact **Suzanne Clarke** on **01386 553293** and look out for more details in the weekly bulletin soon.

ABBAY TOWER TOUR GUIDES AND TOUR ASSISTANTS URGENTLY NEEDED: The Abbey Tower Team needs to recruit volunteers for both our Tour Guides and Tour Assistants. Both roles require only minimal time commitment, normally part of just one day a year on August Bank Holiday Monday. Please contact the Benefice Office on **01386 552071** or email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk if you would like to become part of the Abbey Tower Team. We look forward to hearing from you.

EARLY RISERS NEEDED TO MARSHAL CLASSIC CARS: If you are an early riser, we need your help to marshal the Classic Car event, which returns this year on **Monday 28 August**. We need people on site from **0800** till **1200** to help with the smooth running of the day. If you can help please contact **Suzanne Clarke** on **01386 553293**.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



PERSHORE ABBEY COFFEE MORNING 15 JULY: Join us again for our monthly parish coffee morning on **Saturday 15 July**, which this month will be hosted by the Abbey Eco Church Group. Just drop in to **St Andrew's Centre** between **1030** and **1200** noon for coffee, cakes and a chat and an **Eco Church Give and Take** stall!

Bring along any books, plants or produce that you want to give and then in return take something that someone else has brought. No clothes or bric-a-brac please! We look forward to seeing you there.

A SERIES OF BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS WITH REVD PHILIP HUGHES: Revd Hughes will be organising a series of meetings on the theme of "Trees of the New Testament which help us to see Jesus as our Saviour and Redeemer" this Autumn.

A Wednesday series of five meetings will be held at 8, Ashdale Avenue at 1030 on Sept 6, 13, 20, and 27, and Oct. 4.

A Thursday series will be held at 27 Bridge Street at 1915 (after choir practice) on September 1, 8, 15 and 22, and will close on October 6 following a gap for the Organ Festival. Previous participants or new ones are equally welcome.

Sessions will begin with tea/coffee, and will last approximately 1 hour. Parking on the odd side of Bridge St. where there is a single yellow line is free in the evening after 1800.

Philip Hughes.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

PET SERVICE 9 JULY 1030 ST MARY'S WICK: Dogs, cats, parrots, snakes and animals of all descriptions are welcome (along with well-behaved owners!) at St Mary's Church on **Sunday 9 July** at **1030**. The service will be followed by refreshments.



PATRONAL FESTIVAL - ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM, SUNDAY 23 JULY 1500: St James' will open its doors this July for a special Patronal Festival. All welcome.

GREEN FINGERS IN BIRLINGHAM: As Pershore Abbey look forward to their next Eco Litter Pick, we focus on our green spaces and look back to April in Birlingham Churchyard, when parishioners young, old (and four-legged) all joined together in a great big churchyard tidy! What a fabulous effort by all.



FAIRTRADE AT PERSHORE ABBEY

TRAIDCRAFT/FAIRTRADE STALL - NEW LEADER REQUIRED: As Traidcraft is no longer a shop we can buy from, we are changing our Abbey stall to a stall selling Fairtrade products. The Abbey is now looking for a new person to manage this Fairtrade Stall, oversee the ordering of new products and run/oversee the Rota for the volunteers. Dora is stepping down after many years, and would be happy to help train the new person. Products will be sourced from ethical sites that sell Fairtrade products that the Abbey congregation have purchased in the past, and new products to bring a new look to the stall. Please have a deep think about your own Fairtrade purchasing, your ethical beliefs, and whether you are able to take this new role on. If you would like more information please email the office on office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE ON THE FAIRTRADE STALL?: We know our congregation customers have always bought the basics - tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits and honey. We have also had good sales of chocolate, cocoa and seasonal items.

As we will be buying Fairtrade products from new sources, we need to know if these basics will still be on your Abbey shopping list, and what other products you are likely to need and to buy. It's all about you as our Fairtrade customers and friends.

There is a form at the back of the Abbey for you to fill in and there will also be forms available on our stall for you to take away, so please do fill them in so we know what items you wish us to stock. *Thank you, Dora.*

PRAYING FOR GROWTH WITH WORCESTER DIOCESE



Praying for Growth

Praying for our Vision

God of all grace and goodness,
you lead us into the way of love and life:
hear our prayer for your church in this place,
may we offer you our hearts and minds in worship,
bring others to walk with us as disciples of Christ,
and share the hope to which you have called us,
that by the work of your Spirit
we may see lives and communities transformed,
and be drawn ever more deeply into your life of love,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Praying for Growth

Praying for our Priorities

Generous God,
by your Spirit lead your church into growth,
and into the mature humanity
that reflects the image of Christ our Saviour.
So equip our ministers with the gifts of your Spirit
that we may kindle anew the flame of faith
among children and young people,
renew our churches with your life and love,
and help new communities come to birth
and lift their hearts in worship,
that, joined as one body together,
we may find a voice to sing your praise,
now and in all eternity.
Amen.



HELP NEEDED & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ABBEY LINK IDEAS REQUESTED! I'm now starting work on the Autumn edition of Abbey Link and inviting everyone to make suggestions for articles.

What would you like to see in the magazine? Do you have a role in the church that you might like to talk about? (Nothing is trivial. Everyone contributes to the whole!) Or is there any subject you'd like to know more about? You could even consider writing something yourself, but just suggestions would be great! I can't promise to publish everything, but no idea is wasted. Thank you! *Christopher Kimberley*

ABBEY LINK VOLUNTEERS STILL URGENTLY NEEDED FOR FUTURE ISSUES: Thank you to everyone who helped deliver the latest edition of Abbey Link. Delivery takes place only four times a year, and if anyone feels they could lend a hand please contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071 or Roger Piper.

SUMMER ACTIVITY MORNING @ PERSHORE ABBEY ON TUESDAY 15 AUGUST 0930-1200: A drop in event for children up to 11 years old with an accompanying adult including games, dressing up, a trail and crafts. I would appreciate some volunteers to help with this for either part of or all of the morning, whatever you are able to do. Please see Sam Andrews to sign up. Many thanks. *Sam*

THE ABBEY NEEDS YOU! BOOKSTALL VOLUNTEERS AND WELCOMERS URGENTLY NEEDED! The Abbey is a much visited place and one of the things that visitors comment on is the warm welcome they receive when they arrive. Our welcomers are a wonderful group of people, ably led by Jean Andrews. The good news is that we have seen a lot more visitors this year due to the excitement around the new organ. The not so good news is that we really need more volunteers to welcome our visitors and help on the bookstall. We are looking for people who can sign up for a session regularly, which can be weekly or monthly. Being present in the Abbey, sharing a smile and a warm welcome are the skills required. Full training will be given, as well as the support from other welcomers. This is a vital ministry in the life of the Abbey and we need you! Please contact **Jean Andrews** directly or via the office if you'd like to know more and feel you can help. Thank you. *Claire*

VOLUNTEER WARDEN FOR ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

This is a really exciting opportunity to help provide good facilities for lots of organisations and people in the town. A Job Description and Application Form is available at our website

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk
or from the Benefice Office

BEDS FOR PILGRIMS NEEDED!: Three young people, Tom, Clive and Ben are walking St Kenelm's Way and are in need of a Bed for the night of 2 September after they have walked 16 miles from Stoke Works. Tom is a post graduate student at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge (where Matthew Martin is Precentor, and whose choir is taking part in our Organ Festival) and is studying medieval history. Tom and his friends hope to arrive in Pershore by 1600 and are more than happy to fend for themselves for their evening meal. If you think you can host all three pilgrims please can you get in touch with me as soon as possible. Thank you. *Claire*

PIPE DREAMS ORGAN FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2023



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

ORGAN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Thursday 28 September	School Outreach Event
Friday 29 September at 1900 <i>Ticketed Event</i>	Festival Choral Concert <i>with Matthew Martin, Precentor & Director of Music and Choir of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge</i>
Saturday 30 September at 1900 <i>Ticketed Event</i>	Festival Organ Recital <i>with Robert Quinney, Organist and Tutor in Music, New College, Oxford, Associate Professor, Faculty of Music, University of Oxford and former Sub-Organist, Westminster Abbey</i>
Sunday 1 October at 1030	Festival Eucharist with Bishop John
Sunday 1 October at 1700	Festival Evensong

TICKETED EVENTS BOOKING INFORMATION

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM **11 JULY**

Cost: £15 each

Tickets are limited to 4 per event and will not be available before this date

**BOX OFFICES: BLUE, Broad Street, Pershore OR
The Benefice Office (Tues-Thurs, 1100—1200 noon)
We are unable to accept card payments**

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

JULY & AUGUST 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 change.

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 9 JULY

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

SUNDAY 16 JULY

0800 Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

SUNDAY 23 JULY

0800 Eucharist *with Livestream*
1030 Outdoor Morning Praise
1700 Iona Worship

SUNDAY 30 JULY

0800 Eucharist
1030 Benefice Eucharist *with LiveStream*

SUNDAY 6 AUGUST

0800 BCP Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST

0800 Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*
1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

0800 Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST

0800 Eucharist
1030 Morning Praise *with LiveStream*
1415 Teddy Praise (*Bandstand*)

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 9 JULY

1030 Pet Service

SUNDAY 23 JULY

1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 30 JULY

1030 Benefice Eucharist *at Pershore Abbey*

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 16 JULY

1030 Sunday Praise

SUNDAY 30 JULY

1030 Benefice Eucharist *at Pershore Abbey*

SUNDAY 6 AUGUST

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

1030 Sunday Praise

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 23 JULY

1500 Patronal Festival

SUNDAY 31 JULY

1030 Benefice Eucharist *at Pershore Abbey*

There are no services planned for August

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY 15 JULY ABBEY PARISH COFFEE MORNING: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE AT 1030
Give and Take stall with refreshments and a good chat from 1030!

SUNDAY 16 JULY PIANOSCAPES CONCERT: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE AT 1430 Join Chris Long for his popular Sunday afternoon concert sessions in the St Andrew's Centre. Email chrislong2008@live.co.uk for tickets.

TUESDAY 15 AUGUST SUMMER ACTIVITY MORNING: PERSHORE ABBEY 0930-1200
Join us for this drop-in family-friendly event packed full of games, activities and fun! Suitable for children up to 11 years accompanied by an adult. More information to follow soon.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Babies & Toddlers group will be on its summer break from **14 July** and will restart **15 September**.

PERSHORE ABBEY CONCERTS & EVENTS

SATURDAY 8 JULY 1930

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORUS

SATURDAY 15 JULY 1930

CHELTENHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

*in support of the
Farmers Overseas Action Group*

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 1900

**PERSHORE ROTARY CONCERT WITH
JOHNS' BOYS MALE CHORUS**

SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 1900

CHANDOS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 1930

MASTERWORKS CHORALE

28 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER

PIPE DREAMS ORGAN FESTIVAL

See page 10 for details



JOIN US AT PERSHORE ABBEY

MONDAY 28 AUGUST

- ◆ TOWER TOURS ◆ TEDDY ZIP WIRE
- ◆ TEDDY PARACHUTE DROP ◆ CLASSIC CARS
- ◆ PERSHORE TOWN CHOIR ◆ PERSHORE ARTS
- ◆ REFRESHMENTS IN ST ANDREW'S CENTRE
& MORE . . .

LOOK OUT FOR UPDATES!

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