

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE
Christmas & New Year 2023

Welcome to our **Christmas and New Year Monthly Edition 2023**

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.**

A full list of services taking place can be found on page 3.

ADVENT COMPLINE CONTINUES BY ZOOM: Please join us on Mondays during Advent for this quiet and reflective service as we prepare for our Christmas celebrations. Meeting on Zoom from the comfort of our own homes, this twenty minute service will enable us to pause and reflect on our Advent journeys. Join us live at **1900** on **4, 11** and **18 December**. If you would like to be part of this service, please email me at vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a Zoom link and a copy of the order of service. *Claire*

SCHOOLS VISIT PERSHORE ABBEY FOR THEIR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS: We are delighted to be once again welcoming our local school children, teachers and their families back into Pershore Abbey for their wonderful Christmas Presentations and services. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them all!

MIDWEEK COMMUNION: On 3 January we are launching a new midweek communion service. The service will start at 1000 in the St John Chapel at the Abbey. It will be a simple said service and will be followed by refreshments with the chance to sit down and chat to others who have attended the service. If you don't feel like attending the service please do feel free to come along for refreshments and a chat, which will begin around 1045 and end at 1130. We look forward to welcoming those who would like a quiet communion service in the week and all those for whom getting to church on a Sunday is difficult. For more information please get in touch with me. *Claire*

PERSHORE ABBEY CHRISTMAS CARD DISPLAY

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



IN THIS EDITION:

CHRISTMAS SERVICES - LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024
WINTER CONCERTS - NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES



MINCE PIES PLEASE! Following the Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 17 December, mulled wine and mulled apple juice will be served along with mince pies. PASA would like donations of mince pies please - vegan, gluten-free and nut-free also welcome please. These can be either home made or bought ones. If you are able to help please can you sign up on the list at the back of the Abbey and then bring them along to either 0800 or 1030 service on Sunday 17 December and put them in the boxes at the back of the Abbey. With grateful thanks from the PASA team.

POST-CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA INVITATION: Following last year's inaugural afternoon tea the PASA team and friends are providing an afternoon tea of sandwiches, cakes, savouries and of course a cuppa, for those of you who would like to share in friendship and fellowship after Christmas. **Please do come along to St Andrew's Parish Centre on Thursday 28 December, between 1430-1600 and bring a friend.** If you can please ring the secretary of PASA, Jane on 01386 556981 to leave your names and if you have any dietary requirements for catering arrangements that would be appreciated by the team. Thank you and the PASA Team look forward to seeing you there.

PARISH COFFEE MORNING: The first 2024 Parish Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 20 January 1030-12noon. All welcome for a cuppa, cake and fellowship!

ADVANCED NOTICE: At 1830 on Saturday 3 February 2024, PASA will be hosting a Social Evening of Pudding Tasting! Tickets £7 to include a jacket potato first (with either cheese or tuna) before sampling puddings (hopefully some made by the congregation please!).



This Christmas musical adventure for the entire family weaves classic festive melodies, humour, and new pop songs in a retelling of the nativity story. From the team behind *High School Musical*. 1hr 39mins.
Tickets: Full £9/Concessions £8.50. Group discounts available. www.journeytobethlehemmovie.com

Number 8 - Wednesday 20 December, 7.30pm

Box Office: 01386 555488 www.number8.org
Number 8, High St, Pershore, WR10 1BG



Worcester Male Voice Choir 
proudly presents
A concert of seasonal choral favourites
With special guests
Shelley Fairplay (harp)
Keith Hearnshaw (organ)

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

8th - 9th December 2023 at 7:00pm
Pershore Abbey
All tickets £15



<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/worcestermalevoicechoir>
Information Line: 07731 829947

We invite you all to join us in church and online PERSHORE BENEFICE for CHRISTMAS

In addition to these special seasonal services and activities, our regular Sunday worship services will continue to take place each week as usual



Sunday 3 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1030 Edible Nativity - Booking Essential (*St Andrew's Centre*)
Email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or call 01386 552071 by 27 November
- 1030 Patronal Holy Communion (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)
- 1500 Advent Carol Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 10 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 0945 Café Church (*St Andrew's Centre*)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1030 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1700 Wholeness & Healing Service—Light in Our Darkness (*St Andrew's Centre*)

Sunday 17 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1030 Carol Service (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)
- 1700 Christmas Carol Service (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1800 Carol Service and Christmas Trees (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1800 Carol and Christingle Service (*St James, Birlingham*)

Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Morning Praise (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 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 Monday 25 December

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

New Year's Eve Sunday 31 December

- 0800 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

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

CHRISTMAS AT PERSHORE ABBEY . . .

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 1500: A wonderful opportunity to sing your favourite Advent Carols and hear the Abbey choir sing beautiful anthems, accompanied by organist Matthew Martin. The service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: *Pershore Abbey Community*

LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 1700: This is a service for people who would like to find some peace and quiet during this busy Christmas time. Please note: this service will take place at St Andrew's.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 1700: Sing carols, listen to the Abbey choir sing and enjoy the new organ being played by Iain Simock. The service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: *Pershore Abbey Community*

MIDNIGHT MASS CHRISTMAS EVE 2315: Join us as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to see in Christmas Day.

ALL AGE EUCHARIST CHRISTMAS DAY 1030: Join us as we give thanks and praise on Christmas Day with this family friendly service.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE



LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



Pershore Benefice ADVENT COMPLINE ZOOM SESSIONS



Mondays in Advent
4, 11 and 18 December
1900
Online via Zoom



An opportunity to share in the quiet and peace of Compline during Advent

This half-hour night service will take place via Zoom

Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the Zoom link each week

Pershore Abbey CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



CHRISTMAS EVE
15:30
Pershore Abbey

JOIN OUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE!

Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle



@pershoreabbeycom



@AbbeyPershore



@pershoreabbeycommunity

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

01386 552071

For details of Christmas services taking place in the Benefice, please visit
www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

MINISTRY NEWS

PERSHORE BENEFICE VISIT TO SALZWEDEL 6-9 JUNE 2024: Our twin parish of Salzwedel in Saxony-Anhalt, Germany is the capital of the district of Altmarkkreis Salzwedel, and has a population of approximately 21,500. Salzwedel is famous for its half-timbered houses and Baumkuchen (tree cakes). Like Pershore Abbey, the Katherinenkirche is the beating heart of the community. For several years visitors from the Pershore benefice have travelled to Salzwedel to share fellowship with and encourage our fellow Christians. Our German friends have, in turn, visited us. We would love this tradition to continue, and now it is our turn to pay a short visit to Germany. The Salzwedel church community are desperate for us to come and visit soon. ✨

A 2024 visit to Salzwedel is therefore planned between 6 and 9 June. If you would like more information or already know that you would like to take part, please contact Claire at vicar.pershoreabbey@gmail.com or Michael Hodges at mh@broadwayplc.com or 01386 552417.

Arrangements for travel and accommodation can be made when we know the names of those who wish to take part in the visit.

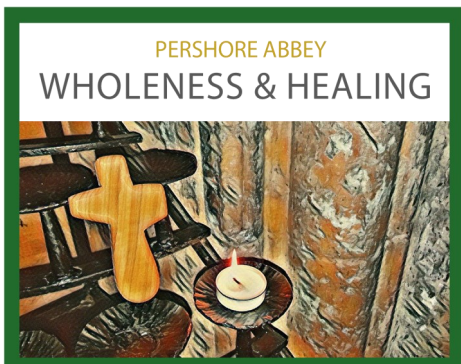
REGULAR SERVICES



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER & SUNDAY 14 JANUARY
0930 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

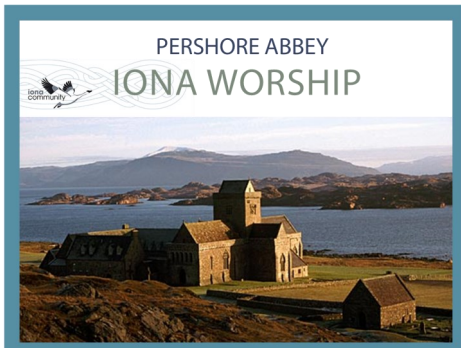
Come and join in with our family friendly and informal café-style worship as we meet for worship, music and refreshments. ✨



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 1700 IN ST ANDREW'S
SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 1700 IN ST ANDREW'S

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:

28 JANUARY 1700 IN PERSHORE ABBEY

We hope you will join us ✨

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024



PERSHORE MYSTERIES: Next year sees an exciting project happening in the Abbey! In conjunction with Theatre 910 we are hosting 'The Pershore Mysteries'. These are a series of plays from the Middle Ages but brought right up to date!

Theatre 910 are looking to involve as many people from the Town, surrounding areas and congregations as possible. We are looking for people of any experience, from none to Hollywood!

Working alongside professional actors there are parts available for a lot of people and we'd also like to see if anyone would like to come and work on the other aspects of the production - can you sew, make, like to do backstage?

All opportunities are open to everyone. If you would like to register an interest or know more please contact our Events Co-ordinator, Stevie Quick on 07387766274.



ABBEY LINK MAGAZINE: Roger Piper has shared with us that Abbey Link is in desperate need of new volunteers to distribute the magazine to various streets in Pershore. If you walk a dog or go for a daily stroll this is an excellent way to add some great volunteering to your walk! Also, Pinvin are in need of a new distribution coordinator, following the retirement of Debbie and Ken Pinfield. This role involves receiving a big bundle of Abbey Links from Roger and dividing them up into smaller bundles for the individual street distributors. **Please contact Roger Piper on 01386 553110 if you can help.** Thanks. *Claire*



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE UNITY SERVICE: This year the Abbey will be hosting this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service which is entitled "Go and do likewise". Come and join together in worship with our sisters and brothers in Christ on 21 January 1500.



EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

PERSHORE ABBEY
1500

14 JANUARY 2024

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATORY
SERVICE OF SINGING AND PRAISE



CHRISTMAS CARDS, GIFTS & MORE . . .

ABBEY BOOKSTALL AND WELCOMERS: Christmas is coming and the bookstall is ready! We have some lovely Christmas cards from various sources including *Fox under the Moon* and our own Abbey cards. Stocks are limited so buy soon. We also have Advent candles, and Christmas decorations for sale, as well as our usual range of cards and gifts.

If you're wondering what volunteering as a welcomer in the Abbey involves, just speak to anyone on the bookstall. I'm sure they would say that you meet some lovely visitors and get to enjoy the Abbey in a different way. Your commitment could be as little as 2 hours a month! If you are interested or would like to find out more please contact me by emailing [persshoreabbeybookstall@gmail.com](mailto:pershoreabbeybookstall@gmail.com), call me on **07858 506218** or say hello in person. I look forward to hearing from you. *Sally Whyte*



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

PERSHORE ABBEY TRAIDCRAFT DATES

03 DECEMBER 17 DECEMBER

More dates to follow in the New Year.

FAITH AT WORK

A key part of the current plans for Faith at Work in Worcestershire is to move to be a fully volunteer led charity. Our paid secretary will be retiring at the end of March 2024 and five separate roles have been identified to replace all her current work. They are; Website Administrator, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Chaplain & Volunteer Supporter, Events Planner. Each role is likely to require an average commitment of 2-3 hours per week, working from home.

Please get in touch with Development Officer, Rev'd Dick Johnson, if you feel you have the experience, skills and interest to undertake any of these roles, and please continue to pray for FWW and the workplace chaplains in Pershore. *Angela Gerrard*

ABBEY ECO CHURCH

**NEXT ABBEY
ECO CHURCH MEETING:**

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM
Please feel free to join us at one of our meetings

**NEXT ABBEY
LITTER PICK DATE:**

SATURDAY 20 APRIL 1000-1100
Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Equipment Provided

NEWS FROM ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY: We held a churchyard working party on the 28 October. Not sure if it was the lure of homemade cake but we had thirteen villagers turn up to help. They all worked incredibly hard; strimming, sawing, clipping and raking. One picture shows Graham cutting back the fig which was threatening to take over the bench. The other picture shows Jacob wheelbarrowing logs to the bug hotel site.



CAROLS & CHRISTINGLES: All are welcome to attend the Carols and Christingles service at St James', Birlingham on Sunday 17 December at 1800.

The family-friendly service will be followed by mulled wine, soft drinks and seasonal picks in Birlingham Village Hall.



BIG PLASTIC COUNT AND RECYCLING

Last year I took part in the Big Plastic Count, when I recorded all the different types of plastic I used in a week. Every time I opened a packet wrapped in plastic or used up an item of hard plastic I recorded it on the counting pack. When I submitted this at the end of the week I was sent a breakdown result of all the plastics I would use in a year and it was shocking.

Knowing how much we are using provides a good incentive to try and cut down and contribute to the efforts to save the planet from the consequences of plastic waste. As we approach Christmas we are all likely to use even more plastic than usual, so now would be a good time to have a look at the website where they will send your own free, digital counting pack.

I also took part in the Abbey Litter Pick recently and confessed that I have now become slightly obsessed with recycling soft plastics. Virtually everything we buy in the supermarket is packaged in soft plastic but it mostly bears a symbol (green or black) saying 'Recycle', 'Don't recycle' or 'Recycle at a supermarket, not at home' and every week I'm surprised at the size of the bag I take to recycle when I next visit the supermarket. This all might sound like a tedious chore, but the incentive is that every piece we recycle is a contribution to reducing the world's mountain of plastic waste and then it becomes much more satisfying. I hope when you've read this you will decide to join me. *Angela Gerrard*



SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS ON HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH OUR ECO CHURCH

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

The volunteers of the Pershore Foodbank have been working hard throughout 2023 to provide emergency food parcels to local people in need; especially families with young children. We operate on a referral system, with clients sent to us by Schools, Churches, Housing Authorities, Social Services and other partners in the Community. We also make onward referrals so that people in crisis can access longer-term assistance and are still able to provide on-site access to Citizen's Advice during our Friday Sessions. ***However, it is important to emphasise that no-one is turned away in an emergency.***

We are an **ALL-VOLUNTEER** Foodbank working under the guidance of Trussell Trust with the oversight of our parent charity, Pershore Abbey. Everything practicable is done to keep overheads to an absolute minimum so that the wonderful generosity of our community, whether it is in financial donations or foodstuffs, can be rapidly directed to those most in need.

This year's Harvest Festival produced an amazing quantity of donations. We had over 1 ton of stock donated in September/October, helping to set us up for the busy Winter period. Thankfully, we have been able to recruit several new and enthusiastic volunteers, as all that stock has to be sorted, processed and made up into appropriately selected parcels and many of us are not as young as we would like to think we are.

As well as our routine service, we will be delivering festive hampers in the lead up to Christmas. We are open as normal over the holidays with the exception of Tuesday 26 December. Our phone and email messages will also be monitored. ***Donations can also be made at the collection bins in local supermarkets, schools and churches.***

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 2024

Details of 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 3 DECEMBER

Advent Sunday

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

1500 Advent Carol Service

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER

Advent 2

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

1700 Light in our Darkness (*St Andrew's*)

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

Advent 3

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

1700 Christmas Carol Service

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

Advent 4/Christmas Eve

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise

1530 Christingle

2315 Midnight Mass

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

Christmas 1

0800 Eucharist

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist *with*

LiveStream

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY

Epiphany

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with LiveStream*

1700 Evensong

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

1800 Carol Service and Christmas Trees!

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

1600 Christingle Service

SUNDAY 14 JANUARY

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER

1030 Patronal Holy Communion

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

1030 Carol Service

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

1700 Christingle and Crib Service

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 21 JANUARY

1030 Sunday Praise

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

1800 Carols and Christingles Service

OFFICE STAFFING OVER CHRISTMAS

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

Our office staff will be on annual leave from:

12 noon on Friday 22 December 2023 until Tuesday 2 January 2024

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.



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

FRIDAY 08 DECEMBER 1900

Worcester Male Voice Choir
Christmas Concert

SATURDAY 09 DECEMBER 1900

Worcester Male Voice Choir
Christmas Concert

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 1930

Pershore Town Choir
Christmas Celebration

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 1930

Pershore Choral
Christmas Concert

SATURDAY 6 JANUARY 1430

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra
New Year Concert



P PERSHORE CHORAL
SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2023 7.30PM
PERSHORE ABBEY
A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS MUSIC, CAROLS AND READINGS
CARLETON ETHERINGTON
CONDUCTOR
CHARLES MATTHEWS
ORGAN
BOX OFFICE:
Anne Howells
01905 770557
anne.horsellhowells@gmail.com
OR FROM BLUE,
19 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