

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition


PERSHORE BENEFICE

January /February 2024

Welcome to our first Monthly Edition of 2024.

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

 Growing as
Kingdom People
love · compassion · justice · freedom

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

PILGRIMAGE OF PRAYER

with the Archbishop of Canterbury

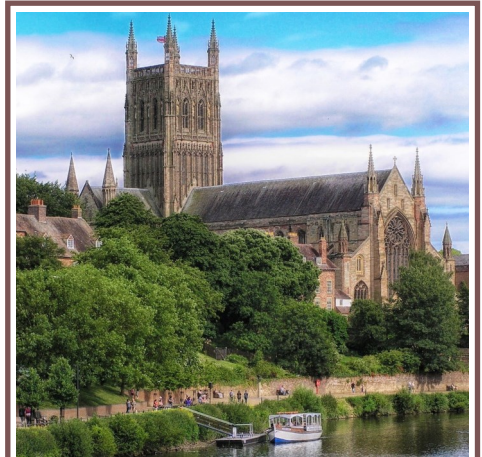
SATURDAY 3 FEB 2024

12:30pm
Pershore
Abbey

Prayer lunch -
bring your own
picnic lunch.
There is no
need to book.



Pershore Abbey
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross



At 1415, following his visit to Pershore Abbey, the Archbishop of Canterbury will be heading to Worcester Cathedral for an interview followed by worship and prayer at various prayer stations. All are welcome to attend this special event, both in Pershore and Worcester.

IN THIS EDITION:

LENT 2024
CONCERTS AND EVENTS
BULB SUNDAY
ECO CHURCH

PALM CROSSES NEEDED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Please leave your old palm crosses in the box at the back of Pershore Abbey as we need to recreate the ash in the traditional way for this year's Ash Wednesday services on **14 FEBRUARY**

LENT IN THE PERSHORE BENEFICE

PERSHORE BENEFICE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES: Joining a service on Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent. Everyone is invited to come forward and have a cross made out of ash is marked on their forehead, as a sign of our penitence and God's forgiveness. Our services will take place at the Abbey on Wednesday 14 February at 0830 and 1930. The 1930 service will be livestreamed.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE (CTiP) LENT GROUPS 2024: 'THE LONG ROAD TO HEAVEN' is a five-part study course based on the film The Way. Sessions will take place at Pershore Baptist Church after Lenten Lunches and at St Andrew's on Thursday evenings. See page 3 for more details. Sign up forms are available in our churches.

LENT & HOLY WEEK COMPLINE BY ZOOM: Join us via Zoom for this opportunity to share in the quiet and peace of Compline during Lent, with a reflection. Our Zoom sessions will take place on Mondays in Lent from 19 February and on Monday 25, Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 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.

CTiP LENT APPEAL LAUNCH & LENTEN LUNCHES

LENTEN APPEAL LAUNCH

SHROVE TUESDAY

13 FEBRUARY

WULSTAN HALL

in aid of



The Friends of the Holy Land is a non-political, humanitarian agency which supports the School of Joy in Bethlehem.

Founded in 1988 the school works with children who have special needs and who have been banned from attending local schools due to their behavioural issues.

Without the school most of these children would be roaming the streets or forced to stay at home. About 70 children attend the school which offers them the chance to fulfil their potential in a non-discriminatory environment.

Pancakes at **1230** followed by presentation

LENTEN LUNCHES

JOIN US FOR HEARTY SOUP AND A ROLL

ALL WELCOME



PERSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

1200 - 1330

(Last orders 13:00)

**THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY - THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY
THURSDAY 7 MARCH - THURSDAY 14 MARCH**

Followed by the Lent Group 1400-1530
on the above dates and Thursday 21 March

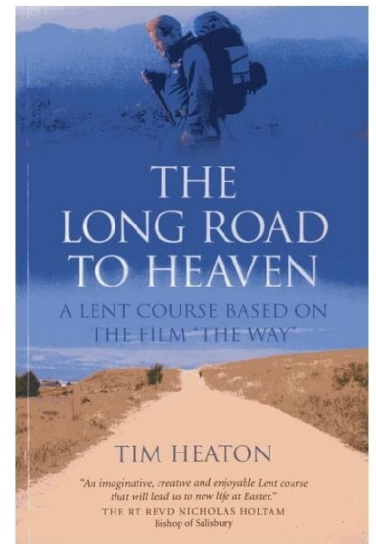


LENT 2024

The Abbey - Pershore Baptist Church - Holy Redeemer Catholic Church - Community Church

THE LONG ROAD TO HEAVEN LENT GROUPS FROM THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY

The Long Road to Heaven is a five-part study course based on the film *The Way*. Starring Martin Sheen as a bereaved father, this soulful and uplifting film observes a group of pilgrims walking the Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela. As it follows their journey of inner transformation, the course examines biblical accounts and images of salvation - past, present and future - and addresses the questions: What are we saved from? What are we saved for? Who can be saved? What do we have to do to be saved? How are we saved?



The course will run for 5 sessions during Lent and will take place at **Pershore Baptist Church**, after Lenten Lunches on the following days from 1400-1530.

- Thursday 22 February
- Thursday 29 February
- Thursday 7 March
- Thursday 14 March
- Thursday 21 March

St Andrew's sessions will take place on **Thursday evenings** on the following days from **1900-2030**:

- Thursday 22 February
- Thursday 29 February
- Thursday 7 March
- Thursday 14 March
- Thursday 21 March

Sign up sheets are now available at all CTiP churches. There will be a voluntary **£6** contribution for course material.



DAY OF REFLECTION

There will be a day of reflection for Lent at Holland House led by Christine Dodd on Monday 18 March, 1000-1600. Please let Janet Stansbie know either in person or via the Abbey Office by the end of February if you wish to book a place. The cost is £20. Drinks will be provided, please bring packed lunch.

PRAY ONE FOR ME: ASH WEDNESDAY

14 FEBRUARY 1100-1200 MEET IN PERSHORE ABBEY APSE

PERSHORE ABBEY IONA SERVICE

Everyone is very welcome to the monthly Iona service in Pershore Abbey. Taking inspiration from the many Iona Community worship materials, Pershore Abbey's Iona service provides an opportunity to try different ways of worshipping in an inclusive, welcoming space. The themes vary each month from social and environmental topics to personal development and challenges. The style of worship may be quiet and reflective, involve music or readings, or there may be time to share thoughts and ideas. The service is held in the Abbey at 1700 on the fourth Sunday in the month (except August and December). Also available via Zoom. Look out for the upcoming theme in the bulletin or on the website. Or for further information or the Zoom link, please email Helen Oldham on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk



REGULAR SERVICES



NEXT SERVICE:

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 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 SERVICE:

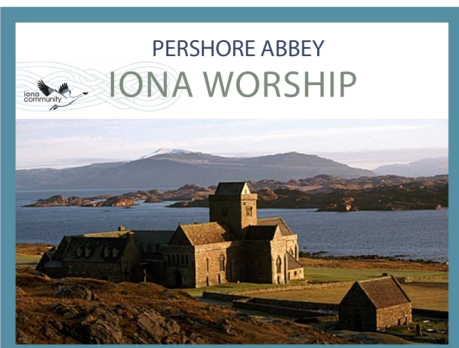
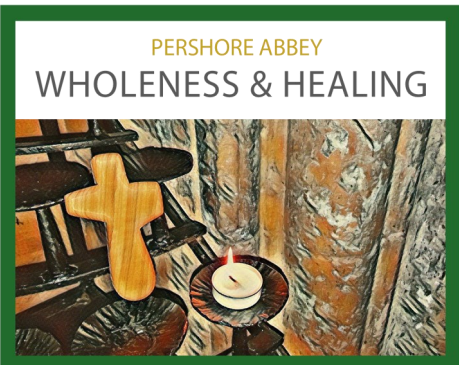
SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 1700 AT ANDREW'S CENTRE

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

NEXT SERVICES:

**SUNDAY 28 JANUARY & SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY**

We hope you will join us either in person or via Zoom. Contact for iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk the Zoom link.



SPECIAL SERVICES

EVENSONG, SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

We are delighted that members of the choir of St Martin's, London Road, Worcester, will be joining the Abbey choir to sing choral evensong on Sunday 4 February at 1700. The organist for the service will be John Swindells who is Director of Music at St Martin's. The music for the service (canticles and anthem) will be by John Ireland.



Pershore Benefice

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE



EVERY WEDNESDAY

10:00

Pershore Abbey

Followed by refreshments and a chat

ALL WELCOME



@pershoreabbeycom



@AbbeyPershore



@pershoreabbeycommunity

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

01386 552071

Pershore Benefice

ASH WEDNESDAY



Wednesday 14th February

0830 and 1930

Pershore Abbey with Livestream

Joining a service on Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent.

Everyone is invited to come forward and have a cross made out of ash marked on their forehead, as a sign of our penitence and God's forgiveness.

ALL WELCOME

Pershore Benefice

LENT & HOLY WEEK COMPLINE BY ZOOM



Mondays in Lent from 19 February

Monday 25, Tuesday 26 &

Wednesday 27 March in Holy Week

1900

Online via Zoom

An opportunity to share in the quiet and peace of Compline during Lent, with a reflection

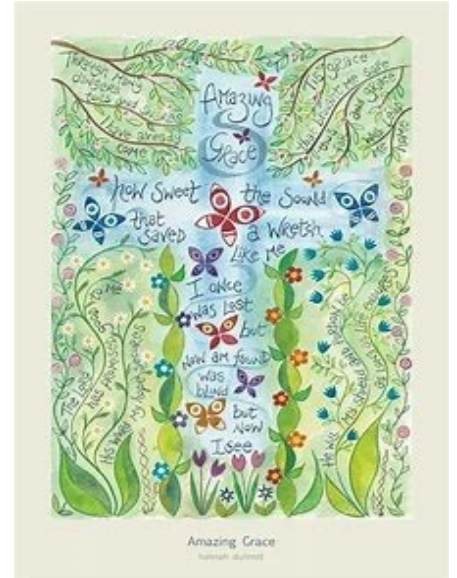
This half-hour night service will take place via Zoom

Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the

PERSHORE ABBEY BOOKSTALL

Thank you for your support of our Christmas range, it has given me encouragement to stock more cards and gifts for 2024. A new year has meant a restock of the bookstall's fabulous range of greetings cards for all occasions from Woodmansterne, Colcards and Fox Under the Moon. I am also pleased to showcase a small selection of the work of Hannah Dunnett, a Christian artist who produces exquisite artwork intertwined with religious verses (pictured).

Mothering Sunday and Easter cards will be available soon. And of course we stock a wide range of faith items including; pocket stones, bookmarks, prayer cards and holding crosses.



Perhaps this year could be an opportunity to spend some time volunteering as a welcomer in the Abbey, meet some lovely visitors and enjoy the Abbey in a different way. Your commitment could be as little as 2 hours a month! Please contact me on email, pershoreabbeybookstall@gmail.com, call me on 07858 506218 or say hello in person. I look forward to hearing from you if you would like to know more. *Sally Whyte*

PERSHORE ABBEY AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (PASA)



HELP NEEDED! I am very grateful for the continued support of the volunteers in the Abbey Sunday Coffee's team but we really do need more help. We are especially in need of helpers to operate the dishwasher in St Andrew's (tuition provided!), plus others to serve teas and coffees. With a full team, the duty would be on one Sunday morning as part of a 4 to 6 weeks rota? Please contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776 or talk to any member of the team for further information. *Sara Speed*

CALLING ALL LENT SOUP MAKERS

Soup makers are required for the Abbey's session on Thursday 22 February. Please can you provide a large pan of soup (with all ingredients listed) and phone Jane Knox on 01386 556981 if you can make soup for that day. Collection can be arranged if you cannot bring it to the Baptist Church on Broad Street. *Thank you from the PASA team.*



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 LINK

IDEAS FOR ABBEY LINK: It's the time again when Abbey Link is gearing up for the Spring issue, and I'm inviting everyone to make suggestions for articles. Do you have any stories of local interest that you would like to see included? Don't assume I know everything already! Or are there any subjects you would like to learn more about? Please contact me in person or at: editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk *With thanks, Christopher Kimberley*

ABBEY LINK MAGAZINE

NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Do you enjoy short walks? Are you a dog walker?

Volunteers are **urgently** needed to deliver the Abbey Link Magazine in the following areas:

- St Agatha's Court, Close and Mews
- High Street - Cherry Orchard to Bridge Street (Tesco side, flats only)
- Farleigh Road 65-87, 92-126, and 150-164
 - Mayfield Road (both sides)
- Old Music Hall & Lower Priest Lane flats (School side)
 - Skylark Drive
 - Goldfinch Rise
 - Kingfisher Fields



Deliveries take place only 4 times a year. If anyone feels they could help, please contact Roger Piper on 01386 553110

PERSHORE PEREGRINES

Preparing for our Peregrines

For several years now the Abbey tower has been the home for a pair of peregrine falcons who have not as yet managed to breed. Last year we provided them with a splendid nesting platform and they were clearly impressed - Mrs P settled in hope, but we never saw any offspring. We were advised by the RSPB to introduce a camera to enable us to study events. A small team from the Abbey has been working hard and the camera is now in place, waiting to be fully connected to the internet so that we shall be able follow any peregrine happy events from our homes. In readiness the nesting platform has been cleaned and replenished with suitable gravel and slate. Watch this space! *Judy Dale*



Photo Credit: Mark Everett

ECO CHURCH



If you are keen to care for the environment in which you live and have an hour or so available, why not join our merry team of litter pickers when they next meet? Willing volunteers to attend meetings are also welcome. There are lots of events coming up from March onwards. Watch this space for more details!

SAVE THE DATE:

MONDAY 18 MARCH 2024 1400

Envirosort Visit - Places Limited
More details will be shared in weekly bulletin

NEXT ABBEY ECO CHURCH MEETING:

TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE MAIN ROOM

Please feel free to join us at one of our meetings

NEXT ABBEY LITTER PICK DATE:

SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2024 1000

Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Equipment Provided

NEWS FROM ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

BIRLINGHAM BULB SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 1500: You are invited to attend the annual Bulb Sunday service and admire the snowdrops at St James', Birlingham on Sunday 4 February at 1500. Canon Claire Lording will be leading the service and there will be musical items from Upton Parish Choir and their Director of Music, John Holloway, will be our organist. After the service teas will be available to purchase in the Village Hall. The teas will be provided by The Friends of St James' as a fundraising event to help with the cost of maintaining the fabric of St James'. *Adrienne Woodward, Churchwarden*

BIRLINGHAM SNOWDROP BULB TEAS: Snowdrop Teas will be held in Birlingham Village Hall on Saturdays and Sundays throughout February from 1100-1630.



All of the Pershore Benefice churches, churchyards and villages are wonderful to visit at this time of year as winter snowdrops and early spring bulbs push their way through with the promise of warmer days to come! Why not visit one of them today?

PLEASE CONTACT THE
BENEFICE OFFICE FOR
MORE NEWS 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 VISIT
THE VILLAGE WEBSITE
WWW.BIRLINGHAM.ORG

FOR MORE NEWS AND
INFORMATION FROM
PINVIN PLEASE TAKE A
LOOK AT THE VILLAGE
WEBSITE BY VISITING
WWW.PINVIN.ORG.UK

SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS OF OUR SERVICES IN PINVIN, WICK AND BIRLINGHAM THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

The Pershore Foodbank has been extremely well supported by our community throughout a challenging year. There was an overall increase of about 20% in the number of food parcels distributed and we have had to make regular buying trips to top up the groceries collected by means of your generous donations. That said; our finances remain healthy for the time being, thanks in part to the receipt of over a thousand pounds worth of cheques in just the week leading up to Christmas.

The Christmas period was enlivened for our clients by the delivery of over a hundred specially prepared hampers containing Christmas treats as well as the regular staples. This was all made possible by the extra donations collected by schools, churches and local businesses as well as the volunteers who had to go back and empty the overflowing supermarket collection bins several times a week. Various thoughtful initiatives, such as the Pershore High School Reverse Advent Calendar project, meant that there was more than enough to go around: longer dated items can be kept to bolster our stores for the coming months whilst any excess of the shortest dated (such as the inevitable 'mince pie mountain') have already been shared in the community.

People also helped in other ways: four young men from the Ridge and Partners Construction company gave up their spare time to join our warehouse teams and help with the heaviest work. We have also been joined by several new regular volunteers, bringing much-appreciated skills in computing, finance and personnel. Apart from helping to share load so that no one individual need ever feel overburdened, this has helped our overall resilience immeasurably.

With your continued support, the Pershore Foodbank aims to provide practical assistance to the most vulnerable residents of both the town and the surrounding villages. Foodbanks are generally formulated as a response to crisis but that can only be effective if people are be offered help accessing the type of services and advice that will help to lift them out of difficult times. We work in close concert with Citizens Advice, statutory services and local charitable organisations towards this objective but, at the same time, ***do everything we can to ensure that no-one in our community need ever go hungry.***

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 BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024

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

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

PERSHORE ABBEY

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY

Candlemas

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

2nd before Lent

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Evensong

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY

Next before Lent

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness and Healing

SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Lent 1

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Lent 2

0800 Eucharist (BCP)

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

SUNDAY 3 MARCH

Lent 3

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Evensong

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY

1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY

1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 10 MARCH

1030 Mothering Sunday Morning Praise

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY

1030 Sunday Praise

SUNDAY 3 MARCH

1030 Holy Communion

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

1500 Bulb Sunday

PLEASE SEE PAGES 2 & 3 FOR OUR ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT SERVICE INFORMATION

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ABBEY VOLUNTEER COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY IN ST ANDREW'S:

As a mark of our appreciation for all the help given by volunteers at the Abbey and St Andrew's, this special coffee morning is being held 1000-1200 noon. Each volunteer should have received an invitation via their group organiser. If you are a volunteer and have not yet had an invitation, please contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776. Please forward any special dietary needs to the same number.

MUSYCK ANON 4 FEBRUARY 1200 ST ANDREW'S: Brighten up your February with a friendly concert and cup of coffee, courtesy of Musyck Anon, Evesham's Madrigal Choir and Guests. No need to book, free entry, donations to cover costs.

PIANOSCAPES WITH CHRIS LONG 1430 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE: Join Chris for a Sunday afternoon of piano pleasure at 1430 on 28 January and 25 February in the St Andrew's Centre. Tickets: chrislong2008@live.co.uk. Information: www.chrislongmusic.co.uk

PERSHORE ABBEY FORTHCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS

THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY
1430 & 1800

ISING POP CONCERT

SATURDAY 02 MARCH 1400
**WORCESTER FEDERATION OF WI'S
MUSICAL CONCERT**

SATURDAY 09 MARCH 1430
**WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

SATURDAY 16 MARCH 1900
ROCK CHOIR CONCERT

SATURDAY 23 MARCH 1930
WORCESTER ELGAR CHORALE

TUESDAY 26 MARCH 1900
WORCESTER CITY BRASS

**Worcester
Philharmonic
ORCHESTRA**

Cor Anglais - Louise Braithwaite

Conductor - Dexter Drown

Leader - Graham Longfils

Saturday 9th March 2024

2:30pm

Pershore Abbey

WR10 1BL



Delius

Two Pieces for Small Orchestra

Watkins

Out of the Stillness for Cor Anglais

Debussy

Rhapsody for Cor Anglais

Dvořák New World Symphony



Tickets £15 (under 16s free) available from:
Tourist Offices in Worcester, Pershore* and Malvern
Ticket Secretary 01905 353013

Online at www.ticketsource.co.uk (Booking fees apply online)

*Cash only. Registered Charity Number 512073



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

Facebook: [#pershoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/pershoreabbeycom) YouTube: [Pershore Abbey Community](https://www.youtube.com/PershoreAbbeyCommunity)

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk