

Welcome to the April 2024 Monthly Edition!

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

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

Celebrating the ministry of women 2024 marks 30 years since women were first ordained priest. A special service to celebrate the anniversary and all that has been achieved since then will be held at Pershore Abbey on Thursday 20 June at 1900.

In 1994, 22 women were ordained in the Diocese of Worcester to serve in parishes across Worcestershire and Dudley. Those pioneers will be guests of honour at the service alongside the many women who have been ordained since and all those who have supported them along the way. Bishop John will preach at the service, Archdeacon Nikki Groarke will lead the prayers and there will be interviews with one of the first women ordained in our diocese as well as one of the most recently ordained. There will be cava and cake after the service!

Dean of Women's Ministry, Becky Elliott, said: "This anniversary is a great opportunity to acknowledge what women have brought to ordained ministry in the Church of England and celebrate it. We want to rejoice together with joy and thankfulness, being grateful



for those who paved the way for us all to fulfil our calling as well as all those who supported us on our journeys. We hope that many of our female clergy and also lay ministers will be able to join us for the service and bring their families and friends along to celebrate!"

All are welcome to the service on Thursday 20 June at 1900 in Pershore Abbey.

Photo Credit: www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

IN THIS EDITION

APCM - STUDENT PLACEMENTS - CELEBRATIONS - CONCERTS - TREE SERVICE

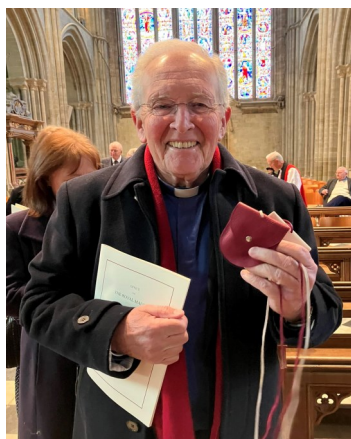
PERSHORE ABBEY NEWS

THE PEREGINES ARE BACK!: We are thrilled to announce that not only are the Peregrine falcons back, Mrs Peregrine has laid her first egg! This exciting update was spotted on Thursday 26 March. She is now sat on the egg and it is hoped she will lay another three or four eggs to increase the chance of a successful hatching.

Setting up the live camera is the result of many hours hard work by a dedicated team. We would like to thank our anonymous donor for the camera, Cllr Dan Boatright and Worcestershire County Council for funding for cabling and screen and materials and, Jason Marshall, Christopher Kimberley, Martyn Spence and Judy Dale for all their time and effort to enable us to be able to watch from our devices.

The nesting platform was made and donated by Jason Marshall last year, and erected by Dawson Steeplejacks with funding from the Friends of Pershore Abbey. This year, fresh gravel was carefully applied - all we need now is for Mr & Mrs Peregrine to play their part.

The Abbey Peregrine camera can be viewed by visiting www.pershoreabbey.org.uk or <https://youtube.com/live/XdDe2JpQ6t0>



MAUNDY MONEY RECIPIENT, CHRIS LILEY: Chris Liley, a former Archdeacon of Lichfield and a member of the Pershore Abbey family, is one of 40 people from across the Diocese to receive Maundy Money from HM Queen Camilla this year. Chris retired to Worcestershire eleven years ago and has offered pastoral care for other retired clergy and widows during this time. Chris continues to regularly take services and supports clergy and plays an active part in Pershore life. Congratulations Chris!

FAIRTRADE RETURNS TO THE ABBEY! On Sunday 7 April we will once again have Fair Trade products for sale in church. A selection of all your favourites - coffee, tea, biscuits and sweets will now be available on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Any queries or special requests please contact Hilary Fowler on 01386 552243.

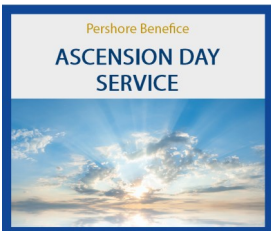


MINISTRY NEWS

WYCHAVON 50TH ANNIVERSARY CIVIC SERVICE: On Sunday 21 April at 1500 there will be a service in the Abbey to celebrate 50 years of Wychavon District Council. To mark the occasion, Chairman Cllr Robert Raphael has embarked on an ambitious challenge to visit every part of the district to highlight the work of local organisation, meeting volunteers, catching up on projects Wychavon has funded over the years and visiting some of the district's natural and historic sites. The tour will end with the Chairman's Civic Ceremony at Pershore Abbey on 21 April, a celebration of Wychavon's role in the district, following its formation in 1974.



VOCATIONS SUNDAY - 21 APRIL: Vocations Sunday takes place on 21 April in 2024. We often think of vocations in terms of ministry within the church: to be ordained or a lay minister. However, vocation, simply means what you are called by God to be and do. For some, this will be in formal ministry whether lay or ordained. But for all of us it will mean serving God through faithful discipleship in everyday life. As Christians, we are called to spread the Good News to everyone, to be a Christian presence in every community. Vocations Sunday offers us an opportunity to stop and reflect on our vocations both individually and corporately. Are we living our faith as we would like to? What changes might we make? There will be a special focus on Vocations at the Abbey 1030 Sung Eucharist on this Sunday. Come along and find out more!



ASCENSION DAY SERVICE THURSDAY 9 MAY PERSHORE ABBEY 1900:

We begin our Thy Kingdom Come 2024 journey with a special Eucharist at 1900 at Pershore Abbey on Ascension Day, marking the moment Jesus ascended into heaven before his disciples at the village of Bethany near Jerusalem. All welcome.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPLORE BEING CONFIRMED?: I am delighted to share that we have a young person who would like to be confirmed. This is a significant moment in anyone's journey of faith and often comes when someone is ready to declare publicly that following Jesus is important to them. **If you think you would like to be confirmed please can you get in touch with me before 26 April.** Once we know how many people might like to be confirmed we will arrange some preparation sessions, where we can explore issues of faith together. We will also then be able to confirm a date for the confirmation service. *Claire*

EARTH DAY - 22 APRIL: Earth Day is an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org (formerly Earth Day Network) including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The theme for 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics." For more information visit www.earthday.org



SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE

CAN YOU HELP US IMPROVE SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE?

Our work in safeguarding is being audited and the auditors would like to hear from you! The safety of all those who wish to worship in our churches should always be at the forefront of our minds. That is true for those who work or volunteer in our parishes and also for all of us who work in a diocesan context. We are keen to ensure that we are doing all that we can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

The Church of England has commissioned INEQE Safeguarding Group to conduct a series of audits of dioceses to look at our work in safeguarding and suggest areas where we could make improvements. As part of this audit process, INEQE would like to hear from as many different people as possible from across our diocese and have put together an online survey through which individuals can comment in confidence about their impressions and experiences of safeguarding in the Diocese.

The surveys are both anonymous (the audit team are not seeking to identify individuals) and confidential (individuals will not be identified in their report). No one from the Church of England or any other body will be provided with or have access to survey responses. Please consider filling in this survey openly and honestly and letting the audit team know your opinions. Our audit will take place from 1 July, but the surveys are open now and will **close at 11.30 pm on Wednesday 1 May 2024** to enable the audit team to go through them. To access the surveys please visit <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/worcester/>. Thank you for your help – listening to and learning from those in our parishes is an important part of the audit. Only by working together can we strive to make our churches a safe place for everyone.

Bishop Martin



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 has now retired 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 (two per year). Each role is likely to require an average commitment of 2-3 hours per week, working from home.

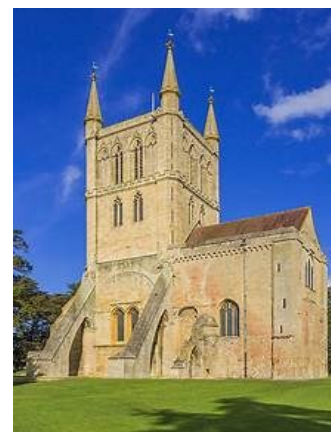
Please get in touch with Development Officer, Rev'd Dick Johnson, if you feel you have the experience, skills and interest to undertake any of these roles, and please continue to pray for FWW and the workplace chaplains in Pershore. *Angela Gerrard*

PERSHORE ABBEY'S DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

On Easter Day the Abbey said thank you and goodbye to Paul Trepte, our Interim Director of Music. He has led the choir, the congregation and me in all things musical for the past six months beautifully. Paul has been a great source of inspiration and encouragement and we are all going to miss him. Thankfully he has promised to pop back every now and then! We now look forward to welcoming James MacDowall-Scott into the Abbey family. *Claire*

BENEFICE PLACEMENT STUDENTS

We are always delighted to welcome students who are exploring ministry or are on their official placements as part of their training. We always learn so much from them and the feedback we get back is that they love sharing in all that we get up to in the Benefice! I am really pleased that we have two people starting placements this month. I'll let them introduce themselves. *Claire*



Stephen Chidlow

I am so pleased the Abbey continues to welcome and support those exploring their journey of ministerial discernment. As such, during the month of April I will be attending at various times to join and partake in your differing services, to encounter and widen my knowledge and understanding of worship at the Abbey. I am very much taking the initial steps and prayerfully seeking where my pathway will lead me. I am looking forward to meeting with you and seeing how this will increase my personal awareness and develop my capacity to know God in another richer way.

Helen Black

I am in my first year of Licenced Lay Ministry (Reader) training at Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. I was very excited to hear that I was coming to the Pershore Abbey and Benefice for my placement and I am looking forward to meeting everyone. I currently worship at St. Andrew's Church in Hampton. As an ALM worship leader since 2022, I have been actively involved in church life and some of the many outreach activities across the benefice.

I have lived in Evesham with my two Cocker Spaniels for six years, but throughout my working life, I have lived and worked across Worcestershire, West Midlands, and Cardiff. I have two grown-up boys, one of whom is married and recently had a baby boy, so I am a very happy new grandmother. In my working life, I have had two different and fulfilling careers, one as a Midwife and the other as an Early Years teacher. I retired in late 2020 and now enjoy balancing my time between family life and church activities. I would like to thank Revd Claire and the team for this wonderful opportunity.



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

St James', Birlingham is holding an outdoor Tree Service in the grounds of Court House, Birlingham by kind permission of Rupert and Maryanne Day. The service is on Sunday 14 April, starting at 10:30 and being led by Revd Jayne Parker, our Benefice Curate. The service will be followed by refreshments. Some shelter is available but umbrellas could be useful! *Adrianne Woodward*



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

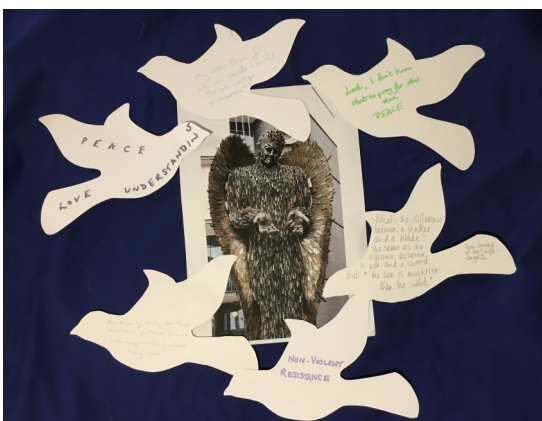
SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS OF SERVICES IN PINVIN, WICK AND BIRLINGHAM IN APRIL

PERSHORE ABBEY IONA SERVICES

The Pershore Abbey Iona service has different themes each month. The February Iona service provided time to reflect, pray and express our grief about the suffering in Palestine and Israel. This was followed by a talk in St Andrew's from a volunteer Ecumenical Accompanier, who spent three months in the West Bank a year ago, as part of the World Council of Churches project. <https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/eappi>

The photos and personal stories brought to life the many daily challenges and privations faced by families as a result of the 57 year occupation by the Israeli military. Having to queue at multiple checkpoints to get to school, work or hospital, farms having their water supply cut off, families being evicted from their homes or simply walking down the street as a young Palestian man, were examples given.

The Iona Community is an international ecumenical movement working for justice and peace and the building of Community. The Iona Community is committed to seeking Justice and Peace and issued a statement on the 13th February calling for urgent international intervention to stop the genocide in Rafah and further displacement of Palestinians.



Services using Iona Community worship materials with social, environmental, personal or community themes, are held on the fourth Sunday at 5pm in the Abbey. The services and meetings are inclusive and informal, welcoming everyone to come and be part of the worship. For further information please contact Helen on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk *Marie Howie*

REGULAR SERVICES

PERSHORE ABBEY WHOLENESS & HEALING



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 14 APRIL & SUNDAY 12 MAY
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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 @St Andrew's Centre



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 14 APRIL & SUNDAY 12 MAY
0930 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

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

PERSHORE ABBEY IONA WORSHIP



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 28 APRIL & SUNDAY 26 MAY
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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

HOLLAND HOUSE QUIET GARDEN DAYS

Experience the peace and quiet of Holland House by taking part in their quiet garden days. April 18 is the first one of the season when the topic will be 'The Lily'.

Each day starts at 1000 with coffee and there is an introduction to the topic at 1030, usually in the chapel. The rest of the morning is free when you can explore the garden or a quiet space if it is wet. At

1215 there is a communion service followed by a cooked lunch at 1300. The afternoon is free and ends with a gathering, usually in the chapel at 1530. The day concludes at 1600 with tea and cake. It costs £30. Please book by telephoning 01386 860330 or visiting www.hollandhouse.org Rev. Alma Organ



ABBEY LINK MAGAZINE

ABBEY LINK MAGAZINE MAGAZINE DELIVERERS URGENTLY NEEDED: Deliverers are urgently needed for the following areas:

- Allesborough Drive
- Hill Close
- Holloway Drive
- Willow Close
- Old Music Hall & Lower Priest Lane flats (School side)
- St. Agatha's Court, Close, and Mews.
- Kingfisher Fields
- Skylark Drive
- Goldfinch Rise
- Farleigh Road 65-87, 92-126, 150-164
- Farleigh Road 14-54, 89-127
- High St. Cherry Orchard to Bridge St. (Tesco side, flats only)

Delivery takes place only 4 times a year. If anyone feels they could lend a hand please contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071 or Roger Piper on 01386 553110.

VOLUNTEER DISTRIBUTER NEEDED: We urgently need a volunteer to take over the distribution of the Abbey Link Magazine for the Station Road / Cherry Orchard area of Pershore. It entails dropping off packs of magazines to about 12 of our deliverers in that area. Transport would be essential, and takes only about 2-3 hours four times a year. The next issue is due on 25 May. If anyone feels they could lend a hand please contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071 or Roger Piper on 01386 553110.

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

ABBEY MEETING FOR ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS AND APCM

ON TUESDAY 7 MAY, 1900:

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. I also wanted to bring to your attention that Suzanne Clarke has wonderfully served the maximum six years as churchwarden, so will not be able to stand for election again.

If you feel that you might like to serve the Abbey as a Churchwarden please chat to me, Suzanne or Sam Andrews, as soon as you can. *Claire*

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

PERSHORE ABBEY APCM AND ST ANDREW'S PARISH CENTRE TRUST AGM

TUESDAY 7 MAY 2024 AT 1900 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

The Pershore Abbey APCM and the St Andrew's AGM for 2024 will take place on **Tuesday 7 May** at **1900** in the **St Andrew's Centre**.

Please contact Sara Speed (PCC Secretary) on 01386 710776 or email [**office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for further details of the meeting.

Elections of the Churchwardens and additional PCC members will take place at this meeting.

Anyone wishing to be nominated for any of these roles should contact Sara Speed, as above, for further information.

The APCM booklet will be available on our website in due course and a link will be sent by email to those on the Abbey circulation list. Should you require a printed copy, please contact Sara Speed by **Tuesday 30 April** at the latest.

If you would like an email copy sent direct to your email address, please contact the office at [**office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk).

The APCM Booklet, links to the official accounts and all notices regarding these meetings will be available on our website in the coming weeks.

PERSHORE ABBEY ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll is due to be revised before the APCM.

Anyone who wishes to be added should apply now.

The Roll will of course be open again after the meeting.

Please contact the office on **01386 552071** (answerphone only), email [**office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) or speak to Bill Newman if you would like to be added.

Alternatively you can download the form here and return it to the Benefice office:

ELECTORAL ROLL APPLICATION 2024

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY 23 APRIL

VILLAGE CHURCHES APCM DATES:

Birlingham 17 April 1830

Pinvin 16 April 1930

Wick 15 April 1900

To join the Electoral Roll of either Birlingham, Pinvin or Wick please contact your churchwarden or the Benefice Office

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

Thank you very much for your continued support without which we would struggle to continue our work to look after some of the most vulnerable people in our local community. We have received some very generous financial donations which have set our organisation up in good stead for certain anticipated losses of revenue.

We still very much welcome donations of **non-perishable foodstuffs** and toiletries (a recent, large donation of cleaning products has helped take care of household cleaning and Pets at Home continues to assist with dog and cat food). Most needed are staples such as **pasta, rice and cereals**, especially the pre-packaged type that can be prepared with hot water: we call that “kettle food” and, unfortunately, that is sometimes the only hot food that certain clients can manage. **Sauces and condiments** really help these basic foodstuffs to make a meal.

Long life milk as well as ALL types of tinned food are always gratefully received as well; I’d just add a reminder here that our food parcels are designed to offer high-calorie, emergency provisions and are not intended for long-term use. We aim to keep visits to the Foodbank to a minimum number whilst helping people to find a longer-term solution to their problems.

Please bear with us as we work both to update our website and reintroduce our “monthly request” email circulation. *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 visit www.persnore.foodbank.org.uk or call 01386 555347
The Foodbank aim to have a Citizens Advice representative available at Friday sessions

ECO CHURCH

**NEXT ABBEY
LITTER PICK DATE:**

Join the Abbey Litter Pickers (ALPs)
SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2024 1000-1100
Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Equipment Provided

**NEXT ABBEY
ECO CHURCH MEETING:**

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024 1915
ST ANDREW’S CENTRE UPPER ROOM
Please come and join us!

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

APRIL 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

PERSHORE ABBEY

SUNDAY 7 APRIL

EASTER 2

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

No Evensong

SUNDAY 14 APRIL

EASTER 3

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 21 APRIL

EASTER 4 / VOCATIONS SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1500 Wychavon 50th Anniversary

Civic Service

SUNDAY 28 APRIL

EASTER 5

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 14 APRIL

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 28 APRIL

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 7 APRIL

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 21 APRIL

1030 Sunday Praise

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 14 APRIL

1030 Tree Service in the grounds of
Court House, Birlingham

PLEASE SEE PAGES 7 FOR OTHER REGULAR SERVICES

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

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

PERSHORE ABBEY FORTHCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS

SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2024, 19:30
AT PERSHORE ABBEY

AN ORIGINAL REQUIEM

COMPOSED BY
ANDREW HEMMING

FEATURING MUSIC BY KEITH JARRETT
PLAYED BY
MARCEL ZIDANI

IN PARADISUM



TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
BLUE, TICKET SOURCE AND
PERSHORE TOWN HALL
TICKET PRICES £10-£15



IN AID OF
Midlands
Air Ambulance
Charity

Pershore Abbey Bromsgrove School



Saturday 20 April

1300 - 1400 Concert

1700 Evensong

Free Entry—just turn up!



BROMSGROVE
OUTSTANDING EDUCATION FROM 2 TO 18. CO-EDUCATIONAL. BOARDING AND DAY.

Facebook: @pershoreabbeycom

YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

SATURDAY 06 APRIL 1400

DOWTY ORGAN RECITAL

SATURDAY 13 APRIL 1930

IN PARADISUM CONCERT

SATURDAY 20 APRIL 1300

BROMSGROVE SCHOOL CONCERT

SATURDAY 11 MAY 1930

PERSHORE CHORAL CONCERT

SATURDAY 18 MAY 1900

SINFONIA SCINTILLE CONCERT

For full details please visit our website
www.pershoreabbey.org.uk



**PERSHORE
CHORAL**

SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024 7.30PM
PERSHORE ABBEY

SPRING CONCERT

AN EVENING WITH BEETHOVEN

MASS IN C
CHORAL FANTASIA
HALLELUJAH CHORUS
(FROM MOUNT OF OLIVES)

CARLETON ETHERINGTON - CONDUCTOR
CHARLES MATTHEWS - PIANO
WEST MIDLANDS SINFONIA

APPEARING BY KIND PERMISSION OF
ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE



ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

VICTORIA HARLEY - SOPRANO
NOÉMIE JOHNS - ALTO
JOE YATES - TENOR
CHARLES MURRAY - BASS

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