

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

May 2024

Welcome to the **Church News Monthly Edition for May 2024**

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

THY KINGDOM COME 2024

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



ASCENSION DAY SUNG EUCHARIST - PERSHORE ABBEY 1900 THURSDAY 9 MAY: We begin these days of Thy Kingdom Come 2024 with a special Eucharist to remember the moment Jesus ascended into heaven before his disciples.



NOVENA OF PRAYER 10 MAY - 18 MAY: During this special nine day period of prayer (which is what Novena means) we shall be holding Zoom services so we can join with others in the Benefice, and across the world, praying for the Holy Spirit to come. The services will start at 1900 and will last between 10-15 minutes on each of these days. If you'd like to join this time of prayer

on any of the days please contact Claire on vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk and she will arrange for you to have the Zoom link.

RESOURCES: Limited copies of Thy Kingdom Come resources will be available from the Abbey or can be downloaded from www.thykingdomcome.global or via these links:

- For the Novena Prayer Booklet click here: [Novena 2024](#)
- For the Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Journal click here: [Prayer Journal 2024](#)

CHEEKY PANDAS: For children and little ones take a look at the Cheeky Pandas resources which are designed to help children and families grow in their faith. More Cheeky Panda resources are coming soon and will be available from www.thykingdomcome.global or click on the following link: [Cheeky Pandas 2024](#)



IN THIS EDITION

ORDINATION - WALKING PET SERVICE - FAIRTRADE - CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

**TO REQUEST A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS BULLETIN
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ON 01386 552071**

CHRISTIAN AID

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12-18 MAY:

We will once again be asking those who can, to join the fight against poverty and support Christian Aid Week.



ENVELOPE COLLECTION - This will again be by 'deliver only' system which for the past 3 years has proved to be more popular. Please let me know on 01386 561057 if your house was not included last year and you would like to be involved. It would be wonderful to expand the scheme wherever there is an envelope collection household.



COFFEE MORNING - Saturday 4 May in St Andrew's 1000-1200. Please come and bring family and friends. Delicious refreshments, plants, bring and buy stall. Information about the envelope collection and packs for collectors will also be given out. *Sarah Thomson*



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MINISTRY NEWS



We are all looking forward to celebrating with Jayne as she is ordained priest by Bishop John at the Cathedral on 29 June at 1400. This is a hugely exciting and important moment in Jayne's journey of discipleship as she fulfils her vocation to be what God has called her to be. It's also a really exciting day for the whole benefice! Jayne has shared ministry with us as a deacon and has richly blessed everyone she has been with. We all now look forward to sharing in her priestly ministry.

To show our support it would be wonderful if as many people as possible could be there in the Cathedral for Jayne's Ordination. Once again a bus has been booked. It will be leaving from the Octagon outside the Abbey at 1230. After the service it will leave the Cathedral at 1630. The cost will be £8. If you'd like to book your place please use the sign up sheets at the back of all the churches or let the Office know.

Jayne will preside at the Eucharist for the first time on 30 June at the 1030 Benefice Eucharist at The Abbey. It would be lovely if the whole benefice could gather together for this most special moment in the life of any priest. Cake will follow! *Claire*



FAIRTRADE AT PERSHORE ABBEY

FAIRTRADE RETURNS TO THE ABBEY: Fairtrade goods are once again available to buy in the Abbey, on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month.

When Traidcraft ceased trading a new company, 'We Are Fair Trade', took up the challenge to provide all our usual favourites; tea, coffee, biscuits and sweets, continuing to connect us, as customers, with the Global South. "Why then do my biscuits come from Scotland?" One customer asked; "And why are my Maltesers labelled Fairtrade?" The answer is that ingredients used to manufacture some goods in this country have been verified as meeting Fairtrade standards. This means that the farmers who grow these ingredients – cocoa, sugar etc – have been paid at least the Fairtrade minimum price and premium.

When you buy Fairtrade products you are helping to combat discrimination, combat child labour and support equality, helping to give farmers, artisans and producers the chance to lift themselves out of poverty and hopelessness.



So why not buy a few Fairtrade products, and put your beliefs into practice. For more information, please contact me on 01386 552243 or speak to me at church.

Hilary Fowler

Fairtrade will be next be available at the Abbey on 5 and 19 May at the 1030 Eucharist Service

ECO CHURCH

**NEXT ABBEY
LITTER PICK DATE:**

Join the Abbey Litter Pickers (ALPs)
SATURDAY 13 JULY 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!

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE ABBEY

CHILDREN'S GOOD FRIDAY ACTIVITY DAY: This fun packed day in St Andrew's Centre was attended by 40 children aged 5–10yrs from the local community. As the children arrived, they all took part in an opening activity - making a collage of individual crosses formed into one large cross. During the morning, the children visited the Abbey and re-enacted the events leading up to Easter, singing and palm waving for Palm Sunday, feet washing on Maundy Thursday, sharing the meal at the Last Supper, the trial and crucifixion and ending celebrating the resurrection on Easter Sunday. After lunch, the children moved around the different activities in St Andrew's, making Easter cards, baking biscuits, decorating clay crosses, Easter baskets filled with chocolate eggs and creating their own Easter Garden. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learnt the true meaning of Easter. *Suzanne Clarke*



BABIES AND TODDLERS PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER ACTIVITIES: On the 15 March we had a very busy, fun morning for our last session before the Easter holiday. Sara Speed provided all the necessary items for the children to be able to make Easter Bunny pictures, chocolate cornflake nests (every child went home with one of these!) and palms to wave, which they used when Rev. Alma joined us to tell the Palm Sunday and Easter story. Thank you, Rev. Alma, for joining us and bringing the story to life for the children. *Sam Andrews*



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE ABBEY

GOD AND THE BIG BANG, PERSHORE ABBEY 5 MARCH: Five members of the God and the Big Bang team from St John's College Durham arrived to deliver a day of discovery, discussion and debate on the compatibility of science and faith. A wonderful day was provided for the Year 5s from four of our local primary schools, with a total of 123 students and 11 staff attending.

There were four interactive workshop areas, led by scientists of faith, that the children rotated around in their school groups - Evolution & Genesis and how they came together, Mystery & Curiosity, Climate Change and the Big Bang Theory & God. The day started all together in the pews with a welcome and opening survey to complete followed by a talk. After a break, the children took part in two of the interactive workshops. After lunch they had their final interactive workshop and then came back together for a Q&A session with the people from God and the Big Bang who had led the sessions. The day finished with the children completing a closing survey.

A massive thank you to Pershore Rotary for providing the majority of the funding for this event and to two members of our congregation - one who funded the bus for Pinvin school and one for making up the difference of the total bill.

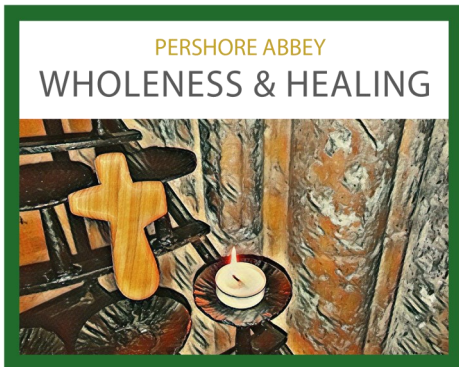
Sam Andrews



PERSHORE CARNIVAL

HELP FOR CARNIVAL REFRESHMENTS PLEASE: On Monday 27 May refreshments are being served in St Andrew's between 1030 and 1430. To all you wonderful cake makers and helpers out there, please can you contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776 to either volunteer to help on the day or provide a cake. If you don't bake, monetary offerings are very acceptable please. There will be sign-up boards in the Abbey after Sunday morning services in May. *Thank you from the Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's team (PASA)*

REGULAR SERVICES



NEXT SERVICES:

**SUNDAY 12 MAY & SUNDAY 9 JUNE
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY**

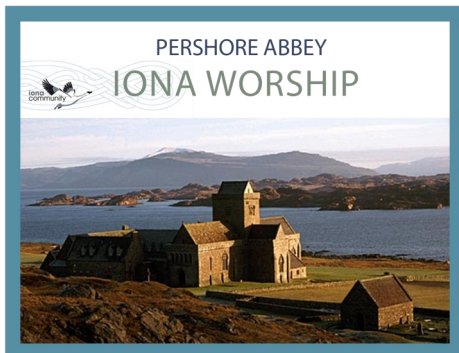
We also offer the opportunity to receive the ministry of healing prayers with two of the Wholeness & Healing team in the St John Chapel after communion has been received at every 3rd Sunday 1030 Eucharist



NEXT SERVICES:

**SUNDAY 12 MAY & SUNDAY 9 JUNE
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



NEXT SERVICES:

**SUNDAY 26 MAY & SUNDAY 23 JUNE
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY**

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

ABBAY BOOKSTALL

As summer approaches we are seeing more and more visitors from far and wide. Pleasingly, there are new welcomers so we have more of the time that the Abbey is open, covered. Thank you to everyone. We have new stock on the bookstall too - a range of affirmation plaques and pocket stones, and different holding crosses and hearts as well as strung crosses following requests. Our packs of playing cards at only £5 featuring Pershore Abbey as the Nine of Hearts are selling well – ideal gifts for travel this summer. Maybe you could pick up a jute bag too! We continue to stock a wide range of beautiful cards for all occasions at very reasonable prices, with new designs being added all the time.

As always, I'd love to hear from you with any ideas for the bookstall or if you'd like to know more about being a welcomer in our beautiful Abbey. Please contact me on pershoreabbeybookstall@gmail.com, call me on 07858506218 or say hello in person. I look forward to hearing from you if you would like to know more. *Sally Whyte*



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

GIVE THANKS FOR OUR LAND IN PINVIN - ROGATION SERVICE

1030 SUNDAY 5 MAY ST NICHOLAS' AT ORCHARD FARM: May 5 is Rogation Sunday, when traditionally parishes give thanks to God for the land and to ask for God's continued blessing on it, its crops and livestock. On this special day, you are invited to Orchard Farm, for a special rogation service. All ages are welcome to come and see the sheep and lambs on the farm and pray that they will thrive. It is a wonderful service and the chance to sing some hymns and enjoy fellowship and refreshments. Everyone is welcome, and it would be lovely to see lots of people at this service. *John Kemp*



ST MARY'S WICK - PET SERVICE 1030 SUNDAY 9 JUNE: St Mary's, Wick are delighted to announce that the annual Pet Service will take place on Sunday 9 June at 1030. Bring your furry or feathered friends for a blessing and a sausage roll! All welcome! *Penny Gordon*

ST JAMES THE GREAT, BIRLINGHAM—WALKING PET SERVICE 1500

SUNDAY 12 MAY: All are welcome to join us on Sunday 12 May at 1500 for a Walking Pet Service on the move...! It is being led by Canon Claire and Angela Gerrard plus their dogs.

Please can dog owners and walkers meet at the War Memorial, in Birlingham, by 1500 to follow a route around the village, going down

to Lower End, round to Red Star and up Church Street leading back to the War Memorial.

There will be a blessing of the dogs and refreshments, both animal and human, provided in the Church. It is hoped that villagers, whether they are churchgoers or not, will join us on this informal and sociable occasion.

Adrienne 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 MAY

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

St Andrew's Centre provides the community with a fantastic venue and is used for a variety of occasions. It boasts not only a stunning main room for larger gatherings, but also an upper room, perfect for meetings.

As well as hosting Pershore Foodbank, St Andrew's busy calendar of events include a plethora of craft activities, singing groups, and much more. Here are just a few...

Pershore Craft and Chat for Wellbeing

A group of us from all walks of life, meet to explore different art and craft activities but more importantly, to meet, chat and enjoy some time together. We are hopeful that this month a large wall hanging inspired by images from the Abbey, created by us, will be displayed in the Abbey - we each sewed a panel and artist Michelle Flint is putting it all together for display soon.

Monday afternoons (except first Monday of the month) 1315-1445

Pershore Craft and Chat for Wellbeing

Like the Monday afternoon group, we are mix of people who get together to enjoy an art activity whilst drinking tea and eating biscuits! We shall be exploring different arts and crafts - this month one of our sessions will be quilling - a paper craft which is harder than it looks!

Monday evenings (usually the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month) 1900-2030

Pershore Craft and Chat - Bring Your Own Craft

In this group, we all bring our own art or craft along and simply meet for some company, some refreshments and a good chat. Many of us knit, crochet and colour, but some of us make cards, paint or embroider. This group is open to anyone who wishes to join or just drop in when you can.

Wednesday afternoons (usually the 2nd and 4th of each month) 1400-1530

Babies and Toddlers

The Babies and Toddlers group is for children from birth to pre-school. Squash and a snack are provided for the children, tea or coffee for parents and carers. There are lots of toys and games to play with and a craft activity is available for those who want to do it. We finish each session with a short time of singing. For more information contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776.

Fridays (during term time) 0930-1130

Café Church

Join us for this family friendly worship and enjoy songs, talk, tea and toast. All ages welcome. For more information, please contact Sam Andrews on 01386 556083.

Sundays (second of each month) 0930-1030

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Hiring St Andrew's Centre

Whether you are looking to hold a meeting, run a regular group, or planning a party to celebrate a special occasion, St Andrew's is available for hire.

For more information, visit:

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/st-andrews-centre/



Gentle Slow Flow Yoga

This gentle stretching and strengthening class is suitable for all ages and abilities. Each session is 75 minutes, £12 per session or £50 per block of 5. For more information, contact Tracy on 07866 611892.

Mondays mornings 0930

Pershore Community Choir

If you want to sing, meet new friends, and enjoy some fun and harmony, why not drop in to Pershore's Community Choir - a friendly and welcoming group who enjoy singing songs from many cultures, eras and traditions - all taught 'by ear' so there's no need to read music and any voices are welcome. YOUR FIRST, TASTER, SESSION IS FREE so why not come along?! There's a wonderful world of song to be explored. Contact Liz on 01905 620827 for more information.

Monday evenings (during term time) 1900-2100

To find out more about the activities and events taking place at St Andrew's, please visit our [website](#) and keep a look out for posters on the St Andrew's noticeboard.

History of St Andrew's Centre

King Edward the Confessor, in the 11th Century, gave lands formerly belonging to Pershore Abbey to endow his cherished foundation at Westminster Abbey. St Andrew's was built to serve the tenants of the Abbot of Westminster.

Parts of the present building date back to 1170. Major alterations and additions were made in the 14th, 15th and 19th Centuries. Services of worship continued until the 1960s. The Abbey now rents the building and pays a rent of "a pound of Pershore plums" which is paid on August Bank Holiday Monday when Pershore holds its famous Plum Fayre at the end of the month long Plum Festival.

Today it is where many of our Church based activities take place. It has a ring of 8 bells enabling our ringers to practise on a lighter set and without having to climb the Abbey tower.

PERSHORE ABBEY APCM & 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**.

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 (PCC Secretary) on 01386 710776 for further information.

The APCM booklet and full set of accounts are now available on our website and can be viewed here:

[extension://pjmlamaidnkoemaaofddboidllnogmhe/https://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/APCM-Booklet-2023.pdf](https://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/APCM-Booklet-2023.pdf)

Please contact office@pershoreabbey.org.uk to receive a copy by email.

Hardcopies can be obtained from Sara Speed and a printed copy is available to view on the Abbey noticeboard.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

Thank you to everyone for their continued support. We still very much welcome donations of **non-perishable foodstuffs** and toiletries. 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.



**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.pershore.foodbank.org.uk or call 01386 555347
The Foodbank aim to have a Citizens Advice representative available at Friday sessions

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

MAY 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 5 MAY

EASTER 6 / ROGATION SUNDAY

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Evensong

SUNDAY 12 MAY

EASTER 7

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

THURSDAY 19 MAY

PENTECOST

0800 Eucharist

1030 All Age Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 26 MAY

TRINITY SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 12 MAY

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 26 MAY

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS, PINVIN

SUNDAY 5 MAY

1030 Rogation Service at Orchard Farm

SUNDAY 19 MAY

1030 Sunday Praise

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 12 MAY

1500 Walking Pet Service

PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 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



 **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



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

Pershire Choral invites you to visit its website: www.pershirechoral.co.uk



SINFONIA SCINTILLE PRESENTS :

**"BOHEMIA"
BEETHOVEN : CORIOLAN
BEETHOVEN : SYMPHONY NO.7**

CONDUCTOR : KEITH SLADE

**SATURDAY 18th MAY
PERSHORE ABBEY 3PM
ADULTS £10 / CHILDREN FREE**

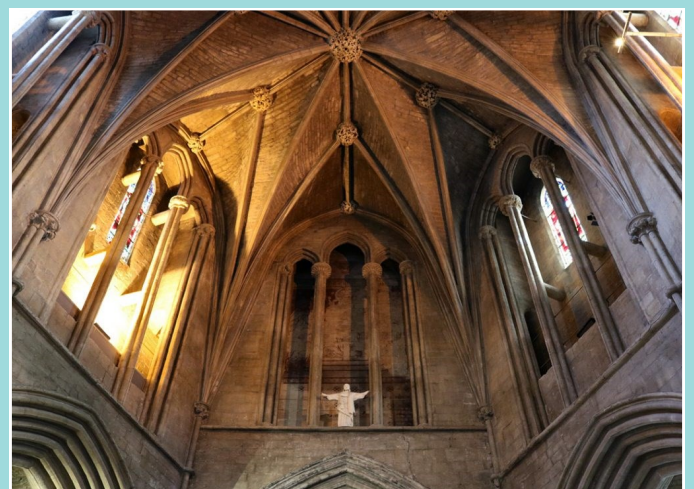
**SATURDAY 11 MAY 1930
PERSHORE CHORAL CONCERT**

**SATURDAY 18 MAY 1430
SINFONIA SCINTILLE CONCERT**

**SATURDAY 15 JUNE 1430
WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

**SATURDAY 22 JUNE 1930
CSO FARMERS OVERSEAS ACTION GROUP
CLASSICAL CONCERT**

Pershire Abbey hosts a number of concerts and events throughout the year. If you feel this historical building would be the perfect venue for your concert or event, please contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071 or email office@pershireabbey.org.uk



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