

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

April 2025

Welcome to the March 2025 Monthly Edition!

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

A CELEBRATION: Holy Week commemorates the seven days leading up to Easter, commencing with Palm Sunday, marking the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, while crowds waved palm branches shouting "Hosanna!" A procession, gathering at St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road at 1000, walking through Abbey Park to the Abbey, where the 1030 Sung Eucharist will take place, will remember this momentous day. The solemnity of Holy Week, culminates in the celebration of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus. See pages 2 and 3 for details of the services and activities that will be taking place across the benefice during Holy Week and at Easter. Join us as we reflect on our faith and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.



IN THIS EDITION:

EASTER SERVICES - ABBEY WALKING CHURCH - EARTH DAY 2025 - VE DAY 80

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

HOLY WEEK

Here are the details of the services and activities taking place during Holy Week, the seven days leading up to Easter. Please do join us, in church or online:

PALM SUNDAY 13 APRIL

0800 BCP Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1000 Palm Sunday Procession on Abbey Park to Abbey.

(*Meet at St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road.*)

1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*) with **LIVESTREAM**

1030 Morning Praise (*St Mary's Wick*)

1500 Ubi Caritas - A Choral Devotion for Holy Week (*Pershore Abbey*)

1700 Wholeness & Healing Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

MONDAY 14, TUESDAY 15, AND WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL

1900 Compline (*Zoom*)

Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 17 APRIL

2000 Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars

and the **Office of Tenebrae** (*Pershore Abbey*)

This service will be approximately one and three-quarter hours and will be followed by the Watch until Midnight. You are welcome to leave after the Office of Tenebrae.

GOOD FRIDAY 18 APRIL

1000-1415 Children's Activities (5-10 years) (*St Andrew's Centre*)

No fee. Donations welcome. Booking essential via Suzanne Clarke 01386 553293.

1000 Good Friday Way of the Cross Walk Meeting outside Pershore Baptist Church, walking to Holy Redeemer and then to the Preaching Cross at Pershore Abbey. There will be a pause for reflection and a simple act of worship at each point.

1400 Service of the Last Hour (*Pershore Abbey*) with **LIVESTREAM**

1445 Bredon Hill Service at the Folly please contact the Bredon Group for details of this service on acbhteam@gmail.com

HOLY SATURDAY 19 APRIL

1700 Evening Prayer with Short Easter Vigil (*Pershore Abbey*)

This service will last approximately one hour.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Daily Offices will also continue to be observed as usual

EASTER DAY

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Join us on Easter Day as we celebrate, throughout the benefice, the resurrection of Christ:

0600 Dawn Service and First Eucharist of Easter (*Pershore Abbey*) followed by breakfast of boiled eggs and rolls at St Andrew's Centre.

(Please bring an egg cup with you!)

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

0900 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)

1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*) with **LIVESTREAM**

1030 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

1030 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)



Join us in church or online this Easter.

To view our livestreamed services, visit www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

EASTER ACTIVITIES

GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY DAY: Children aged 5-10 years can enjoy Easter themed activities and crafts including; baking, creating an Easter garden, the telling of the Easter story, and much more 1000-1415 on Friday 18 April at St Andrew's Centre. There is no cost, though donations are welcome. To book a place or for more information, contact Suzanne Clarke on 01386 553293.

EASTER WREATHS DISPLAY: Be sure to call into the Abbey this Easter to see the display of Easter wreaths. The wreaths, all made by groups connected to the Abbey and St Andrew's Centre, will be on display in the side aisles of the Abbey from Easter Saturday until Pentecost, Sunday 8 June. The groups participating in this community spirited Easter egg-travaganza include; Babies and Toddlers, Café Church, Craft and Chat, Flower Guild, Pershore and St Andrew's (PASA), U3a Crochet and more.



PERSHORE ABBEY NEWS

EASTER LILY SUNDAY AT THE ABBEY: At services on 6 April it will be possible for people to make a donation towards the Easter lilies that will be used to decorate the Abbey from Easter Day. Mary Cope, a member of the Abbey Flower Guild, will be on hand to write down any names of loved ones that you may wish to be remembered as you give your donation. Donating Easter lilies in memory of a loved one is a beautiful tradition and reflects our hope and joy in the resurrection for us all. *Claire*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Sign up sheets will be at the back of the Abbey for those who would like to have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday and those who would like to read at the service of Tenebrae. There will also be a rota for those who would like to keep the watch until midnight. Those who would like to be involved in the dramatised reading of the Passion on Good Friday can also sign up. Thank you in advance to all who will volunteer. *Claire*

CHRISTIAN AID SPEAKER TO VISIT THE ABBEY: We look forward to welcoming Paul Robert to our 1030 Sung Eucharist at Pershore Abbey on Sunday 18 May. Paul is a volunteer speaker for Christian Aid, based at Worcester Cathedral, and has been to visit some of Christian Aid's programmes in Africa. He also has extensive experience with eco-church and climate justice issues. Paul will be speaking at our service as we mark Christian Aid Week 2025.

LENT TALKS: The final two in the series of five Lent Talks will be taking place 1930-2030 at Pershore Library on Tuesday 2 and 9 April. The talks, entitled *Everyday Faith Christians in Today's World*, invite a member of the community to share how their faith is lived out in their workplace. The final two speakers will be Terry Palmer (Sales in Timber Industry) and Jason El'Habid (Secondary School Teacher) respectively.

LENTEN LUNCHESES: The last of this year's Lenten Lunches will be taking place 1200-1330 on Thursday 3 April at Pershore Baptist Church. We thank everyone who has been involved in the organising and running of these lunches. They play an important role in people's Lent journey, and bring together Pershore's churches.

ABBAY WALKING CHURCH 17 MAY 1400-1500:

Come and join this new way of being Church! We will meet at the West end of the Abbey and go for a walk, so please bring any four legged companions who might like to join you. As we walk we plan to stop every now and then for a 'little something' that might help us to think about God and maybe explore faith. Why not think about bringing someone who doesn't usually come to Church? Everyone is welcome! *Claire*



VE DAY 80



Thursday 8 May 2025 marks 80 years since VE (Victory in Europe) Day when the Second World War came to an end in Europe. The anniversary is a time for the nation to come together to learn about the stories of those that served and the VE Day generation. To mark VE Day 80 there will be a special Sung Eucharist at Pershore Abbey at 1030 on Sunday 4 May, and the Abbey will be floodlit red, white and blue on 6 May, along with other national buildings. The Abbey will also be joining the national bell ringing event 1830-1930 on 8 May. Also taking place on 8 May will be the laying of a wreath at the war memorial, a gathering in Chapman Court, and a beacon being lit in Abbey Park - the timings of these events are to be confirmed.

APCM AND ELECTORAL ROLL NEWS

APCM MEETINGS: The Annual Parochial Church Meetings will be taking place in the benefice in April and May. They are an opportunity to reflect on the past year and to thank all those who have been involved in the life of our churches. Everyone is welcome to attend. The meetings are also when we elect and appoint officers for the current year - there is always room for volunteers who would like to serve as PCC members. The meetings will be taking place: 1930, 8 April (Pinvin), 1900, 6 May (Pershore Abbey), 1000, 22 May (Birlingham), and 1800, 7 April (Wick).

PREPARATION OF THE NEW ELECTORAL ROLL: The Electoral Roll has to be completely revised every six years. The Roll is a way of confirming your commitment to the Church, and opens the way to a greater involvement. This notice is a reminder that if you would like to be included on the Electoral Roll for your parish, please contact your Electoral Roll Officer.

PERSHORE ABBEY PEREGRINES



Photo: Mark Everett

HERE WE GO AGAIN: It is now four years since our peregrine pair adopted the Abbey tower as their home, and last year their first success with hatching four chicks in early May. With the addition of a camera we were able to watch peregrine family life in the nest and wonderful parenting by Mr and Mrs P. Anxious moment for parents when the chicks were ringed but they were soon safely back for their dinner. As the chicks fledged we saw their antics on the tower and in the sky above. Early on, two had to be rescued from the ground and returned up the tower to improve their flying skills! One by one the young peregrines left home, one of them slow to make that final move.

By October all was quiet and steeplejacks came to empty and clean the platform. All

stones removed from the nest were laid out on a large wooden shelf outside – raked, weathered, cleaned with rainwater and returned to the nesting platform in January, inspected instantly by a peregrine just as one of our team was erecting the camera – face to face! Unperturbed, Mr and Mrs P are again on the tower, visiting their nesting place daily, moving the stones to their liking, having conversations and getting ready for egg laying, patient egg sitting, and hopefully successful hatching in due course.

You can watch progress from your home – livestreamed straight from the nest. Just go to www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

Special thanks to Martyn, Chris, Jason, Mark, Trudy, Matt and James. *Judy Dale*

EARTH DAY 2025

Earth Day is an annual event to show support for environmental protection. First held on 22 April 1970, this year marks its 55th anniversary. The theme for Earth Day 2025 is OUR POWER, OUR PLANET. Everyone around the globe is invited to unite behind renewable energy, and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030.

Over 193 countries celebrate Earth Day around the globe, with more people getting involved every year. In many places, Earth Day forms part of Earth Week - a period of climate awareness that includes activities and campaigns. Did you know that Earth Day is marked on the calendar by more than a billion people annually? Yes, a billion!

There are many ways you can get involved and make a difference for our planet on Earth Day and every day. Perhaps you could; plant a tree, recycle a little more, use less energy, car share when possible? For more information visit www.earthday.org where you will find quizzes, fact sheets and articles to help you celebrate Earth Day this year in your community, at home, at work and at school.

Look out on Tuesday 22 April - Pershore Abbey will be lit up green for Earth Day 2025. What will you be doing to support the planet this year?



ABBEY ECO CHURCH

**NEXT ABBEY
LITTER PICK DATE:**

Join the Abbey Litter Pickers (ALPs)
SATURDAY 12 APRIL 2025 1000-1100

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

**NEXT ABBEY
ECO CHURCH MEETING:**

**WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2025 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM**

Please come and join us!

SALZWEDEL VISIT

Ten visitors from our twin parish, Salzwedel in Saxony Anhalt, Germany will be visiting between 29 May and 1 June. A small group has been meeting to plan a programme and to ensure that our guests are suitably accommodated. Of course, our guests are not here to meet this small group alone. They are travelling to Pershore to meet and share experiences with the whole Pershore Abbey Community and Benefice. And it is therefore with considerable anticipation that we encourage you to share in the events below. Please come and introduce yourselves. Four of our ten guests are not yet teenagers. Do they speak English? They will try!!! They're children!!! Please converse with them – or, better still, try resurrecting your own language skills! The aim of our visits is, as fellow Christians, to foster better understanding. This will mean a lot to our guests. And, as we grow in fellowship together, we will “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). Let's give our guests the warmest possible Pershore Abbey Community and Benefice welcome! Please put the below dates in your diaries and ask Claire or myself for more details.

- May 29 Ascension Day Service in Pershore Abbey at 1900*
- May 30 Trip to Tewkesbury Abbey & Ripple leaving Pershore at 1000*
- May 30 Bring and Share Supper at St Andrew's at 1900*
- May 31 Coach trip to Coventry Cathedral leaving Pershore at 1000*
- May 31 Germany vs England Skittles Event at Pershore Sports Club from 1900
with Fish & Chips and UEFA Champions League Final from Munich at 2000*
- June 1 Farewell Breakfast in St Andrew's from 0830*

Michael Hodges



Photo: Pastor Michael Friske (back) with Salzwedel folk.

LOOKING AHEAD

SAVE THE DATE: This year's Pershore Carnival will be taking place on Monday 26 May, and where there is a carnival, there are teas! Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's will once again be offering teas and cakes. As always, helpers and cakes will be called upon - look out for people with clipboards and lists! *Jane Knox*



ABBNEY ECO CHURCH EVENTS: We are looking forward to two special events which will help us reflect a bit more on the glory of God's creation. 28 June - there will be a led walk around Pershore Wetlands. 4 September - there will be an afternoon visit to Mucknell Abbey, Stoulton to see how they are living sustainably. Due to the nature of these events the numbers of people who can take part will be limited. Please watch out for further booking details. Contact David Oldham for more information.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

The Pershore Foodbank thanks all our generous donors for helping to keep the stocks replenished and the finances healthy. I have just completed our annual report for year 2024 (submitted to the Abbey for publication in due course). We have had a slight levelling off in the number of attendees, contrasting with an increased vulnerability amongst the families seeking our assistance.

We work with other community agencies to try to reduce dependency on the Foodbank and help people to find longer-term solutions to their problems. I am proud to report that we are still an all-volunteer organisation with very low overheads. Our volunteers have been doing some sterling work, participating in successful, shared events organised by the mayor and Pershore Rotary but anyone interested in joining us is always welcome to make contact.

It is at this time of year that you like to give us gifts of chocolate alongside other donations. It is always gratefully received but please may I make my regular request for boxes and bars rather than the more fragile type of Easter egg which we find a bit of a challenge to store. Thank you and very best wishes.

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.pershore.foodbank.org.uk or call 01386 555347

The Foodbank aim to have a Citizens Advice representative available at Friday sessions.

NEWS ONLINE

Receiving bulletins by email.

Would you like to receive our weekly and monthly bulletins by email?

Contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071 or by emailing

office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

and they will gladly add your details.

The bulletins will then arrive in your inbox!

Updates from the Diocese of Worcester.

Subscribe to their mailing list and stay updated with news, events and training opportunities from around the diocese.

Visit: **www.cofe-worcester.org.uk**

ABBEY OFFICE NOTICE

Please note, the Abbey Office will be closed on

FRIDAY 18 APRIL & MONDAY 21 APRIL

The office will be open to the public as normal

**TUESDAY 22 APRIL - THURSDAY 24 APRIL
1100 - 1200**

Please email your enquiry to

office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or leave a message on 01386 552071.

We will get back to you as soon as we can outside of these hours.

REGULAR SERVICES

PERSHORE ABBEY

WHOLENESS & HEALING



NEXT SERVICES:

**SUNDAY 13 APRIL & SUNDAY 11 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 13 APRIL & SUNDAY 11 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 27 APRIL & SUNDAY 25 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

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

MARCH 2025

Details of our planned **Sunday** worship services within the Pershore Benefice are given below, though please do check our social media pages and website in case of changes. We look forward to welcoming you in person, and 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 6 APRIL

PASSION SUNDAY

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1600 Civic Service

No Evensong

SUNDAY 13 APRIL

PALM SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1500 Ubi Caritas - A Choral

Devotion for Holy Week

1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 20 APRIL

EASTER DAY

0600 Dawn Eucharist

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 27 APRIL

EASTER 2

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 13 APRIL

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 20 APRIL

0900 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 6 APRIL

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 20 APRIL

1030 Holy Communion

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 20 APRIL

1030 Holy Communion

PLEASE SEE PAGE 10 FOR OTHER REGULAR SERVICES &
PAGES 2 & 3 FOR OUR EASTER & HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

FRIENDS OF PERSHORE ABBEY MEMORIAL LECTURE

2025 FRIENDS MEMORIAL LECTURE

With Sir Nicholas Coleridge DL

**FRIDAY 11 APRIL
AT PERSHORE ABBEY**

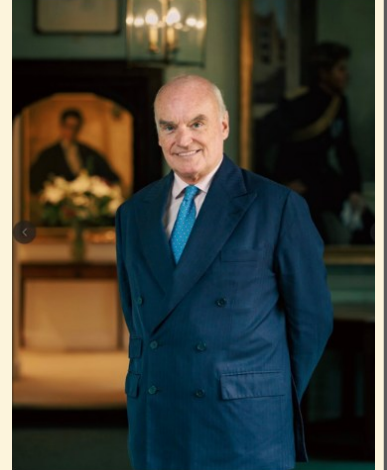
'Heritage, Museums and the joys of
living near Pershore.'

Drinks 1830, Lecture 1915
Tickets on the door. £16 suggested donation, students free.

www.fopa.org.uk



THE FRIENDS OF
PERSHORE ABBEY
Charitable Incorporated Organisation



FORTHCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS



**PERSHORE
CHORAL**

SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2025 7.30PM
PERSHORE ABBEY

ANTHEMS ANCIENT & MODERN

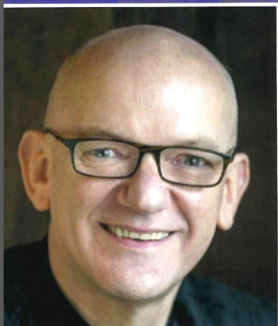
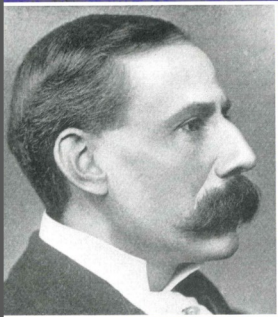
TE DEUM AND BENEDICTUS
AVE MARIA AND AVE VERUM CORPUS
BY SIR EDWARD ELGAR

REQUIEM BY BOB CHILCOTT

ROSE JOHNSON SOPRANO JUSTIN JACOBS TENOR

CHARLES MATTHEWS ORGAN

CARLETON ETHERINGTON CONDUCTOR



**BOX OFFICE
01905 770557**

or

**Pershore Town Hall
High Street, Pershore
(CASH ONLY SALES)**

or

**Online Ticket sales via
www.pershorechoral.co.uk**

**Tickets £12 & £18
Complimentary Programme.
Concessions Available**

Pershore Choral invites you to visit its website: www.pershorechoral.co.uk

TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC SERVICE

06 APRIL 1600 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

An opportunity for the town to gather
to give thanks and pray for the work of
the Mayor and Town Council.

PIANOSCAPES

27 APRIL 1430 AT ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Join local musician Chris Long for an
afternoon of piano pleasure - and cake!

ORGAN RECITAL

27 APRIL 1400 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

Director of Music, James MacDowall-
Scott will be playing for this hour-long
afternoon recital. All welcome.

FLUTE AND KEYBOARD RECITAL

28 APRIL 1630 AT ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Featuring Florence Blanchet and
Jo Willison. Free entry with retiring
collection for Pershore Foodbank.