

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

May 2025

Welcome to the May 2025 Monthly Edition!

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

JESUS' ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN: Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and the ascension of Jesus into heaven. After Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday, he was resurrected from the dead in three days, on the day we know as Easter Sunday. For 40 days he stayed with his Apostles instructing them on how to carry out his teachings. At the end of day 40, Jesus and his disciples went to Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem. After asking them to stay, Jesus ascended to heaven to take his seat at the right hand of God. The ascension signifies that Jesus had completed his work on Earth and allowed him to prepare a place for his followers in heaven. Ascension Day is on Thursday 29 May and will be marked with a Benefice Sung Eucharist Service in Pershore Abbey at 1900.



IN THIS EDITION:

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - VOCATIONS SUNDAY - NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

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

THY KINGDOM COME 2025

2025 marks the 10th year of Thy Kingdom Come - a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Once again we are joining this global wave of prayer and invite you to take part. Thy Kingdom Come takes place between **29 May and 8 June**.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE - THURSDAY 29 MAY

We begin these days of Thy Kingdom Come 2025 with a special service to remember the moment Jesus ascended into heaven before his disciples. This year the Benefice will be coming together for an Ascension Day Benefice Sung Eucharist Service at 1900 at Pershore Abbey. All welcome.

NOVENA OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 30 MAY-SATURDAY 7 JUNE

During this 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 for a Zoom link.

RESOURCES

Copies of Thy Kingdom Come resources can be downloaded from www.thykingdomcome.global or via these links:

- For the Novena Prayer Booklet click here: [Novena 2025](#)
- For the Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Journal click here: [Prayer Journal 2025](#)

Hardcopies can be ordered here: [Thy Kingdom Come 2025 Resources](#) Hardcopies of the Novena Prayer Booklet will be available soon at the back of the Abbey free of charge.

YOUTH JOURNAL

For young people, there is the opportunity to join other young people all over the world in a digital detox during Thy Kingdom Come. A digital version of Youth Journal-Digital Detox is available to download here: [Youth Journal Digital Detox](#)



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Every May, churches across the UK and Republic of Ireland host a huge range of fundraising events, making **Christian Aid Week** one of the biggest acts of Christian witness in the British Isles. Join the fight against poverty and climate change with Christian Aid Week 2025. Fundraise, donate, worship and campaign from **11-17 May 2025**.



JOIN US THIS CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

ENVELOPE COLLECTION

There will be an envelope collection from houses again this year by the 'delivery only' method. If you haven't had an envelope posted through your letter box in the past and would like to be involved, please call Sarah Thomson on 01386 5661057.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 17 May
St Andrew's Centre
10.00-12.00
Please bring friends, family and neighbours.

- Delicious Refreshments
- Raffle
- Good Read Bookstall
- Plant Stall

BOOK DONATIONS

There is a box for book donations at the back of the Abbey. Donated books will be sold at the Good Read Bookstall to raise funds. If inspired please write comments about what made your donated books Good Reads. Donations to other stalls also gratefully received.



SUNG EUCHARIST SERVICE WITH GUEST SPEAKER

We will be welcoming Paul Robert to our 1030 service at Pershore Abbey on Sunday 18 May. Paul is inspired by Christian Aid's vision of eradicating poverty. He has been a supporter for many years, and since 2012 has been a volunteer speaker. From 2022-2024 Paul was a Christian Aid climate justice campaigner. He continues to promote climate justice as a member of Worcester Cathedral Eco Group and Worcester Christian Aid Group.

Pray this **Christian Aid Week** that farmers facing hunger and hardship can access vital resources to protect their families, feed their communities and fight back against the effects of the climate crisis.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' Romans 15:13



NEWS FROM THE PERSHORE ABBEY FABRIC UPDATE

2025 has already been busy with our regular maintenance of the Abbey and St Andrew's and alongside that we have been working with our architect, Joanna Daykin, towards attending to repairs and projects identified in the recent Quinquennial Inspection. Our first challenge is to adapt our heating system to use more sustainable energy as far as is possible towards the Net Zero carbon target by 2030 as set by the Church of England. Our big gas boiler is reaching the end of its life so for us this is even more urgent. Since 2021, a heating review led by David Oldham has examined our energy needs and alternative sources of energy, and the PCC has now engaged Greenways – Mechanical and Electrical Consultants to work with us and with our Architect to progress this project. We are looking towards a hybrid heating system using energy captured by solar panels and air source heat pumps, backed up with a smaller gas (condensing) boiler. We are sensitive to the importance of minimal visibility of installations, and permissions are still to be sought, but we are encouraged by the Diocese and hopeful of success. We look also to further developing our Abbey building, making best use of spaces available to us, small as they seem, with a long-term vision of expansion. *Judy Dale*

ABBAY ECO CHURCH



If you are interested in taking care of the environment you live and worship in, why not join one of our Eco Church activities? We are a friendly group and always welcome new helpers! We meet regularly to work towards our Eco Church commitments and mission, do our best to keep the local area clean and tidy in partnership with Wychavon District Council's 'Adopt a Street Scheme', and arrange occasional Litter Picks and Weedy Picks. Here are our next activities:

NEXT ABBEY ECO CHURCH MEETING:

WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2025 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM
Please come and join us!

NEXT ABBEY WEEDY PICK DATE:

SATURDAY 7 JUNE 2025 1000-1100
Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Please bring gloves and any tools that you think would be helpful

NEXT ABBEY LITTER PICK DATE:

Join the Abbey Litter Pickers (ALPs)
SATURDAY 5 JULY 2025 1000-1100
Meet at the West End of the Abbey - Equipment Provided - 1100 Refreshments at St Andrew's and an opportunity to watch a short film - All Welcome

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

ROGATION SUNDAY AT PINVIN: Rogation Sunday takes place on the sixth Sunday of Easter and commemorates Jesus' final days on earth before his Ascension. For centuries, parish communities have observed Rogation Sunday as a time to seek blessings for its crops and livestock. St Nicholas', Pinvin, invite you to join them at Orchard Farm at **1030 on Sunday 25 May**, for a special rogation service. See the sheep and lambs on the farm and pray that they will thrive. It is a wonderful service with the chance to sing a few hymns and enjoy fellowship and refreshments. Everyone is welcome, and it would be lovely to see lots of you at this service. *John Kemp, Churchwarden*



A CELEBRATION OF MOTHERS AT WICK: Our Mothering Sunday service on 30 March, led by ALM Penny Gordon, was much enjoyed. Penny talked about how mothering comes in many different guises, and how Paul McCartney and John Lennon were both mothered by loving members of their families after they lost their mums. At the end of the service we played Paul's song to his Catholic mother Mary 'Let it be' which starts 'When I find myself in times of darkness, Mother Mary comes to me, singing songs of wisdom, let it be'. Posies prepared by our wonderful flower ladies were blessed, and some taken to those in the village who could not attend. Our next special service will be at **1030 on Sunday 8 June** when all pets are invited to bring well behaved humans to the annual Pet Service! *Nicholas Granger, Churchwarden*

ENJOY A SPRING WALK AROUND BIRLINGHAM: St James', Birlingham, invite you to join us for a Spring Walk Around Birlingham, led by Canon Claire. We will meet up at the War Memorial, outside the church, at **1500 on Sunday 25 May**. Bring your dog, a friend or both! There will be refreshments and a dog blessing in the church after the walk. *Adrianne Woodward, Churchwarden*

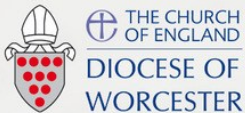


SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS OF SERVICES IN PINVIN, WICK AND BIRLINGHAM IN MAY

MINISTRY NEWS

PERSHORE ABBEY APCM AND ST ANDREW'S PARISH TRUST AGM: The Pershore Abbey APCM and the St Andrew's AGM for 2025 will take place on **Tuesday 6 May at 1900** in the **St Andrew's Centre**. The APCM booklet and full set of accounts are available on our website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk Please contact office@pershoreabbey.org.uk if you would like to receive a copy by email. Hardcopies can be obtained from the Abbey Office and a printed copy is available to view on the Abbey noticeboard.

PEREGRINES' PROGRESS: Our peregrines have returned to their nesting platform and with the livestream we have been able to watch Mr and Mrs P choosing the exact spot for their nest amongst the stones, not always agreeing, but Mrs P won and in March four eggs were laid just where she had decided! Since then the pair, mainly Mrs P, have been diligently sitting in turn to incubate their chicks and we have just received news that three chicks have hatched (*correct at time of print*). The first chick has been named Baby Francis. You can watch them too - at home, or you can pop into the Abbey where we have a screen showing everything live, as it happens. The screen is to the right as you enter through the main doors, look beyond the War Memorial. Watch the peregrines live: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk *Judy Dale*



JOIN US FOR A SERVICE TO

Celebrate

ALL THAT SMALLER CHURCHES OFFER

Tuesday 13 May, Worcester Cathedral, 7pm

Everyone is welcome!

**Smaller Churches represent nearly half of the churches of the Diocese of Worcester.
During this service we can celebrate our strengths and our diversity.**

**The service will be led by Bishop Martin.
The Dean of Smaller Churches, Alison Maddocks, will be preaching.**

A scratch choir made up of several churches will lead the Worship.

If you would like to be part of the choir, please contact
Ian Thompson asap via ithompson@cofe-worcester.org.uk

VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

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 a gathering in Chapman Court at 1100, the laying of a wreath at the war memorial at 1115, and a beacon being lit in Abbey Park at 2000.



SALZWEDEL VISIT

Our friends from Salzwedel are with us again, arriving on Thursday 29 May. They will be here for three event packed days and we hope you will meet them, and join in with some of the trips, meals and events. There will be opportunities to meet in the Abbey after the Ascension Day Service, in St Andrew's for supper on Friday or even to join our Skittles match with Fish 'n' Chips on Saturday. There will also be visits to Tewkesbury Abbey and Ripple, and Oxford, and a farewell breakfast on the Sunday. You are welcome at any or all these events but we would need to know in advance for catering and transport. Contact Jan Ayres on 07555590454 or Emily Miller 07717022536 or leave your contact details on 01386 552071. Here is a summary of opportunities:

DATE	TIME	WHERE	EVENT	
Thursday 29 May	1900	Pershore Abbey	Ascension Day Service	Refreshments after the service
Friday 30 May	1000	TBC - Car Share	Visit Tewkesbury Abbey then visit Ripple	Lunch in Tewkesbury
	1900	St Andrew's Centre	Supper	Salad or pudding contributions appreciated but not essential
Saturday 31 May	0900	TBC - Car Share	Visit to Oxford	Lunch in Oxford. Return by 1700
	1900	Pershore Sports Club	Skittles Match and Fun £15	Fish 'n' Chips
Sunday 1 June	0830-0930	St Andrew's Centre	Farewell Breakfast	

PERSHORE CARNIVAL



PERSHORE CARNIVAL TEAS ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 26 MAY:

To all the wonderful Abbey helpers and cake makers - your help is wanted please to either be in St. Andrew's Centre on a 90 minute session between 1100 and 1530 (teas will end at 1430ish but help is needed afterwards for clearing up) or to make cakes please. Please see either Sara Speed (rota) on 01386 710776 or Hilary Fowler (cakes) on 01386 552243. They will have sign-up sheets at the back of the Abbey on Sundays in May. Thank you in anticipation of what will be a very successful Carnival, always looked forward to by our many visitors to Pershore. *Jane Knox*

VOCATIONS SUNDAY



We believe all are called to serve God according to their given gifts, talents and context. Every Christian has a vocation, and it is the task of all those serving in ministry to help identify and nurture the gifts and callings of every member of the Church. Vocations Sunday is on **Sunday 11 May**. At the Abbey's 1030 Sung Eucharist we will be welcoming guest preacher Nick Stephens. Nick worships at St Nicholas Church in Warndon Village, Worcester and is a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader). He will share with us what it means to be a Reader and to ask whether God might be calling us to this ministry.

ABBEY WALKING CHURCH

Come along on **Saturday 17 May** at 1400 and join this new way of being Church! Meeting at the West end of the Abbey, we will take a gentle walk, stopping every now and then to think about God and explore what faith might mean. Refreshments will be available afterwards. All welcome, including four legged companions. Ask Claire for more details.



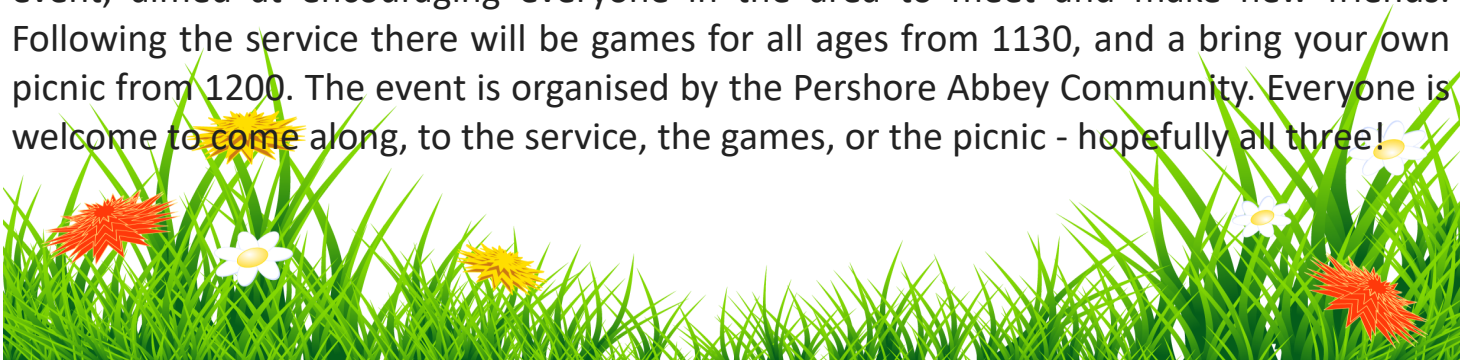
EASTER WREATH FESTIVAL



A first for Pershore Abbey! If you haven't already, please take a look at the wreaths which are displayed in the side aisles in the Abbey. They will be on display until Pentecost, Sunday 8 June. The wreaths are made by groups or individuals with a connection to the Abbey and St Andrew's Centre. Many thanks to all who took part and created some wonderful wreaths. *Sam Andrews*

OUTDOOR SERVICE

There will be a special Morning Praise Outdoor Service in Abbey Park at **1030 on Sunday 22 June**, by the wild flower meadow. The service will be part of the Fun at the Abbey event, aimed at encouraging everyone in the area to meet and make new friends. Following the service there will be games for all ages from 1130, and a bring your own picnic from 1200. The event is organised by the Pershore Abbey Community. Everyone is welcome to come along, to the service, the games, or the picnic - hopefully all three!



REGULAR SERVICES

PERSHORE ABBEY WHOLENESS & HEALING



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 11 MAY & SUNDAY 8 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

CAFÉ CHURCH @St Andrew's Centre



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 11 MAY & SUNDAY 8 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

PERSHORE ABBEY IONA WORSHIP



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 25 MAY & SUNDAY 22 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

HOLLAND HOUSE QUIET GARDEN DAYS

Holland House invite you to join them for one of their quiet day of peace and tranquillity in their gardens.

Thursday 22 May: Theme for the day 'Rhubarb' led by Reverend Alma Organ. The day will begin at 1000 to gather for coffee and then start in the Chapel at 1030 for thoughts on the theme. There will be a Holy Communion at Midday followed by a sandwich lunch and concludes with tea and cake at 1600. Cost £20.00

Thursday 19 June: Theme for the day 'Grapes' led by Canon Dr Julie Fay. The day will begin at 1000 to gather for coffee and then start in the Chapel at 1030 for thoughts on the theme. There will be a Holy Communion at Midday followed by a simple lunch and concludes with tea and cake at 1600. Cost £26.00

Both days are run by the Friends of Holland House. For more information contact Rev. Alma Organ on 01386 554248 or piglet1723@btinternet.com or contact Holland House by visiting their website: www.hollandhouse.org



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY - RAISING AWARENESS

ACTION FOR BRAIN INJURY (ABI) WEEK: ABI Week will be taking place **19-25 May** and aims to raise awareness of the issues faced by individuals and families affected by brain injury, promote understanding, and encourage support from the wider public, organisations, and policymakers. By shining a light on the often invisible challenges of brain injury, **ABI Week** educates the public about the physical, cognitive, and emotional effects of brain injury. The campaign advocates for better services and support for people affected, calling on policymakers and health professionals to improve care, rehabilitation, and recognition of brain injury in various aspects of life. www.headway.org.uk



SHINE A LIGHT ON NF (NEUROFIBROMATOSIS) AWARENESS

DAY: On **Saturday 17 May**, we will be lighting up the Abbey blue in support of **Shine a Light on NF Day**. The campaign is organised by Nerve Tumours UK which provides support and information to the 26,500 people in the UK who have NF, the medical name for a set of genetic conditions that cause tumours to grow on nerve endings. Landmarks and buildings across the UK will be lit up blue to help raise awareness to

help those living with nerve tumours, so they receive the correct support, and to campaign for funding for better services. www.nervetumours.org.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK: Pershore Foodbank was founded by local churches and community groups, working together to help people in crisis and to give them further help to get them get back on their feet. Thank you to everyone for their continued support. Donations are always very welcomed. In particular; non-perishable food, toiletries, and staples such as pasta, rice and cereals. If you should ever need to call upon the foodbank, Pershore Foodbank can be found at St Andrew's Centre on Tuesdays 1100-1300 and Fridays 1300-1500. They aim to have a Citizens Advice representative available at Friday sessions. For further information or assistance, please visit www.pershore.foodbank.org.uk or call 01386 555347.



PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

MAY 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 4 MAY

EASTER 3

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Evensong

SUNDAY 11 MAY

EASTER 4 / VOCATIONS SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 18 MAY

EASTER 5

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 25 MAY

EASTER 6 / ROGATION SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 11 MAY

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 25 MAY

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 4 MAY

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 25 MAY

1030 Rogation Service at Orchard Farm

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 25 MAY

1500 Spring Walk Around Birlingham

PLEASE SEE PAGE 9 FOR OTHER REGULAR SERVICES

PERSHORE ABBEY CHOIR

Pershore Abbey Choir is a welcoming, friendly and committed group of people who sing to a high standard for all the statutory services in the Abbey. They rehearse on Friday evenings at 18.15-19.15 in the Abbey, followed by fellowship in the local pub! They number 28 members at full strength, and are actively recruiting for tenors and basses. Please do get in touch with the Director of Music, James MacDowall-Scott via email, jjcms1976@gmail.com or 07968 307916. Did you know? The hymns that will be sung at the Abbey's 1030 services are available to view, month by month on our website? View here: [May Hymns](#)



FORTHCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS



ORGAN RECITAL

11 MAY 1400 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

Paul Trepte will be returning to Pershore Abbey for this enjoyable afternoon recital. All welcome. Free admission.

PERSHORE CHORAL CONCERT

17 MAY 1930 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

Pershore Choral will be returning for an evening of anthems - ancient and modern. www.pershorechoral.co.uk

PROTEUS ENSEMBLE COFFEE CONCERT

24 MAY 1100 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

Part of Elgar Festival 2025. Free entry with retiring collection for Pershore Foodbank. www.elgarfestival.org

WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC

ORCHESTRA SUMMER CONCERT

14 JUNE 1430 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

An impressive afternoon concert including soloist from Chris Goodman. www.ticketsource.co.uk



www.pershoreabbey.co.uk