

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

July/August 2025

Welcome to the July/August 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 TIME TO REFLECT: The Sundays after Trinity, also known as Ordinary Time, continue through July and August, following Trinity Sunday. It is a time to cultivate our faith and actively engage in the church's mission to the world. It is perhaps the church's least-celebrated season of the church year, yet possibly holds the most potential, certainly for personal growth. Reflecting on what has been celebrated in the first half of the church year, and to go forward, truly carrying out God's work, requires patience, dedication, and faithfulness. We can all benefit from taking time during this season to reflect, both on our commitment to the church and our faith, but also on how we can be kinder, more understanding, and of course a better Christian.



IN THIS EDITION

SALZWEDEL'S VISIT - ABBEY WALKING CHURCH - PLUM FESTIVAL - MUCKNELL ABBEY

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SALZWEDEL'S VISIT TO PERSHORE

On Thursday 29 May, ten people from Salzwedel in central Germany, with their pastor Matthias Friske, arrived in Birmingham to visit us here in Pershore. They spent a quiet day with their hosts before going to the Ascension Day Eucharist at the Abbey, where they were formally introduced to the congregation during the service.

Friday was our day for Tewkesbury and its Abbey. Michael Hodges provided local maps in German, so the visitors were able to go off and explore the area for themselves. In the afternoon we went to Ripple to see its beautiful old church and the magnificent misericords. There were one or two navigational mishaps, but we all finished the day with a bring-and-share supper in St Andrew's Centre with a slideshow of previous visits.

On Saturday we drove to Oxford. Mark Chapman had organised a few visits for the morning, including the University Church, crucial in the founding of the university, a typical small college – Brasenose – and Christ Church and the Cathedral. In the afternoon we went down to the river to see some of the action for the last day of the inter-college boat races and then returned to Pershore for a fish-and-chip supper and skittles.

Sunday morning saw us at a farewell breakfast in St Andrew's Centre before our visitors headed for the airport and back to Germany. Matthias thanked us for our warm welcome and said that Pershore was like a second home for them. He has already confirmed that we are invited to Germany for the 13 to 17 May 2026.

John Ayres



Our visitors outside Pershore Abbey on Ascension Day



Stained glass window in Tewkesbury Abbey by Thomas Denny



St Mary's Church, Ripple

MINISTRY NEWS

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO CAFÉ CHURCH? Why not pop along and see if it is your cup-of-tea! Café Church takes place at St Andrew's Centre on the second Sunday of each month at 0930. Come along and enjoy our informal, family friendly café-style worship with music and refreshments. Our next Café Church services are on Sunday 13 July and Sunday 10 August. All welcome.

SUMMER ACTIVITY MORNING AT PERSHORE ABBEY: Children up to 11 years old, with an accompanying adult, are encouraged to attend this year's Summer Activity Session at Pershore Abbey, 0930-1200 on Tuesday 12 August. The session will be full to bursting with games, crafts and even a trail. To find out more, please contact me on 07879 310312. *Sam Andrews, Pershore Abbey Children and Families Worker*

SUMMER'S LITTLE SEEDS AT ST ANDREW'S CENTRE: We are delighted to announce that Summer's Little Seeds will be returning to St Andrew's Centre Friday 1, 8, 15 and 22 August. Each session will run from 0930-1130 and all pre-school aged children and siblings up to 6 years, with accompanying adult, are welcome to attend. Summer's Little Seeds is not only a lovely opportunity for children to meet other children, they will also hear a story, listen to a message and prayer, sing a song, make a craft, and take part in a free-play activity - snacks will be available too. The sessions are a new and exciting way to talk about God with our young people. If you would like to find out more, please contact me on 07879 310312. *Sam Andrews, Pershore Abbey Children and Families Worker*



JOIN THE WEEDY PICK GANG! At the Abbey we love all of nature but sometimes we have to do a little bit of weeding to make our paths and buildings look their best. A few times a year the Eco Church Group arrange a Weedy Pick. Do you have an hour to spare to help us control the weeds on the main Abbey path, around St Andrew's and around the Abbey? Just bring some gloves, appropriate tools and your enthusiasm! Beginners and experts always welcome! *See page 7 for dates and times.*



ABBEY WALKING CHURCH: Following a successful first outing, Abbey Walking Church will be returning on Saturday 26 July. Meeting at the West end of the Abbey at 1400, we will take a very gentle walk, stopping every now and then to think about God and explore what faith might mean. Refreshments available afterwards. All welcome, including four legged companions.

TEDDY PRAISE SUNDAY 24 AUGUST 1415: Join us at the Bandstand in Abbey Park for our annual Teddy Praise service. This is a short service for all the family, and their teddy bears! Children and adults alike are encouraged to bring along their favourite teddy! It is a fun service, which will be taking place as part of the Plum Festival weekend.



KOORSCHOOL DELFT VISITING CHOIR



Koorschool Delft, a choir school in The Netherlands will be visiting on Friday 15 August and leading a special Choral Evensong at 1700 at the Abbey. In recent years the choir has worked with the likes of John Rutter, Bob Chilcott, Oliver Tarney and Peter Dijkstra and Ton Koopman. We look forward to their visit and encourage everyone to attend this special occasion. For more information about the choir school, please visit www.koorschooldelft.nl

WHOLENESS & HEALING AT PERSHORE ABBEY

Why have Wholeness & Healing services? In the Eucharist we recognise that not everyone will feel able to access the healing ministry in this way, so we look to other services to share God's healing touch. Monsignor Michael Buckley DD quoted, 'what sacrament do you give to someone who has lost their job, their wife or children and who just cannot cope with life? We need to compliment the sacraments by trying to meet the needs of ordinary people in their daily lives.' On this foundation our services were established, with the emphasis of prayer being for 'wholeness', being in a right relationship with God, and for this reason we all need healing. Our services provide a time for quiet reflection, prayer and praise, with everyone receiving prayer themselves and being given a tealight acknowledging this and reminding them of the presence of the Holy Spirit, which they can place on the votive candle stand. We also have a private healing prayer list, prayed daily by team members and placed on the altar during services along with those left on the prayer board that month. So if you have a particular situation in your life or that of someone close to you needing prayer, consider coming along to one of our services, held on the second Sunday of each month at 1700 at the Abbey. Our next services will be on Sunday 13 July and Sunday 10 August. *Angela Gerrard*



PILGRIMS PAUSE AT PERSHORE ABBEY



A group of parishioners from St John Catholic Church in Tamworth recently visited Pershore Abbey whilst embarking on a walking pilgrimage following the local way of St Kenelm from Clent Hills to Winchcombe. This was a very important pilgrimage in the medieval times but has slipped into obscurity over the last few centuries. Group leader Stephan Benkert and fellow pilgrims attended Evening Prayer during their visit and explored the Abbey before continuing on their way. They all safely reached their destination having reconnected with the old ways of pilgrimage, as they hoped, and having raised awareness of St Kenelm, their local Saint.



SAINT KENELM

Saint Kenelm is one of the most important Saints of medieval England. His legend identifies him as a member of the royal family of Mercia, a Boy-King, murdered to further the interests of an ambitious relative. After his body was concealed, it came to light by virtue of miraculous intervention and was transported by the Monks of Winchcombe to a major shrine where it was venerated for several hundred years.



The British Pilgrimage Trust aims to advance British pilgrimage as a form of cultural heritage that promotes holistic wellbeing, accessible to all. They seek to connect people of all faiths and none to Britain's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. From cathedrals and ancient trees to river sources, holy wells and standing stones, they invite everyone to embark on a personal journey that promotes holistic well-being through walking in the footsteps of our land's ancestors. Since the charity was founded in 2014, they have seen and heard how this ancient rite offers powerful solutions to modern life challenges by fostering personal growth and mental wellness through a deeper connection to nature and heritage. www.britishpilgrimage.org

PERSHORE PLUM FESTIVAL IS BACK!

Pershore Abbey will once again be taking part in the town's event highlight of the year - the Pershore Plum Festival. As well as our special Teddy Praise service on Sunday 24 August (*see page 3 for more details*) the Abbey will be hosting a family friendly extravaganza on **Bank Holiday Monday 25 August**. Come along and enjoy the fun! Here are the activities that will be taking place:

TEDDY BEAR ZIP WIRE: Watch out teddies! This fun festival favourite will be taking place outside the Abbey at 1230 and 1430. At £2 a go, you can watch your teddy fly through the skies on a zip wire. Last bookings will be taken 15 minutes before each flight.

TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTE DROP: Head inside the Abbey for this super-fun activity, taking place at 1130, 1330 and 1530. £2 a go. Last bookings will be taken 15 minutes before each flight.



CLASSIC CAR SHOW: This phenomenally successful car show will include everyone's favorite vehicles from Rolls-Royces to Triumph Staggs, and MGs to Austin Healeys. The impressive display of over 600 cars is free to view and will be in Abbey Park. If you would like to enter a car into the show, please either download an **Entry Form** or contact **office@pershoreabbey.org.uk** before 21.07.2025

ABBEY TOWER TOURS: Tours will be taking place on Sunday from 1300 and Bank Holiday Monday from 1130. Booking is strongly recommended as the opportunity to walk the 200 steps up to the top of the tower to see the sights usually proves to be very popular. Please head to the Abbey Tower Tours desk which will be situated in the Abbey on both days. £5 adults. £2.50 children (7-16yrs).

DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS: No day out to the Plum Festival would be complete without a cup of tea and a piece of cake! Head to St Andrew's Centre where Pershore and St Andrew's (PASA) will be offering a selection of delicious refreshments.



ART EXHIBITION: Pershore Arts and Pershore U3A will be exhibiting a collection of their work in the aisles in the Abbey. All members of both groups are local artists and their exhibition will include photography, painting and 3D art.

PERSHORE TOWN CHOIR: Show your support for one of our most popular local choirs and head to the Abbey at 1245 to enjoy a performance by Pershore Town Choir.

ABBEY BELLS: Listen out for the Abbey bells which will be rung 0945-1030

It is only possible for the Abbey to offer all these activities thanks to the many kind volunteers that offer their time. If you are able and happy to help, please look at our weekly bulletins where there will be requests for help.

PERSHORE ABBEY ECO CHURCH

ABBAY WILDFLOWER AREA: As you have walked through Abbey Park to the Abbey you will have noticed the wildflower area and some of you will have participated in the recent open air service. We hope you are enjoying it. What you see is a result of seed sowings over three years involving school children from Holy Redeemer. A mixture of annual and perennial plant seeds have been sown with the annuals i.e. Cornflower, Poppy, Yellow Rattle being most abundant. Do enjoy the area. It will be cut and removed by early August ahead of the Pershore Plum Festival weekend. Perhaps spend a little time to view the area and reflect on the beauty we have around us. *Kevin O'Neill*

DATES FOR THE DIARY



THE BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT

17 JULY - 10 AUGUST

WWW.BUTTERFLY-CONSERVATION.ORG



INTERNATIONAL BAT NIGHT

30 - 31 AUGUST

WWW.BATS.ORG.UK



NEXT ABBEY ECO CHURCH MEETING:

WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025 1915

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM

Please come and join us!

NEXT ABBEY WEEDY PICK DATE:

SATURDAY 16 AUGUST 2025 1000-1100

Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Please bring gloves and any tools that

NEXT ABBEY LITTER PICK DATE:

Join the Abbey Litter Pickers (ALPs)

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 25 AUGUST 2025

1730-1830

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

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

Pershore Foodbank provides emergency support for people in crisis throughout the year. Our volunteers work hard to provide not just food parcels but also a friendly welcome and helpful advice.

The greater proportion of our clients come to us on no more than two or three occasions but we also have to recognise that some people continue to find it difficult to make ends meet. With your support, we aim never to have to turn away a family or individual in need. Over the summer we will again be offering additional support to families with children and so you can help us with donations of:

- Tinned meat & fish, soups and sauces, vegetables & fruit
- Pasta, rice and cereal. Biscuits, tea, coffee & longlife milk
- Soap, shampoo, dental & shaving supplies, nappies & detergent
- Household cleaning products, toilet paper, dog & cat food

We are very grateful to greengrocers Fruit Salad on the High Street for helping us to run our voucher scheme, supplementing the more basic supplies with some much appreciated fresh fruit and vegetables. If anyone would like to consider taking on sponsorship of this scheme, we would be happy to discuss it. It is also helpful to be able to offer people fresh toiletries during the hot weather. Nobody should have to feel that buying sun protection or deodorant has to be a special treat.

Rooftop Housing and Wychavon Council have been assisting us in our attempts to resolve the current warehouse issues but the amount of lifting and carrying required



to keep up the operation doesn't get any less so we are always on the lookout for people interested in joining us. Lastly, several of you make extremely generous financial donations to the Foodbank. I hesitate to ask for any more but we are always striving to make the best use of our resources and especially appreciate the reliability of regular donations, however small. *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

LOOKING AHEAD

ABBEY ECO CHURCH MUCKNELL ABBEY VISIT: On Thursday 4 September there will be a visit to Mucknell Abbey, a nearby Anglican Benedictine community. Attendees will need to arrive prompt at 1400 before prayer at 1415 and then a tour of their site. Day-to-day life is a balance of prayer and manual, growing work. They also run a small guesthouse and incense-making business. There are only 12 more places available. If you would like to attend, email me at davidandheleno@gmail.com and indicate if you are able offer a lift or need a lift to get there. *David Oldham*



RIDE + STRIDE: This annual event is a wonderful way to enjoy getting out and about whilst raising much-needed funds to support grant applications from churches and chapels across the country. This year the event will be taking place on Saturday 13 September. To find out how to participate, please visit: <https://ridestride.org/>



A TALE OF TWO CITIES AND SEVERAL LADIES: A series of talks entitled *A tale of two Cities and several Ladies with Revd Dr Gerard Moate* will be taking place in nearby Overbury in October. The three talks making, in the first part, connections between London and respectively the cities of Philippi, Corinth and Rome in New Testament times; and in the second part, connections between women who were known to St Paul (Lydia, Priscilla and Phoebe); and three ladies who once lived in London - to illustrate aspects of the Christian virtue of Generosity. The talks will take place 1900-2030 on 7, 14, 21 October 2025 at St Faith's Church, Overbury, GL20 7NY. Refreshments will be provided. Donations to cover costs and support Morogoro Bible College Scholarship Fund would be most welcome. For more information, please contact Revd Katryn Leclézio by emailing klbteam@gmail.com

Lecture 1: London and Philippi - Lydia of Thyatira and Lottie Spinks - Generous Prudence

Lecture 2: London and Corinth - Priscilla of Corinth and Edith Ramsey - Generous Courage

Lecture 3: London and Rome - Phoebe of Rome and Mary Know - Generous Kindness

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES JULY & AUGUST 2025

Here are the details of our planned **Sunday** worship services within the Pershore Benefice, 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 6 JULY - TRINITY 3 / STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

0800 BCP Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*
1700 Evensong

SUNDAY 13 JULY - TRINITY 4

0800 Eucharist
0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*
1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 20 JULY - TRINITY 5

0800 Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 27 JULY - TRINITY 6

0800 Eucharist
1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*
1700 Iona Worship

SUNDAY 3 AUGUST - TRINITY 7

0800 BCP Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 10 AUGUST - TRINITY 8

0800 Eucharist
0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*
1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 17 AUGUST - TRINITY 9

0800 Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST - TRINITY 10

0800 Eucharist
1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*
1415 Teddy Praise (*Bandstand*)

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST - TRINITY 11

0800 Eucharist
1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 13 JULY

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 27 JULY

1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 10 AUGUST

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST

1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist at
Pershore Abbey

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 6 JULY

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 20 JULY

1030 Sunday Praise

SUNDAY 3 AUGUST

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 17 AUGUST

1030 Sunday Praise

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist at
Persore Abbey

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 20 JULY

1030 Patronal Holy Communion
(see page 12 for more details)

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST

1500 Hymns and Pimms
(see page 12 for more details)

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist at
Persore Abbey

REGULAR SERVICES

PERSHORE ABBEY

WHOLENESS & HEALING



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 13 JULY & SUNDAY 10 AUGUST
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 JULY & SUNDAY 10 AUGUST
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 SERVICE:

SUNDAY 27 JULY & SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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

NEWS FROM ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM



PATRONAL SERVICE: We will be holding our annual Patronal service on Sunday 20 July at 1030. The service is being led by Revd Jayne Parker and will be a Holy Communion service. All are welcome to attend and enjoy refreshments together after the service. *Adrianne Woodward, Churchwarden*

SAVE THE DATE! An invitation is extended to all to attend a 'Hymns and Pimms' service at St James', Birlingham on Sunday 24 August at 1500. The service will be led by Angela Gerrard. Glasses of Pimms will be served and replenished during the service and other non-alcoholic drinks will be available. It will be a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon with the added bonus of singing a selection of favourite hymns. *Adrianne Woodward, Churchwarden*



PERSHORE ABBEY FORTHCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS



WORCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR

12 JULY 1900 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

Performing 'The Mix Tape' in aid of MND

www.ticketsource.co.uk

ORGAN RECITAL

27 JULY 1400 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

Featuring Jonathon Hope, organist at
Gloucester Cathedral

ORGAN RECITAL

03 AUGUST 1400 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

Featuring organist Mark Brafield

CHORAL EVENSONG

15 AUGUST 1700 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

With Koorschool Delft Choir School,
The Netherlands



www.pershoreabbey.co.uk