

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

September 2025

Welcome to the September 2025 Monthly Edition!

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

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE: The Abbey's Morning Praise service at 1030 on Sunday 28 September will be dedicated to Climate Sunday. Everyone is invited to attend to find out how they can make a difference. Climate Sunday is an ecumenical initiative calling churches to hold a climate focused service to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation care and action on climate. It is hoped the collective action and commitments from local churches truly will make a difference. During the service, Liz Etheridge, Wychavon's Senior Environmental Officer, and Claire will be providing a Questions and Answers session. What will you ask? And more importantly, what change will you commit to, to help make a difference?



IN THIS EDITION

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT - AUTUMN HOUSE GROUPS - NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

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

MINISTRY NEWS

BE THE PRESENCE IN THE PEACE: Our Abbey is a place of beauty, history and reflection. Throughout the week visitors often come in, not just for worship but to explore, admire the architecture or simply enjoy a quiet moment. We need welcomers to be there during opening hours offering a warm smile, a friendly greeting and a presence for locals and tourists alike. You don't need to be an expert on the Abbey, just willing to be present, helpful and welcoming. Even two hours a month could make a visitor's day more meaningful. Could this be you? For more information, please speak to me either in person or by calling 07858 506218. *Sally Whyte, Welcomer Coordinator*



BABIES & TODDLERS IS BACK! After a well deserved summer pause, Babies & Toddlers will be returning on Friday 12 September. Babies & Toddlers is for birth to pre-school little ones, and meets 0930-1130 on Fridays during term time. A warm, friendly environment is provided, with lots of activities, toys and games available. Whether you are a new parent or new to the area and have not yet attended, contact Sara Speed for more information on 01386 710776 or email thespeeds94@gmail.com

ABBEY WALKING CHURCH: As the rich colours of Autumn start appearing, why not enjoy a short, gentle walk around the local area to explore your faith? At 1400 on Saturday 20 September, Abbey Walking Church will be doing just that. Meeting at the West end of the Abbey, we will take a gentle stroll, stopping every now and then to think about God and to consider what faith might mean. Everyone is welcome, including four legged companions, and there will be refreshments afterwards.



AN EVENING OF JAZZ: Head to Holland House on the evening of Saturday 20 September for an informal evening of jazz. Enjoy the house and gardens with live music by Adam Sanders and Friends, a jazz quartet who will be playing a selection of standards from the jazz catalogue and innovative arrangements from the Christian tradition. Tickets are £20 including a drink and light bites. To book or for more details call 01386 860330 or visit www.hollandhouse.org

MINISTRY NEWS

AUTUMN HOUSE GROUPS: This autumn there will be the opportunity to join a house group and continue to look in more depth at St Luke's Gospel. No previous knowledge is assumed or needed, and the sessions are open to all in the Benefice. From the list below, please choose a day or venue that best suits. Sign up sheets are available at the back of the Abbey. All groups will start the week beginning 22 September, with the exception of Tuesday's group which will start on 30 September:

Mondays 1000-1130 - 58 Three Springs Road

Tuesdays 1400-1530 - 19 Acorn Grove

Wednesdays 1400-1530 25 Rushers Close

Thursdays 1900-2030 - 41 Westcott Way



A COFFEE AND A CHAT: This month's Abbey Coffee Morning will be taking place 1030-1200 on Saturday 20 September at St Andrew's Centre and is being run by Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's (PASA) team. Why not pop along, say hello, and enjoy some homemade cake and a refreshing cup of tea or coffee. We would love to see you! PASA



A NEW WAY TO CELEBRATE HARVEST: This year the wonderful Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's (PASA) team will be hosting a Harvest Lunch, instead of the usual Harvest Supper - and everyone is welcome! This tasty offering will be taking place on Sunday 5 October, after the Abbey's Harvest Festival Service. Please keep a look out in the weekly bulletin for more details. For now, please put the date in your diary!

GENEROSITY WEEK: Generosity Week takes place during the Harvest season, so that as we thank God for his generosity to us, we also have the opportunity to think about how we might respond to that generosity. This year's Generosity Week will be taking place from Sunday 28 September until Sunday 5 October, and will have an emphasis on teaching and learning about generosity at any time of year. For more information or to find out how you can be involved, visit www.churchofengland.org/generosity-week



**FOR DETAILS OF THIS YEAR'S HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES
ACROSS THE BENEFICE PLEASE SEE PAGE 11**

PERSHORE ABBEY



Our friends from St John Catholic Church in Tamworth who recently visited the Abbey whilst embarking on a pilgrimage, following the local way of St Kenelm, kindly sent a card thanking us for supporting their pilgrimage and enclosed the following poem, written by Stephan Benkert, who led the group.

St Kenelm

Walk on my friend and pilgrim,
walk on one step at a time.
I know your load is heavy,
it's shared and heavy as mine.

See grains that bath in sunshine,
and listen to birds that sing in the rain.
Be quiet and hear His whisper,
beyond all chatter and the whistling train.

Find refuge where bells are ringing,
be greeted by a welcoming smile.
Leave joy with poems and singing,
and pray for every passing mile.

Find peace in His creation,
between the broken and holy of mine.
Forget all troubling burden,
inspired to let your light shine.

How blessed to share his love and compassion,
from blissful dawn to weary dusk.
A bond that entangles the walkers,
in friendship, trust Him, destined to last.

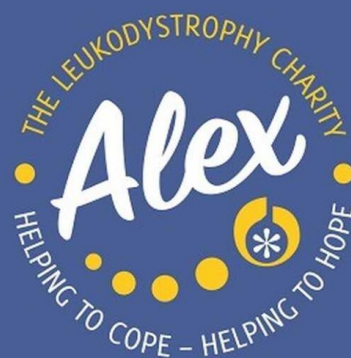


PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
PLEASE RECYCLE ME

We are committed to protecting God's earth, in any way we can. Through the Abbey's Eco Church, we are trying to be more considerate when printing which is why this publication is printed on recycled paper. At the end of the month, please recycle me!

On Tuesday 23 September we will be lighting up the Abbey blue in support of the charity Alex TLC and Leukodystrophy Awareness Month. Established in 2004, Alex TLC provides invaluable support and information to those affected by leukodystrophy.

Leukodystrophies are a group of rare genetic disorders that affect the central nervous system by disrupting the growth or the maintenance of the myelin sheath which insulates nerve cells. These disorders are progressive, so tend to worsen throughout the life of the patient. For more information please visit: www.alextlc.org



ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

As many of you will know, St Andrew's Centre is a fantastic space, consisting of the Main Hall, complete with fully fitted kitchen, the Upper Room, with kitchenette, and the bell ringing chamber. It is a building that is utilized for many purposes by the community, and we are proud to facilitate its many uses. From bridge club, yoga, and choir groups, to meetings, receptions and parties.



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, why not consider hiring the Main Hall or Upper Room St Andrew's Centre?

The Main Hall is suitable for up to 70 people, costs £15 per hour and includes the use of the kitchen. The Upper Room is suitable for up to 20 people and costs £10 per hour and includes the use of the kitchenette.

For more information please visit [**www.pershoreabbey.org.uk**](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk) or to check availability, please contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071 or [**office@persshoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:office@persshoreabbey.org.uk)



HISTORY OF ST ANDREW'S CENTRE: Did you know that parts of the present building date back to 1170? King Edward the Confessor gave lands formerly belonging to Pershore Abbey to endow his cherished foundation at Westminster Abbey in the 11th Century. St Andrew's was then built to serve the tenants of the Abbot of Westminster. Major alterations and additions were made in the 14th, 15th and 19th Centuries, and services of worship continued until the 1960s. Interesting fact - it has a ring of 8 bells enabling ringers to practise on a lighter set, without having to climb the Abbey tower!

ST NICHOLAS, PINVIN

The roof repairs at St Nicholas, Pinvin are now complete, part funded by a grant from the diocese. The original plan was to repair the strip where the chancel butts up to the nave, which was allowing water to drip down the north wall inside the chancel. Once the roofing contractors exposed a test section, it was clear all the roof battens were rotten and a small section repair would only be a short-term fix. It was decided that for relatively little extra cost the whole of the chancel north roof infrastructure could be replaced utilising the existing tiles. Additional official permissions were swiftly sought and approved for the necessary new battens, damp proof membrane and insulation in accordance with modern building regulations.

It is comforting that the leaky roof has now been resolved, but we wonder how long the other three sections of roof will survive before needing similar treatment. All this work has been thanks to the hard work, negotiations and funding organised by Glen Hurst, and thanks too to our contractors Reynolds Conservation, and our architect Stephen Oliver for his professionalism, and dedication.

John Kemp, Churchwarden



Services at St Nicholas Church take place on the first and third Sunday of each month. See page 11 for details.



ST MARY'S, WICK

We are excited to announce that Nicholas Granger, churchwarden at St Mary's Wick, has organised a special valuation day on Saturday 4 October 2025 at St Andrew's Centre from 1030 to 1530, to help raise much needed funds for new facilities at St Mary's. Nicholas, his pet macaw Bella, and his team from British Bespoke Auctions will be on hand to offer valuations for a variety of items, including jewellery, silver, watches, and interesting collectibles like militaria and medals, autograph books, silver and gold coins, and stamps. The auction will then take place later in the month.



British Bespoke Auctions was established in 2009, and through reaching over 2 million collectors worldwide, has established a reputation for achieving excellent prices at auction. For this event there is a choice of two promotional commissions:

- 10% seller's commission + VAT (50% of which will be donated by BBA to St Mary's Wick or Pershore Abbey) or
- Zero seller's commission if you wish to donate a portion of your sales proceeds to either St Mary's or Pershore Abbey.



*Nicholas, Bella and
The BBA Team look
forward to seeing
you there!*



GLORIOUS EVENING IN THE CONFETTI FIELDS FOR ST MARY'S: On Friday 20 June, we were blessed with perfect weather for our annual evening outdoor service. We were extremely grateful to Charles Hudson for allowing us not only to have the event at this beautiful venue but also loaning us the use of marquees and chairs so the congregation was shaded and comfortable. The service was run by Penny Gordon again, wearing her trademark flowery trousers, and seven-year-old Ruby read from the Bible with astonishing clarity and confidence. Everyone enjoyed a glass of fizz, sausage rolls and cake afterwards, as well as a celebratory playlist of happy popular music. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this such a joyful and uplifting event, and we look forward to next year!



Services at St Mary's Church take place on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. See page 11 for more details. The church is also open each day for visitors.

PERSHORE ABBEY ECO CHURCH

DO IT FAIR THIS FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT: This year, Fairtrade Fortnight is taking place 22 September - 05 October. Over these fourteen days we are asking everyone to Do it Fair. Let's celebrate the difference we can make by choosing Fairtrade and campaign as part of a UK-wide movement calling for a fairer system behind the things we consume every day. If you can, join us and Do It Fair. There are many simple actions you can take to make the trade system fairer, leading to a fairer world for all who rely on it. With the world in a tailspin, fairness isn't a given. But the power to get there is in our hands. Together, our actions can have a positive impact on real people's lives. Fairer pay. Fairer treatment. Fairer futures. That's Fairtrade. It's not just a label – it's a movement. So, whatever you do, and however you do it: Do it Fair.



You can browse and buy Fairtrade products on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of every month at the Abbey's 1030 Sung Eucharist

Fairtrade will be featured in the 1030 service on Sunday 5 October.



LITTER PICK FILM 5 JULY 2025: The Litter Pick group in July watched an inspirational and hope-filled story by Dr Kinari Webb, that we thought was worth sharing with the whole church.

Two experiences changed Kinari's life. Working at 21 in the Borneo Rainforest tracking Orangutans, she got to know some loggers and why many take up logging as the only way to pay for medical crises. Secondly helping in the 2003 Tsunami when locals affected asked for what they thought most important, but no one gave them that help. As a result, she co-founded 'Healing and Harmony', with its radical listening to local community solutions and offering health care that can be paid for with bartered goods, not just cash.

The result of acting on communities' consensus solutions resulted in a verified 90% reduction in logging over 10 years. Communities now have hope for their future, feel empowered at their own problem-solving ability and helped reforest the rainforest. The charity has since expanded to initiatives in Brazil and Ceylon. It has supported other organisations to ask the important questions of their communities. This has enabled one community find an alternative to selling their last piece of forest to the palm oil companies and rely on them for subsequent employment.

This film can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJkeZ_4wuYg or by searching *Dr. Kinari Webb Ted Talk* on YouTube and choosing the one 17:50 long. She has also written a book *Guardians of the Trees* that also gives hope for our world.

David Oldham

PERSHORE ABBEY ECO CHURCH

RIDE + STRIDE 2025: Ride + Stride is the single largest source of income for many Historic Churches Trusts enabling them to make Grants to places of Christian worship. Taking place on the Saturday 13 September, the funds raised will be split between the nominated Trust and the participants chosen church or chapel. As ever Ride + Stride is also a wonderful way to enjoy getting out and about safely. This year, the Abbey, St James', Birlingham, and St Mary's, Wick, will all be taking part, opening their doors and welcoming participants. To find out which other churches are taking place, visit: www.ridestride.org

'OFF THE GRID LIVING' TALK: All are invited to attend what is expected to be a fascinating talk at 1900 on Thursday 25 September at St Andrew's Centre. Judy Dale will share her experience of living in a remote cottage in Wales and what it takes to provide modern living today Off-Grid, ECO sustainability style.

HOW WE CAN FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE: As we approach Climate Sunday, and as we become increasingly aware of the impact climate change is having, we should look to make changes in our lives. There is invaluable information available on the WWF website where there is even an app you can download to help you calculate your carbon footprint. Visit: www.wwf.org.uk and find out how we can fight back.



NEXT ABBEY LITTER PICK DATE:

Join the Abbey Litter Pickers (ALPs)
WATCH THIS SPACE FOR NEXT DATE
Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Equipment Provided

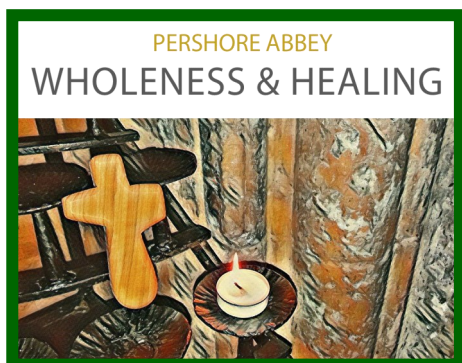
NEXT ABBEY WEEDY PICK DATE:

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 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 ECO CHURCH MEETING:

WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM
Please come and join us!

REGULAR SERVICES



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER & SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

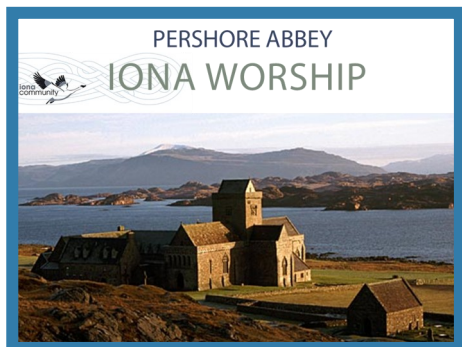
We also offer the opportunity to receive the ministry of healing prayers with two of the Wholeness & Healing team in the St John Chapel after communion has been received at every 3rd Sunday 1030 Eucharist



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER & SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER
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 SERVICE:

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER & SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES

During September and October we will be celebrating Harvest across the Benefice. Our Harvest services enable us to give thanks for what we receive from God and to give thanks for all who work in the farming community, both at home and abroad. This year our Harvest services will take place on the following days:

St James', Birlingham	1030	Sunday 14 September	Harvest Festival
Pershore Abbey	1030	Sunday 5 October	All Age Harvest Eucharist followed by Harvest Lunch at St Andrew's Centre
St Nicholas', Pinvin	1030	Sunday 5 October	Harvest Holy Communion
St Mary's Wick	1130	Sunday 12 October	Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch at Wick Care Farm



PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES SEPTEMBER 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 7 SEPTEMBER

TRINITY 12

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Evensong

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

HOLY CROSS

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Patronal Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

TRINITY 14

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

TRINITY 15 / CLIMATE SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

1030 Sunday Praise

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

1030 Harvest Festival

PLEASE SEE PAGE 10 FOR OTHER REGULAR SERVICES

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS



CHANDOS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

13 SEPTEMBER 1500

PERSHORE ABBEY

Conducted by Dan Watson. Performing Humperdinck, Brahms and Tchaikovsky

www.chandos.org.uk

PIANOSCAPES

21 SEPTEMBER 1430

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Listen to local pianist Chris Long perform music for the soul

www.chrislongmusic.co.uk

COLDPLAY BY CANDLELIGHT EXPERIENCE

3 OCTOBER 1900 and 2100

PERSHORE ABBEY

An atmospheric evening of Coldplay music performed by a string quartet

www.lumos-experiences.com

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

As we celebrate our plentiful harvest here in the Pershore Benefice we also remember that it is a time to share in that bounty and ask that people consider bringing food donations for the Pershore Foodbank along to our services.



**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 contact us on 01386 555347

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



www.pershoreabbey.co.uk