

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

October 2025

Welcome to the October 2025 Monthly Edition!

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

GOD'S WORD IS NOT CHAINED: We will be observing Prisons Sunday at the Abbey's 1030 Sung Eucharist on 12 October, marking the beginning of Prisons Week, a time for prayer and reflection on issues related to the criminal justice system. Prison Sunday focusses on raising awareness and encouraging prayer for prisoners, their families, and those working within the criminal justice system. It serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by these individuals and promotes community support and action to address their needs. The theme of this year's Prison Week is 'Jesus looked at him and loved him' (Mark 10:21), emphasising compassion and support for those affected by imprisonment. *Turn to page 6 to find out more about this important week.*



IN THIS EDITION

LIGHT PARTY - AID TO UKRAINE - MEET OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

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MEET OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY



Born in Woking in 1962, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She became a Christian at the age of 16.

Bishop Sarah was educated at South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London. Before being ordained, she worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, and in 1999, at the age of 37, was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health, the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and was ordained in 2001 serving her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields. In 2012, she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury

Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. On 12 May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role. Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals. She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in 2019. Bishop Sarah led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making, which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples. She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues. This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.


Bishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide. The couple have two children, Liam and Grace. She has continued her interest in the health service and is Chair of Christian Aid. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

As a Benefice, let us pray for Bishop Sarah as she takes on this important role.



LIGHT PARTY

PERSHORE ABBEY LIGHT PARTY: We will once again be hosting a Light Party, as an alternative to Halloween this year. Children aged 5-10 years are invited to attend the Abbey 1500-1700 on Friday 31 October to enjoy games, crafts and other fun activities. There will even be hot chocolate and hot dogs available! To book your child's place, please contact our Children and Families Worker, Sam Andrews on 07879 310312.



SPECTACULAR STEINWAY: Following PCC approval and a very generous donation from the Friends of Pershore Abbey, we are delighted to be proud custodians of a 1983 Steinway Model A Grand Piano! This is an amazing opportunity for the worshipping community of the Abbey, to have the use of such an iconic instrument that will be used to enhance worship particularly in Morning Praise, and will be hired out to our many and varied concert performers too. I plan to arrange a number of concerts in the new year to celebrate the Steinway, and cannot wait to play it in situ. I hope you will agree, it is a fine addition to our already bejewelled crown of instruments alongside the Ruffatti organ. *James MacDowall-Scott*



FLYING THE FLAG



Have you ever wondered why the Abbey flags are flying on certain days? For the curious minded, over the coming weeks, here are the flags that will be flying and why:

Sunday 5 October

St George's Cross - As the exact date of the laying of our foundation stone and dedication of the Abbey church is unknown, the Church of England sets aside this day for the celebration of the dedication of churches.

Tuesday 21 October

Union Flag - Trafalgar day.

Friday 24 October

Union Flag - United Nations Day.

ABBEY NEWS

ABBEY HARVEST SERVICE: Join us for our Harvest All Age Eucharist at 1030 on Sunday 5 October when we will be giving thanks for all we receive from God and for all who work in the farming community, both at home and abroad. If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food donation for the Pershore Foodbank.

ABBEY'S COFFEE MORNING: This month's parish Coffee Morning will be taking place on Saturday 18 October, 1030-1200 and is being hosted by Pershore U3A. Everyone is welcome, head to St Andrew's Centre and enjoy coffee, cake and a chat. We look forward to seeing you there. *Jane Knox, PASA (Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's)*



AN EXCITING NEW ADDITION: I am pleased to announce the Abbey has been accepted as a One World Shop stockist. One World Shop is a fairtrade supplier selling; bags, jewellery, toys, items for the home and garden, as well as food and drink. This is a great addition to our existing offering which can be browsed and purchased on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of every month at our 1030 Sung Eucharist Service. *Hilary Fowler, Fairtrade Coordinator*

SHOEBOX SUNDAY: The Abbey community will once again be supporting the Teams4u Shoebox Appeal, filling shoeboxes with toys and essential items and sending them overseas to those in need. If you are able to help us fill the shoeboxes, please head to St Andrew's Centre at 1000 on Saturday 1 November. It is hoped that 100 shoeboxes will be sent from the Abbey. Before they are, they will be blessed at a special service at 1030 on Sunday 2 November. *Suzanne Clarke*



MINISTRY NEWS

AUTUMN WALK AROUND BILRINGHAM:

St James', Birlingham, invite you to an Autumn Walk Around Birlingham, led by Canon Claire, on Sunday 26 October. Please bring a dog or a friend, or both! Meet at the War Memorial outside of the church at 1500. After the walk there will be refreshments and a pet blessing in the church. *Pat Chinneck, Churchwarden*



CHRISTIAN AID 80TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT: A special event will be taking place at Worcester Cathedral's Old Palace on Saturday 22 November, between 1400 and 1600, to mark Christian Aid's 80th anniversary. The Cathedral has invited Christian Aid's Chief Executive Officer, Patrick Watt to speak about Christian Aid's 80 year journey and the work it is currently engaged in. There will be a Q&A session after the talk as well as live music and sharing of perspectives on volunteering for Christian Aid locally. The event is free but those keen to attend are asked to book in advance as places will be limited. If you are keen to attend this very special occasion, please do so via [Eventbrite](#). *Paul Robert, Christian Aid Volunteer Speaker who many of you will remember preached at the Abbey's Sung Eucharist in May.*

ALL SOULS' SERVICE

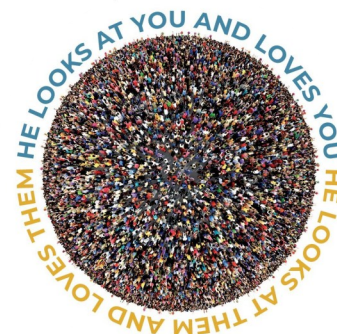
This year's All Souls' service will take place at Pershore Abbey on 2 November at 1700. We are in the process of writing to those who have been bereaved in the last eighteen months and sharing with them that their loved one's name will be remembered at this quiet and reflective service. If your bereavement is from earlier and you would like your loved one to be remembered please let the office know, preferably by email by 27 October to office@pershoreabbey.org.uk. There will also be sheets at the back of our churches over the coming weeks if you prefer to leave names that way. This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel for those who are unable to attend in person. You are also very welcome to come into the Abbey to light your own candle for a loved one at any time. *Claire*



PRISONS WEEK AND PRISONS SUNDAY

“If prayer truly works, if our weak human rambling to God actually changes things, then we must call believing people to pray, and together we much pray for change where change is needed most.”

Many things in life can bind us, fear, anger, abuse, rejection or shame. And this is as true for those held in prison as those who are not. And unless that bondage is addressed, the consequences can be dark. Hopelessness and helplessness can overwhelm, destructive behaviour continues unchecked - an imprisonment of body and soul. As we mark Prisons Week 2025, let us break those chains.

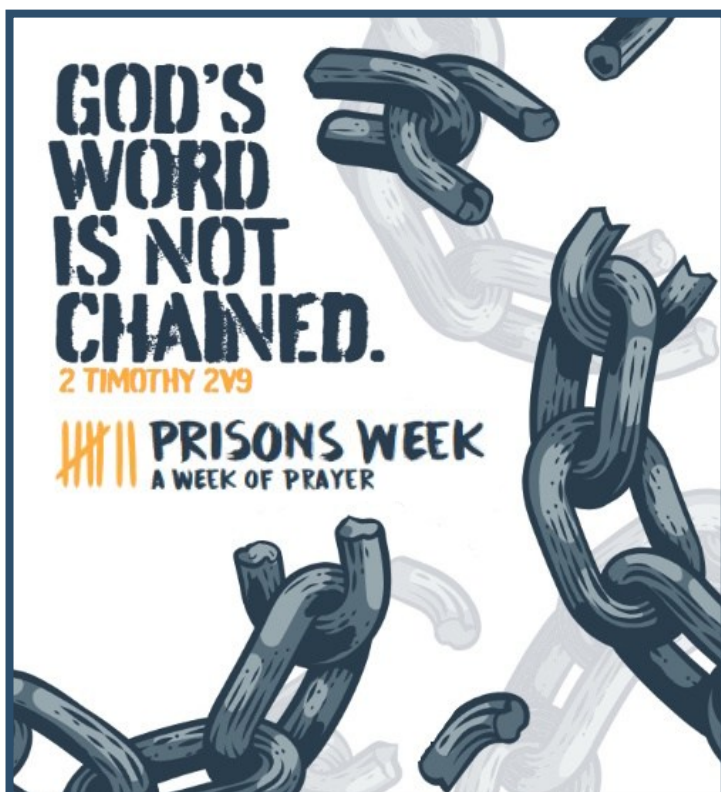


You can read full transcripts from people who have worked in or been caught up in the justice system at prisonsweek.org detailing their experience of having chains broken by God's grace. Reading them provides encouragement not to give up, to know we are loved by God and can be restored by those who love us and the communities we live in. So, join us in prayer, give thanks for God's grace and mercy and share God's work. Join us in this effort to approach God boldly that his unchained word might bring freedom to victims of crime, perpetrators, judges, prison officers, and prisoners.

The Abbey's Prison Sunday service will be at 1030 on 12 October when Mathew Farrow, Chaplain at HMP Eastwood Park, Gloucester, will be preaching.



Pershore Abbey is an active member of The Welcome Directory, a charity seeking to help faith communities to become even better at welcoming people who leave prison.



THE PRISONS WEEK PRAYER

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.

Amen.

PERSHORE ABBEY ECO CHURCH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We would be very grateful for willing 'Weedy Pick' volunteers for just one hour on Saturday 11 October to remove some of the weeds in the paths around the Abbey and St Andrew's. Meet at 1000 at the Abbey West entrance and bring your gardening gloves and any useful tools. The plan is to work in pairs for a more social and productive time!



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 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 ECO CHURCH MEETING:

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM

Please come and join us!

AID TO UKRAINE

Thanks to a member of the Abbey community, we have become aware of an ongoing programme sending essential items to Ukraine, to ease the terrible conditions under which both military and civilians are living as a consequence of the war. We would like to support this programme, especially at this time of year as winter draws nearer and living conditions become even harder. We are therefore inviting donations of items in the following areas:

- Over the counter medicines (e.g. Pain killers, insect repellent, foot treatments)
- Tinned Food (Soup, meat, fish), Tea and Coffee (not in glass jars), Energy bars
- Clothing for troops (New Thick socks, Underwear)
- Baby items (Baby milk, Baby food, clothes in good condition, including knitted items, baby blankets, Nappies)

We are aware this appeal coincides with our usual Shoebox Appeal, which we do not want to detract from so, although toiletries are needed in Ukraine we are not including them in this appeal as they are always an important item in the Shoeboxes. There will be a box for donations in the Abbey from 12 October until 15 November, or contact Martin or Hilary Fowler on 01386 552243 if you would like anything collected. Our donations will be delivered to the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester and transported immediately to Ukraine. Please support this one-off appeal and show our Christian support to a population enduring terrible hardships forced upon them by unprovoked aggression. Thank you. *Martin Fowler*

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY - RAISING AWARENESS



Child Brain Injury Trust
hope for tomorrow - today

GLOWEEK 2025

20th - 26th
OCTOBER 2025


JOIN OUR
ANNUAL
ROAD
SAFETY
AWARENESS
CAMPAIGN

MAKE A
PLEDGE

SPREAD
AWARENESS

SNAP A
PICTURE

www.childbraininjurytrust.org.uk



Postural Tachycardia Syndrome

POTS UK

Awareness Day: 25th October

www.potsuk.org

LIGHTING UP THE ABBEY

On Wednesday 15 October, we will be lighting up the Abbey in pink to support Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, as part of Baby Loss Awareness Week.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day and Baby Loss Awareness Week are an opportunity to bring people together as a community and give anyone touched by pregnancy and baby loss a safe and supportive space to share their experiences and feel that they are not alone.

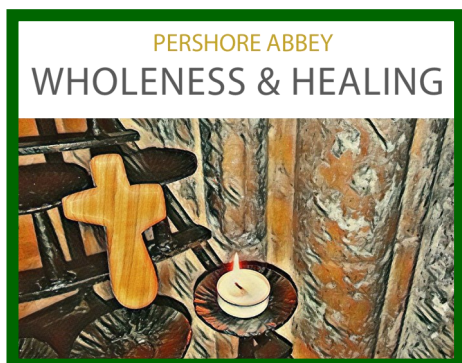
If you or someone you know is affected by loss, take care of yourselves and know that we are here for you now and throughout the year.

You are not alone.



www.babyloss-awareness.org

REGULAR SERVICES



NEXT SERVICES:

**SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER & SUNDAY 09 NOVEMBER
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY**

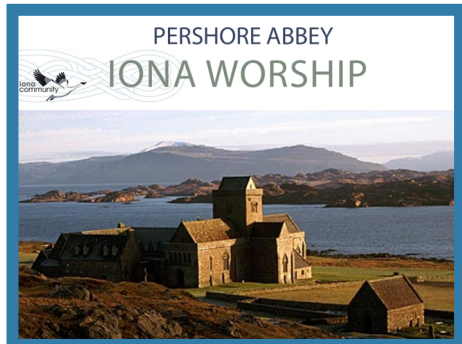
We also offer the opportunity to receive the ministry of healing prayers with two of the Wholeness & Healing team in the St John Chapel after communion has been received at every 3rd Sunday 1030 Eucharist



NEXT SERVICES:

**SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER & SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER
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 26 OCTOBER & SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER
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 REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

The following services will be taking place across the Benefice to remember and honour the lives of those who have fallen in conflict:

| | | |
|-----------------------|------|--------------------|
| St Nicholas', Pinvin | 1030 | Sunday 09 November |
| Pershore Abbey | 1040 | Sunday 09 November |
| St Mary's, Wick | 1500 | Sunday 09 November |
| St James', Birlingham | 1045 | Monday 11 November |



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

PERSHORE FOODBANK

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

We are happy to be able to continue to offer emergency relief to the people of Pershore and the surrounding villages, due in no small part to the continued generosity of our wonderful donors. The Harvest Festival has yielded some lovely, thoughtful donations and our stalwart volunteers are busy sorting and labelling everything so that we can make sure to put it all to best use. We are always in need of regular donations as well: staples such as pasta, cereal, canned goods and biscuits are very helpful. We also have a use for packet soups and noodles; these ready-made items may not be nutritionally the best option but we really

do look after a few people who have no better cooking facilities than a kettle.

I'm a little embarrassed to mention Christmas so soon but it really helps us to have special donations come in nice and early. If you are organising a Christmas collection for the Foodbank this year, then getting the supplies to us by early to mid November would be a godsend. We are always happy to talk about our work, either to individuals or groups. Do get in touch using the details below if you any queries or if you or anyone you know is interested in joining us.

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

HARVEST DONATIONS

Items kindly donated at the Harvest Services taking place at Pershore Abbey, St Mary's, Wick and St Nicholas', Pinvin will all be donated to Pershore Foodbank

ALL DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED



PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

OCTOBER 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 5 OCTOBER

Trinity 16 / Fairtrade Sunday

0800 Eucharist

1030 Harvest All Age Eucharist *with*

Livestream

1700 Evensong

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

Trinity 17 / Prisons Sunday

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

Trinity 18

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER

Bible Sunday

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

1130 Harvest Festival

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER

1030 Harvest Holy Communion

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

1030 Sunday Praise

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER

1500 Autumn Walk Around Birlingham

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 9 FOR OTHER REGULAR SERVICES
AND OUR REMEMBRANCE SERVICES**

ORGAN RECITALS

Everyone is welcome to attend one of this month's Organ Recitals at Pershore Abbey.

They will be taking place on

SUNDAY 12 AND SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER
1400 - 1500

Director of Music, James MacDowall-Scott will be performing a selection of varied organ works to suit all tastes and ages.

Admission is free,
with a retiring collection.



PERSHORE ABBEY CONCERTS & EVENTS

A Celebration of the Life of Gordon Hartley-Bennett



Pershore Abbey, Church Walk, Pershore, WR10 1BL

Date: Saturday 18th October 2025
Concert Starts at: 7:30pm

An evening to reflect on Gordon's passion for music, words, friendship, and community.

Ticket Price
£12
+booking fee



Tickets available from
www.ticketsource.co.uk
0333 666 4466

COME AND SING HAYDN
11 OCTOBER 1400 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

**MEMORIAL CONCERT FOR
GORDON HARTLEY-BENNETT**
18 OCTOBER 1930 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

**PHILOMUSICA OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
AND WORCESTERSHIRE
CHORAL CONCERT**
25 OCTOBER 1930 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

**WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA AUTUMN CONCERT**
08 NOVEMBER 1430 AT
PERSHORE ABBEY



www.pershoreabbey.co.uk