

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

March 2026

Welcome to our first Monthly Edition of 2026

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

CONGREGATE AND CELEBRATE: Now we have reached the season of Lent, a time of reflection, renewal and intentionality, we invite you to join us not only in prayer but also in celebration. Let us pause, examine our hearts and recommit to growth and compassion, as we journey towards Easter. Let us celebrate our faith, reach out to those who may need a helping hand, and feel strengthened by those around us. There is much to look forward to in the coming weeks, with services and activities taking place throughout the Benefice during Holy Week and Easter, Mothering Sunday on 15 March and of course the installation of Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury on 25 March, at Canterbury Cathedral. Join us as we congregate and celebrate our faith.



IN THIS EDITION:

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES - EARTH HOUR - ORGAN RECITALS - HOLY WEEK 2026

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

LENT IN THE PERSHORE BENEFICE



As well as our Benefice Lent services and activities, there are also the following events planned with Churches Together in Pershore (CTiP) throughout Lent 2026:



CTiP LENTEN LUNCHES

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT 1200-1330 - PERSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

Join us for hearty soup and a roll. All welcome.

Wednesday 4 March, Wednesday 11 March and Wednesday 18 March

CTiP LENT TALKS

A series of talks entitled 'Come Together - Same But Different'. Hear from the different churches in our Churches Together group and discover how each church worships, what traditions it believes are important and how it reaches out and supports its congregation and the wider community. Each talk will take place 1930-2030:

5 MARCH - PERSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

at Pershore Baptist Church, Broad Street, Pershore

12 MARCH - HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH

at Holy Redeemer Church, Priest Lane, Pershore

19 - MARCH PERSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH

at The Banking Hall, High Street, Pershore

26 MARCH - TOGETHER WITH GOD - ALL FOUR CHURCHES

at St Andrew's Centre, Church Walk, Pershore

LENT & HOLY WEEK COMPLINE BY ZOOM

This quiet and reflective service will last half an hour will be held every Monday during Lent, and Monday 30 March, Tuesday 31 March, and Wednesday 1 April in Holy Week, 1900 on Zoom. Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a zoom link each week.

MOTHERING SUNDAY



Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and is traditionally the day people visited the church they were baptised in and which they honour their mother. Let's celebrate all mother figures and our mother church this Mothering Sunday, 15 March:

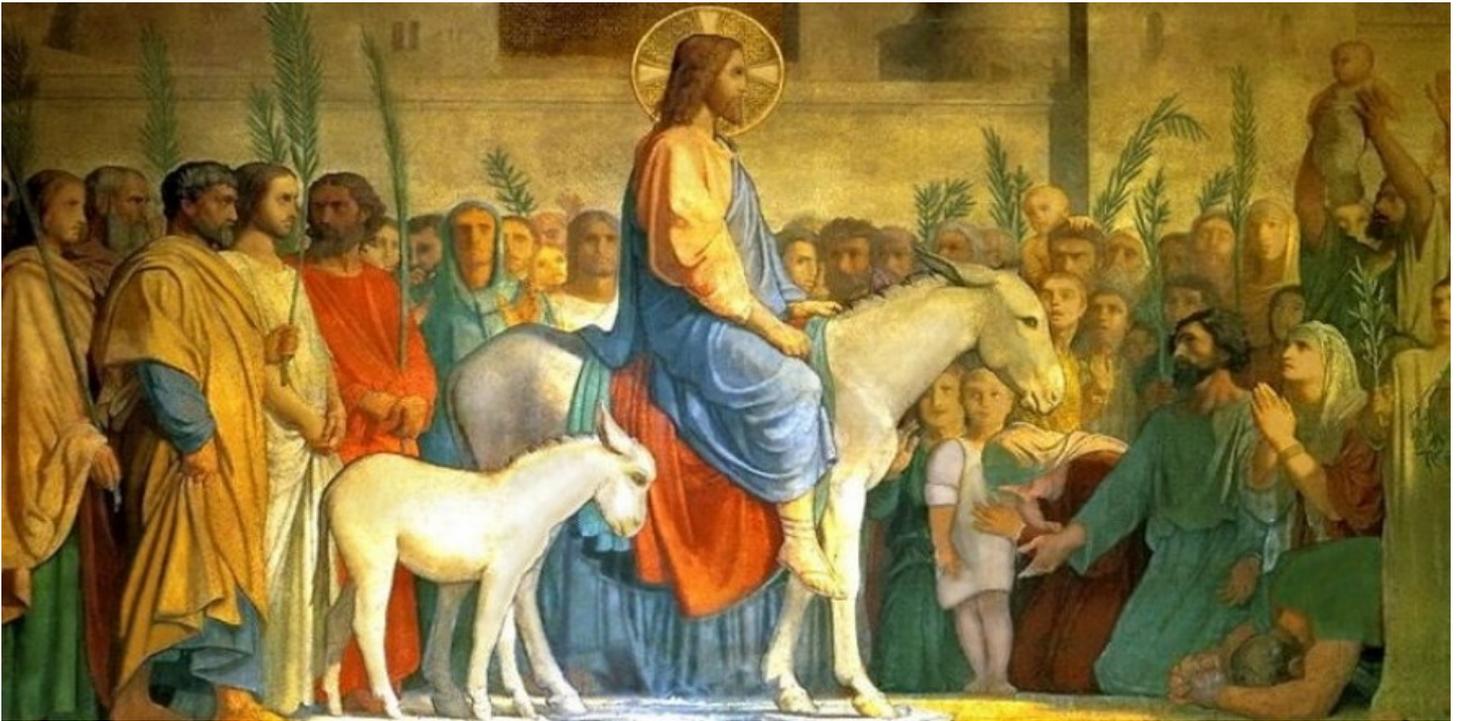
1030 All Age Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

1030 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

PASSIONTIDE AND HOLY WEEK

Passion Sunday is the fifth Sunday in Lent, marking the beginning of Passiontide. The preparations for our Easter celebrations go up a gear as we start to focus on the events that led up to Jesus' death and ultimately his glorious resurrection. We journey with Jesus from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem and share in the foot washing and sharing of love at the Last Supper. We are there when Jesus is betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and when he dies on a cross and is laid in the tomb. The Church invites everyone to re-enact Jesus' last days and celebrate the joy of the first Easter morning and the new life given to us. Everyone is of course welcome to attend our services. If you would like to take a more active part, please see the sign up sheets in the Abbey.



MINISTRY NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: As you may know Terry Palmer will be Ordained on Sunday 28 June this year at 1030 in Worcester Cathedral. I am sure that many of us will want to join Terry on this joyous occasion. We will be running a coach to the service from the Abbey. This will leave at 0915 and return from the Cathedral itself at 1300. The fare will be £10 return, and a booking form will be available nearer the time. In the meantime, please save the date in your diaries. *Peter Stansbie, Honorary Bus Monitor*

ABBEY PARISH COFFEE MORNING: This month's Abbey Parish Coffee Morning will be taking place at St Andrew's Centre between 1030 and 1200 on Saturday 21 March. Run by a different group each month, this month it will be the Abbey Choir, so there may even be a sing along with a cuppa and cake! *Jane Knox*

ABBEY WALKING CHURCH: Come and join this new way of being Church! Meet at the West end of the Abbey at 1400 on Saturday 21 March 2026. We will take a very gentle walk, stopping every now and then to think about God and explore what faith might mean. Refreshments afterwards. All welcome, including four legged companions.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WICK

GOING, GOING, GONE: The Friends of St Mary's Church, Wick, are thrilled to announce that they will be holding a Promises Auction on Saturday 7 March at Wick Club, Main Street, Wick. All funds raised on the evening will go to The Friends of St Mary's Church Kitchenette and Toilet Project. There will be 34 Lots on the night offering an exciting range of items including:

- 2 night midweek break in one of the Hobbit Pods at Bredon View Glamping Retreat
- A number of original watercolours
- Golf Lesson at Evesham Golf Club with a qualified PGA Professional, Rob Steele
- 2 opportunities to have a 4-course dinner with 2 of our Village Chefs
- A cruise along the River Avon for 4
- Tickets to one of the Confetti Field Concerts
- A range of fitness and activity sessions for the kids and adults!
- Coffee, Cakes, Flowers, Beauty Treatments, Gardening, Ironing, Knitting, and more!

Nicholas Granger of British Bespoke Auctions - and also St Mary's Churchwarden - has generously offered his services as our professional and charismatic Auctioneer for the evening. We'd love to see you there for what 'promises' to be a fantastic evening. Bidding starts at 1930 prompt, so get there early, or risk your Lot being gone, gone, gone!



APCM MEETINGS IN THE BENEFICE

In April and May we will be holding meetings to elect churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meetings for each parish. These 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 them.

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. If you think this could be you please speak to me or an existing churchwarden for more details. The meetings will be taking place: 1900, 5 May (Pershore Abbey), 1030, 11 May (Birlingham), 1930, 26 March (Pinvin), and 1800, 23 March (Wick). Thank you. *Claire.*

FLAG DAYS

Ever wondered why the Abbey flags are flying on certain days? For the curious minded, here are the flags that will be flying and why:

Sunday 1 March

Union Flag - Saint David's Day

Tuesday 10 March

Union Flag - Commonwealth Day

Tuesday 17 March

Union Flag - St Patrick's Day

Wednesday 25 March

St George's Cross - Annunciation Day

Sunday 29 March

St George's Cross - Palm Sunday

Sunday 5 April

St George's Cross - Easter Octave



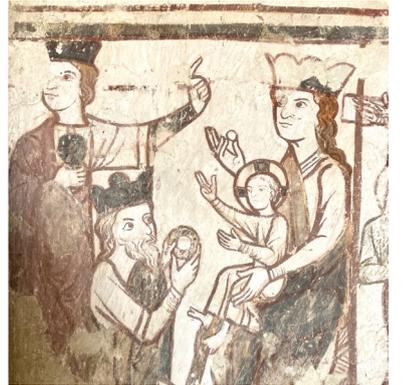
ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, PINVIN

GREETINGS FROM ST NICHOLAS': We are very excited to announce that St Nicholas Church, Pinvin, has produced a series of greetings cards, each featuring points of interest from our 11th century church. The greetings cards are available in handy packs of 4 (2 cards, 2 designs), and there are two different packs available. The packs are available from the bookstall at Pershore Abbey and will be available at St Nicholas' during services. It is hoped the cards will also be available at other outlets soon - we will keep you posted.

The project is designed to raise funds to help support the church and was the inspiration of the church's PCC members. As well as each card highlighting special features within the church, including its renowned wall paintings, beautifully carved font cover, fascinating floor tiles and decorative communion altar, each card also holds the opportunity to learn a little more about the church - on the reverse there is a QR code which, when scanned, takes you to an information

guide. So, if you would like to know about the church's stained glass windows, find out what is depicted in the wall paintings, or indeed how Pevsner described the church's Bellcote, scan the QR code!

We hope you will support our fund raising project by purchasing some of our quality greetings cards to send to friends and family - they really are top notch! *John Kemp, Churchwarden*



ST JAMES' CHURCH, BIRLINGHAM

FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING: St James', Birlingham is holding a Fairtrade Coffee Morning on Sunday 8 March at 1100 and you will be welcomed with a Fairtrade coffee and biscuits on arrival. There will be a short talk about Fairtrade by Hilary Fowler and the opportunity to purchase a variety of Fairtrade items including Easter gifts, cards and a variety of food stuffs from around the world. Hope to see you there. *Adrienne Woodward, Churchwarden*



Pershore Benefice Easter 2026

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday 29 March

0800 BCP Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

1000 Palm Sunday Procession on Abbey Park to Abbey Meet at St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road crossroads. Come and join us singing and drumming to the Abbey.

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

1700 Stainer's Crucifixion with the Pershore Abbey Choir (*Pershore Abbey*)

Monday in Holy Week 30 March

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a Zoom link

Tuesday In Holy Week 31 March

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a Zoom link

Wednesday in Holy Week 1 April

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a Zoom link

Maundy Thursday 2 April

2000 Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars

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

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 3 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 the 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 4 April

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

This service will last approximately one hour.

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Daily Offices will also continue to be observed as usual

01386 552071

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk



Pershore Benefice

STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

with the Pershore Abbey Choir

Conductor: Paul Trepte Organist : James MacDowall-Scott



Ted Degracia

Sunday 29 March

1700

Pershore Abbey - Free Entry

The Pershore Abbey Choir will be performing Stainer's Crucifixion this year as part of the reflections and meditations of Holy Week. This work presents a dramatic picture of the events leading up to the Crucifixion.

Pershore Benefice

HOLY WEEK COMPLINE BY ZOOM



MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
IN HOLY WEEK
1900 on ZOOM

An opportunity to share in the quiet and peace of Compline during Holy Week, with a reflection.

This half-hour night service will take place via Zoom

Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a Zoom link each week

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Pershore Abbey

GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY DAY



Friday 3 April

1000 -1415

St Andrew's Centre

Enjoy Easter themed activities and crafts including:

- Baking
- Creating an Easter Garden
- Telling the Easter Story
- & Much More...

No Cost - Donations Welcome

Booking Essential

Spaces are limited so reserve your place from 16 March

Booking and information: Suzanne Clarke on 01386 553293

Pershore Benefice

EASTER DAY 5 APRIL 2026



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)

ALL WELCOME

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

01386 552071
www.pershoreabbey.org.uk



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK



At Pershore Foodbank we continue to provide support for families and individuals who are experiencing some sort of crisis in their financial situation and find themselves without sufficient funds to buy enough to eat. Alongside providing this immediate support, we work with clients towards solutions for their most pressing needs in order that they may manage without our help. Many of the people that we see never thought that they would find themselves in such need. The number of times people access the food bank is on average less than 2.5 per individual.

The quantity of donations which we receive at our permanent collection points and from individual members of the community remains fairly reliable although the last three years have seen a need for us to increase the amount of bought-in supplies as grocery costs have risen so sharply. Looking to the future; there is a great deal of uncertainty around the proposed restructuring of the various Worcestershire councils and important sources of finance such as the Household Support Fund may no longer be available to us. Pershore has always proved to be an extremely generous community and so, rather than simply asking for greater donations, we would be very grateful for any suggestions as to fund-raising projects or partnership ventures.

The Pershore Foodbank operates out of the St Andrew's Centre (opposite the Abbey) in Church Walk. **We are open on Tuesdays from 1100 to 1300 and Fridays from 1300 to 1500.** A representative from Citizens Advice is available for a private chat during the Friday Session. Donations may be left in our collection box at the back of the Abbey or dropped off at St Andrew's Centre during one of our open sessions. Permanent collection points are also available the Coop, Asda, Aldi, Tesco or Cost Cutter.

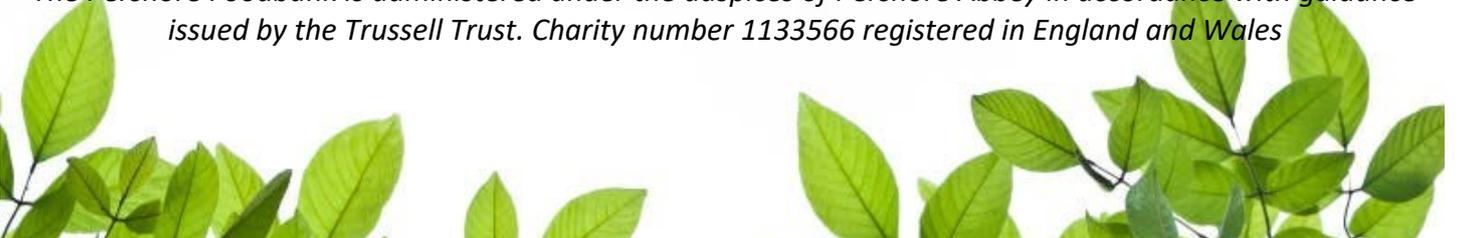


Email: info@pershore.foodbank.org.uk (Bank details available on request)

Telephone number: 01386 555347

Post: Pershore Abbey and Benefice Office, 11 Broad Street, Pershore, WR10 1BB

The Pershore Foodbank is administered under the auspices of Pershore Abbey in accordance with guidance issued by the Trussell Trust. Charity number 1133566 registered in England and Wales



EARTH HOUR 2026

This year Earth Hour 2026 will take place on Saturday 28 March from 2030-2130, marking the event's 20th anniversary. Earth Hour is a global environmental movement organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) that encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential lights for one hour to raise awareness about climate change and environmental degradation. The event began in 2007 in Sydney, Australia, and has since grown to include participation from over 152 countries worldwide.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Switch off your lights on 28.03.26 to show your support for the planet.

GET INVOLVED

Engage in activities that promote sustainability, such as planting trees, reducing waste, or advocating for environmental policies.

SPREAD THE WORD

Share your participation on social media to inspire others and raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment.

www.wwf.org.uk/earth-hour

ABBEY ECO CHURCH

PEREGRINE UPDATE: The magnificent birds can once again be viewed online at www.pershoreabbey.org.uk thanks to our team of volunteers who have recently prepared the nesting box and set-up the cameras. Here's hoping for another successful breeding season. We can also share the news that Henry, one of the male peregrines born at Pershore Abbey in 2024, has recently been spotted at Tewkesbury Abbey.



**NEXT ABBEY
ECO CHURCH MEETING:**

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM
Please come and join!

**NEXT ABBEY
LITTER PICK DATE:**

Join the Abbey Litter Pickers (ALP's)
SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026 1000
Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Equipment Provided

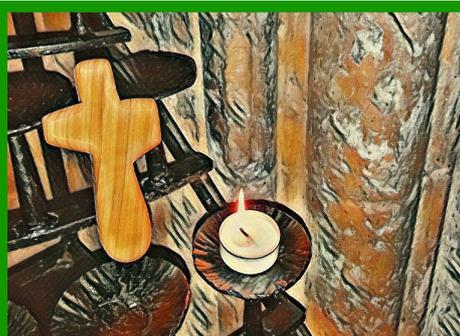
MONTHLY SERVICES



CAFÉ CHURCH

**SUNDAY 8 MARCH & SUNDAY 12 APRIL
0930 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE**

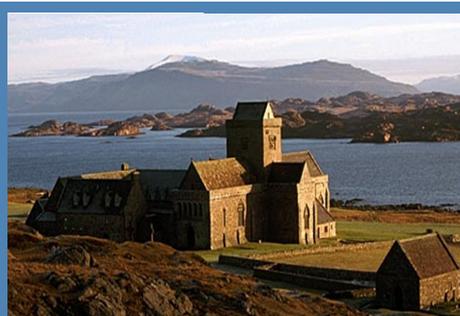
Come and join in with our family friendly and informal café-style worship as we meet for worship, music and refreshments.



WHOLENESS & HEALING

**SUNDAY 8 MARCH & SUNDAY 12 APRIL
1700 AT 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



IONA WORSHIP

**SUNDAY 22 MARCH & SUNDAY 26 APRIL
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY**

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

ORGAN RECITALS



SUNDAY MARCH 8

Sean Maxwell (Vienna and Portugal)

SUNDAY MARCH 15

James MacDowall-Scott (Piano)

SUNDAY APRIL 12

James MacDowall-Scott (Organ)

SUNDAY JUNE 7

Piers Maxim (Great Malvern Priory)

SUNDAY JULY 12

Marion Wilmann (Soprano) and
James MacDowall-Scott (Organ and Piano)

SUNDAY AUGUST 9

Paul Carr (International Concert Organist)

**ALL RECITALS BEGIN AT 1400 AND ARE FREE, WITH
A RETIRING COLLECTION**

ABBEY BOOKSTALL

With Spring just around the corner it is a blessing to feel warmth both inside and outside the Abbey. Despite the heating problems, the volunteers have bravely wrapped up to be there to say hello to visitors and regulars alike, so a big thank you to them.

Ahead of Mothering on 15 March, cards and gifts for the special 'mother figure' in your life are on sale and soon Easter cards will be available. We have restocked a wide range of faith items, including; angels, pocket stones, bookmarks, prayer cards and holding crosses.

As always, I and the team look forward to welcoming you on your visits to the Abbey. If you would like to know more about becoming a welcomer, we have a get-together at 1400 on 19 March where you can find out more. Or, you can phone me on 07858 506218 or email me at [persshoreabbeybookstall@gmail.com](mailto:pershoreabbeybookstall@gmail.com) *Sally Whyte, Bookstall Coordinator*



ABBEY CONCERTS



SATURDAY 07 MARCH 1900

Pershore Rotary Jazz Concert

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 1430

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra Spring Concert

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 1500

Jenny Lind Singers Spring Concert

FRIDAY 10 APRIL 1900 & 2100

Lumos Candlelight Concert - Vivaldi & Mozart

FOR MORE DETAILS: WWW.PERSHOREABBEY.ORG.UK

PERSHORE ABBEY AND ST ANDREW'S (PASA)

Have you ever thought of joining the team that serves refreshments following the Sunday 1030 services?

We are seeking new members to join the rota, to serve on one Sunday every 4-5 weeks, either to help with hot drinks and biscuits, or to do the dishwasher duty (catering style machine, 4 mins cycle, training given).

Should you feel you'd like to offer assistance with this important part of fellowship at the Abbey, please contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776 for further details. Thank you.



PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

MARCH 2026

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 1 MARCH

LENT 2

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1500 Pershore Civic Service

SUNDAY 8 MARCH

LENT 3

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 15 MARCH

MOTHERING SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

1030 All Age Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 22 MARCH

PASSION SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

SUNDAY 29 MARCH

PALM SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

1000 Procession on Abbey Park to Abbey

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Stainer's Crucifixion

SUNDAY 5 APRIL

EASTER DAY

0600 Dawn Eucharist

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 8 MARCH

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 15 MARCH

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 22 MARCH

1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 29 MARCH

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist at Pershore Abbey *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 5 APRIL

0900 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 1 MARCH

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 15 MARCH

1030 Sunday Praise

SUNDAY 29 MARCH

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist at Pershore Abbey *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 5 APRIL

1030 Holy Communion

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 29 MARCH

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist at Pershore Abbey *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 5 APRIL

1030 Holy Communion

PLEASE SEE PAGES 6 & 7 FOR OUR EASTER SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES