

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

April 2026

Welcome to the April 2026 Monthly Edition!

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

EASTERTIDE: Eastertide is a festal season and focuses on celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Preceded by Lent, it begins on Easter Day. There are several Eastertide customs, some of which we participate in here in the Pershore Benefice including the 0600 Dawn Eucharist at the Abbey on Easter Day, the decorating of the Abbey with Easter lilies, a symbol of resurrection, and of course the decorating (and eating) of Easter eggs, a symbol of the empty tomb. Eastertide lasts 50 days, concluding on the day of Pentecost. Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ encourages us to be thankful for our faith and the guidance it provides. It also offers us hope, and demonstrates that hope can bloom in the most remarkable ways.



IN THIS EDITION:

EASTER WREATH DISPLAY - VOCATIONS SUNDAY - DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERT

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

EASTER DAY

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Join us on Easter Day as we celebrate, throughout the Benefice, the resurrection of Christ:

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*)

Join us in church or online this Easter.

To view our livestreamed services, visit www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

EASTER AT THE ABBEY

EASTER WREATHS DISPLAY: When passing, be sure to call into the Abbey this Easter to see the wonderful display of Easter wreaths.

The wreaths, all made by groups connected to the Abbey and St Andrew's Centre, will be on display in the side aisles of the Abbey from Saturday 4 April (Easter Saturday) until Sunday 24 May (Pentecost). The groups participating in this community spirited Easter egg-travaganza include; Babies and Toddlers, Café Church, Abbey Flower Guild, Mothers' Union, Pershore Air Cadets, Pershore and St Andrew's (PASA), u3a Crochet and more. *Sam Andrews*

EASTER LILIES: From Easter Day, the Abbey will be decorated with a display of beautiful lilies in memory of loved ones. Donations have been received and a list those being remembered is on display. Thank you to Mary Cope, a member of the Abbey Flower Guild, for leading this meaningful tradition, reflecting our hope and joy in the resurrection for us all. Donations can still be offered. Please pass to the office or Mary Cope directly. *Claire*



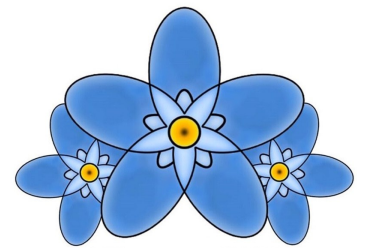
VOCATIONS SUNDAY



Vocations Sunday is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Easter. This year it will be observed on Sunday 26 April and will be the focus at the Abbey's 1030 Eucharist on this day. Vocations Sunday encourages individuals to reflect and discern God's call to various vocations, including religious life, while encouraging all who are discerning their vocation to pray more earnestly that they may hear and respond to God's call. The purpose of this day is to fulfil Jesus' instruction to 'Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest' (Matthew 9:38).

DEMENTIA AWARENESS

With guidance from various dementia and neurodiverse support groups, we are introducing a few changes in the Abbey to become more dementia friendly. You may have noticed we have recently changed the layout of our weekly service sheet and bulletin. These changes have been made to make it easier for everyone to follow and participate in our services. You may also have spotted the dementia friendly logo at the entrances of the Abbey. These are to let visitors know we, as a church, welcome them and are sensitive to their needs.



We have also been working with Elgar Festival and are delighted to be hosting a dementia friendly concert at the Abbey in May. The concert is entitled *Relaxed Concert with English Symphony Orchestra Winds* and will take place at 1430 on Thursday 21 May - Dementia Action Week. It will be an hour-long concert and is suited to those living with dementia and other similar health conditions, adults and children with additional learning needs, their carers, and anybody who wishes to experience classical music in a relaxed and informal environment. Entry is free, though tickets need to be booked in advance from www.elgarfestival.org or by calling 01905 611427. Pershore Rotary will kindly be supplying refreshments for the concert.

GOD TALK

Do you believe in God, and does it matter? Roger Spiller is running a five-week course in Elmley Castle, looking at how we may not think about God in our day-to-day lives, but when our lives are shattered by profound loss or suffering, or conversely, when we are awestruck by a night sky or the birth of a child, we may wonder whether there is a God out there. This course is for people of all persuasions, ranging from those who don't believe or are not sure about the reality of God to those who hold a strong belief in God. The course will take place 1930-2100, starting 15 April, and will take place at Little Comberton Village Hall, Elmley Castle. To register scan the QR code or email acbhteam@gmail.com by 10 April.



BABIES AND TODDLERS

HIGH SHERIFF VISIT: The High Sheriff of Worcestershire, accompanied by the Mayor of Pershore, visited our Babies and Toddlers Group on Friday 13 March. He enjoyed seeing the children, making cards and potting up pansies as gifts for Mothering Sunday.

HELP URGENTLY NEEDED: Babies and Toddlers is a thriving group of 20–25 families that meet on Friday mornings (term time) at St Andrew's Centre, providing play activities for babies and pre-schoolers. It also serves as a friendly support to their parents and other carers. We urgently need extra volunteers for two different roles. One is to help serve teas and coffees to the adults accompanying the children, and to prepare the children's snacks (fruit and biscuits). The other is to help set up child size tables and chairs and play equipment at approximately 0900, and to return at 1130 to help clear away. There is a monthly rota so both roles are for 1 in every 4 Friday mornings. Should you be interested in joining our happy team, or if you would like to know more, please contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776. *Thank you.*



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 5 April

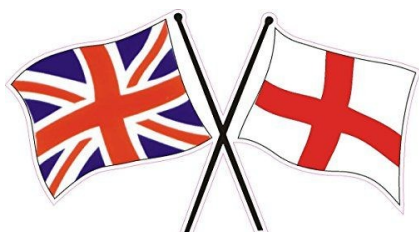
St George's Cross - Easter Octave
(for eight days)

Thursday 23 April

St George's Cross - St George's Day

Wednesday 29 April

Union Flag - Prince and Princess of Wales' Wedding Anniversary



THY KINGDOM COME



Looking ahead to May, we will begin our Thy Kingdom Come 2026 journey with a special Eucharist at the Abbey at 1900 on Thursday 14

May - Ascension Day, marking the moment Jesus ascended into heaven before his disciples at the village of Bethany near Jerusalem. This year Thy Kingdom Come (14-24 May) is all about the presence of God through his spirit. The God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life and the one who, through his spirit, longs to reveal himself to those who do not yet know him. Look out for details in next month's publication as to how you can explore a different bible story each day during the 11 days, each demonstrating God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places.

ABBEY ECO CHURCH

Have you seen them? The peregrines are back, and have started laying eggs. Could this year bring yet another successful breeding season? Without crooking your neck, it isn't easy to watch the peregrines at the top of the Abbey, so why not watch them from the comfort of your home? You can watch them and excitedly wait for the possible hatching of eggs by viewing the livestream. Just visit www.pershoreabbey.org.uk to watch all the action, live, thanks to our team of volunteers.



NEXT ABBEY LITTER PICK DATE:

Join the Abbey Litter Pickers (ALPs)
SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026 1000-1100

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

NEXT ABBEY ECO CHURCH MEETING:

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM

Please come and join us!

PERSHORE ABBEY PCC

We are looking for new members to fill vacancies in the PCC. Members of the PCC have the legal status of trustees of a charity. New members will have to undergo a DBS check and do safeguarding training online. The PCC meets six times per year, normally on Tuesday evenings, plus the APCM. At each meeting the PCC will receive reports on mission, safeguarding, work with children and families, fabric, finance, St Andrew's Centre and Deanery Synod and take decisions arising from these reports. In addition, the PCC holds an annual away day for purposes of planning and reflection.



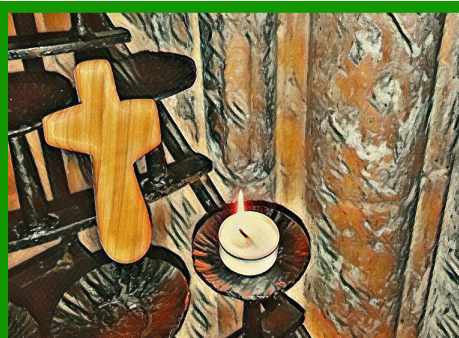
MONTHLY SERVICES



CAFÉ CHURCH

SUNDAY 12 APRIL & SUNDAY 10 MAY
0930 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

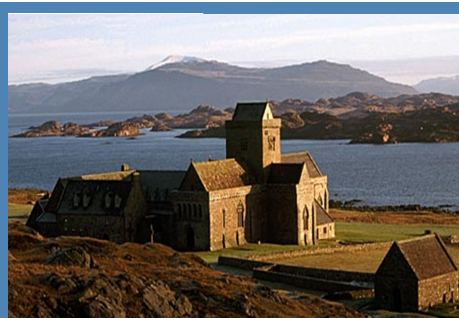
Come and join in with our family friendly and informal café-style worship as we meet for worship, music and refreshments.



WHOLENESS & HEALING

SUNDAY 12 APRIL & SUNDAY 10 MAY
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



IONA WORSHIP

SUNDAY 26 APRIL & SUNDAY 24 MAY
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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

ABBAY ORGAN RECITALS



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*)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25

Richard Walker (*St Chad's, Shrewsbury*)

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

LASTING LEGACY

How you can make a lasting difference to the work of your Church

We want to encourage everyone in our church family, old and young, to make a will, review it regularly and consider leaving a gift to your local church through your will. Many of us give a proportion of our income to support our church every week. But we are stewards of everything we own, not just our income. As Christians, we should consider giving a proportion of all that we have to support the mission of our church too. Writing a will helps secure the future of the people you love. Leaving a gift in your will helps secure our church's future. Think about it; pray about it; talk about it; find out more about it - and then please act upon it! Thank you

Your Will Matters

- Thinking about life after death should not be difficult for Christians! Make sure you are prepared practically as well as spiritually. Whatever your age, write a will and keep it up to date.
- Without a will, your loved ones could face a lot of work and expense after your death, and a court may have to decide how your estate is divided.
- A gift in your will helps our church to live out our dreams and mission in this community.
- It's a way to thank God for all the gifts of life and faith - and to hand them on to future generations.
- Leaving a gift in your will can reduce the amount of inheritance tax payable.

For more information about making a will visit www.churchofengland.org and select *Faith & Life* followed by *A Lasting Gift to Your Church*.

Your Gift

We welcome all legacies, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish.

PCCs generally use legacies to help fund significant development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. Since needs change over the years, you are encouraged to leave a gift for the general purposes of the parish.

PCCs will often discuss with executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and your areas of interest in the church (eg children and youth, music, buildings).

For more information, please read the Legacy leaflet at the back of the Abbey or contact your church treasurer.



“Your, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.”

1 Chronicles 29

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

APRIL 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 5 APRIL

EASTER DAY

0600 Dawn Eucharist

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

No Evensong

SUNDAY 12 APRIL

EASTER 2

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 19 APRIL

EASTER 3

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 26 APRIL

EASTER 4 / VOCATIONS SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1500 St George's Parade Service

1700 Iona Worship

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 5 APRIL

0900 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 12 APRIL

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 26 APRIL

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 5 APRIL

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 19 APRIL

1030 Sunday Praise

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 5 APRIL

1030 Holy Communion

PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 FOR OTHER REGULAR SERVICES