

Welcome to the May 2026 Monthly Edition!

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

ASCENSION DAY: On Thursday 14 May we remember the moment Jesus ascended into heaven, to his Father. Having spent the forty days following his resurrection helping his friends believe that he has risen from the dead and that life for them, and for us who have followed them, is now transformed, that as we share in Jesus' death, we also share in his resurrection. With his work on earth completed, Jesus takes up his place in heaven. There, he prays for us to continue his work. Let us pray for the renewal of our calling to grow Christ's kingdom here on earth and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ascension Day will be marked with a Benefice Sung Eucharist Service in Pershore Abbey at 1900 on Thursday 14 May. *See page 3 for more details.*




IN THIS EDITION:

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - THY KINGDOM COME - DEMENTIA AWARENESS FESTIVAL


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

MINISTRY NEWS

REVD JAYNE PARKER TO BE LICENSED AS ASSOCIATE PRIEST: Jayne has successfully completed her curacy with flying colours so is now able to move on to the next chapter of her ministry. We are delighted that Jayne is to be licensed by Archdeacon Mark as an Associate Priest in the Benefice on 20 May at the 1000 Midweek Communion. Jayne wanted to have her licensing as part of this quieter service to reflect that her valuable ministry within the Benefice is continuing. She will offer the same amount of time to the Benefice as she has been doing as she continues to work at QinetiQ. Please remember Jayne in your prayers as we give thanks for all that she shares with us. *Claire*

PERSHORE ABBEY APCM AND ST ANDREW'S PARISH TRUST AGM: The Pershore Abbey APCM and the St Andrew's AGM for 2026 will take place at 1900 on Tuesday 5 May at St Andrew's Centre. The APCM booklet and full set of accounts are available on our website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk Hardcopies can be obtained from the Abbey Office and a printed copy is available to view on the Abbey noticeboard. 

GOODBYE TO TERRY PALMER: Terry's last service with us, before he leaves to prepare for his ordination and new parish, will be the Abbey's 1030 Sung Eucharist on Sunday 14 June. Please pray for Terry and Jodie as they take this exciting step.

INVITATION FOR A WALK: You are warmly invited to join Terry Palmer for a walk from Pershore Abbey to Worcester Cathedral on Wednesday 3 June, starting at 0900. This pre-ordination walk is inspired by Archbishop Sarah Mullally's walk from London to Canterbury earlier this year. The route is approximately 9.3 miles long and should take around three and a half hours. The aim is to arrive at the Cathedral in good time for the midweek Holy Communion service at 1300. The plan is to travel home by bus afterwards. For more information or to join in please either call Terry on 07775847372 or email at t_d_p@icloud.com 

ENJOY A SPRING WALK AROUND BIRLINGHAM: An invitation is extended to all to join us for St James' annual Spring Walk Around Birlingham on Sunday 17 May led by Canon Claire, plus dog! The walk starts at the War Memorial on the village green at 1500. Do bring your dog, a friend, or both! Refreshments, for both dog and human, and dog blessings, will be provided in the church afterwards. *Adrienne Woodward, Churchwarden*



THY KINGDOM COME 2026



Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since it began in May 2016, Thy Kingdom Come has grown from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, across 85 different denominations and traditions. Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way. It is hoped that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. Whether you have joined in before or not, we invite you to take part in this year's Thy Kingdom Come, from 14 until 24 May 2026.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE - THURSDAY 14 MAY

We begin Thy Kingdom Come 2026 with a special service to remember the moment Jesus ascended into heaven before his disciples. We will be coming together for an Ascension Day Benefice Sung Eucharist Service at 1900 at Pershore Abbey. All welcome.

NOVENA PRAYER - FRIDAY 15 MAY-SUNDAY 24 MAY

During the Novena (a nine day period of prayer) we shall be holding Zoom services so we can join with others in the Benefice and across the world, praying for the Holy Spirit to come. The services will start at 1900 and will last 10-15 minutes. If you'd like to join this on any of the days, please email Claire on vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a Zoom link.

RESOURCES

Copies of Thy Kingdom Come resources can be downloaded from www.thykingdomcome.global or by clicking on the following links:

[11-Day Prayer Adventure for Children](#)

[Novena Prayer Booklet](#)

[Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Journal](#)

Hard copies of the Novena Prayer booklet and the Prayer Journal will be available in the Abbey from Sunday 3 May.

'To pray is to share every part of yourself and your life with God. To pray together is to share our lives with God and in the work of God; moving closer to God, to each other and the world. Let us pray together Thy Kingdom Come.'

Archbishop Sarah Mullally

MONTHLY SERVICES



CAFÉ CHURCH

SUNDAY 10 MAY & SUNDAY 14 JUNE

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.

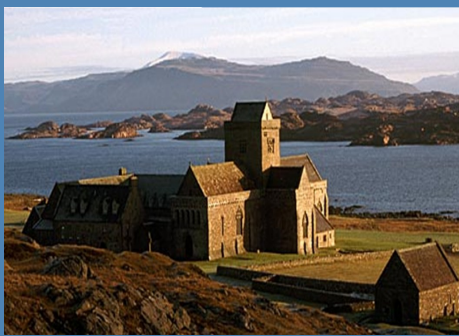


WHOLENESS & HEALING

SUNDAY 10 MAY & SUNDAY 14 JUNE

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 24 MAY & SUNDAY 28 JUNE

1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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

BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST

Join us as we come together for a special Benefice Sung Eucharist on Trinity Sunday. The service is being held at St James', Birlingham at 1030 on Sunday 31 May. The coming together of congregations from Pershore Abbey, St Nicholas', Pinvin and St Mary's, Wick. to gather at St James' Birlingham, brings together the Pershore Benefice. James MacDowall-Scott,



Director of Music, will be playing the organ and the Abbey Choir will also be in attendance. Refreshments will be available after the service, providing the perfect opportunity to chat and meet fellow worshippers. The only service being livestreamed at the Abbey on this particular Sunday will be the 0800 Eucharist. *Claire*

PLEASE SEE PAGE 12 FOR MAY'S SUNDAY SERVICES

TAKING CHURCH OUTSIDE

ABBEY WALKING CHURCH: Come along at 1400 on Saturday 23 May and join this outdoors way of being Church! Meeting at the West end of the Abbey, we will take a gentle walk, stopping every now and then to think about God and explore what faith might mean. Refreshments will be available in St Andrew's Centre afterwards. Everyone is welcome, including four legged companions. *Claire*

OUTDOOR SERVICE IN THE PARK: Join us for a special Morning Praise Outdoor Service in Abbey Park at 1030 on Sunday 24 May, by the wild flower meadow. The service will be part of the Fun at the Abbey event, aimed at encouraging everyone in the area to meet and make new friends. Following the service there will be games for all ages from 1130, and a bring your own picnic from 1200. Everyone is welcome to come along, to the service, the games, or the picnic - hopefully all three!

AVON RIVER DAY: As part of The Great Big Green Week we are joining up with churches along the River Avon to celebrate and to pray for God's blessing over the river. Tewkesbury Abbey have done this for several years and have encouraged us all to take part this year. Hopefully this will be the start of a tradition that we can continue for many years too! Come and join this simple service which will take place on the Old Bridge at 1430 on June 14. *Claire*



ABBHEY ECO CHURCH

LIVING A LOW CARBON LIFESTYLE TALK: There is a Living a Low Carbon Lifestyle talk at the Old Palace, near Worcester Cathedral at 1400 on Saturday 16 May. This session looks at the practical ways in which we can reduce our personal carbon footprints, so helping alleviate the climate crisis. For more information or to reserve a place, either visit Eventbrite or click [here](#).



VISIT TO WICK CARE FARM: A visit to Wick Care Farm will be taking place at 1400 on Saturday 30 May. Using its farm and animals to help nurture clients over time to realise their potential, Wick Care Farm supports people like Amy, a withdrawn youngster who has gained enough social and self confidence to go to University. Learn more about the 270 acre environmentally conscious farm on a trailer ride with Tom Meikle, and hear how the inspiration was made real from Isobel Meikle. The land is flat but a bit uneven, any mobility scooters or wheelchairs will need careful control. There are 20 places available. To book a place, please email ecochurch@persshoreabbey.org



The team at Wick Care Farm

GETTING INVOLVED: If you are interested in taking care of the environment you live and worship in, why not join one of our Eco Church activities? We are a friendly group and always welcome new helpers! Here are our next activities:

**NEXT ABBHEY
ECO CHURCH MEETING:**

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2026 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM
Please come and join us!

**NEXT ABBHEY
WEEDY PICK DATE:**

SATURDAY 30 MAY 2026 1000-1100
Help us keep the paths around the Abbey and St Andrew's Centre tidy and presentable. Meet at the West End of the Abbey. Please bring gloves and any tools that you think would be helpful

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY

Christian Aid Week is our shared moment to come together and stand alongside people living in poverty. With the need for humanitarian aid, support to tackle poverty and campaigns to fight its root causes, the money raised in Christian Aid Week is vital. The slashing of aid budgets and cost of living crisis makes the need even greater. Please pray for all involved, and please support Christian Aid, if you can.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

COLLECTION: There will be a 'delivery only' house collection again this year. Envelopes are delivered during Christian Aid Week to as many houses throughout the Benefice as possible and these have information of nearby addresses where donations can be returned. If you would consider delivering to houses near you and being a collection address please contact Sarah Thomson on 561057.

SUNG EUCHARIST: The Abbey's Sung Eucharist at 1030 on Sunday 10 May will include a focus on Christian Aid Week. It will provide an opportunity to pray for those in need. Whether attending in person or online, join us and thousands of people across Britain and Ireland as we pray together - our prayers can make a difference.

ABBEY PARISH COFFEE MORNING: May's Abbey Parish Coffee Morning at 0930-1130 on Saturday 16 May in St Andrew's Centre is in aid of Christian Aid. Please come along and bring friends and neighbours. There will be a raffle, refreshments, a Good Read bookstall and a plant stall. Any donations would be appreciated.



A Prayer for Christian Aid Week:

God our Mother and Father,
we praise you for the blessings
you shower upon us.
Bless the lives of our sisters and
brothers and their precious children.
In life's saddest moments, may we
feel your love most, O Jesus.
Continue to dwell in our hearts, Lord.
May your love keep us strong.
Amen.



PERSHORE DEMENTIA AWARENESS FESTIVAL

Pershore Dementia Awareness Festival is taking place on Tuesday 12 May at Number 8 Arts Centre. Organized by the Pershore Dementia Action Alliance, the festival's aim is to raise awareness and support for those affected by dementia. It is a drop-in style event, allowing attendees to choose sessions or activities that are most relevant to them. The festival will include various sessions such as a panel speaker session, a dementia choir, and a Q&A panel for carers and those living with dementia.



The number of people living with dementia in Pershore and surrounding villages is approx. 3,000. As this figure continues to rise, it is essential for communities to play an active role in supporting those affected. The Dementia Festival has been developed to provide support and signposting for both those caring and living with dementia, as well as for organisations and businesses, who could make a real difference to the wellbeing and confidence of customers, staff and carers. Together, we can work to make Pershore and the surrounding area more dementia friendly.

Dementia Friendly Festival - Event Timings

This is a drop-in style event so you may attend the session or activities that are most relevant to you.

10:00 – Tea and Coffee

10:30 – Panel Speaker Session: this is an opportunity for businesses and organisations to hear from experts on how to adapt and support for dementia and sign-up to free dementia training sessions

11:15 – Comfort Break

11:30 – Hear from someone living with dementia

13:15 – Dementia Choir, hosted by Sing for Health

14:00 – Q&A Panel Session for Carers and those living with dementia to come along and get resources, advice and support

If you have any questions about the event or would please contact Lindsay Roach by emailing:

communitybuilder@pershorevolunteers.org.uk

To reserve a place, please visit the EventBrite website or click here: [Reserve a Place](#)



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 3 May

St George's Cross - Holy Rood Day

Wednesday 6 May

Union Flag - Coronation Day

Friday 8 May

Union Flag - VE Day

Thursday 14 May

St George's Cross - Ascension

Sunday 24 May

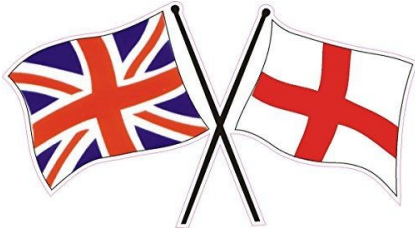
St George's Cross - Pentecost

Sunday 31 May

St George's Cross - Trinity Sunday

Saturday 6 June

Union Flag - D Day



PERSHORE PEREGRINES

The first Peregrine chick of 2026 hatched at around 0630 on Wednesday 29 April. This egg was laid on the first day of Spring - Friday 20 March - and has been lovingly brooded by both parents along with three others eggs. Each Peregrine egg was laid roughly two days apart so we expect them to have all hatched over the Bank Holiday weekend. For those wishing to follow the progress of the Peregrines, the livestream can be found on our website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk



SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

SHINE A LIGHT ON NEUROFIBROMATOSIS (NF) AWARENESS DAY: On Saturday 17 May we will be lighting up the Abbey blue in support of Shine a Light on NF Day. The campaign is organised by Nerve Tumours UK which provides support and information to the 26,500 people in the UK who have NF, the medical name for a set of genetic conditions that cause tumours to grow on nerve endings. For more details visit: www.nervetumours.org.uk



DEMENTIA ACTION WEEK: We are working hard to becoming dementia friendly, making it easier for those with dementia and those caring for someone with dementia when visiting the Abbey. On Thursday 21 May we will be lighting up the Abbey blue in support of Dementia Action Week. We will also be hosting a dementia friendly concert at 1430 on Thursday 21 May as part of this year's Elgar Festival. A special thank you to Pershore Rotary for kindly sponsoring the refreshments for the concert.

REVD MIKE EDWARDS

We are delighted to welcome Revd Mike Edwards to the Benefice for his final curacy placement before he becomes Curate-in-Charge at All Saints, Evesham and St Andrew's, Hampton. Mike will be joining us from 24 May until 20 June and is really looking forward to sharing in everything we get up to. In practical terms this will work out as four Sundays and two half days a week. So, please do look out for Mike and help give him the warmest Pershore Benefice welcome! *Claire*

Hi I'm Mike! I'm married to Hannah, and we have two fabulous children; Oliver (4) and Lois (2). I'm currently serving my curacy at St Peter's, Bengeworth, but later in the year will become Curate-in Charge at All Saints, Evesham and St Andrew's, Hampton; we hope to stay in Evesham for a long time!

We moved here in 2024 after spending 3 years in ordination training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, where I also spent my final year doing an MPhil at Selwyn College, Cambridge and serving their Chapel community. Before Anglican ordination, I spent 15 years in the world of Youth

Ministry; both being involved in Youth Ministry, and spending several years teaching it at Degree level. Originally from Southport, where I came to faith aged 16, I've been in the Diocese since 2010, when I first moved to Malvern.

When not working, I'm likely to be found having fun with the family, seeking out good coffee, occasionally reading, watching Manchester United perform badly or playing Dungeons and Dragons with a group of Clergy friends.



Mike Edwards



PERSHORE ABBEY CONCERTS



PERSHORE CHORAL

SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2026 7.30PM
PERSHORE ABBEY

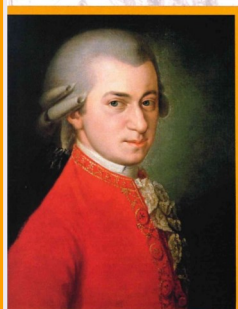
REJOICE!

GLORIA AND MAGNIFICAT
BY VIVALDI

AND THE SPATZENMESSE
(SPARROW MASS) BY MOZART

ORGAN CONCERTO
IN A MINOR
BY VIVALDI/BACH

CARLETON ETHERINGTON
CONDUCTOR
CHARLES MATTHEWS
ORGAN



Online ticket sales

via

www.pershorechoral.co.uk

or from

Pershore Town Hall
High Street, Pershore
(CASH ONLY SALES)

For more information contact
pershorechoralinfo@gmail.com

Prices

£15 and £20

Pershore Choral invites you to visit its website: www.pershorechoral.co.uk

PERSHORE CHORAL SPRING CONCERT 9 MAY 1930 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

Pershore Choral will be returning for an evening of Rejoice!

www.pershorechoral.co.uk

RELAXED CONCERT WITH ENGLISH SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

21 MAY 1430 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

A special concert in support of Dementia Awareness Week www.elgarfestival.org

I FAGIOLINI 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR CONCERT

26 MAY 1900 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

Part of Elgar Festival 2026. Tickets available from: www.elgarfestival.org

MATTHEW COLERIDGE CONCERT 6 JUNE AT PERSHORE ABBEY

An evening of sublime choral music.
www.matthewcoleridge.com

LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE

HYMNS, PIMMS AND POEMS

7 JUNE 1500 AT ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

A special service, to be led by Claire, with guest organist James MacDowall-Scott, where glasses of Pimms will be served during the service! Non-alcoholic alternative will be available.

ADVANCE NOTICE - PERSHORE CARNIVAL HELP NEEDED:

Helpers are required for the offering of refreshments at St Andrew's Centre on Carnival Day which is now on Saturday 20 June, not the second May Bank Holiday Monday as in previous years. Volunteers are needed please to help in St Andrew's Centre from 1100 in shifts until 1500 and afterwards to help clear up. Please speak to Sara Speed in person or on 01386 710776. If you are a cake maker and willing to provide a cake or two, please speak to Hilary Fowler in person or on 01386 552243. Sign up lists for both will be available in the Abbey towards the end of May. *Thank you from the PASA team.*

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

MAY 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 3 MAY **EASTER 5**

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

SUNDAY 10 MAY **EASTER 6 / ROGATION SUNDAY /** **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK FOCUS**

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

SUNDAY 17 MAY **SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION /** **DEMENTIA ACTION WEEK FOCUS**

0800 Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 24 MAY **PENTECOST**

0800 Eucharist *with Livestream*
1030 Outdoor Morning Praise
(*Abbey Park*)
1700 Iona Worship

SUNDAY 31 MAY **TRINITY SUNDAY**

0800 Eucharist *with Livestream*
1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist at
St James', Birlingham

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 10 MAY

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 24 MAY

1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 31 MAY

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist at
St James', Birlingham

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 3 MAY

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 17 MAY

1030 Sunday Praise

SUNDAY 31 MAY

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist at
St James', Birlingham

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 17 MAY

1500 Spring Walk Around Birlingham

SUNDAY 31 MAY

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist

PLEASE SEE PAGE 4 FOR OTHER REGULAR SERVICES