

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

September 2026

Welcome to the September 2026 Monthly Edition!

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

BASKING IN GOD'S LOVE: September marks a shift from summer's lighter rhythms to the reflective tone of autumn. We commemorate saints such as St Giles (*1 September*) and St Matthew (*21 September*), and we, as a benefice begin our harvest festival season, celebrating God's provision. We also start our new bible study groups (*page2*), and share the exciting news of the Church of England's new Festival of Creation in Christ (*page3*). September is perhaps a time of gratitude, renewal, and preparation for the liturgical journey towards Advent. Let us reflect in God's love and truth and let us try to live a little differently, walk in the light, forgive, and have compassion, as living testimonies of God's redeeming power and eternal promise.



IN THIS EDITION

AUTUMN HOUSE GROUPS - HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

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PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ON 01386 552071**

FRIENDS OF PERSHORE ABBEY



THE FRIENDS OF
PERSHORE ABBEY
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

The Friends of Pershore Abbey CIO aim to preserve, repair, maintain, restore and improve the fabric of Pershore Abbey including its furniture, ornaments and contents for the benefit of the public.

They hold a small number of events throughout the year to update their members and, where possible, they endeavour to ensure these events also help with fundraising. This year the Friends of Pershore Abbey CIO Annual General Meeting will take place at 1230 on Sunday 13 September in Pershore Abbey, immediately after the Abbey's Patronal Sung Eucharist Service. All members are welcome to attend. A copy of the Friends' Annual Report is available to download [here](#) or by visiting www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

If you would like to become a member please complete and return a Friends Application Form available [here](#) or by visiting www.fopa.org.uk

AUTUMN HOUSE GROUPS

Why not explore St Luke's Gospel by attending a house group this autumn? 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.

Monday 1030-1200	'Laburnums' 21 Three Springs Road, Pershore Starting 14 September for 6 sessions
Monday 1400-1530	28 Conningsby Drive, Pershore Starting 14 September for 4 sessions
Tuesday 1900-2030	2 School Cottages, Wick Starting 22 September for 6 sessions
Friday 1900-2030	St Andrew's Centre, Pershore Starting 25 September for 6 sessions (1930 first week)



FESTIVAL OF CREATION IN CHRIST



The Church of England has introduced a new annual Festival of Creation in Christ, to be celebrated on the first Sunday in September. The new Festival is one of the fruits of a growing ecumenical movement across churches worldwide and offers an opportunity for Christians to give thanks for God's creation and redemption of the world, reflect on humanity's responsibility to care for the natural world and pray for its renewal.

The title *Creation in Christ* emphasises that creation is understood through the person and work of Jesus Christ: created through him, sustained in him and destined for renewal in him. In fact, the whole month of September is, for Christians around the world, a season of thanksgiving, prayer, and action for God's creation. It encompasses three overlapping observances – the newly established Festival of Creation in Christ, the Season of Creation, and the Harvest Festival – and culminates with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October.

For many congregations, Harvest is the most-loved and most-attended service of

the year. It is also, at its heart, a creation celebration – a moment of gratitude for the goodness of God, the fruitfulness of the earth, and our dependence on what God has made. The Season of Creation and the new Festival of Creation in Christ do not displace Harvest; they deepen it. They invite churches to take the instincts already alive in a Harvest service – gratitude, wonder, responsibility, generosity – and extend them across the whole month, rooting them in a richer theological and ecological vision.

Pershore Abbey and St Nicholas, Pinvin, will be marking the Festival of Creation in Christ on Sunday 6 September at their 1030 services. We will of course also be celebrating Harvest throughout the benefice, so please do look at page 11 to find out when the benefice's harvest services will be taking place.

September offers an extraordinarily rich opportunity to engage with creation care in worship, prayer, and community life. Join us and be part of the Festival of Creation in Christ.

ORDINATION OF PENNY GORDON



We are very much looking forward to the ordination of Penny Gordon at St Mary's Church, Wick, on Sunday 27 September. Penny will be ordained deacon by Bishop Martin and everyone is welcome to attend. This service will be the only 1030 service in the benefice on this day. For those who view our livestreamed services, the Abbey's 0800 service on this day will be livestreamed.

As Penny prepares for this important day in her journey as a disciple of Christ, please continue to pray for her and her husband, Mike. *Claire*

QUIET GARDEN DAY AT HOLLAND HOUSE

On Thursday 10 September Holland House are hosting a Quiet Garden Day entitled *The Healing Water of the Garden* led by Julie Fay. You are invited to spend the day enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the Holland House gardens. The day will begin at 1000 to gather for coffee and then start in the Chapel at 1030 for thoughts on the theme. There will be a Holy Communion at 1200 followed by a simple lunch and concludes with tea and cake at 1600. The day is run by the Friends of Holland House. Tickets are £26.00 and available from www.hollandhouse.org

RIDE + STRIDE 2026

For many Historic Churches Trusts up and down the country, Ride + Stride is the single largest source of income, enabling them to make Grants to places of Christian worship. This year's Ride + Stride event will be taking place on the Saturday 12 September. The funds raised will be split between the nominated Trust and the participants chosen church or chapel. Ride + Stride is a wonderful way to enjoy getting out and about safely. Will you be taking part? This year, the Abbey will be welcoming visitors throughout the day, and St James', will also be taking part, opening their doors and welcoming participants with refreshments and toilet facilities available at The Swan Inn. To find out which other churches are taking place, visit: www.ridestride.org



MINISTRY NEWS

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 3 October, 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.



ENJOY A COFFEE AND A CHAT: The Abbey's Parish Coffee Morning takes place once a month and provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy a coffee and a chat with members of our community, and meet new folk. This month's coffee morning will be taking place 1030-1200 on Saturday 19 September at St Andrew's Centre. 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! *Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's (PASA) team*



HARVEST AT ST JAMES': St James, Birlingham is celebrating their Harvest Festival on September 13 at 1030. The service will be led by Peter Stansbie. As a farming village we have a tailor made service centered on Birlingham but we reach out to the wider world by making donations to Maggs Day Centre and Farm Africa. All are invited to join us for the service and the refreshments afterwards. *Adrianne Woodward, Churchwarden*



VISIT FROM TANZANIAN PRIEST: Bishop Godfrey of Morogoro and Revd Julius will be attending the Diocesan Clergy Conference in September. We are delighted that Revd Julius will be staying in Pershore before he attends the Conference. Revd Julius works at the Bible College in Morogoro and is passionate about seeing people grow in faith and learning, equipping them to serve parishes as ministers. We will all have the opportunity of welcoming Revd Julius to the benefice on 20 September when he will be attending the 1030 Sung Eucharist at the Abbey. Please do come and say hello! *Asante sana Claire*



COMMISSIONING AND CELEBRATIONS: Commissioning and Celebration Service 1500 Sunday 18 October at Worcester Cathedral - this service will be a celebration of Children, Young People and their families in our churches across the Diocese and will also include the commissioning of all the Children, Young People and Families Ministers and Workers. There will be a dramatised bible reading, some hymns and songs including some from iSingPOP. It would be lovely if as many of you as possible were able to be there. I am one of the Children and Families Workers' being commissioned! *Sam Andrews*

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture. Every September thousands of volunteers across the country organise events. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences - all of which are FREE to explore. This year Heritage Open days returns 11-20 September and guess what? We will be taking part! Both Pershore Abbey and St Nicholas' Church, Pinvin, will be opening their doors to those looking to find out more about the churches we love. Read on to find out more:

Pershore Abbey Welcome Festival

Saturday 19 September 2026

1030-1600

Explore our historic building, enjoy its architectural beauty, discover its hidden past, and even take a tower tour. A warm welcome awaits.

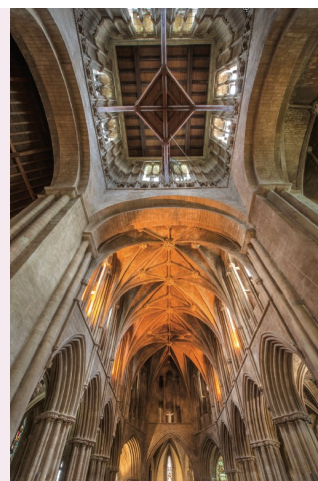


Welcoming Guides

There will be welcomers available to share their knowledge about the history of this beautiful building - from the quire to the Saxon foundations, from the crusader's tomb to the stained glass windows - immerse yourself in the Abbey's history.

Tower Tours

Enjoy a tower tour and truly explore the Abbey, taking advantage of the stunning views when you reach the top! Tours will take place at 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400. Please book in person on the day. Restrictions apply. Tours on this day are free.



Musical Interludes

Our Director of Music, James MacDowall-Scott, will be performing 15-minute musical interludes:
1130 Steinway Piano
1330 Ruffatti Organ
1530 'Positive' Organ



Refreshments

Our fantastic team of volunteers will be providing refreshments throughout the day. There will also be an extensive range of cards and a variety of gifts available in our Bookstall.



Whether you are quickly passing through or plan to stay a while, we hope that you enjoy your visit to our beautiful Abbey church, which has attracted visitors and pilgrims from near and far for many centuries.

Revd Canon Claire Lording

St Nicholas Church, Pinvin

Saturday 12 and Saturday 19 September 2026

1100-1530

Come and visit our 11th century church - a chapelry of Pershore Abbey, bursting with historic beauty and rural charm. A warm welcome awaits.



Photographic Display

There will be an impressive selection of photographs on display, capturing the history of the church, the discoveries made and improvements and repairs carried out over recent decades.

Church Tours

Enjoy a free guided tour around the church and discover the secrets held within! Tours will take place at 1200 and 1300 on each day. Please book in person on the day. Group sizes limited to 6.

Refreshments

A visit to our church would not be complete without also enjoying some refreshment! A selection of drinks and treats will be available during each day.



There is so much to see at St Nicholas Church, from the wall paintings uncovered in 1855 by Canon Wickenden, to the 'funny bellcote', as described by Pevsner.

Glen Hurst, Churchwarden

Art Exhibition

Pershore Abbey

19 September - 17 October 2026

The geometric and mathematic wonderment of Worcester-based artist Michael Faragher

Meet the Artist

1130-1230 Saturday 10 October

Meet Michael Faragher in person and discuss his fascinating work



FORTHCOMING CONCERTS & RECITALS

ORGAN RECITAL

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 1400

PERSHORE ABBEY

Featuring James MacDowall-Scott

CHANDOS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 1500

PERSHORE ABBEY

Conducted by Jack Lovell-Huckle, performing Holst and Tchaikovsky

www.chandos.org.uk

PIANOSCAPES

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 1430

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Listen to local pianist Chris Long perform music for the soul

www.chrislongmusic.co.uk

ORGAN RECITAL

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 1930

PERSHORE ABBEY

Anniversary organ recital celebrating three years
of the Ruffatti organ in the Abbey



www.pershoreabbey.co.uk



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!

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

O Lord our God,
source of all goodness and love,
accept the fervent prayers of your people;
in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion
upon all who turn to you for help;
for you are gracious, O lover of souls,
and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.



PERSHORE ABBEY ECO CHURCH

We are doing our best to take care of our local environment. If you have some time, why not come along to a meeting or join us for our next Weedy Pick? We are a friendly bunch and always pleased to welcome new supporters of our efforts!

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 10 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 9 SEPTEMBER 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM
Please come and join us!

MONTHLY SERVICES

Have you ever attended one of our monthly services? They provide worship in an alternative format to our regular services, offering reflection, healing, or simply a greater opportunity to meet people.



CAFÉ CHURCH

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER & 11 OCTOBER
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 13 SEPTEMBER & 11 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.



IONA WORSHIP

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER & 25 OCTOBER
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

"The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline."

We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. If you need support, please reach out.



THE PERSHORE FOODBANK IS OPEN AT 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

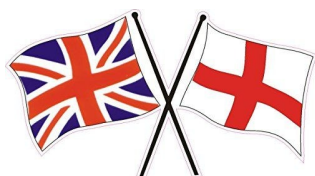
LOOKING AHEAD

With so much going on in early October, we thought you would appreciate a heads up about a couple of events so you don't miss out!

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT: This year, Fairtrade Fortnight is taking place 21 September - 04 October. We will be marking this annual celebration of supporting Fairtrade at the Abbey's 1030 Harvest All Age Eucharist on Sunday 4 October. *Did you know you can browse and buy Fairtrade products on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of every month at the Abbey's 1030 Sung Eucharist Service?*

SAVE THE DATE: The Abbey Harvest Lunch will be taking place at St Andrew's Centre on Sunday 4 October following the Harvest Festival in the Abbey. Tickets will be available in September - please see the weekly bulletins for further details. *Thank you PASA team*

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:



Thursday 3 September

Merchant Navy Day - Union Flag

Tuesday 8 September

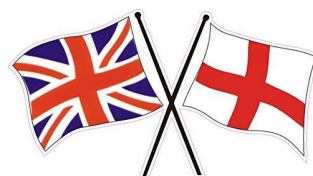
Accession King Charles III - Union Flag

Sunday 13 September

Holy Cross Day - St George's Cross

Monday 21 September

Battle of Britain - Union Flag



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 13 September	Harvest Festival
Pershore Abbey	1030	Sunday 4 October	Harvest All Age Eucharist followed by the Abbey Harvest Lunch at St Andrew's Centre
St Mary's Wick	1100	Sunday 11 October	Harvest Festival <i>TBC</i>
St Nicholas', Pinvin	1030	Sunday 18 October	Harvest Sunday Praise



PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2026

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 6 SEPTEMBER **CREATION IN CHRIST**

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Evensong

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER **TRINITY 15**

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Patronal Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER **TRINITY 16**

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER **TRINITY 17**

0800 Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

1030 Ordination of Penny Gordon

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

1030 Sunday Praise

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

1030 Harvest Festival

PLEASE SEE PAGE 10 FOR OTHER REGULAR SERVICES