

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

October 2026

Welcome to the October 2026 Monthly Edition!

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

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: Harvest is a time of gratitude, celebrating the abundance of food and the generosity of nature. Throughout October we will be continuing to celebrate harvest, with services and the Abbey's Harvest Lunch (*page 2*). Let us gather as a community and give thanks and, if able, donate to Pershore Foodbank or another worthy charity, reflecting on the call to share blessings with those in need. This year our harvest celebrations overlap with Prisons Sunday when, just as we share the fruits of the earth, we are called to share hope and opportunity with those who feel forgotten. Together, these observances remind us that true community is built on generosity, empathy, and the belief that everyone can grow and change.



IN THIS EDITION

HARVEST - PRISONS SUNDAY - ALL SOULS' SERVICE - NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER

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

HARVEST 2026

We continue to celebrate Harvest across the Benefice during October. Our celebrations enable us to give thanks for what we receive from God and give thanks for all who work in the farming community, both at home and abroad. If you are able, please do partake, either by attending a service or harvest lunch, or by making a harvest donation.

HARVEST SERVICES AND LUNCH

Pershore Abbey - 1030 Sunday 4 October

Harvest All Age Eucharist followed by the Harvest Lunch at St Andrew's Centre

Tickets for the Harvest Lunch are available from Jane Knox on 01386 556981

St Mary's Church, Wick - 1030 Sunday 11 October

Harvest Festival

St Nicholas' Church, Pinvin - 1030 Sunday 18 October

Harvest Festival

HARVEST DONATIONS

You are invited to donate food items such as canned and dry foods at the Harvest Services taking place at Pershore Abbey, St Mary's, Wick and St Nicholas', Pinvin. They will all be donated to Pershore Foodbank. All donations gratefully received.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

Pershore Foodbank doesn't believe that anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why they provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis.

Pershore Foodbank is open at St Andrew's Centre on Tuesdays 1100-1300 and Fridays 1300-1500, and they aim to have a Citizens Advice representative available at their Friday sessions. If you would like to find out more about the support they provide, please visit www.pershore.foodbank.org.uk or call 01386 555347.

- Did you know? You can donate items for Pershore Foodbank by placing them in the box provided either in the porch at St Andrew's Centre or by the exit at the CoOp.
- Pershore Foodbank is currently seeking a Project Manager. For details about this voluntary role, please contact the Abbey Office: office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER

This year's National Week of Prayer is taking place 10-18 October. This event invites Christians from various denominations to gather in prayer across the country, focusing on themes. This year's theme is *Gather. Remember. Return.* And is a call to the whole body of Christ to humble ourselves, remember God's faithfulness, and return to God in prayer and worship. From the largest cathedral to the smallest front room, every gathering is part of this national moment.

"Return to me," declares the Lord Almighty, "and I will return to you."
Zechariah

MINISTRY NEWS

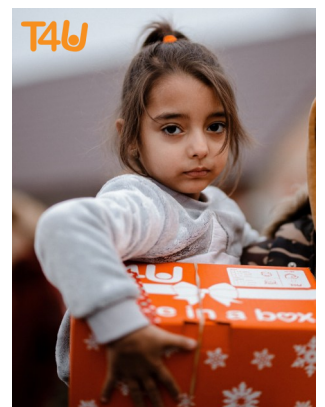
OUTDOOR TREE SERVICE: St James' next service will be held on Sunday 11 October at 1030. It is an Outdoor Tree Service and will be held on the Birlingham Cricket Club ground. The trees on the ground have an interesting history and we will also hear about conservation efforts in other parts of the village. Everyone is most welcome to attend the service and enjoy refreshments afterwards. *Adrianne Woodward, Churchwarden*

ABBEY'S PARISH COFFEE MORNING: This month's coffee morning will be taking place 1030-1200 on Saturday 17 October at St Andrew's Centre and is being run by the Abbey Bellringers. All welcome to enjoy coffee, cake and fellowship - and to meet our wonderful bellringers in person! *Jane Knox, PASA (Persore Abbey and St Andrew's)*

HELP WANTED: Every December the Workplace Chaplains for Persore deliver Christmas cards and chocolate to all the traders in the town. This year they need help to cover all the businesses and would welcome any volunteers to help them. It would only require one morning or afternoon in the middle of December to cover a designated area. If you can help please contact Angela Gerrard 01386 556545.

CHILDREN'S AUTUMN ACTIVITY: Persore Abbey will once again be hosting a special Light Party, an autumn get together for children aged up to 11 with an accompanying adult. Everyone is invited to attend on Saturday 31 October to enjoy crafts and other fun activities. There will even be hot chocolate available! Everyone is invited to attend this drop-in event between 1500 and 1700. For more details contact Sam Andrews, our Children and Families Worker, on 07879 310312.

SHOEBOX SUNDAY: The Abbey community will be supporting the Teams4U Shoebox Appeal once again, 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 7 November. It is hoped that 100 shoeboxes will be sent from the Abbey. Before they are, they will be blessed at a special service 1030 at the Abbey at on Sunday 15 November. *Suzanne Clarke*



PRISONS SUNDAY AND PRISONS WEEK



This year Prisons Sunday falls on 11 October, marking the start of Prisons Week which runs 11–17 October. This national day of prayer and support focuses on prisoners, their families, victims of crime, and all working in the criminal justice system. This year's campaign takes its inspiration from Matthew 22:1-14: 'the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests'.

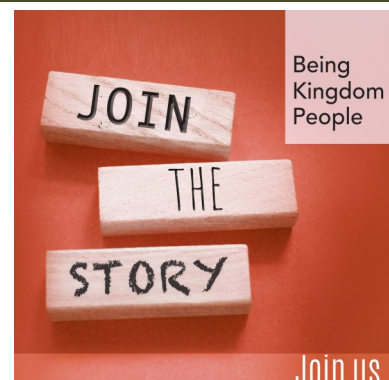
Pershore Abbey's Prisons Sunday service will be at 1030 on 11 October when Lesley Redhead the Free Church (Salvation Army) Chaplain from HMP Long Lartin, will be preaching.

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



BEING KINGDOM PEOPLE

Why not head to one of a series of gatherings taking place this Autumn for an opportunity to meet with Bishop Hugh, hear his vision for our diocese and pray for our future together? Since becoming Bishop of Worcester in January, Bishop Hugh has been travelling across the Diocese, meeting clergy and lay leaders, visiting parishes, schools and communities, and listening to the hopes, challenges and opportunities that are shaping our life together. This autumn, you are warmly invited to one of a series of diocesan gatherings to meet Bishop Hugh, hear something of what he has discovered so far, and explore with him what it means to be Kingdom People today. Each gathering will include time for Bishop Hugh to share his reflections, to ask questions, listen to each other, look ahead and to pray together. *The nearest gathering is 1900-2100 St Egwin's, Norton, near Evesham on Wednesday 21 October. For more information visit: www.cofe-worcester.org.uk*



ALONG THE WAY



Along The Way - Three Studies in Courage is a series of talks given by The Revd Dr Gerard Moate this autumn. Each of the talks will be taking place at 1930 at Overbury Church and will include; The Last Breakfast on Tuesday 6 October, War and Peace on Tuesday 13 October, and Bach and Boyan on Tuesday 20 October. Entrance is free, donations to the church welcomed. All are welcome to attend.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY - RAISING AWARENESS

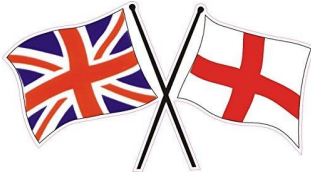
In October, we will be supporting three nationwide campaigns. The Abbey tower will be lit blue on Thursday 15 October for Baby and Infant Remembrance Day and on the evening of Friday 23 October for Child Brain Injury Trust. On Sunday 25 October we will be supporting Postural Tachycardia Syndrome (PoTS) Awareness Day through prayer. Please pray for those effected by any of the three campaigns, and for their families and friends. These nationwide campaigns are a way of raising awareness and providing the opportunity to reflect and pray for those who may be in need, or struggling.

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 4 October

Dedication of Pershore Abbey - *St George's Cross*

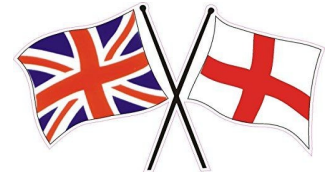


Wednesday 21 October

Trafalgar Day - *Union Flag*

Saturday 24 October

United Nations Day - *Union Flag*



PERSHORE ABBEY CONCERTS AND RECITALS

ANNIVERSARY ORGAN RECITAL

SATURDAY 03 OCTOBER 1930

Featuring James MacDowall-Scott - Free with retiring collection

PERSHORE ROTARY ROCK CHOIR CONCERT

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 1830

Tickets £15 www.ticketsource.com

ORGAN RECITAL

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 1430

Featuring Shaun Ward - Free with retiring collection

For full concert and recital details, please visit:

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

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 11 OCTOBER & 15 NOVEMBER
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 11 OCTOBER & 08 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.



IONA WORSHIP

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER & 22 NOVEMBER
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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

ALL SOULS' SERVICE

This year's All Souls' service will take place at Pershore Abbey at 1700 on 1 November. We will be contacting 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 us know by 26 October by emailing office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or by adding their name to one of the sheets at the back of our churches. This service will be livestreamed on our **YouTube channel** for those who are unable to attend in person. *Claire*



PERSHORE ABBEY ECO CHURCH

We would be very grateful for willing 'Weedy Pick' volunteers for just one hour on Saturday 10 October to remove some of the weeds in the paths around the Abbey and St Andrew's. Please come along, meeting at 1000 at the Abbey West entrance, and bring your gardening gloves and any useful tools. *Claire*

NEXT ABBEY WEEDY PICK DATE:

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2026 1000-1100

Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Please bring gloves and any tools that

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 11 NOVEMBER 1915

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM

Please come and join us!

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 08 November
Pershore Abbey	1040	Sunday 08 November
St Mary's, Wick	1500	Sunday 08 November
St James', Birlingham	1045	Wednesday 11 November



PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

OCTOBER 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 4 OCTOBER

Trinity 18 / Fairtrade Sunday

0800 Eucharist

1030 Harvest All Age Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Evensong

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

Trinity 19 / Prisons Sunday

0800 Eucharist

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

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

Luke the Evangelist

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

Bible Sunday

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*
1700 Iona Worship

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

1030 Harvest Festival

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

1030 Harvest Festival

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

1030 Outdoor Tree Service at
Birlingham Village Hall

PLEASE SEE PAGES 6 & 7 FOR OUR MONTHLY SERVICES,
ALL SOULS' SERVICE, AND OUR REMEMBRANCE SERVICES