CHURCH NEWS
Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

November 2026

Welcome to our November 2026 Monthly Edition!

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

REMEMBERING: We mark two reflective and deeply personal occasions in November; All Souls' Day and Remembrance Day. Both invite us to pause, reflect, and honour those who have gone before us. Our All Souls' Service will be held at Pershore Abbey at 1700 on Sunday 1 November, offering the opportunity to come together and remember those who are no longer with us. Services of remembrance will be taking place throughout the Pershore Benefice where we will commemorate the contribution of military and civilian servicemen and women. Together, these days bridge public and personal remembrance, one honouring collective sacrifice, the other cherishing individual bonds. *Turn to page 6 for details of the services of remembrance taking place in the Pershore Benefice.*



IN THIS EDITION:

REMEMBRANCE - PILGRIM STAMP - ABBEY ECO CHURCH - CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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MINISTRY NEWS

DATES FOR THE DIARY: At 1700 on Saturday 7 November the Abbey will be joined by The Royal School of Church Music Choir for Evensong.

Join us on Saturday 14 November at 1400 for our Abbey Walking Church - a gentle walk around the park followed by drinks at St Andrew's Centre.

Come along to a special ESO Dementia friendly concert taking place at the Abbey at 1430 on Monday 7 December - it promises to be a fabulously festive concert for all. Admission is free, with refreshments afterwards.

ABBEY WELCOMING TEAM: When we all met recently, our volunteer welcomers swapped stories, and one theme kept coming up: what a privilege it is to spend time in the Abbey, greeting newcomers and regulars, and sharing this space with them. Whether in the warmth of summer or the chill of winter, the Abbey is a special place – people often stop in amazement and say "wow" as they enter.

Would you consider being a welcomer? You can give as little as two hours a month, or as much time as you wish. Sessions generally run 1000-1200, 1200–1400 and 1400–1600. We provide all the training you need, along with ongoing support. Why not shadow one of our current volunteers to see whether it suits you?If you would like to find out more, I would love to hear from you. Email me at pershoreabbeybookstall@gmail.com, ring me on 07858 506218 or simply say hello in person. *Sally Whyte*

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY: On Sunday 15 November, thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions will join together to reflect on and strengthen their safeguarding culture. This year's theme is 'Love Protects' and is rooted in *1 Corinthians 13*. The theme emphasises that safeguarding is not bureaucracy but an expression of Christian love in action. This UK-wide initiative invites communities to come together to reflect on their safeguarding journey, and highlight all the good work that is being done to create safer places. If you would like to find out more, please visit www.safeguardingsunday.org

The 1030 Sung Eucharist service at Pershore Abbey on this day will have a Safeguarding focus.

ABBEY PARISH COFFEE MORNING: This month's Coffee Morning will be taking place on Saturday 21 November from 1030 until 1200, and will be organised by the Abbey Flower Guild. Please do come along with family and friends to support and meet our wonderful team who do so much in their quiet way to make the Abbey look beautiful every week. Good cake and good company on a Saturday morning, we look forward to seeing you. *Jane Knox*



MINISTRY NEWS

When someone chooses the Pershore Benefice as the location for their training or discernment placement, we become part of their faith journey. It is a pleasure and a privilege, and for the next few weeks, Rev Sooz Magee and Kimberley Gunn will be with us. Feel free to introduce yourself if you see either of them. Let's offer them a Pershore Benefice warm welcome! *Claire*



"Hi everyone, I am Rev Sooz Magee. It is a joy to be joining you all for my placement and I am really looking forward to meeting you all.

I am in my final year of curacy, and I serve on Bredon Hill alongside Rev Allison Davies. I love walking at National Trust places, watching birds and wildlife, eating cake, painting with watercolours and painting pottery with friends – but not all at the same time! Art galleries and live music bring me joy and I'm particularly looking forward to seeing Irish folk singer and songwriter Cara Dillon perform in December.

I come from a free church background and have discovered quiet contemplation eases my often busy mind. I am very much a people person and love hearing people's stories, and I am also an animal lover. I share my life with my husband Colin, our two teenagers Maeve and Charlie and our beloved cat, Belle. I am really looking forward to getting to know you and being part of your community. Every Blessing, Sooz."



"Hello, I'm Kimberley and I've been a part of the St Peter's Bengeworth family for around four years, having moved to the area with my husband for his work. We live near Evesham with our extremely enthusiastic dog (who has yet to meet a person she doesn't love) and our much more laid back cat! I work at St Peter's part-time, previously in administration and now in media and comms.

My faith journey began when I came to faith and explored Christianity further through an Alpha course. I was baptised and confirmed in 2001, and my relationship with Jesus is at the heart of everything I do. I'm passionate about loving people well, growing together in community, and finding new ways to share the good news of Jesus with those who don't yet know Him. Outside of church, I enjoy reading, long walks with the dog, being out in nature, and visiting historical sites and ancient churches. I also enjoy cooking, (although the results can vary considerably!). I'm a big science fiction and fantasy fan, especially The Lord of the Rings (ask me about the lore at your own risk!) and Star Trek (team Picard). I'm also into gaming (mainly retro, adventure, and cozy games).

I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all at Pershore Abbey."

MINISTRY NEWS



EDIBLE NATIVITY: Join us on Sunday 6 December as we tell the story of the birth of Jesus - making an edible nativity, with gingerbread! Drop off your child at 1030 at St Andrew's Centre and collect them from the Abbey at 1145 - or stay with your child if they are younger. Places are limited to 20, so booking is essential. To book, email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk by 30 November. Suitable for all ages under 18. *Sam Andrews*

ABBEY BOOKSTALL: Christmas is coming and the bookstall will be ready from 2 November! We have new Abbey Christmas cards and hopefully by early December a range of new design tea towels of the Abbey through the seasons using Trudy Burge's beautiful photos. We also have Advent candles, and lots of wooden, glass and Fair2trade Christmas decorations for sale. And finally as mentioned by Claire on page 5 we have our own Pilgrim stamp and now the passports are on sale too for you to start your pilgrimage journey at £5.00. *Sally Whyte*



ABBEY'S ECO FRIENDLY COLLECTIVE CHRISTMAS CARD:
Why not save paper this year by sharing in the Abbey's Collective Christmas card? Instead of sending an individual Christmas card to the people you see all the time at church, we invite you to write one Christmas card to everyone and display it on our special Christmas card board in the Abbey.
Donations are then encouraged for Christian Aid from the money you will have saved by not sending lots of cards. Why not give it a go this year as part of our Eco Church commitment? *Claire*

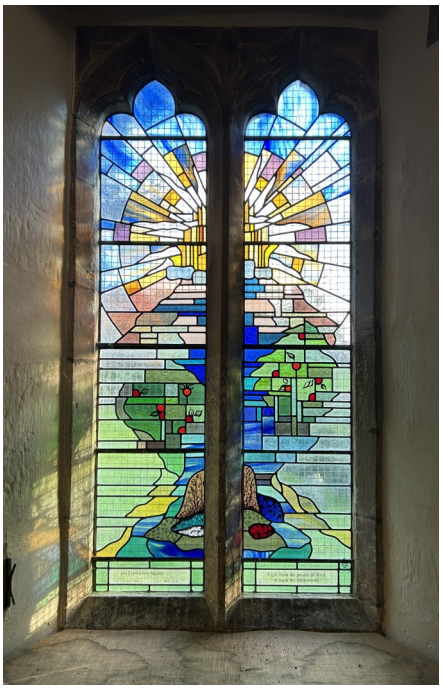
HELP WANTED: The Workplace Chaplains for Pershore need help delivering Christmas cards and chocolate to all the traders in the town and would welcome any volunteers. It would only require one morning or afternoon in the middle of December to cover a designated area. If you can help please contact Angela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

HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRATION

Penny Gordon was ordained as deacon at St Mary's Church , Wick, last month. It was a joyous occasion, enjoyed by many of Penny's close friends and family, members of our Benefice, and of course the Right Reverend Martin Gorick, Bishop of Dudley.



"When I was ordained, the Benefice gifted me a stole and I was allowed to choose the design. As you can see, I chose a beautiful Tree of Life, on a green stole which I can use for the majority of services in ordinary time. But I had no idea that the Holy Spirit had guided me to choose a design which echoed our wonderful millennium stained glass window at St Mary's, Wick, showing the river and the local orchards and the sun shining above representing the new earth and new day for the new millennium.



The similarity was pointed out to me by Penny Plath who was involved in the original idea for the millennium window and raising the funds and commissioning the work, which was the first new stained glass in the church for 150 years. And I was the first to be ordained in the church for 1000 years. God works in mysterious ways! Hallelujah!" *The Revd Penny Gordon, Assistant Curate*

PILGRIM STAMP

In the space of two weeks the Abbey had two visiting pilgrims who asked if we could stamp their Pilgrim Passports. We apologised profusely and said we didn't have a stamp but I would sign their passports instead. Then out of the blue I received a parcel from Jacob, one of the pilgrims, who lives in London, with this note: "You may recall my recent visit to the Abbey in which I interrupted your meeting in search of a Pilgrim stamp. Since you didn't have one, and I thought the Abbey deserves one, I have taken the liberty of designing one for you. I trust you do not mind. The design includes the Abbey itself, the surrounding park, the River Avon, a simple cross, and all within a traditional pilgrim scallop shell. Complete with an ink pad and box. I hope you like the Abbey's new stamp and that it will be the envy of the diocese." Such a wonderful gift and one that we hope will be used by the many pilgrims we will continue to welcome! *Claire*



PERSHORE BENEFICE REMEMBRANCE SERVICES



ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN 1030 8 NOVEMBER

Revd Jayne Parker will be leading the service in Pinvin as the village gathers to honour the lives of those who have fallen in conflict.

PERSHORE ABBEY 1040 8 NOVEMBER

Pershore Abbey's Remembrance Service will not be ticketed so there will be plenty of seats available for everyone. This service will be livestreamed and available on our YouTube Channel.

ST MARY'S, WICK 1500 8 NOVEMBER

Join Wick as they gather around the war memorial in the churchyard for a service of remembrance, led by Canon Claire.

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM 1045 11 NOVEMBER:

Birlingham will be assembling around the war memorial on the village green to commemorate Armistice Day. The outside service will be led by Peter Stansbie.

MONTHLY SERVICES



CAFÉ CHURCH
SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER & 13 DECEMBER
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 08 NOVEMBER 1700
LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS - SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 1730
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 NOVEMBER (NO SERVICE IN DECEMBER)
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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

PERSHORE ABBEY ECO CHURCH

WILDFLOWER AREA: I am sure that most of you will have enjoyed the wildflower area in front of the Abbey. It was quite a show earlier in the year until the hot weather dried the vegetation up and it was lowered ahead of the Plum Festival. You may well have noticed that there has been some activity on the area in October with a perimeter strip and a small internal area prepared and sown with the help of school children from the Holy Redeemer Catholic Primary School.

The remainder of the inside area has been left untouched in the hope that the wild flowers will return as a result of the annuals shedding their seed this summer and the perennials re-emerging. We do not wish to be constantly preparing the soil and resowing, instead working towards natural renewal. Some resowing will always be required but we are hoping that a state of natural renewal will be achieved. Anyway we must wait until the spring now to see how things shape up. Next year will be different from the last, that is nature. But it is a space not to be just enjoyed but to provide a different yet complimentary environment to the Abbey for us to communicate with God. *Kevin O'Neil*







NEXT ABBEY WEEDY PICK DATE:	**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR NEXT DATE** Meet at the West End of the Abbey All Welcome - Please bring gloves and any tools that you think would be helpful
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 ABBEY CONCERTS

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 1430
Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra Autumn Concert

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 1700, 1900 and 2100
Fleetwood Mac Candlelight Concert

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 1930
Pershore Choral - Let We Forget Concert

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 1900
Gloucester Symphony Orchestra Concert

FRIDAY 04 DECEMBER 1900
Worcester Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert

SATURDAY 05 DECEMBER 1900
Worcester Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert

MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 1430
English Symphony Orchestra DownsideUp Concert

FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 1930
Pershore Town Choir Christmas Concert

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 1930
Vocal High Winter Warmers Concert

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 1930
Pershore Choral Christmas Concert

For more information, visit www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

FLYING THE FLAG

Have you ever wondered why the Abbey flags are flying on certain days? For the curious minded, during November, here are the flags that will be flying and why:

Sunday 1 November
All Saints' and All Souls' - St George's Cross

Sunday 8 November
Remembrance Day - Union Flag

Wednesday 11 November
Armistice Day - Union Flag



Saturday 14 November
Birthday of King Charles III - Union Flag

Sunday 29 November
Advent Sunday - St George's Cross

Monday 30 November
Saint Andrew - St George's Cross

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2026 is 'The Gift of Christmas', which focuses on the gift of God being born as one of us in Jesus Christ. This theme invites us to respond to God's generosity by serving others, especially those in need. As in previous years, a booklet is available offering a daily short reading, a reflection, a prayer and a challenge to grow in joy and in faith. It is online via the Church of England website. Hardcopies are available from the Abbey Office and the back of the Abbey, priced £1.00.

ADVENT

We invite everyone across the Pershore Benefice to be involved with the services and activities taking place this Advent:

PERSHORE ABBEY CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION MORNING

Come along to the Abbey at 1000 on Saturday 28 November and help dress the Abbey Christmas Tree. We look forward to welcoming you. Refreshments will be served.

CHRISTMAS TREE SUNDAY AT PERSHORE ABBEY

So many people enjoy the Christmas trees which decorate the Abbey during December. As you can imagine, the cost of them has increased. To help fund them, 29 November will be Christmas Tree Sunday. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of our Abbey Christmas trees, there will be a box at the back of the Abbey labelled 'Christmas Trees'. Any donations will be gratefully received. Thank you. *Claire*

ADVENT COMPLINE BY ZOOM

Join us for this quiet and reflective service as we prepare for our Christmas celebrations. Once again we will be meeting on Zoom from the comfort of our own homes for this 20 minute service, allowing us all to pause and reflect on our Advent journeys. Join us live at 1900 on 30 November, 7, 14 and 21 December. If you would like to be part of this service, please email me at vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the Zoom link and a copy of the order of service. *Claire*

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

As well as being Christmas Tree Sunday, 29 November is also Advent Sunday. Come along to Pershore Abbey at 1530 for this beautiful service. The service will include favourite advent carols and will feature the Abbey Choir.

READERS REQUIRED: I am looking for readers to take part in this year's Advent Carol Service at the Abbey. If you are interested, please speak to me in person after a service or email vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk as soon as possible. *Claire*



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2026

PERSHORE ABBEY & ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Advent Sunday 29 November

0800 Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)*
1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)**
1530 Advent Carol Service *(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)**

Sunday 6 December

0800 Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)*
1030 Edible Nativity - Booking Essential *(St Andrew's Centre)*
Email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or call 01386 552071 by 30 November
1030 Sung Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)**
1700 Evensong *(Pershore Abbey)*

Sunday 13 December

0800 Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)*
0930 Café Church *(St Andrew's Centre)*
1030 Sung Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)**
1730 Light in Our Darkness - a service for people who would like to find some peace and quiet during this busy Christmas time *(St Andrew's Centre)*

Sunday 20 December

0800 Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)*
1030 Sung Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)**
1700 Lessons and Carols *(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)**

Christmas Eve Thursday 24 December

1530 Christingle Service *(Pershore Abbey)*
Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle!
2315 Midnight Mass with Choir (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)**

Christmas Day Friday 25 December

0800 Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)*
1030 All Age Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)**

Sunday 27 December

0800 Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)*
1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist
*(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)**

**Join in with our LIVESTREAM services on the Pershore Abbey Community YouTube Channel at the time advertised or catch up later*

~ACROSS THE BENEFICE~

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

Advent Sunday 29 November

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

Sunday 6 December

1030 Patronal Holy Communion

Sunday 20 December

1030 Carol Service

Christmas Eve Thursday 24 December

1700 Christingle and Crib Service

Sunday 27 December

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

ST MARY'S WICK

Advent Sunday 29 November

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

Sunday 13 December

1800 Carol Service with Friends of St Mary's

Christmas Eve Thursday 24 December

1600 Christingle Service

Christmas Day Friday 25 December

0900 Parish Communion

Sunday 27 December

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

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

Advent Sunday 29 November

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

Sunday 20 December

1800 Carols and Christingles

Christmas Day Friday 25 December

1030 Holy Communion

Sunday 27 December

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

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES
NOVEMBER 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 1 NOVEMBER
All Saints' Day
0800 BCP Eucharist
1030 A Celebration of Confirmation *with Livestream*
1700 All Souls' Service *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER
Remembrance Sunday/3rd Before Advent
0800 Eucharist
1040 Remembrance Service *with Livestream*
1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER
2nd Before Advent/Safeguarding Sunday
0800 Eucharist
0930 Café Church *(St Andrew's)*
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER
Christ the King
0800 Eucharist
1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*
1700 Iona Worship

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER
Advent Sunday
0800 Eucharist (BCP)
1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*
1530 Advent Carol Service *with Livestream*

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER
1500 Remembrance Service

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER
1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER
1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist
at Pershore Abbey

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER
1030 Remembrance Service

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER
1030 Sunday Praise

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER
1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist
at Pershore Abbey

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER
1045 Armistice Service

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER
1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist
at Pershore Abbey

PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 FOR MONTHLY SERVICES AND REMEMBRANCE SERVICES AND PAGES 10 AND 11 FOR DETAILS ABOUT OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES