



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 7 March, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT/
FAIRTRADE SUNDAY



SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

In person worship in the Pershore Benefice has been suspended until further notice, this service will be recorded in advance and available to view on Sunday morning from 1030 [here](#) on our YouTube channel and via our Facebook pages.

Please use this service sheet as an aid to worship at home.

A hymn sheet to accompany this service is available on [Page 4](#)

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

John 2: 13-22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTION BY JAYNE PARKER (Ordinand)

In today's Gospel reading Jesus was turning the tables on the traders and money lenders in the temple, who sometimes bent the rules for a bit more profit. Making things rather less than fair trading for the ordinary worshiper.

Over the past year there's been a lot of talk on trade deals, with our "taking back control" from the European Union. How was this going to work? An agreement has been made and we are working out what it means as time progresses.

But what about those who do not have such agreements? Where is their justice? As many of you will know, we are now coming to the end of Fairtrade Fortnight. This is held to celebrate and raise awareness of an organisation which exists to see that farmers and workers in the developing world get better prices, decent working conditions, and fair terms of trade. Funding is also provided for their social community projects. Fairtrade participates with nearly 1.7 million farmers and workers in over 73 countries to sell more than 6,000 products.

Pershore Abbey is celebrating that we are now a Fairtrade Church. This is an approval certification provided through the Fairtrade Foundation and we hope to be able to renew this each year. This means we, as the Abbey, consciously choose to use Fairtrade goods such as tea, coffee and sugar where we can. We will have other decisions to make as new opportunities to incorporate Fairtrade goods arise. We also choose to talk about it, to mention this where we can and to encourage those who can to pick Fairtrade goods when they can.

In these small acts we are trying to do what Jesus was doing when he turned the tables in the temple to bring back control and to bring justice to bear.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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HYMN SHEET

HYMN 1

A&M 696

(Wareham)

Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
there they behold thy mercy-seat;
where'er they seek thee thou art found,
and every place is hallowed ground.

For thou, within no walls confined,
inhabitest the humble mind;
such ever bring thee when they come,
and, going, take thee to their home.

Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,
thy former mercies here renew;
here to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of thy saving name.

Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heaven before our eyes.

Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear:
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts thine own!

[William Cowper, 1731 - 1800]

HYMN 2

A&M 132

(Stockton)

O for a heart to praise my God,
a heart from sin set free;
a heart that's sprinkled with the blood
so freely shed for me:

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
my great Redeemer's throne;
where only Christ is heard to speak,
where Jesus reigns alone:

A humble, lowly, contrite heart,
believing, true, and clean,
which neither life nor death can part
from him that dwells within:

(Cont.)

A heart in every thought renewed,
and full of love divine;
perfect and right and pure and good —
a copy, Lord, of thine.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
come quickly from above;
write thy new name upon my heart,
thy new best name of Love.

[Charles Wesley Bode, 1707 - 1788]

HYMN 3

A&M 431

Refrain:

*Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother;
feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.*

As we proclaim your death
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise
to return again.

The bread we break and share
was scattered once as grain:
just as now it is gathered,
make your people one.

We eat this living bread,
we drink this saving cup:
sign of hope in our broken world,
source of lasting love.

Our hunger for your word,
our thirsting for your truth
are the sign of your life in us
till we rest in you

[Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957]

Pershore Abbey
CCLI No. 46441

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

07 MARCH 2021

As a Kingdom People we are churches that seek to:

- Worship God
- Welcome All
- Reach out to the world

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Claire Lording

Email: vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Assistant Curate: The Revd Steve Dunton

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Abbey Wardens: Mr Bill Newman (01386 640497) Mrs Suzanne Clarke (01386 553293)

The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham

Alveston House, 11, Broad Street, Pershore, WR10 1BB (01386 552071)

Email: office@pershoreabbey.org.uk **Website:** www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

The office remains closed, but we are still working and available by phone and email

PLEASE PRAY FOR

WE PRAY TOGETHER FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT CRISIS:

We pray for those whose weddings, blessings and baptisms have been affected by the crisis, and for all those who are making new plans to celebrate these special life events.

We pray for all those welcoming new life into their families.

We pray for those in need.

We pray for those who have died and for their families and friends.

We pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs in the coming week.

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Please visit our [Life Events](#) page at www.pershoreabbey.org.uk for more information on weddings and funerals during the crisis.

You can also find additional resources and information to help those suffering from bereavement and loss

ALL OF THE PERSHORE BENEFICE CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED FOR IN PERSON PUBLIC WORSHIP UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The Abbey will remain open for personal prayer only from 9:00 till 17:00 seven days a week. The Village Churches will also continue to open for personal prayer. See [Page 13](#) for details.

We will continue to offer access to worship through our online service sheets and pre-recorded services for those of you who decide to stay at home during these difficult times.

MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES 2021: We are in the process of working through all of our Holy Week and Easter services and deciding how we can best deliver them to be able to reach all of our congregation, whether in church, at home or a combination of both.

We will be offering everyone in the Pershore Benefice the opportunity to join with us for **Holy Week Compline** on **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** evening at **1900** via **Zoom**. Full details of our Holy Week and Easter Services will be available in the bulletin from **21 March**.



Come Worship With Us!

MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE NEXT WEEK 14 MARCH: We are planning to record a special Mothering Sunday service for 14 March this year, which we very much hope you will share with friends and family. Watch this space for more details and for a shareable service link.

CTIP WHOLENESS & HEALING 14 MARCH: The service this month on 14 March will be on Zoom at 1700. It is the quarterly Churches Together in Pershore shared service and if anyone would like a Zoom invitation please email Angela Gerrard before 6pm Saturday 13 March.

MOTHERS' UNION WAVE OF PRAYER MARCH 12-14: During these 2 days members of the Mothers' Union, around the world, are praying for us, in Worcester Diocese and our link dioceses. It is a privilege to belong to a movement that empowers women to take control of their lives. Through our prayers and giving we enable local women to teach literacy and numeracy, so women can earn money to pay for their children's education and health care for their whole family. We provide loans to establish cooperatives that bring communities together not only for the financial benefit of families and communities but for community cohesion. This helps to break down racial and ethnic barriers and leads to trust, respect and a greater working for peace. Please remember the work of the Mothers' Union in your prayers. Thank you. *Revd. Alma Organ*

Join the Prayer for Our Nation and set aside time every evening to pray together at **1800**.

Click here to find out more: [Prayer for the Nation](#)



LENT 2021

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT: This quiet and reflective service which will last half an hour will be held every Monday throughout Lent at **1900** via **Zoom**. We will spend time with some of the stations of the cross each week, hopefully enabling us all to actively engage with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. Please contact me for more information and for the Zoom invitation for each week. *Claire*



Ted Degrazia

THURSDAY LENT GROUP - NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!: Join us for this half an hour session every **Thursday** evening from **1900-1930** via **Zoom**, enabling us to reflect on the following Sunday's gospel reading.

The format will be gentle; listening to the gospel passage, a period of silence and reading it through again to see what God might be saying to us. Some of us may then choose to share any insights that we have without comments; a question to prompt a brief discussion will follow. This will help us to deepen our love of God and his word, prepare ourselves to celebrate Easter and to have fellowship with one another.

If you would like to join the group, please email [**curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for the weekly invitation to the Zoom session. *Steve*

LENT BOOK READING GROUP - THY WILL BE DONE by Stephen Cherry: The Lent Book Group continues to study Stephen Cherry's book, which sets out to enliven our faith through study of the Lord's Prayer. Providing insights from those who have used the Lord's Prayer throughout the centuries, the book explores how we can live its challenges and learn from its guidance, deepening our understanding of the prayer that holds us together as individuals and as a church. Please email [**office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) if you would like to join.



LENTEN LUNCHES: Don't forget to have a look at our weekly soup recipe posted online each Friday throughout Lent to help you experience this traditional aspect of Lent at home. Click here to view this week's recipe: [**Lockdown Lenten Lunches**](#)

#LIVE LENT 2021: The Church of England will be running its #LiveLent 2021 campaign from Ash Wednesday (17 February) to Easter Sunday (4 April) with six reflections for each week including a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Click [**here**](#) for more information.



OTHER NEWS

BELLS FOR CAPTAIN TOM: Along with many other churches up and down the country, a single bell was tolled a 100 times at 1200 on 27th February at the Abbey, St James the Great Birlingham, St Nicholas Pinvin and St Mary Wick out of the deepest respect for Captain Sir Tom Moore, who inspired the nation to dig deep and support the NHS. Hear and see the Abbey effort on our Facebook page. We give thanks for Captain Tom's life and remember his family in our thoughts and prayers. We also pray that Captain Tom's example will continue to inspire us as we try to serve others and that we may all look forward with hope, confident that "tomorrow will be a good day". *Claire*

GET VACCINATED - #GIVEHOPE: Pershore Benefice is embracing the NHS backed Give Hope campaign convened by YourNeighbour and supported by many churches, including the Church of England. When it comes to sharing the good news of the Covid vaccines, the best way to give hope to your neighbours is through a kind and constructive conversation. It's as simple as H - O - P - E.



The COVID-19 vaccine
is the first glimpse of
light in the darkness.
Be part of the mission
and give HOPE.



Have a Conversation

Open up a conversation about the vaccine & listen to concerns.

Offer accurate information

Combat misinformation & bust myths with accurate information.

Provide practical support

Some people may want help to get the vaccine.

Engage others & share opportunity

Share on social media & in your WhatsApp groups to friends & family.

Visit yourneighbour.org to find out more about the Give Hope campaign and the work of the YourNeighbour organisation.

If you have any concerns about the Covid 19 vaccine, or need practical help and support, then do get in touch with our Ministry Team via office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

CHURCH GIVING - GIVE.NET DONATION PAGE NOW LIVE:

We need your support now more than ever, so please consider giving through our dedicated give.net page, which offers secure regular or one-off payments from as little as £1. Click on the logo here or visit our website to donate. If you would prefer to set up a Standing Order, download the form [here](#).



GIFT BAG APPEAL - THANK YOU! It was with great pleasure that on Friday 26 I handed over 100 gift bags to Nicola Langford, representing Worcester Royal Hospital. These will be distributed to the staff working on ITU.

Your generosity has been amazing – I am so grateful to have received such incredible support over the past month. And it hasn't stopped! Next week we will be handing over 45 gift bags to the staff of Pershore Community Hospital.



I'd like to give a special mention to Sandra Long, Wendy Perks and Jean Pritchard who have helped with the collection of donations and, also, to the needlewomen who have knitted, crocheted and sewn a wonderful selection of attractive hearts to pop in each bag as a keepsake.

We'll continue collecting until 17th March, with the additional bags going to other Covid wards at WRH. Thank you. *Sara Speed*

ECO CHURCH NEWS

LATEST CALLED TO ACTION NEWSLETTERS NOW AVAILABLE: This month there are two newsletters from the Called to Action group. The first deals with how to reduce the impact of your home and church IT and the second looks at Earth Hour, which will be celebrated on Saturday 27 March. Links to the full newsletters are given here:

Green IT Newsletter

Earth Hour Newsletter

Along with Worcester Cathedral and other churches throughout the country, Pershore Abbey will also be marking Earth Hour - watch this space for more details and check out our Earth Hour events on our Facebook page.



Earth Hour

8.30pm—9.30pm Sat. 27th March

<https://www.earthhour.org/>

Join in an act of solidarity with millions around the world, drawing attention to the nature and climate crises. Switch off as many devices as you can, and take time to pray.

There are lots of environmental worship resources at:
<https://www.climatesunday.org/resources>

You are welcome to join Worcester Cathedral, in a candle light vigil starting at 8.30pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/WorcesterCathedral>

St Andrew's - have your say...



Please

fill in our on-line survey about St Andrew's,
the town's vital Community Centre.
Plans for improved facilities and repairs are
afoot and we need public comments
to get grants. Go to

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5CJB6FL

or click on the QR code.



HELP IN THE COMMUNITY

CTIP FOODBANK: The Foodbank remains open on Tuesdays 1100 - 1300 and Fridays 1300 - 1500.

Social distancing procedures remain in place with clients being asked to wait in the entrance hall, as guided by a volunteer.

Our thanks go to all of the volunteers who work so hard to make this possible, and to all those who continue to donate items.

Please can you help our Foodbank with these non-perishable items: (We are not able to use chilled or frozen items.)

- Coffee
- Rice Pudding
- Cereal
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Instant Mash
- Sponge Puddings
- Veg /Tomato Soup
- Pasta in Sauce
- Tinned Meat
- Deodorant
- EASTER EGGS!!



CITIZEN'S ADVICE: Face to Face sessions have now been suspended. To speak to an adviser please ring **01386 712100**.

For General Advice select option 1.

For help to complete your first Universal Credit application select option 2.

**citizens
advice**

This service is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1000 -1300.

The Worcestershire Adviceline is also available Monday to Friday between 1000 - 1600: ring 03444111303 or email enquiries.wychavon@citizensadvice.org.uk

Get all of the latest Covid-19 information from Pershore Town Council [here](#)

AND FINALLY . . .

PERSHORE ABBEY IS OFFICIALLY A FAIRTRADE CHURCH!: Pershore Abbey had a fabulous announcement to make at its first ever virtual coffee morning in aid of Fairtrade Fortnight - we are now a Fairtrade Church!

This means that we have made a commitment to using Fairtrade products in preference to 'conventional' alternatives, and that we have pledged to promote the cause of Fairtrade.

This is a significant milestone in our work to not only embrace the work of the Fairtrade Foundation, but also to move forward with our Eco Church mission.

Many thanks to all of those involved in achieving our Fairtrade status.



PERSHORE BENEFICE

OUR CHURCHES REMAIN OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER ONLY

Please see below for information on the current situation for each church in the Benefice.

Please be aware that only restricted areas of our churches will be open and numbers will be limited to ensure your safety.

PERSHORE ABBEY

DAILY

0900 - 1700

The Abbey may sometimes be closed for recording

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAYS ONLY

1030 - 1330

ST MARY'S, WICK

DAILY

1000 - 1600

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SELECTED SUNDAYS

(see website for opening updates)

1000 - 1300

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS IS NOW MANDATORY FOR ALL THOSE ENTERING OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SAFETY OF EVERYONE.

Please be mindful that due to social distancing capacity will be reduced in our churches.

When entering our church please observe social distancing rules at all times.

Hand-sanitiser and tissues will be available to keep you and others safe.

Please be considerate of others and keep to the guidelines.

NHS COVID-19 APP - TEST AND TRACE THROUGH QR SCANNING

We are now displaying a QR code poster at all entrance points to our buildings.

Visitors with smart phones can choose to leave their details by scanning this code with the NHS COVID 19 App. You can find out more information about the NHS Covid-19 App, including a short video, by visiting the NHS website from here: [NHS COVID-19](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19).



WORSHIP DURING COVID-19 AND KEEPING IN TOUCH

PERSHORE ABBEY COMMUNITY ONLINE DURING NEW LOCKDOWN

As we move into this new period of lockdown we are continuing to review our online activity and to consider how best to move forward with a sustainable programme of online and digital activity.

We will continue to update Facebook with new items when we can, but hope you will bear with us as we go through this process.

A copy of our weekly service sheet will be available every week for you to use as an aid to worship at home, together with a pre-recorded online service.

Do continue to check out our activity on the following platforms in the meantime:

- Our YouTube channel is called [Pershore Abbey Community](#)
- Our Facebook page can be found at [#pershoreabbeycom](#)
- Our Facebook posts, latest Instagram posts and a Twitter feed can also all be found on our website at www.pershoreabbey.org.uk at the bottom of every page.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

C OF E LAUNCHES WORSHIP PHONE LINE:

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services 24 hours a day.

Please share this with those who are not online.



C OF E ONLINE SERVICES AND SUPPORT:

The Church of England continues to broadcast online each Sunday via social media at 09:00. For simple daytime and night prayer services, download the free Church of England App "Time to Pray".



The "Daily Prayer" App is free to download and is now available through our website.

There is also an accompanying daily audio offering on SoundCloud and iTunes led by the Archbishop of Canterbury .

STAYING UP TO DATE: The best way to stay up to date with all the current news and information at this time is through our website and Facebook pages.

All of our platforms can be easily accessed directly from www.pershoreabbey.org.uk



SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN AND DIARY: If you would like to receive email updates and a copy of the Benefice Service Sheet direct to your inbox, please email the office at office@pershoreabbey.org.uk.

A copy is also uploaded to the website every Friday

PASTORAL SUPPORT: The Ministry Team and Abbey Pastoral Group are doing their best to keep in touch with everyone. This is mostly by telephone or email. If you have yet to hear from anyone or have a particular need please contact Claire (vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk/tel:552071) or Angela Gerrard.

ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

(A) Abbey, (B) Birlingham, (P) Pinvin, (W) Wick,
(St A) St Andrew's, (V) New Vicarage, (CTIP) Churches Together in Pershore

THE PERSHORE ABBEY BENEFICE CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED FOR IN PERSON PUBLIC WORSHIP UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Please check on social media and our website for the latest updates

The Abbey remains open daily from 0900 - 1700 for personal prayer

Please note: the Abbey may sometimes be closed to allow for recording of services

SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / FAIRTRADE SUNDAY

1030 Pre-recorded Sunday Eucharist Service available to view via Facebook and YouTube

Monday 8 March

1900 Stations of the Cross (Zoom)

Tuesday 9 March

0930 Foodbank Steering Group (Zoom)

1100 FOODBANK (St A)

1530 Social Media Recording (Abbey)

1830 Pershore and Evesham Deanery Synod
(Zoom)

Wednesday 10 March

1530 V&W (Zoom)

Thursday 11 March

WORK ON ABBEY AND ST A GUTTERS

1200 Funeral Service for the
late Ivy Waldron (Vale)*

1900 Lent Group (Zoom)

1900 Website Meeting (Zoom)

Friday 12 March

1300 Funeral Service for the
late Arthur Redman (Vale)*
Re-scheduled from previous week

1300 FOODBANK (St A)

Saturday 13 March

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Sunday 14 March - Mothering Sunday

1030 Pre-recorded All Age Eucharist Service
(Online via YouTube and Facebook)

1700 CTiP Wholeness and Healing (Zoom)

*Please be aware that all funeral, wedding and baptism services are subject to strict controls on the number of people attending, and are therefore private events

WEBSITE:

Please remember you can see all the latest updates and information on our website
www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Search for Pershore Abbey Community to follow us on Facebook.

We are also on Twitter and Instagram.



All of our Social Media feeds are now available through our website.

Scroll to the bottom of each page to follow us there.