



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 02 May, 2021**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## **SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY**

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

There is no online service available to view this week.

A hymn sheet to accompany this service is available on [Page 5](#)

### **THE COLLECT**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

**Acts 8: 26-40**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of

them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

## **SECOND READING**

### **1 John 4:7-21**

A reading from the First Letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **John 15: 1-8**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a

branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

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

### **REFLECTION BY REVD CLAIRE LORDING**

It is beyond amazing that a NASA experiment has been able to turn some of the toxic atmosphere of Mars into oxygen. Not much, but enough for ten minutes worth of breathing. Something that is seemingly dead and without life can now become something that can sustain and enable life to survive. The good fruit of scientific enquiry needs to be celebrated. Something that is very thought provoking when we think about our sisters and brothers in India suffocating due the lack of oxygen in their hospitals. The very thing that enables life is now a precious commodity on the black market.

These powerful illustrations remind us that our lives are bound up with the lives of one another, regardless of our proximity to one another. What happens in any place asks questions of us and how we use our resources; how much we care for our neighbours; what our hopes, ambitions, dreams and vision are. Other people's stories and experiences become part of our story.

Jesus knew something of the complex and fascinating way in which people are bound together by relationships and a common humanity. Jesus calls himself the true vine, where we are the branches. An image that reveals how we are never on our own because we are fundamentally connected to other people and places. Where our energy and life comes from being connected to the vine, the life giving and sustaining power of Jesus. And it is from that source of life that we can grow and show the good fruit of the kingdom. Without this source of life, without this abiding in Jesus, we are counted as dead and worth nothing, cast aside.

It can be a frightening image, but it's intended to be one that encourages and inspires us. Can we give thanks today for something that has reminded us that we are connected to this beautiful human family, this wonderful family of the Kingdom of God? What fruit can we bear today that will best show our love of God in Jesus Christ and for our neighbour?

Prayer is at the very heart of what it means to be a branch, connected to the true vine. We may pray on our own, wondering what difference it's making, perhaps tempted to give up. But if we think about all the other people around the world praying with us and for us, we are overwhelmed by the love that sustains and upholds us. We may not personally be able to do anything practical for the people of India, but we can certainly pray, showing our love and solidarity, praying that the Spirit will lead those who can do something to do something. That is incredibly powerful, and that is good fruit.

In all that we say and think and do we have the opportunity to reveal that we can do nothing in our power, but only in the strength and power of God. We need the true vine more than we can ever imagine. We need each other. And once we know this we will find that God will keep on using and enabling us to grow into the very best version of ourselves, bearing the best possible fruit, for the benefit of all.

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

\*

## **HYMN SHEET**

### **HYMN 1**

#### **A&M 664**

***(St Peter)***

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
and drives away his fear.  
  
It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary rest.  
  
Dear name! the rock on which I build,  
my shield and hiding-place,  
my never-failing treasury filled  
with boundless stores of grace.  
  
Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,  
my Prophet, Priest, and King,  
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
accept the praise I bring.  
  
Weak is the effort of my heart,  
and cold my warmest thought;  
but when I see thee as thou art,  
I'll praise thee as I ought.  
  
Till then I would thy love proclaim  
with every fleeting breath;  
and may the music of thy name  
refresh my soul in death.

[John Newton, 1725-1807]

### **HYMN 2**

#### **A&M 787**

***(Nottingham)***

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
  
Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.  
  
Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine:  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart: it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

[Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879]

### **HYMN 3**

### **A&M 794**

### ***(Dominus Regit Me)***

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

[Henry Williams Baker, 1821-1877]

Pershore Abbey: CCLI No. 46441

# PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

02 MAY 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**

**Email:** curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk

**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.

\*

Please visit our [Life Events](#) page at [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://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

## PERSHORE BENEFICE NOW OPEN FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

**We look forward to welcoming you back in to our churches in May and beyond for in-person worship.**

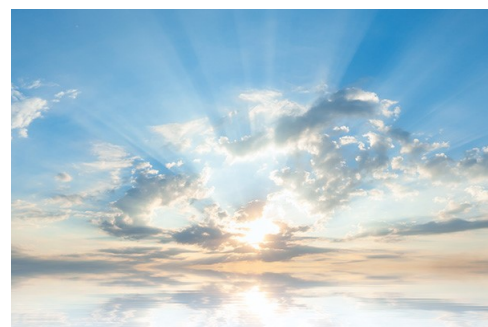
We will continue to provide on-line service sheets for those unable to safely attend church, although there will be no online pre-recorded service to follow at this time.

Please see [Page 16](#) for full details of our in-person services taking place across the Benefice this May and don't forget our weekly Compline service which takes place every Monday by Zoom.

### MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

#### **ASCENSION DAY SERVICE - PERSHORE ABBEY, 1900**

**THURSDAY 13 MAY** : As we enter the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come 2021 on 13 May, we begin our journey with a special Eucharist at 1900 at Pershore Abbey on Ascension Day, marking the moment Jesus ascended into heaven before his disciples, at the village of Bethany, near Jerusalem. Read more about **Thy Kingdom Come 2021** in the Pershore Benefice on [Page 9](#).



**DAILY PRAYER AT THE ABBEY:** Everyone is very welcome to join Steve and me in the Apse in the Abbey for the keeping of silence at 0800 followed by Matins at 0830, and Evening Prayer at 1700. Please feel free to come to all or just one of these services. In the mornings, please arrive at either 0800 or 0830 as that will help with seating arrangements. Please enter the Abbey by the Wick door.

If you have a smart phone or tablet you can download the Church of England Daily Prayer App which will enable you to share in the services without having to use a book,. We hope to resume a daily Eucharist very soon. Please get in touch if you want to know more. *Claire*

**COMPLINE BY ZOOM CONTINUES!:** For several months now a group of around 30 people have been meeting on Monday nights via Zoom for Compline or Stations of the Cross. There has been enthusiasm for this to continue, which is wonderful. Compline by Zoom will start again after an Easter break on 12 April at 1900 and will run until 17 May, when we shall once again review our online service provision. If you'd like to join our Compline service please email me for the Zoom invitation. It will be lovely to share worship with you. *Claire*



## **THY KINGDOM COME 13 - 23 MAY 2021:**

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.



During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

1. *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
2. *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
3. *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

It is our prayer 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. Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

## **What are we going to do in the Pershore Benefice for 'Thy Kingdom Come'?**

Join us in church at **Pershore Abbey** on **13 May** for our **Ascension Day Service** at **1900**

This year in the Pershore Benefice we are also going to have an online Zoom ***Novena of prayer*** from the Friday after Ascension to Pentecost Eve on 22nd May. There will be daily prayer together at **1900** that will last between **10- 15 minutes** on each of these days. It's a great way to join in a great river of prayer of Christians not only here but all over the world and across many different denominations.

In order to receive the Zoom link and service sheets please **email Rev. Steve** at [curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

## **Prayer journal and family resources**

We have a 100 prayer journals and family prayer adventure maps to give away to help you to reflect and pray during this grace filled time. They will be available to collect from a table at the back of the Abbey from 0900 on Sunday 2nd May.

We will also share on social media some of the amazing 'Cheeky Panda' videos for our younger members.

**WHOLENESS & HEALING - SUNDAY 9 MAY 1700 by ZOOM:** The May Wholeness and Healing service will once again be held by Zoom at 1700. If anyone would like a Zoom invitation please contact Angela Gerrard before 1800 on Friday 7 May or email [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) by 12 noon on Friday 7 May.

**EVERYDAY FAITH IN WORK WORKSHOP - ONLINE MAY 19 / JUNE 10 2021, 19.30– 21:00**

How do your faith and your work connect with each other? A lot of what is said and written about faith in the workplace is about relationships: treating people well, finding opportunities to share appropriately what we believe, bearing witness through our character and behaviour to the difference God makes in our lives. But what about the nature of the work itself?

If we are employees, what are the aims and purposes of the companies we work for? Is the business about making money or making useful products, and where does the balance lie? How does my workplace serve the economy, or build up the common good? How does its structure promote just and equitable treatment of employee and customer alike? How much of a pay differential should there be between CEO and the lowest paid? Whether I am employed or self-employed, where do I, on a personal level, feel most fulfilled in my work and why? Do I see my work as a vocation to which God has called me? How does my faith help when things go wrong at work? These are more difficult questions, having no cut and dried answers, no obvious connections with what the bible has to say, nor any straightforward moral prescriptions.

This workshop is for people to come together to explore these and other questions, and how they might relate to their own work and workplace. The workshop is convened by Doug Chaplin, Discipleship and Lay Training Officer for the diocese and Dick Johnson, lead chaplain for Faith at Work in Worcestershire and lead chaplain to the Police and Fire Services. Click [here](#) for more information on this event or book here via Eventbrite:

**Faith at Work Workshop.**



**STEWARDSHIP**

**BOXED ENVELOPES:** Could you please let the office know if you would like to receive the next annual boxed set of planned giving envelopes. We will deliver the box to you so please confirm your address and the identification number on your envelopes in your request. Email [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) or leave a message on **01386 552071** (answerphone service only). Thank you. *Sarah Thomson*

**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](#).

## OTHER NEWS

### **BABIES AND TODDLERS REOPENING SOON - WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP!:**

We will be reopening our weekly sessions from **FRIDAY 30 April, 09:30 -11:15** at **St Andrew's Centre**.

Numbers will be restricted and places **MUST** be pre-booked.

For more details, and to reserve a place, kindly contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776 or via [office@pershoreabbey.org](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org)



We do have 2 vacancies for helpers on the rota – 1 to be an assistant during the play sessions and 1 to help set up/clear away tables & chairs, larger play equipment before and after the sessions. Both are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month. For more details, please contact Sara as above.

**BRASS CLEANING:** If you feel inclined to wield a duster and help with making the brass in the Abbey sparkle I would be very grateful to hear from you. At the moment our team does it once a quarter, in pairs, but it would be great if we could have a few more in the team. Thank you in advance. Please contact Wendy Perks 01386 553354 or email [perksomega@btinternet.com](mailto:perksomega@btinternet.com)

**ANGLO-DEUTSCH ZOOM EVENT SATURDAY 8 MAY 1500 :** Join us for our first ever Zoom twin parish celebration between Pershore Abbey and our link parish church Salzwedel Katherinenkirche!!

Everyone will speak in their own native tongue in an interactive 40 -minute event including news updates, greetings, stories, poetry and reflections.

If you would like to come along, please contact Claire at [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk) and we will send you the Zoom link.

If you would like to share a photograph of Pandemic Pershore or perhaps read a reflection, please contact Michael Hodges at [mh@broadwayplc.com](mailto:mh@broadwayplc.com). Claire and Michael are looking forward to hearing from you.



St Catherine's, Salzwedel

**GET VACCINATED - #GIVEHOPE:** 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.

Visit [yourneighbour.org](http://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](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

## 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



**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.



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](mailto:enquiries.wychavon@citizensadvice.org.uk)

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

## ST ANDREW'S SURVEY - HAVE YOUR SAY AT PERSHORE LIBRARY

We have had a terrific response to the survey so far, but we are aware that there are people who are not able to access the links online to be able to have their say.

We have teamed up with Persore Library who are happy for anyone who is a library member and who is computer confident to complete the survey using the public computers .

If you are a non-library member or not comfortable with using the computer, they may be able to complete the survey over the phone with you. Just call the Customer Contact Centre on 01905 822722 (Mon – Fri 0900—1700) and ask to be put through to Persore Library .

Persore Library is open Mon – Fri 1000 - 1700 & Sat 1000 - 1600 .

Please do spread the word to anyone who may not be able to access the digital links or QR code so that we can get as great a range of views as possible to help us move St Andrew's forward.



# 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](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5CJB6FL)

or click on the QR code.



## PIPE DREAMS UPDATE

Work has continued at the Fratelli Ruffatti factory in Italy on the construction of the organ pipes, console and other internals for our new organ. Sadly national and international Covid-19 restrictions means that Ruffatti are now unable to deliver and install our new organ until 2022. Whilst this delay is very disappointing for us, we have been using the additional time to explore enhancements to the organ specification.

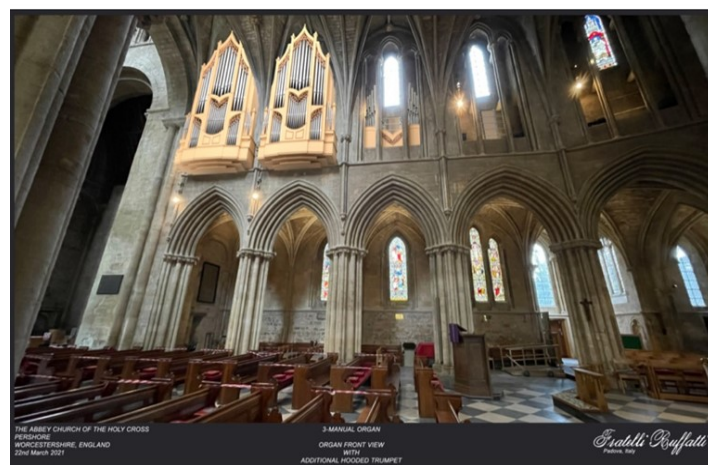
The stoplist for the original organ design provides the conditions for the highest possible versatility to support the liturgy, lead the choir and congregational singing and perform the classical organ repertoire of different styles including the performance of romantic organ music with special reference to the great works of the French composers.

Despite the very creative use of the available space within the original organ casings, it has not been possible to include stops that would satisfy the desired completeness of specification we identified with the Diocesan Organ Advisor in 2017. At that time of funding uncertainty, it was agreed that a suitably designed Festival Trumpet stop would fill the gap in specification although the additional pipes would have to be positioned in a separate location. Because of the funding uncertainties, it was decided to design the new organ console to make provision for such a stop at a time of greater funding certainty. We have now reached that time and, at our invitation, Ruffatti have prepared a proposal for the addition of a separate Festival Trumpet stop with the additional pipes located in the third triforium bay next to the main organ casings, as illustrated in the photomontage of the proposed new arrangement.

The proposal includes new access doors to the triforium from the new blower room to facilitate tuning. We have also taken the opportunity to add a Zimbelstern stop to our specification within the faculty application. This stop is to be made of 12 small brass bells on a rotating platform which when operated produces a very special effect that has been used in organs for centuries to enhance musical atmosphere. This stop may be used for Christmas carols, and a variety of baroque pieces and is small enough to be located within the main instrument casings.

These enhancements will add a new dimension to the instrument allowing performers a wider choice of repertoire. We are pleased to announce that the Friends of Pershore Abbey have generously agreed funding support for the additional work should our faculty application be successful.

More detailed information may be obtained from David Long, Chairman Fabric Committee.





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10 - 16 MAY 2021:** Watch this space for more information on this year's envelope scheme to combat climate change and help make a difference where it matters. Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives. Please contact the office if you'd like to deliver Christian Aid envelopes close to your home and be nominated as the letterbox for donation to be posted back through. Thank you. *Sarah Thomson*



**LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH COURSE - WEEK COMMENCING 7 JUNE 2021:** This summer, we will be offering the opportunity to join us in the Church of England's "Living in Love and Faith" course, which explores questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ. What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church? More details on the course to follow soon or visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith> to find out more about the project.



## AND FINALLY . . .

**WEDDING SEASON IS UNDERWAY!:** After what has been a difficult and uncertain time for all of our wedding couples, we were delighted to welcome Clementine Hodges and James Fish to Pershore Abbey on Saturday 24 April to celebrate their marriage.

With a small party of only 15, the couple enjoyed a wonderful day and were able to share their marriage service with a wider audience thanks to the power of the internet and mobile phones!

The pair also have the distinction of being the last ever couple to sign the register at Pershore Abbey, as new legislation comes into force on May 4 2021 making the parish marriage register redundant.

We wish James and Clementine all the best for their future lives together and look forward to a joyful wedding season across the Benefice.



*Photo courtesy of Mr and Mrs Fish!*

*If you need any help in accessing any of the online features mentioned in the bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact the office or Revd Claire Lording for support.*



# PERSHORE BENEFICE

## INFORMATION ON PUBLIC WORSHIP MAY 2021

Details of the current planned public worship services within the Pershore Benefice are given below, but please do check our social media pages and website for full service details in case of any changes. Thank you for your continued support.

### ATTENDING A PUBLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

It is important that you only attend a public worship service if you feel that it is appropriate and safe for you to do so within the current National Lockdown guidelines. We understand that some of our congregation are shielding or will not feel able to attend. A digital version of our service sheet is available to assist those who wish to worship at home.

For those who do wish to attend a service, things will be different and our services will be shorter.

New guidance requires that face-coverings must be worn by those attending a place of worship. The full guidance and list of exemptions can be found [here](#).

#### PERSHORE ABBEY

##### **SUNDAY 2 MAY**

0800 BCP Eucharist at  
1030 Eucharist with choir

##### **SUNDAY 9 MAY**

1030 Eucharist with choir

##### **ASCENSION DAY 13 MAY**

1900 Eucharist

##### **SUNDAY 16 MAY**

1030 Sunday Praise with choir

##### **SUNDAY 23 MAY**

1030 All Age Eucharist with choir

##### **SUNDAY 30 MAY**

1030 Eucharist with choir

**PLEASE NOTE:** Daily Offices have resumed

*Please check our Social Media and website  
for any changes to our advertised services*

#### ST MARY'S, WICK

##### **SUNDAY 9 MAY**

1030 Morning Praise

##### **SUNDAY 23 MAY**

1030 Parish Communion

#### ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

##### **SUNDAY 2 MAY**

1030 Holy Communion

##### **SUNDAY 16 MAY**

1030 Sunday Praise

#### ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

##### **SUNDAY 2 MAY**

1030 Morning Praise

##### **SUNDAY 16 MAY**

1030 Holy Communion



# PERSHORE BENEFICE

## PERSONAL PRAYER OPENING TIMES

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

**DUE TO LOCATION, ST NICHOLAS  
IS OPEN BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT  
ONLY**

## 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 - UPDATE

As we move out of the latest National Lockdown and move forward on the Government Roadmap, we continue to review our online activity. Pershore Abbey is awaiting formal permission to install a live streaming facility which will enable us to share our services for those unable to attend church going forward.

In the meantime, we will continue to update our social media pages with new items when we can.

There will be no recorded service at this time but a copy of our weekly service sheet will be available for you to use as an aid to worship at home.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 CHURCHES OF THE PERSHORE BENEFICE ARE NOW OPEN FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP**

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

\*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

### **SUNDAY 02 MAY 2021 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

0800 BCP Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)  
1030 Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey*)  
1030 Sunday Praise (*St James', Birlingham*)  
1030 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES FROM 12 APRIL:**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

#### **Monday 3 May**

1900 Compline (*Zoom*)

#### **Tuesday 4 May**

1100 FOODBANK (*St A*)

#### **Wednesday 5 May**

1900 V&W (*Zoom*)

#### **Thursday 6 May**

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#### **Friday 7 May**

0930 Babies and Toddlers (*St A*)

*pre-booked places only*

1300 FOODBANK (*St A*)

#### **Saturday 8 May**

1500 Anglo-Deutsch Event with St Katherine's  
Salzwedel (*Zoom*)

#### **Sunday 9 May - Easter 6**

1030 Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey*)

1030 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)

1700 W&H (*Zoom*)

*A copy of our regular weekly service sheet and  
bulletin will be available online through our  
social media platforms and website for those  
unable to attend church in person*

### **PERSHORE ABBEY ONLINE**

Check our website and social media pages for all the latest information and updates



Facebook: [#pershoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/pershoreabbeycom) YouTube: [Pershore Abbey Community](https://www.youtube.com/PershoreAbbeyCommunity)

Website: [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk)