



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**

**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with  
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick  
Sunday, 5 September, 2021  
Trinity 14**

**SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY**

**The 1030 service from Pershore Abbey will be live streamed every week.**

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

Our live streamed service will be available to view on the [Pershore Abbey Community YouTube Channel](#) where you can join in live at 1030 or watch on catch up!

A hymn sheet to accompany this service is available on [Page 4](#) . Following a review of Covid arrangements, you can join in singing the hymns in church but we ask that you wear a mask and sing quietly.

**THE COLLECT**

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our 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**

**Isaiah 35.4-7a**

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

**SECOND READING**

**James 2.1-10, 14-17**

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please,' while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there,' or, 'Sit at my feet,' have you not made distinctions

among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

### **THE GOSPEL**

### **Mark 7.24-37**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **REFLECTION BY ANGELA GERRARD (LICENSED LAY MINISTER)**

Whenever I reflect on the story of the Syrophenician Woman, which is remarkable for her faith and that Jesus heals her daughter remotely, it is nonetheless her dignity that always strikes me and speaks out to us all. She knew where she stood in terms of status but was unapologetic, rather she was confident in making her request and felt deserving of it being granted.

I'm sure many will remember the famous John Cleese, Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett sketch from years ago about class. Ronnie Corbett, in flat cap and muffler, responding to upper class bowler-hatted John Cleese, and suit and trilby middle class Ronnie Barker with 'I know my place.' It made us laugh, but was he apologising or simply stating a fact? We can all know where we stand and be proud of it. Again, many years ago on a Jimmy Young radio phone-in about the importance of education, a surgeon came on trumpeting his status due to his academic education and training. He was followed by a hospital cleaner, who had little academic education but was proud to point out that if she didn't clean the operating theatre so it was spotless and germ free, the outcome of the surgeon's skills might not be so successful.

We can all have that same dignity when we ask for God's healing.

On Sunday 19th September we will again be offering healing prayer during communion, but not the laying-on of hands as we continue to be cautious about Covid transference. This will be a short prayer offered to everyone who comes forward, without taking any details of the healing you require – God will know all your needs. This will also apply at our monthly, 2nd Sunday evening healing service, beginning again next week at 5.00pm. If anyone does wish to discuss their request for healing, for themselves or another, there will be the opportunity for this to take place privately in a side chapel at the end of the service.

We can't all aspire to be the top notch in society, but we need never be ashamed of our status – a fact at the heart of Jesus' ministry. God's love elevates each and every one of us to the same level, we will all receive the same reward for our faith in him. Our faith is the great equalizer and having faith in God is always something to be proud of, in whatever company we find ourselves.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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



## HYMN SHEET

### COMMUNION MOTET

Cantate Domino *by Pitoni*

*Sung by Pershore Abbey Choir*

### HYMN 1

**A&M 568**

***(Woodlands)***

Take up the song, and sing the praise of God,  
who gave the world its skies and lands and seas,  
then formed the fish and creatures of the earth;  
our God be praised for wondrous gifts like these!

Take up the song, and sing the praise of God,  
who gave the power of choice to humankind,  
that we might rule the earth through servanthood,  
and so find joy in all that God designed.

Take up the song, and sing the praise of God;  
proclaim to all the open mystery  
that Christ, whose death destroyed the power of sin,  
was raised by God and reigns in Trinity.

Take up the song, and sing the praise of God;  
with music make both earth and heaven ring,  
for God is good and loves all he has made;  
so now to him all thanks and praise bring!

[Rae E. Whitney (b. 1927)]

### HYMN 2

**A&M 557**

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suffering world, this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,  
Sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase!

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
Give us compassion, we pray:  
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain,  
Come, change our love from a spark  
To a flame.*

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
Work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.  
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
Voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

Refuge from Cruel wars, havens from fear,  
Cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,  
Plundered and poisoned: our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;  
Make us content with the things that we need.

Lighten our darkness, breath on this flame,  
Until your justice burns brightly again;  
Until the nations learn your ways,  
Seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

[Graham Kendrick (b.1950)]

# PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

## 5 SEPTEMBER 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 Benefice will be open to the general public on the following days:***

***Tuesday - Thursday: 11:00 - 12:00 only***

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

The beautiful sunflowers in Pershore Abbey this week have been donated by Christopher Meredith, in loving memory of Maureen

### **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, baptisms and funerals during the pandemic.

## WEEKLY BULLETIN 5 SEPTEMBER 2021

**NEW STYLE WEEKLY AND MONTHLY BULLETIN:** As we move forward out of Covid we are looking at new ways to communicate our bulletin items.

Our weekly bulletin pages will be much shorter and will concentrate on new items and updates. We will continue to make this weekly bulletin a part of the service sheet.

We will also be trialing a separate monthly bulletin that contains static information and news on forthcoming services, projects and events. The monthly bulletin will initially be in digital format only, but we hope to have hard copies available soon.

### **MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS**

Please see [Page 11](#) for full details of our in-person Benefice services this September

**ALPHA COURSE COMES TO PERSHORE THIS SEPTEMBER:** Full details of this exciting and rewarding course can be found in the Monthly Bulletin. Please sign up using the sheets at the back of Pershore Abbey or email [curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**CALLING YOUNG DISCIPLES & CAFÉ CHURCH :** Don't forget Café Church starts next week on 12 September. You can read all about Café Church, the Calling Young Disciples Project and hear from our Mission Enabler, Sian Morgan, in the Monthly Bulletin.



**WHOLENESS AND HEALING:** Come and join us for our next service on 12 September at 1700 in Pershore Abbey.

**DAILY PRAYER IN THE ABBEY APSE:** Do join us for this wonderful opportunity to begin and end each day in prayer. We begin our day at 0800 with half an hour of silent prayer, which is followed by Morning Prayer. We hope to be able to resume the Daily Eucharist very soon. We come back together at 1700 for Evening Prayer. Our morning and evening half-hour services are open to all and we very much look forward to welcoming you. If you are thinking of joining one of these services please use the Wick door entrance into the Abbey, and in the morning please arrive at either 0800 or 0830 to help us with the seating. *Claire*

**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS HAVE NOW RESUMED:** The Intercessory Prayer group has now resumed meeting in the Abbey on the 1st Thursday of every month at 1415. For further information contact the Abbey Office, or Pauline Greenwood.

### **BENEFICE OFFICE RE-OPENS TO THE PUBLIC**

The Benefice office will re-open to the public this week after 18 months of working behind closed doors. The office will open every **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday** from **11:00 - 12:00 only**. Please be mindful that space is restricted and we ask you to be considerate of both our staff and other visitors.

## STEWARDSHIP

**ABBEY STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY EVENTS:** Our special Stewardship Sunday services will be held at 08:00 and 10:30 on 26 September at Pershore Abbey, followed by a Stewardship Tea on the following Sunday 3 October at 15:00 in St Andrew's Centre.



These special services will launch our joining the national Parish Giving Scheme. The scheme is recognised as being a really good way of enabling congregations and supporters to pledge their regular giving to the work and ministry of a church. We are delighted that Chris Boden, the Diocesan Stewardship and Resource Officer, will be joining us for both our Stewardship Sunday services to explain more about the scheme.

At our stewardship tea we will have the chance to explain about the Abbey's needs, its plans for the future as we learn to live with Covid, and how your support in time and talents can make a real difference to the ministry which Pershore Abbey can offer our community.

These stewardship services and events will also give us the opportunity to say 'Thank You' for the support so generously given by so many people in the past.

We hope to personally invite everyone who has given their time and talents to the Stewardship Tea, as numbers are restricted to keep the event as safe as possible, but do let us know if we have somehow missed you!

Our services are open to all and we very much look forward to warmly welcoming you on 26 September and beyond. *Claire*

**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:** As we look forward to Stewardship Sunday you may be considering how you can give your time and talents to Pershore Abbey. Have a look in the Volunteering Opportunities section of our Monthly Bulletin to see what's available. We will add new opportunities to the weekly bulletin to keep you up to date.

**MAKING A DONATION TO PERSHORE ABBEY:** Click on the logo or visit our website to donate. If you would prefer to set up a Standing Order, download the form [here](#).



## OTHER NEWS

**PERSHORE ABBEY LIVE STREAM FEEDBACK:** Did you watch last Sunday's service either at the time or later in the week? We know over 40 of you did and we would like your comments please. Do email [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) with your comments. (We are aware of a sound quality issue which hopefully the installation engineers will fix shortly)

**DO YOU NEED ACCESS TO THE FLOWER VESTRY?:** The existing lock recently and has had to be replaced. Do you have a key and do you really need one? Please contact the churchwardens.



**PERSHORE FOODBANK NEEDS YOUR FOOD DONATIONS!** During the pandemic the Foodbank received generous monetary donations from individuals and corporate bodies and we could not have helped our clients without such generosity. The number seeking help remains very high and we continue to support them by buying in food. Last week the food bill was £1200, so the money given is being used up rapidly, which is what it is for but the situation cannot continue for long. Please donate non-perishable goods (tins, packets etc) as soon as possible to enable us to continue supporting people in crisis. There is a box at the back of church . *Judy Dale*

**COLLECTION FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES:** THANK YOU for your donations to help the Afghan refugees. It was a wonderful response and two very full carloads of clothing, bedding, toiletries, toys, etc. were delivered to the Teams4 Us warehouse in Evesham. The team was delighted to receive so many bags of donations. Some people have asked whether they could donate money to the cause – certainly, that would be most welcome.

Donations can be made by cheque. Please contact the office at [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for details of how to make your donation.

*Thank you for your generosity. Sara Speed, Pershore Abbey PCC*

## **ECO CHURCH**

**THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK 18 - 26 SEPTEMBER:** Do join us for coffee in the St Andrew's Centre on 11 September from 10:00 - 12:00 as we prepare to celebrate the Great Big Green Week, a national week of events celebrating action on climate change. We will be holding our Climate Sunday service on 19 September as part of this campaign. Visit the [Great Big Green Week](https://www.greatbiggreenweek.org) website to find out how you can get involved.

**COFFEE MORNING 11 SEPTEMBER 10:00 - 12:00 ST ANDREW'S:** The theme for our Big Green Week Coffee Morning is **Countdown to COP26**, complete with quiz! Help choose 50 ideas for the 50 days to the International Climate Change Conference in Glasgow from 11 September. Come and join us, share your ideas and enjoy some free climate friendly cake as we kick-start our Great Big Green Week celebrations!

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**RIDE + STRIDE 2021 - SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 0900 - 1700:** Pershore Abbey will be open for the annual Ride + Stride event once more this year - the perfect green event! If you are taking part in this event why not pop in for a coffee at St Andrew's and celebrate supporting the environment at our Big Green Coffee Morning?

For more information please see: [www.rideandstrideuk.org](http://www.rideandstrideuk.org)

## AND FINALLY . . .

**ST ANDREW'S ANNUAL PLUMS PRESENTED JUST IN TIME!** With the cutting back of Plum celebrations this year we were unable to make our usual presentation of One Pound of Pershore Plums to the Diocese of Worcester – in recent years this has been enjoyed during our Teddy Plum Praise in the Park. 1lb of best Pershore Plums is the legal rent we pay for the use of St Andrew's and is due on the 31<sup>st</sup> August each year – a tradition begun 50 years ago when St Andrew's church became our parish centre. Cheap as it sounds, we also have to cover the costs of maintenance, repairs and insurance but worth it - the centre is enjoyed by young and old, church and community. Lockdown has reduced its use this year but has been available throughout for the Foodbank to support our town at this difficult time.

The plums were presented by the Revd Claire to Bishop Martin at his home on the exact date – 31 August this week, and he was happy to receive them!



Our thanks again to the Vale Landscape Heritage Trust who kindly donated the Pershore plums. *Judy Dale*



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)

# PERSHORE BENEFICE

## INFORMATION ON PUBLIC WORSHIP SEPTEMBER 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 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 and the 1030 Abbey service will be live-streamed. Each week.

We ask that those attending public services, continue to wear masks when entering, leaving and moving about our churches. Once seated masks can be removed at your discretion. You may now join in with our hymns, but we do ask that you wear a mask and sing quietly.

#### PERSHORE ABBEY

##### **SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER**

0800 BCP Eucharist  
1030 Eucharist with choir

##### **SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**

###### **Holy Cross Day**

0945 Café Church  
1030 Eucharist  
1700 Wholeness & Healing

##### **SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**

###### **Climate Sunday**

1030 Eucharist with choir

##### **SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**

###### **Stewardship Sunday**

0800 Eucharist  
1030 Sunday Praise with choir  
1700 Iona

#### ST MARY'S, WICK

##### **SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**

1030 Morning Praise

##### **SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**

1030 Parish Communion

#### ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

##### **SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER**

1030 Holy Communion

##### **SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**

1030 Sunday Praise

#### ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

##### **SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER**

1030 Holy Communion

##### **SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**

1500 Harvest Festival



## ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

Rev Claire's usual day off is Friday and Rev Steve's is Saturday. They will not be available for commitments on those days but will get back to you as soon as they can.

### **SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2021 - TRINITY 14**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)  
10:30 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)  
10:30 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)  
10:30 Holy Communion (*St Nicolas', Pinvin*)  
12:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)  
14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)  
14:30 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES:**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

#### **Mon 6 Sept 2021**

10:00 PASA Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

#### **Tue 7 Sept 2021**

09:00 Boiler Maintenance (*St Andrew's Main*)  
11:00 CTIP Food Bank (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:00 Stewardship Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)  
15:00 Fabric Committee (*St Andrew's Main*)  
18:30 Abbey PCC Vision Meeting  
(*St Andrew's & Pershore Abbey*)  
19:30 PODYS Rehearsal (*St Andrew's Upper*)

#### **Wed 8 Sept 2021**

09:30 Birlingham PCC (*Zoom*)  
11:30 Memorial Service for the late David Bray  
(*Pershore Abbey*)  
15:30 Vicar & Wardens' Meeting (*Zoom*)  
18:30 Café Church Music Rehearsal (*St Andrew's*)  
19:00 Pershore Town Choir (*Pershore Abbey*)  
19:30 Vale Harmony (*St Andrew's Main*)

#### **Thu 9 Sept 2021**

Pershore Abbey Tower lit to celebrate the Air  
Ambulance 30th Anniversary

09:30 Benefice Churchwardens' Meeting (*Zoom*)  
13:30 Abbey Finance Committee (*Zoom*)  
18:00 Wedding Rehearsal (*St Mary's, Wick*)  
18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)  
18:30 Alpha Study Course (*St Andrew's Main*)

#### **Fri 10 Sept 2021**

09:30 Babies and Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)  
13:00 CTIP Food Bank (*St Andrew's Main*)

#### **Sat 11 Sept 2021**

Ride + Stride Event  
10:00 Great Big Green Week Coffee Morning  
(*St Andrew's*)  
14:00 Wedding of Zoe Rolph and Richard Collins  
(*St Marys', Wick*)

#### **Sun 12 Sept 2021**

09:30 Cafe Church 09:45 start time  
(*St Andrew's Main*)  
10:30 Holy Cross Day - Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)  
10:30 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)  
12:00 FOPA AGM  
17:00 Wholeness and Healing (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY ONLINE**



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)