

# CHURCH NEWS

## Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

December 2021/ Jan 2022

Welcome to this seasonal Christmas edition of the **Church News Monthly Edition** where you can find out more about our special services, events, courses and what's going on across the Benefice in December and into early January 2022. The weekly bulletin in our regular service sheet will keep you up to date with what's happening week by week.



## At the heart of Christmas



We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back in to our Benefice churches this year to celebrate a joyful Christmas together.

A full list of our Christmas services is available on **Page 2**, but do keep an eye on the weekly bulletin and website for Christmas updates as it may be necessary to change the format of these service at short notice due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

### PERSHORE ABBEY CHRISTMAS CARD DISPLAY

From December, this will be available again for you to display a single message to all your Abbey friends whilst supporting the Christmas Christian Aid Appeal

christian  
aid

**ADVENT COMPLINE BY ZOOM 1900 MONDAYS IN ADVENT:** Please 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 which will enable us all to pause and reflect on our Advent journeys. Join us live at **1900** on **29 November, 6 December, 13 December** and **20 December**.

If you would like to be part of this service, contact [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for the Zoom invitation and a copy of the order of service. *Claire*

### Don't forget our regular services . . .

- Café Church 12 Dec 0945 St Andrew's Centre
- Wholeness & Healing 12 Dec 1700 St Andrew's Centre

REMINDER: There is no Iona Service in December

# At the heart of Christmas



Please join us in the

## PERSHORE BENEFICE for CHRISTMAS 2021

### Sunday 19 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Tinsel-Free Morning Praise (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)\*
- 1030 Holy Communion and Carols (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
- 1700 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)\*
- 1800 Walkabout Carol Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1800 Carol and Christingle Service (*St James', Birlingham*)

### Christmas Eve Friday 24 December

- 1530 JOIN US IN ABBEY PARK: Outdoor Christingle (*Abbey Park Bandstand*)  
Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our Christingle in the Park!
- 1600 Christingle Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1700 Christingle and Crib Service - ticket only (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)  
*This service will be ticketed, please contact the Pinvin Churchwarden to book*
- 2315 Midnight Mass with choir (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)\*

### Christmas Day Saturday 25 December



- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 0900 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1030 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)
- 1030 All Age Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)\*

### Sunday 26 December

- 1030 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)\*

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



A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU THIS CHRISTMAS



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AT PERSHORE ABBEY . . .

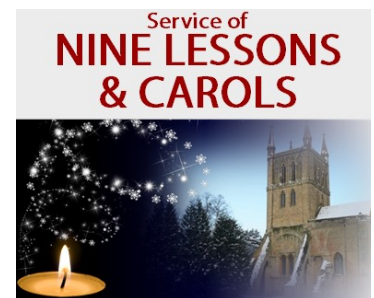
### TINSEL-FREE MORNING PRAISE



**PERSHORE ABBEY SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 1030 - TINSEL-FREE MORNING PRAISE** The last 20 months have not been an easy time and we know that for many in our congregation and community Christmas will be a more reflective, and perhaps even difficult period, but one in which they will still want to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

On Sunday 19 December we will be holding a Tinsel-Free service which will focus on remembering the coming of the Christ Child and reflect on what Christmas truly represents.

**PERSHORE ABBEY SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 1700 - NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS:** The Abbey choir is busy rehearsing for this much-loved traditional candle-lit service which features well-loved carols interspersed with readings and choir anthems. We hope you will be able to join us for this lovely service and for some mulled wine and mince pies afterwards!



### OUTDOOR CHRISTINGLE



**CHRISTMAS EVE 1530: CHRISTINGLE IN THE PARK:** We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our Outdoor Christingle at the Abbey Park Bandstand this Christmas Eve! We want to welcome as many people as possible, so an outdoor event is the perfect solution adding an extra dimension to our service as we gather together outside as the shepherds gathered together on the hillside to await Jesus' birth.

We would love all of our little ones (and big ones too) to dress up in their favourite nativity costumes, but do remember to bring coats, hats and scarves as the weather could be chilly!

And of course we  
look forward to  
welcoming you to  
our  
**MIDNIGHT MASS  
SERVICE**  
on Christmas Eve  
and our  
**ALL AGE  
EUCCHARIST**  
on Christmas Day

Pershore Abbey

## MIDNIGHT MASS



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
23:15  
Pershore Abbey & YouTube Live Stream

At the heart of Christmas

A special service celebrating the birth of Christ, the Light of the World, in the midst of darkness.


We hope this service will go ahead as planned, but please stay updated online or by calling our answerphone service on 01386 552071

Website: [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk) Facebook: [pershoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/pershoreabbeycom)  
YouTube: [PershoreAbbeyCommunity](https://www.youtube.com/PershoreAbbeyCommunity)

**ALL WELCOME**

Pershore Abbey

## ALL AGE EUCCHARIST



**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
10:30  
Pershore Abbey & YouTube Live Stream

At the heart of Christmas

A special family-friendly Christmas Day service for everyone, followed by refreshments

We hope this service will go ahead as planned, but please stay updated online or by calling our answerphone service on 01386 552071

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YouTube: [PershoreAbbeyCommunity](https://www.youtube.com/PershoreAbbeyCommunity)

**ALL WELCOME**

# At the heart of Christmas



'At the heart of Christmas' is the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2021.

Inspired by readings from the Gospels of Luke and John read at so many Christmas services, At the heart of Christmas is an invitation to everyone to discover – or rediscover – the good news of God's saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus. It is also a challenge to each of us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead.

At the heart of Christmas is a deliberately simple and open theme – one that the national church hopes can be used by local churches to invite their communities to share in celebrating the good news of Christmas in a whole variety of ways.

As in previous years, there will be a range of digital and print content available, including:

**REFLECTIONS:** At the heart of Christmas will consist of 12 Stories and Meditations from Justin Welby, Stephen Cottrell and guests where they will share personal stories exploring themes close to the heart of Christmas.

Starting on Christmas Eve and continuing daily (Monday to Saturday) until the Epiphany (6 January), At the Heart of Christmas: 12 Days of stories and meditations for Christmas will help you make space for that exploration. On each of the twelve days, a different contributor will share something that lies close to the heart of Christmas for them, bringing the theme to life through a mixture of personal story, Bible reading, reflection and questions to ponder.

If you would like to order one of the **Reflection Booklets**, please contact the [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) as we will have a limited stock available from the middle of December priced at **£1.00**.

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND NATIONAL ONLINE SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS:** In collaboration with a range of Christian charities and organisations, the C of E will produce online services for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas. They will all be broadcast on the C of E YouTube channel and Facebook page.

You can find more information on this year's theme from the Church of England Website: [\*\*At the Heart of Christmas\*\*](#)

## ... AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022 . . .** We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and patience through the past year and to wish everyone a happy, healthy and hopeful 2022. We have plenty of services, courses and events planned for the New Year and look forward to bringing you more news of these in the coming weeks.

**LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (LLF) - FACE TO FACE COURSE COMING IN JANUARY 2022 AT THE ST ANDREW'S CENTRE:** We will be offering the whole benefice the opportunity to join the Church of England's "Living in Love and Faith" course which helps us to think more deeply about what it means to be human.

It 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? Each of the five sessions will take place face to face and will explore one key topic through video input, discussion, Bible study, reflection and prayer. Listening to each other will be really important.

This five session course will be offered at the St Andrew's Centre on these dates:



- Tuesday 18 January 1900
- Tuesday 25 January 1900
- Tuesday 1 February 1900
- Tuesday 8 February 1900
- Tuesday 15 February 1900

Click [here](#) to find out more about the whole project, and please do get in touch if you want to have a chat about the course. *Claire* [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18 JANUARY - 25 JANUARY 2022:** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression.

The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences, and yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness.

**This year the Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held at 1500 on 23 January at Holy Redeemer.**

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK



**PERSHORE FOODBANK PROJECT LEADER AND ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY:** Lynne Raymer has been doing a fantastic job as project leader since the Foodbank started but is now standing down.

We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all that she has done for the Foodbank and for the clients it seeks to help. Might you be the next project leader and/or administrator?

Ideally we would like two people to share these roles. Please email [office@pershireabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershireabbey.org.uk) for more information or click [here](#).

If you would like to know more please contact me or Lynne Raymer. *Claire*

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**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS HAMPERS:** As many of our local families and members of our community continue to be seriously challenged by the effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic, Pershire Foodbank are aiming to give them all some extra support once again this Christmas with specially prepared seasonal hampers.

Our Christmas message this year is 'At the Heart of Christmas'. What better way to ensure that those in need can truly enjoy all of those extra things which make up their Christmas celebrations, than by donating to Pershire Foodbank?

Although they have plenty of Christmas Puddings (and don't need any more!), they would very much welcome donations of the following items (*unfortunately they can't accept donations of fresh, chilled or frozen items*):

- Christmas Cakes
- Sweets and Chocolates for children and adults
- Biscuits
- Tinned Ham, Salmon or Chicken
- Chocolate Money
- Mince Pies



Donations can be taken to the St Andrew's Centre during Foodbank sessions (Tues 1100-1300 and Fri 1300-1500) or left at the back of the Abbey.

**CITIZENS ADVICE RETURNS TO FOODBANK:** We are pleased to announce that from now to Friday December 17, face to face sessions with Citizens Advice will once again be available at Friday Foodbank sessions 1300-1500.

## ST ANDREW'S UPDATE

**ST ANDREWS - THAT SCAFFOLD!:** It's down and the parapet and wall have been revealed. WOW that stone from the top of the old chimney is now back in its proper place. In Judy's words "Successfully bringing back dignity to the vestry, the new door will do that too"



Many thanks to the stonemasons - do look for the small hole ready for the blue-tits! One of the pleasures in working with historic buildings is experiencing the skills of the stonemasons, stained glass repairers, the lime plasterers, the carpenters, the lighting engineers and the architects. Their knowledge and skills are a great help in making decisions.

There are still challenges ahead - that North roof needs replacing before it springs a serious leak, the ramped access at the rear, the stairs and hallway . . . We have a wonderful asset in St Andrew's and will do our very best to look after it for future generations.

## ECO CHURCH

**ECO CONSCIOUS CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** This year the Pershore Abbey Flower Guild will be arranging some of the Abbey's Christmas pedestals and displays without the use of floral foam to support their commitment to the environment.

Look out for stunning displays in red and gold!

**TRAIDCRAFT STALL:** Don't forget to visit the Traidcraft stall this December at Pershore Abbey. There are lots of wonderful items on sale, so do have a look.



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

PERSHORE ABBEY

DECEMBER TRAIDCRAFT DATES

- 05 DECEMBER
- 19 DECEMBER

We look forward to seeing you for those last minute Christmas gifts!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**POSTER PERSON:** Pershore Abbey has a valuable large poster site outside the Asda supermarket, and we need someone to look after it every couple of months. They would create a poster for the current events at the Abbey, print off a copy via the office computer, then paste it in place. Offers to the office, please at [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk). A trial run can be arranged.

## OTHER NEWS

**PERSHORE ABBEY PARISH GIVING SCHEME:** A huge thank you to everyone who has already looked at the Parish Giving Scheme and made the decision to do their regular giving through it. We thought everyone would like to know that in October we had a total of 4 people signed up and in November we had a total of 17. This is encouraging news. If you'd like to talk about changing the way you give please feel free to contact me, Robin Hancox, Judy Dale or Angela Gerrard. More info is also available on our website. Thank you. Claire



**MINCE PIES PLEASE!:** Following the Abbey's Carol Service to be held on Sunday 19 December at 1700, mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

Contributions of mince pies (home-made or shop bought) would be very welcome – kindly note your offer on the sheet at the back of church.

If possible, please bring your pies to the morning service and place in the collecting box. Any queries to Sara Speed (710776 or email [thespeeds94@gmail.com](mailto:thespeeds94@gmail.com)). *Many thanks.*

**GOOD COMPANY AND AFTERNOON TEA!:** Pershore Abbey & St. Andrew's Social Committee are planning an afternoon get-together with afternoon tea for anyone who would appreciate company after Christmas. The event will take place on **Tuesday 28 December 2021** from **1430 until 1600** in **St. Andrew's Centre**.

If you are interested tickets can be pre-booked and are limited. Please ring Jane Knox to book a place.

We do hope you will be able to join us. *PASA*



## **OFFICE STAFFING OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD**

The Benefice Office will not be staffed over the Christmas period.

Our office staff will be on annual leave from:

**12 noon on Thursday 23 December 2021 until Tuesday 4 January 2022**

All email enquiries and answerphone messages will be dealt with on their return.

If your enquiry is urgent please call the answerphone service on **01386 552071** to access the latest emergency contact details over the Christmas period.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING**

## PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE ONLINE

The Pershore Abbey 1030 service will be live-streamed every week and available to view on our YouTube Channel. We will continue to provide a copy of the online service sheet with a weekly bulletin update to aid your worship at home.

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

- 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. 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.

Facebook: **#pershoreabbeycom** YouTube: **Pershore Abbey Community**  
Website: **www.pershoreabbey.org.uk**

# PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

## DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

Details of the current planned Sunday 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. Additional Christmas Services can be found on [Page 2](#).

### 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.

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 every 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 DECEMBER**

0800 BCP Eucharist  
1030 Sung Eucharist

##### **SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER**

0945 Café Church (St Andrew's)  
1030 Sung Eucharist  
1700 Wholeness & Healing

##### **SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER**

0800 Eucharist  
1030 Tinsel - Free Morning Praise  
1700 Nine Lessons and Carols

##### **SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER**

1030 Sung Eucharist

##### **SUNDAY 2 JANUARY**

0800 BCP Eucharist  
1030 Sung Eucharist  
1700 Choral Evensong

##### **SUNDAY 9 JANUARY**

0800 Eucharist  
1030 Sung Eucharist  
1700 Wholeness & Healing

#### ST MARY'S, WICK

##### **SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER**

1030 Morning Praise

##### **SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER**

1800 Walkabout Carol Service

##### **SUNDAY 9 JANUARY**

1030 Morning Praise

#### ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

##### **SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER**

1030 Sunday Praise

##### **SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER**

1030 Holy Communion & Carols

##### **SUNDAY 2 JANUARY**

1030 Holy Communion

#### ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

##### **SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER**

1030 Morning Praise

##### **SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER**

1800 Carol and Christingle Service

##### **SUNDAY 2 JANUARY**

1030 Morning Praise

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 03

NICOLA WOODWARD FLUTES CANDLE LIGHT CONCERT: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE AT 2000

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 05

EDIBLE NATIVITY: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE 1030 -1145 **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Email [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) by 28 November to book your place as numbers are limited

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 10

BABIES & TODDLER'S FINAL SESSION & CHRISTMAS PARTY St ANDREW'S CENTRE 0930

Sessions resume on Friday 7 January 2022

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 14

SING ALONG WITH EVE - CHRISTMAS CAROLS & SONGS: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE AT 1940

£6 per person, pay on door or book on 07920 047044. Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by a responsible adult).

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 17

LET'S DANCE: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE AT 20:00. Please book in advance

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 19

PIONOSCAPES: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE AT 14:30. Join Chris Long for a winter sonic odyssey

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 23

CHRISTINGLE MAKING: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE - more details to follow in weekly bulletin

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 28

PASA AFTERNOON TEA: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE 1430. Please book in advance

## PERSHORE ABBEY CONCERTS DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 & 11 1900

WORCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 18 1930

PERSHORE CHORAL

### SATURDAY JANUARY 8 1430

WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

For full details or ticket and booking information, please visit our website  
[www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/service-events/#events](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/service-events/#events)



**PERSHORE CHORAL**

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2021 7.30PM  
PERSHORE ABBEY

CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
**MESSIAH**  
CHORUSES  
AND  
CAROLS

We respectfully ask that masks be worn when taking part in congregational singing.

BOX OFFICE:  
01386 553391  
[VAL.HOLTON@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:VAL.HOLTON@BTINTERNET.COM)  
OR FROM BLUE,  
BROAD STREET, PERSHORE

Pershore Choral invites you to visit its website: [www.pershorechoral.co.uk](http://www.pershorechoral.co.uk)

# Worcester. Philharmonic ORCHESTRA

**Soprano Holly Teague**

**Conductor Joe Davies**  
**Leader Graham Longfils**

**Saturday 8th January 2022, 2.30pm**



**Pershore Abbey**

**WR10 1BB**

## **NEW YEAR CONCERT**

**Celebrate the New Year  
with us - Viennese Style!**

**Mozart - The Marriage of Figaro Overture**

**Operatic Arias by Mozart, Lehár and Strauss**

**Schubert - Rosamunde Overture**

**Strauss Waltzes - Emperor, Roses from the South and Blue Danube**

### **COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

We provide:

- density reduced seating
- hand sanitiser at the door and
- encourage the wearing of face coverings, especially when not seated



**Pershore Town Hall; 'Blue', 19 Broad Street, Pershore**  
**Ticket Secretary: 01905 353013**

**Tourist Offices in Worcester, Pershore and Malvern**

**Online at [worcesterphilharmonicorchestra.ticketsource.co.uk](http://worcesterphilharmonicorchestra.ticketsource.co.uk)**

(Booking fees apply online)

Registered Charity Number 512073

