

Welcome to the first **Church News Monthly Edition** of 2022 where you can find out more about our special services, events, courses and what's going on across the Benefice.

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

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (LLF) - FACE TO FACE COURSE STARTS 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

IN THIS EDITION . . .

- Benefice News
- Lent 2022
- What's On
- Art in the Abbey

. . . & MORE

Don't forget our regular monthly services . . .

- Café Church in the St Andrew's Centre
- Wholeness & Healing in Pershore Abbey
- Iona Worship in Pershore Abbey

. . . See [page 8](#) for full service details

MINISTRY NEWS

GOOD NEWS! Chester Diocese is pleased to announce that The Revd Stephen Dunton will be offered the living of the Parish of Christ Church, Timperley subject to him successfully completing his curacy in March 2022. This is also subject to all legal formalities being fulfilled. This is wonderful news for Steve and I know that we will all want to offer our congratulations to him, but we are going to miss him! Please pray for Steve, Hannah, William and James as they prepare to say goodbye to us and get ready for a new ministry. *Claire*

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18 -25 JANUARY 2022: This year's resources have 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. Visit ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/ to find out more.

IONA SERVICE SUNDAY 23 JANUARY AT 1700 PERSHORE ABBEY: You are very welcome to this reflective service using Iona readings, prayers and music, focussing on God's love for each of us, whoever we are. The service will also be on Zoom. If you would like further information or a link, please contact Helen on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk

BAPTISM MATTERS ONLINE TRAINING COURSE SATURDAY 29 JANUARY 0930-1230: Spend a morning to think about Baptism in your parishes with Emma Pettifer, Children's Officer for the Diocese of Worcester, and Anne Batchelor, Mission Enabler in the Diocese. The training will cover the story so far from national research, look at practice and challenges, talk through ideas and experiences, discuss follow-up and provide an opportunity questions. There will also be group discussions and listening to others about Baptism throughout the morning plus breaks for coffee! Please register through Eventbrite using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/228778220817> You will be sent the Zoom link a few days before the event. *Claire*

DISCOVER CHAPLAINCY WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26 2022, 1400-1530: The Discover Chaplaincy event is for anyone wanting to know more about FWW and Workplace Chaplaincy – those thinking about volunteering as chaplains as well as people who are just curious. To find out more and book a place, sign up at Eventbrite using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/discovering-workplace-chaplaincy-event-tickets-213610824727>. The event is free to attend

INTRODUCTION TO WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY COURSE STARTING FEBRUARY 10, THURSDAY EVENINGS 1900 – 2030: This Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy Course consists of six 90 minute sessions starting on Thursday 10 February 2022 and continuing on 17 February, 24 February, 3 March and 24 March, with the sixth special session shadowing a workplace chaplain, (to be arranged). At this stage we hope to be able to run some of these sessions in person, with some held via Zoom. To book a place on the course, or to ask any question, contact Dick Johnson by email [here](#) or ring **07946 655450**.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

BULB SUNDAY SERVICE



ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

BULB SERVICE RETURNS TO BIRLINGHAM: Join the congregation at St James', Birlingham on **Sunday 20 February** at **1500** as they celebrate new life bursting forth in their beautiful Bulb Sunday service.

Churchyards can be such a wonderful space to explore, so why not take some time to visit our village churchyards this Spring. The churchyard in Birlingham will soon be covered in a carpet of snowdrops, but do visit www.birlingham.org for the latest update on Snowdrop Teas in case Covid leads to cancellation.

ART IN THE ABBEY AND BEYOND

OLIVER JONES AT PERSHORE ABBEY 19 FEBRUARY TO 30 MARCH 2022: After a successful showing at National Trust's Berrington Hall as part of Meadow Arts' exhibition 'Skin Deep,' two works by **Oliver Jones** will be shown at Pershore Abbey during February and March 2022

Oliver Jones works in pastel chalk, a medium commonly associated with intimate portraiture and gentle landscapes, rather than large format works. His works defy expectations: they are large, but also highly charged.

The two works, **#motherandchild** and **Divine** have been selected as they present similarities with certain forms of religious art. The pieces address how different forms of communication can contain social messages about who we are and how we relate to each other. In these cases, looking at body image, the impact of social media and self-image/self-worth.

Find out more about the artist via www.olivercjones.com and Meadow Arts here: www.meadowarts.org



ARTSPACE AT NO: 8 - FEBRUARY 3 - 23 2022

Artspace - a midweek community for those interested in the creative arts at All Saints Church Worcester - have been invited to hold an exhibition of paintings, prints, photographs & other work at No.8 Community Arts Centre in Pershore from the 3-23 February. **Why not go along and take a look?**

GET INVOLVED!

Take the opportunity to engage with the cultural arts at Pershore Abbey by becoming an Exhibition Volunteer

SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT 2022

We will be preparing our normal flyer detailing the Churches Together in Pershore (CTiP) Lent activities along with those of the Pershore Benefice over the next month, but here's a taster of what is planned. Please be aware that **ALL IN-PERSON** events are currently provisional and are subject to change due to Covid-19.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES AND CHARITY APPEAL LAUNCH: Our CTiP Charity this year will be **Pershore United Charities** as we look to support our local community moving out of Covid. We hope to be able to hold a pancake event, but will review over the coming weeks due to the Covid situation and will update you through the weekly bulletin.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES - WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 1930 AT PERSHORE ABBEY: Joining a service on Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent. Traditionally a cross made out of ash is marked on a forehead, as a sign of our penitence and God's forgiveness.

COMPLINE BY ZOOM DURING LENT: This quiet and reflective service which will last half an hour will be held every Monday during Lent, commencing on **7 March**, at **1900** via **Zoom**. Please contact me for more information and for the Zoom invitation for each week. *Claire*

LENTEN LUNCHESES: We very much hope to be able to run Lenten Lunches with CTiP this year on the following Thursday's in St Andrew's: **10 March, 17 March, 24 March & 31 March**. Once again this event will be subject to Covid and we will update you through the weekly bulletin as plans progress!

LENT COURSE: This year's Lent course organised by CTiP will be based on the film 'Chocolat', the 2000 comedy-drama film, based on the 1999 novel of the same name by the English author, Joanne Harris and starring Johnny Depp and Juliette Binoche.

The hope is to run one session to watch the film and then 5 further sessions to discuss clips and ask questions, with hot chocolate for refreshment, of course!

Full details are yet to be finalised and will again be subject to Covid. Keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for further updates!

PALM CROSSES NEEDED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Please leave your old palm crosses in the box at the back of Pershore Abbey as we need to recreate the ash in the traditional way for this year's Ash Wednesday service on 2 March at Pershore Abbey

PRAY ONE FOR ME: Members of CTiP plan to meet in the Apse on Ash Wednesday before going out on to the streets of Pershore between 1100 and 1200 to gather prayers from the community to be read at the Ash Wednesday service, subject to Covid.

This is part of the Worcester Diocese "Pray One For Me" initiative that seeks to reach out to people and offer them the opportunity for their prayers to be heard.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

LIVE STREAMING FROM THE ABBEY: We are now live streaming our main 10.30 Sunday service every week, together with any special services. This is available on our YouTube Chanel (Pershore Abbey Community YouTube) both as it happens and then as a recording afterwards. Feedback has been very encouraging, and the services are regularly viewed both in live and recorded form.

To enable us to provide this service we need a group of trained and enthusiastic volunteers. We are very lucky to have 3 people trained to do this, but we really need two more people to make a regular rota possible. If you feel you could help with this, please let one of the Wardens, the Clergy or Robin Hancox know. Full training will be provided and you will not be left to do anything on your own until you are fully confident.

This is an important part of our Ministry, especially in these difficult times, so if you can help, please get in touch through [**office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) or speak to one of the team.

URGENT APPEAL

TREASURER NEEDED FOR PERSHORE ABBEY

Our current Treasurer will step down from this role at the Pershore Abbey APCM on **5 May 2022**.

We are **urgently** seeking a volunteer to take on this challenging but rewarding position. They will need to start immediately, working with the current treasurer initially and then taking on the position fully after the APCM.

Ideally you will be a qualified accountant with an understanding of the charity sector.

More information on the role and an application pack is available from [**office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) or call **01386 552071**. *Pershore Abbey PCC*

IT IS **VITAL** WE HAVE A NEW TREASURER
IN PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO
CONTINUE OUR MINISTRY

EXHIBITION STEWARDS NEEDED!

Working alongside Meadow Arts, we have been asked to provide stewards for the duration of the exhibition in the Abbey. Information about the exhibition will be provided for all volunteers, so they are able to respond to any queries from visitors. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to get involved, please [**office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk).

Thank you. *Claire*

PERSHORE FOODBANK ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY

Might you be the next administrator working alongside the new project leader?

Contact [**office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for more information or click [**here**](#). If you would like to know more, please contact me or Lynne Raymer. *Claire*

Volunteering is a great way to
share your time and talents and
support your church,
congregation and community

OUR MISSION

PILGRIMAGE TO IONA ABBEY 4 - 10 JUNE 2022: An opportunity to join a small ecumenical group on a pilgrimage to Iona Abbey has arisen. This is a chance to work, study, worship and stay with members of the Iona Community and their guests. The theme for the week's study is: "Wildlife week with David Coleman & Katharine Preston. We will learn about the ecosystem using nature to understand ourselves and our world. There will be exploratory and educational sessions looking at birds, bees, moths and flowers and reflective sessions focusing on observation, mindfulness and spirituality."

Full board and lodgings will be available in the newly refurbished guest accommodation at Iona Abbey. 6 nights will cost £621. Pilgrims from Pershore should also budget for other costs which will include train & ferry fares and one overnight hotel stay. When we have identified sufficient interest, we will make a firm reservation. Please contact Michael Hodges (01386 552417 or mh@broadwayplc.com) to reserve a place or obtain more information.

ZOOMING WITH SALZWEDEL SATURDAY 29 JANUARY 2022: Who would have thought, almost 2 years since we first heard about COVID, that Zoom would continue to provide one of the strongest connections that the Pershore Abbey and Benefice community would have with its twin parish in Salzwedel, Germany? On **Saturday 29 January 2022 at 1500** our next joint Zoom twin parish celebration Zoom Event between Pershore Abbey and Benefice and Salzwedel Katherinenkirche is planned, and we can all take part!!

As before, everyone will speak in their own native tongue and we will use divine guidance, common sense, guesswork, and our own gifted translators to assist in overcoming any language barriers encountered!!

An interactive 40-minute event is planned with news updates, greetings, stories, poetry and reflections. Please contact the Abbey Office at office@pershoreabbey.org.uk, speak to Claire or contact Michael Hodges at mh@broadwayplc.com and we will send you the Zoom link. All Welcome.

BENEFICE OFFICE OPENING TIMES UPDATE

Our staff are working from home where possible, to comply with government guidelines but they are available by email at office@pershoreabbey.org.uk and through the answerphone service on **01386 552071** on weekday mornings from 09:30 to 12:30 to help with your enquiries.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

APCM REPORTS NOTICE

The Pershore Abbey APCM will be held on 5 May 2022.

If you have been asked to prepare a report for the year covering 2021, please can you send your report in to office@pershoreabbey.org.uk by **Friday February 25** at the latest in order for us to prepare, collate and distribute the APCM Booklet.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

PERSHORE ABBEY

TRAIDCRAFT DATES

- 06 FEBRUARY
- 20 FEBRUARY

We look forward to helping you
browse and buy!

TRAIDCRAFT IS LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ABBEY STALL:

Our Traidcraft stall is held twice a month on the first and third Sundays.

We are looking for an enthusiastic person who supports Fair-Trade and TRAIIDCRAFT principles, and enjoys selling and meeting the congregation!

The rota works out to about once a month, and my present team will enjoy showing you our very simple stock and selling practice.

Please let me know if you are interested via office@pershoreabbey.org.uk, or talk to Sam or Jane at our next stall on the 6 Feb. *Thank you, Dora TRAIIDCRAFT Representative*

PERSHORE ABBEY & ST ANDREW'S VANDALISM

BREAKDOWNS AND VANDALISM: The end of the year has brought a few problems. Firstly we had a lock fail and couldn't get into the Abbey! On Christmas Day the boiler packed up and St Stephen's day was a little chilly. Contractors came on Monday and Tuesday and we had heat ready for the Wedding. We await permanent repairs.

We don't generally have many vandalism problems but have had three incidents since Christmas. On different occasions the two buttress lights have been damaged.

It may be a coincidence but some of the other outside lights have failed - at present we don't know the extent of the problem. Across the road at St Andrews we had damage to the notice board. *Robin Hancox*



CTIP FOODBANK

THANK YOU: Thank you to everyone for your continuing generosity, we had large quantities of donations leading up to Christmas so that in January we do not need to ask for anything. Our warehouse is well stocked!

With my heart felt thanks for your continued support in helping people especially families in need. *Lynne Raymer*



**THE FOODBANK IS OPEN ON TUESDAYS 1100 - 1300 AND
FRIDAYS 1300 - 1500.**

OTHER NEWS

NEW LOOK HOME PAGE FOR PERSHORE ABBEY WEBSITE: Over the coming weeks you will notice a change to the home page of the Pershore Abbey website. We had a successful relaunch of our website a number of years ago, but through the challenges of Covid it became clear that there was an opportunity to improve the way we interact with our congregation and community through the homepage.

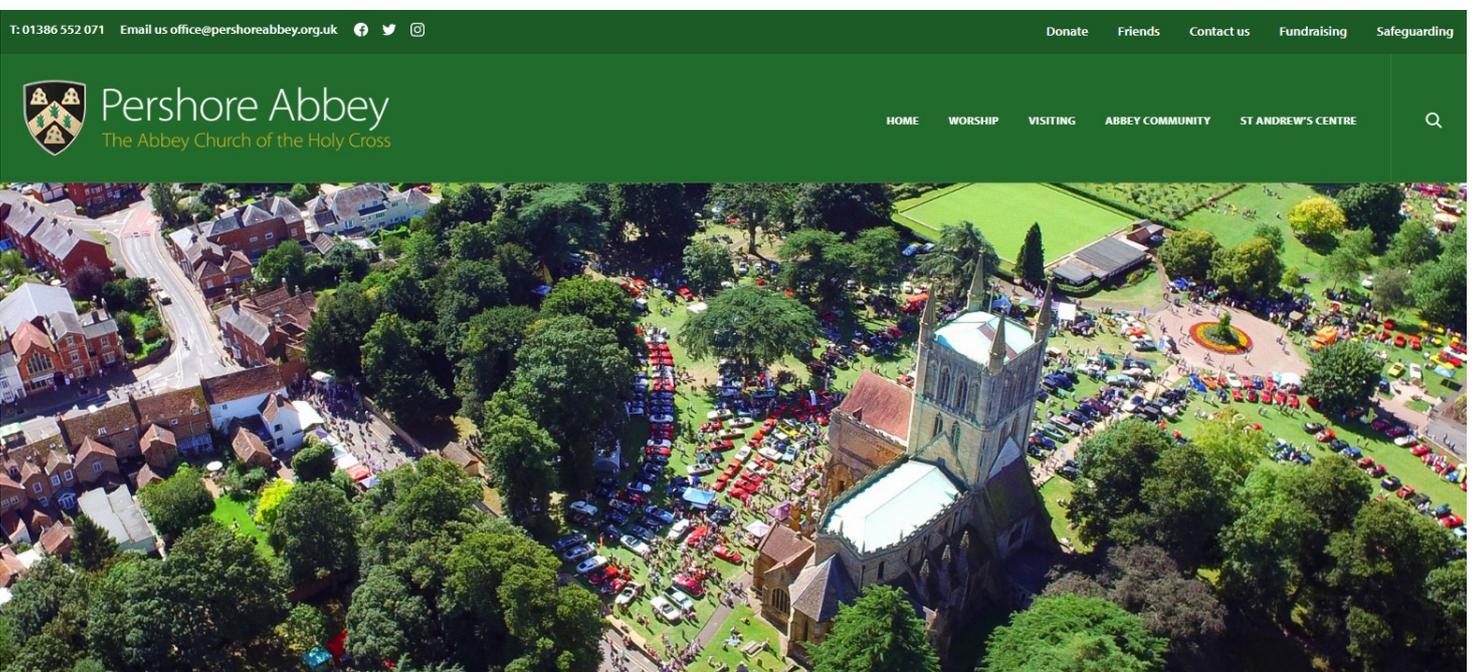
We made a lot of changes though Covid to quickly meet the constantly-evolving demands placed upon us, such as introducing the noticeboard to communicate updates and adding a link to recorded and then live-streamed services during the closure of our churches.

Our congregation have become internet-savvy experts and gathering together their experience and feedback we have looked at the way the website is now used to re-design the home page to reflect this. We really hope you will like the result!

We have stripped it back to the bare essentials to make the page clearer and easier to navigate and added better links to our service information and videos. We've simplified the navigation bars to help people get around the site better and we have built in some new features that will allow us to focus on special events through out the year in a much easier way.

There are bound to be a few teething problems, so please bear with us if a link doesn't work properly or takes you somewhere unexpected (in which case, please let us know!) We are putting together some instructions to help you find your way around the new home page as it will look quite different, but we are confident that you won't need it—we have tried to make it as simple as possible to find the things you really need. As soon as we go live, we'll be ready to help you.

We'd love to have your feedback and any comments, so please do get in touch via **office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**. In the meantime, look out for more information in the weekly bulletin or head to the website and see what we have done!



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

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022

Details of the our planned Sunday worship services within the Pershore Benefice are given below, but please do check our social media pages and website in case of change.

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, along with the 1030 Abbey service which is live-streamed every week.

Those attending public services must wear a face covering in accordance with the government guidance at the time of print, unless exempt. You may join in with our hymns, but you must keep your mask on and we ask that you sing quietly.

PERSHORE ABBEY

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY

0800 Eucharist
0945 Café Church (St Andrew's)
1030 Sung Eucharist

SUNDAY 23 JANUARY

0800 Eucharist
1030 Morning Praise
1700 Iona Service

SUNDAY 30 JANUARY

0800 Eucharist
1030 Benefice Eucharist

SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY

0800 BCP Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist
1700 Choral Evensong

SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY

0800 Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist
0945 Café Church (St Andrew's)
1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY

0800 Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist

SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY

0800 Eucharist
1030 Morning Praise
1700 Iona Service

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 23 JANUARY

1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY

1030 Sunday Praise

SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY

1030 Sunday Praise

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY

1500 Bulb Sunday Service

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19

GREEN HEARTS FAIR: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE 1000-1200

A 'Show the Love' event as promoted by The Climate Coalition.

An event to celebrate environmental action in our local community

Details to be confirmed - keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for further details!

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION AND TALK BY OLIVER JONES: PERSHORE ABBEY TIME TBC

An opportunity to introduce our Pershore Abbey volunteers and staff to the Oliver Jones exhibition artworks, including why they were chosen, interpretation guidance and background to Oliver Jones and his incredible skill as a pastel artist.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20

PIANOSCAPES CONCERT: ST ANDREW'S CENTRE AT 1430

Join Chris Long for his popular Sunday afternoon concert sessions in the St Andrew's Centre.

Tickets: email chrislong2008@live.co.uk

PERSHORE ABBEY CONCERTS SPRING 2022

SATURDAY MARCH 12 1430

WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

SATURDAY MARCH 19 1930

PHILOMUSICA

SATURDAY APRIL 2 1900

ALCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR

SATURDAY MAY 7 1930

VALE HARMONY - SPRING SING

SATURDAY MAY 14 1930

PERSHORE CHORAL - SPRING CONCERT

For full details or ticket and booking information, please visit our website

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/service-events/#events

NEW TO THE ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Gong Bath Meditation

Mondays at 1815 on
17 Jan, 21 Feb, 21 Feb
www.sharyoga.co.uk

Craft & Chat

Wednesdays at 1315 on
26 Jan, 9 Feb, 23 Feb
pershorecraftandchat@gmail.com

Good Neighbour Network

Wednesday at 1100
26 Feb
Register on 01386 554299



Join us! FUN • FRIENDS • FOOD

Monday Juniors Club: Age 9-13 5pm - 7pm (£1)

Tuesday Youth Group: Age 13-18 5.30pm-8pm

Wednesday Youth Group: Age 13-18 5.30pm-8pm

Thursday Baby Club: Age 0 - 4 10.30am - 12pm (£2)

Saturday SEND Social Club: Age 16 - 18 5pm - 8pm

Sunday SEND Club: Age 8 - 18 10.30am - 1.30pm

Outreach • Mental health support • Counselling • Careers advice & much more

Trained Youth and Community workers on hand to provide weekly activities & support wherever needed.

Scan our QR code to find out more!



www.pershoreriversidecentre.org.uk or call us on 01386 554713

@pershoreriversidecentre @pershoreyouthy

Pershore Riverside Centre CIO (charity no 1156413) King George's Way, Pershore WR10 1QU