

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

Christmas & New Year 2024

Welcome to our **Christmas and New Year Monthly Edition 2024**

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



This Christmas we invite you all to Follow The Star and join with us in our services and Christmas events across the Pershore Benefice. A full list of services taking place can be found on pages 8 & 9.

December can feel like chaos – lots of social events, services, Christmas presents to buy, never-ending to-do lists and the pressure to create the perfect Christmas. But in the midst of this chaos, our churches can offer an opportunity to find peace during this busy time.

The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2024, Follow the Star: Calm and Bright, draws on the world-famous carol, Silent Night: "Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright..." One of the reasons that this carol is so universally loved is the way it invites us into the still centre of the Christmas story, to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World.



IN THIS EDITION:

CHRISTMAS SERVICES - ABBEY WALKING CHURCH - CHRISTIAN UNITY

**TO REQUEST A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS BULLETIN
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ON 01386 552071**

PASA (PERSHORE ABBEY AND ST ANDREW'S)

MINCE PIES PLEASE! Mince pies required please for the Abbey Carol Service on Sunday 22 December. Please can you bring them (either homemade or bought) along to the morning services (0800 and 1030) on Sunday 22 December or contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776 and we can arrange collection. *Thank you in anticipation, the PASA Team*



POST-CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA: Invitation to a Post-Christmas Afternoon Tea on Saturday 28 December from 1400 until 1600 in St Andrew's Centre. Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy tea and company, (bring a friend or neighbour), all are welcome. There is no need to book, but please do notify us if you have any special dietary needs. Please just turn up ready to enjoy fellowship and a continuation of the Christmas celebration! Any questions please don't hesitate to ring Jane Knox on 01386 556981. *Looking forward to seeing you, the PASA Team*

PARISH COFFEE MORNING: Parish Coffee Morning on Saturday 18 January 1030 until 1200 in St Andrew's Centre. Please come along and start the year off with a cuppa and a chat, and there may be cakes too! New members to the Abbey, visitors and friends are all very welcome. *The PASA Team*

ABBAY SHOEBOX APPEAL 2025



CAN YOU KNIT OR SEW? We would be grateful of help of knitted items to fill next year's shoeboxes, particularly hats, gloves and scarves, children's sizes 3/5 yrs, 6/11 yrs, 12+yrs. We also need cotton drawstring bags to go into the boxes. If you are able to help with any of these items, please contact Suzanne Clarke on 01386 553293. *Many thanks, Suzanne*

MINISTRY NEWS

ADVENT COMPLINE BY ZOOM MONDAYS IN ADVENT AT 1900: 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, allowing us all to pause and reflect on our Advent journeys. Join us live at 1900 on 2, 9, 16 and 23 December. If you would like to be part of this service, please email me at vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the Zoom link and a copy of the order of service. *Claire*

HELPERS NEEDED FOR MAKING CHRISTINGLES: Would you be willing to help make this year's Christingles? If so, your help would be much appreciated. Please come along to St Andrew's Centre at 1000 on Monday 23 December. Refreshments will be provided.

Thank you, Suzanne



ABBEY'S ECO FRIENDLY COLLECTIVE CHRISTMAS CARD: Why not join the Abbey's Collective Christmas card? Instead of sending individual Christmas cards to the people you see all the time at church, write one Christmas card to everyone and display it on our special Christmas card board in the Abbey. Donations are then invited for Christian Aid from the money you will have saved by not sending lots of cards. *Claire*



CHURCHES TOGETHER - WEEK OF UNITY: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is marked between 18 and 25 January each year. During these eight days, Christians all over the world come together from different traditions to pray for the unity of the Church. The theme for 2025 is based on a text from the Gospel of John: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). To find out how you can be involved, look out for details in our weekly bulletins.

NEW BIBLE STUDY GROUPS: From the week beginning 20 January 2025 and running for 4 weeks, there will be the opportunity to join a house group and look in more depth at St Luke's Gospel. The sessions, all in Pershore, will take place:

Mondays 1000-1130 at The Vicarage

Tuesdays 1030-1200 at the home of Sarah Thomson

Wednesdays 1400-1530 at the home of Peter and Janet Stansbie

Wednesdays 1900-2030 at the home of Terry and Jodie Palmer

Spaces are limited so please book fast! There will be sign up sheets in the Abbey or contact Claire by emailing vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk to book your space. *Claire*



ABBEY WALKING CHURCH: Fancy joining a group of people who like to walk? We are thinking about setting up a new group where folks can gather with others for a local walk. Companions of the two or four legged variety will be welcome! Along the way there would be time for chat, fellowship and some informal worship. We're looking to start when the weather picks up next year. If you're interested in coming along or being part of the group leading on this, please contact one of the Mission Group (Claire Lording, Sam Andrews, Martin Fowler, Suzanne Clarke, Peter Stansbie).

PERSHORE ABBEY BOOKSTALL



ABBEY BOOKSTALL AND WELCOMERS: Christmas has arrived at the Abbey Bookstall! We have a wide range of cards, advent candles and calendars, and olivewood decorations for sale, from as little as £2.00. Come and have a look for your Christmas shopping. The church mice are back in stock and will make lovely gifts!

All volunteer welcomers are warmly invited to a New Year's get together with Claire and myself on Monday 27 January at 1400 in the Abbey. If you are thinking about volunteering in this way why don't you come along and join us? Your commitment can be as little as 2 hours per month to

welcome visitors to our beautiful Abbey, so please get in touch. You can contact me on [persoreabbeybookstall@gmail.com](mailto:pershoreabbeybookstall@gmail.com) call me on 07858 506218 or say hello in person.

I look forward to chatting with you! *Sally Whyte, Bookstall Coordinator*

You can browse and buy Fairtrade products on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of every month at the Abbey's 1030 Sung Eucharist Service.



PERSHORE ABBEY ECO CHURCH

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF CAR-SHARING?: We know that walking or riding a bike isn't going to be possible for everyone. So why not consider car-sharing? Did you know that Pershore Abbey has a Car Share Coordinator to help put drivers in touch with people who need a lift! Our Car Share Coordinator is Marcus Seale and they can be contacted on 01386 554547 or by emailing carshare@pershoreabbey.org.uk. If you would like a lift or you have space to share in your car for Sunday services or other events, just get in touch and we will do the rest!



**NEXT ABBEY
ECO CHURCH MEETING:**

WEDNESDAY 5 FERUARY 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM
Please feel free to join us at one of our meetings

**NEXT ABBEY
LITTER PICK DATE:**

Join the Abbey Litter Pickers (ALPs)
SATURDAY 12 APRIL 1000-1100
Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Equipment Provided

BISHOP JOHN HONOURED BY HM THE KING



Bishop John had an audience with HM The King in November when he offered his resignation as the Lord High Almoner. In recognition of his service, Bishop John was invested with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order by King Charles. The Royal Victorian Order is an order of knighthood instituted by Queen Victoria in 1896 to reward personal services rendered the monarch. Bishop John will now be able to use the title of 'Sir'. Bishop John said: "It has been a great honour to serve as Lord High Almoner for 12 years and even more of an honour to have been invested as a Knight by His Majesty the King. I am full of gratitude."

NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

December is going to be busy at St Nicholas! We start with a celebrating Eucharist for the patronal festival of St Nicholas on 1 December at 1030, and in the first two weeks of December we have five visits from pupils and teachers from Pinvin CE Academy, as they celebrate year-group Christmas services in church. Our traditional Carol Service at 1030 on 15 December is followed by our annual Christingle and Crib Service at 1700 on Christmas Eve, when we continue our celebrations with mulled wine and mince pies after the service, followed by the launching of the famous Pinvin Rocket! All are welcome to our services, which are especially suitable for children at this time of year. Please note we have no further services in December, but the Abbey has a full range of services, including Christmas Day. *John Kemp, Churchwarden*

St Nicholas' Church, Pinvin

CAROL SERVICE

A photograph of two Christmas bells, one gold and one white, resting on a sheet of musical notation. The bells are decorated with snowflake patterns. The background shows a branch of a Christmas tree with green needles and gold tinsel.

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 10:30

A wonderful chance for you and your children to sing your favourite Advent Carols

Followed by refreshments

ALL WELCOME

PLEASE CONTACT THE
BENEFICE OFFICE FOR
MORE NEWS FROM
WICK AND WE WILL PUT
YOU IN TOUCH!

[BENEFICE OFFICE](#)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
KEEP UP TO DATE WITH
MORE NEWS FROM
BIRLINGHAM PLEASE
VISIT THE VILLAGE
WEBSITE AT

WWW.BIRLINGHAM.ORG

FOR MORE NEWS AND
INFORMATION FROM
PINVIN PLEASE TAKE A
LOOK AT THE VILLAGE
WEBSITE BY VISITING

WWW.PINVIN.ORG.UK

CHRISTMAS AT PERSHORE ABBEY

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 1500: A chance to sing your favourite Advent Carols and hear the Abbey Choir sing beautiful anthems. The service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: *Pershore Abbey Community*

LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 1700: A service of reflection with prayers for wholeness and healing. This is a service for people who would like to find some peace and quiet during this busy Christmas time. Please note: this service will take place at St Andrew's Centre.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 1700: Sing carols, listen to the Abbey choir sing and enjoy the organ being played. The service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: *Pershore Abbey Community*

MIDNIGHT MASS CHRISTMAS EVE 2315: Join us as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to see in Christmas Day.

ALL AGE EUCHARIST CHRISTMAS DAY 1030: Join us as we give thanks and praise on Christmas Day with this family friendly service. There will be refreshments afterwards!

Please see page 8 for a complete list of services.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE



LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

The volunteers at the Pershore Foodbank are busy getting ready for Christmas and your special, festive provisions are already starting to come in. It's very heartening, especially since the Harvest Festival blessed us with such a huge quantity (well over 500kg) of appropriately chosen donations. Please think of the Foodbank whenever you see all that glittery Christmas stock in the shops. We like to give out some of it to the families who are going through a difficult time and we rely upon your generosity to help us. We would be grateful to receive; tinned ham and salmon, puddings and cakes, savoury treats and chutneys, canned fruit and custard, festive biscuits and chocolates - though, please go easy on the mince pies!



With thanks and very best wishes to all our wonderful donors. *Nicola Ainsworth and the volunteers at Pershore Foodbank*



THE PERSHORE FOODBANK IS OPEN IN THE ST ANDREW'S CENTRE ON TUESDAYS 1100 - 1300 AND FRIDAYS 1300 - 1500

For further info please see our website www.pershore.foodbank.org.uk or contact us on 01386 555347

The Foodbank aim to have a Citizens Advice representative available at Friday sessions

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

PASTORAL SUPPORT: Our Pastoral Team continue to work hard to reach out to everyone in our congregation and community. If either you, or anyone you know, would benefit from their support please contact Claire on vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk, speak to Angela Gerrard or contact the office.

DAILY HOPE FREE PHONE LINE: Daily Hope is run by the Church of England and offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services 24 hours a day. Call free on 0800 804 8044. Please share this number with anyone you know who is not online.

PERSHORE ABBEY AND BENEFICE OFFICE: If you need to contact the office, please email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or telephone 01386 552071. Alternately, you can visit in person on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 1100-1200.

To view our livestreamed services, visit www.youtube.com and search for [Pershore Abbey Community](#)



CHRISTMAS 2024

PERSHORE ABBEY & ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Sunday 1 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Edible Nativity - Booking Essential (*St Andrew's Centre*)
Email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or call 01386 552071 by 27 November
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1500 Advent Carol Service (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Sunday 8 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's Centre*)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1700 Light in Our Darkness—a service of reflection with prayers for wholeness and healing (*St Andrew's Centre*)

Sunday 15 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Sunday 22 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Morning Praise (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1700 Christmas Carol Service
(*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December

- 1530 Christingle Service (*Pershore Abbey*)
Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle!
- 2315 Midnight Mass with choir
(*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 All Age Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Sunday 29 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Benefice Sung 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*



ACROSS THE BENEFICE



ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

Sunday 1 December

1030 Patronal Holy Communion Service

Sunday 15 December

1030 Carol Service

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December

1700 Christingle and Crib Service,

Sunday 29 December

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist
(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*

ST MARY'S WICK

Sunday 8 December

1030 Morning Praise

Sunday 22 December

1800 Carol Service

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December

1600 Christingle Service

Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December

0900 Parish Communion

Sunday 29 December

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist
(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

Sunday 15 December

1800 Carols and Christingle Service

Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December

1030 Holy Communion

Sunday 29 December

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist
(Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*



PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES DECEMBER 2024 AND NEW YEAR 2025

Details of our planned **Sunday** worship services are given below, though please do check our social media pages and website in case of changes. We look forward to welcoming you in person, and don't forget the 1030 Sunday Service from Pershore Abbey is livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: [Pershore Abbey Community](#)

PERSHORE ABBEY

**SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER
Advent Sunday**

0800 BCP Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*
1500 Advent Carol Service

**SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER
Advent 2**

0800 Eucharist
0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*
1700 Light in our Darkness (*St Andrew's*)

**SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER
Advent 3**

0800 Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

**SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER
Advent 4**

0800 Eucharist
1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*
1700 Christmas Carol Service
with Livestream

**SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER
Christmas 1**

0800 Eucharist
1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

**SUNDAY 5 JANUARY
Epiphany**

0800 BCP Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*
1700 Epiphany Carol Service



**SUNDAY 12 JANUARY
Baptism of Christ**

0800 Eucharist
0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*
1700 Wholeness & Healing

**SUNDAY 19 JANUARY
Epiphany 2**

0800 Eucharist
1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER

1030 Patronal Holy Communion

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER

1030 Carol Service

SUNDAY 5 JANUARY

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 19 JANUARY

1030 Sunday Praise



ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER

1800 Carols and Christingles Service

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY

1030 Morning Praise

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER

1800 Carol Service

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY

1030 Morning Praise

PLEASE SEE PAGES 8 & 9 FOR OTHER CHRISTMAS SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE

REGULAR SERVICES



PERSHORE ABBEY
WHOLENESS & HEALING

NEXT SERVICE:

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 1700 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE
SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

We also offer the opportunity to receive the ministry of healing prayers with two of the Wholeness & Healing team in the St John Chapel after communion has been received at every 3rd Sunday 1030 Eucharist

CAFÉ CHURCH
@St Andrew's Centre

NEXT SERVICE:

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER & SUNDAY 12 JANUARY
0930 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Come and join in with our family friendly and informal café-style worship in St Andrew's with worship, music and refreshments

PERSHORE ABBEY
IONA WORSHIP

NEXT SERVICE:

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY & 23 FEBRUARY
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

We hope you will join us either in person or via Zoom. Contact iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the Zoom link

IONA WORSHIP

The monthly Iona services focus on different social, environmental or personal journey themes. January's service on Sunday 26 at 1700 will explore how Restorative Justice enables people to move on after trauma and can lead to reconciliation. Emily Miller will be talking about her experiences of using Restorative Justice in schools.

You are very welcome to these informal, reflective services using Iona Community materials. If you'd like to receive an email about the upcoming Iona services, please contact the office, or email Helen Oldham on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk



EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

PERSHORE ABBEY
1700
5 JANUARY 2025

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATORY SERVICE
OF SINGING AND PRAISE

BENEFICE OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS



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

Our office staff will be on annual leave from:

12 noon on Monday 23 December 2024 until Thursday 2 January 2025

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.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Pershore Benefice for their support over the last 12 months and to wish everyone a **Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year**



PERSHORE ABBEY CONCERTS & EVENTS CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

FRIDAY 06 DECEMBER 1930

Vocal High - Winter Warmers Concert

SATURDAY 07 DECEMBER 1900

Worcester Male Voice Choir
Christmas Concert

FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER 1930

Pershore Town Choir
Christmas Celebration

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 1930

Pershore Choral
Christmas Concert



For full details and booking information, please visit our website www.pershoreabbey.org



PERSHORE CHORAL
SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2024 7.30PM
PERSHORE ABBEY

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS MUSIC, CAROLS AND READINGS
GUEST APPEARANCE BY THE MALVERN HILLS BRASS
CARLETON ETHERINGTON CONDUCTOR
CHARLES MATTHEWS ORGAN

BOX OFFICE
01905 770557
or
Pershore Town Hall
High Street, Pershore
(CASH ONLY SALES)
or
Online Ticket sales via
www.pershorechoral.co.uk

Pershore Choral invites you to visit its website: www.pershorechoral.co.uk

BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST

Everyone is invited to join us at 1030 on Sunday 29 December at the Abbey as we welcome everyone to come together for our Benefice service.