

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

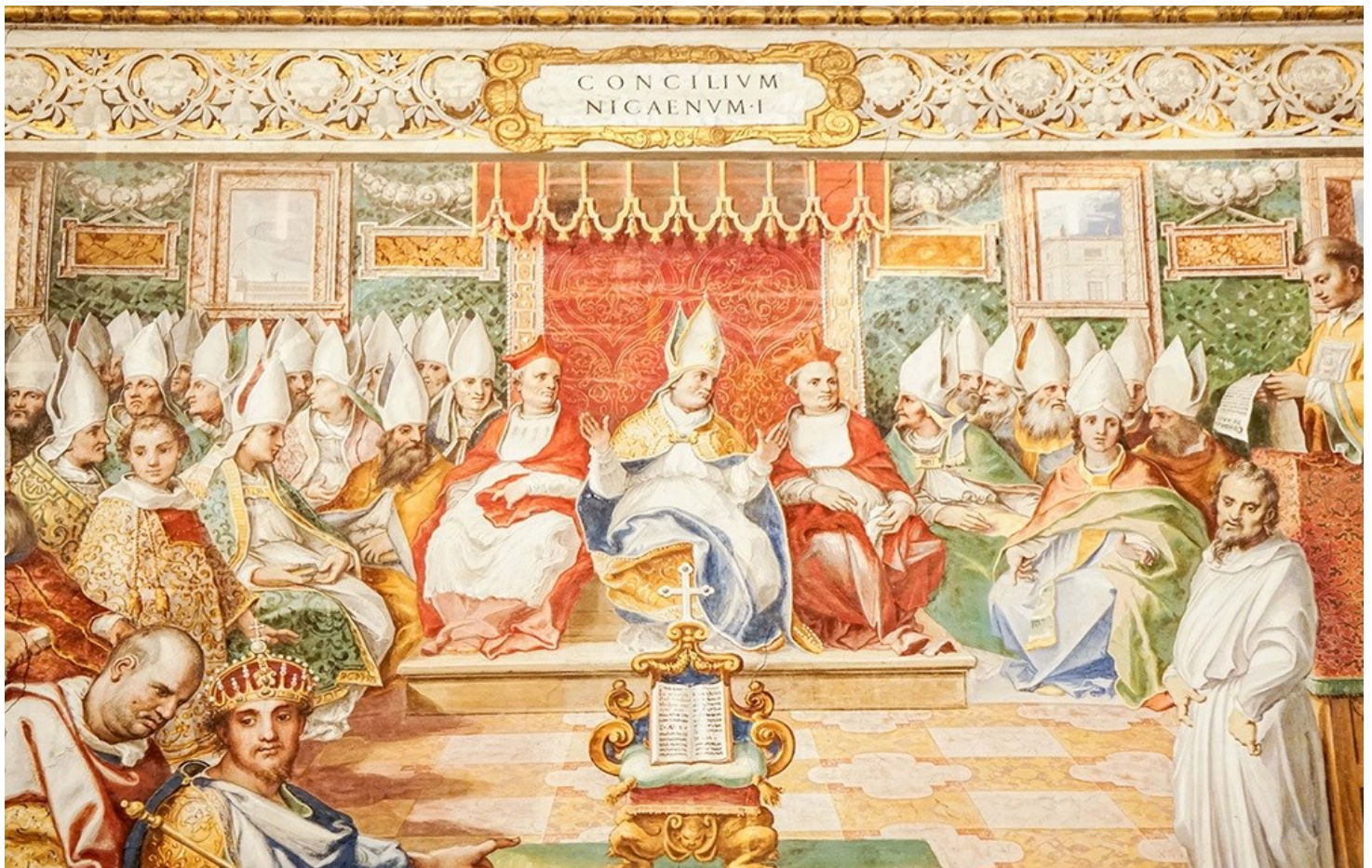
PERSHORE BENEFICE

January / February 2025

Welcome to our first Monthly Edition of 2025.

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

CELEBRATING THE 1700TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NICENE CREED: This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which produced one of Christianity's most enduring and influential documents - the Nicene Creed. Established in 325 AD, this declaration of faith continues to be recited by millions of Christians worldwide every Sunday. The anniversary will be a focus at the Churches Together in England Forum in March when it is hoped differences can be put aside to focus on the thing we have in common, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. And not only our Saviour but also the Saviour of the world. Below is a photo of a wall fresco depicting the First Council of Nicaea, taken in the Sistine hall of the Vatican Library.



IN THIS EDITION:

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - LENT 2025 - ABBEY ARCHITECT

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

MINISTRY NEWS

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. 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).



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2025



Racial Justice Sunday provides an opportunity for all churches to reflect on the importance of racial justice, to give thanks for the gifts and beauty of human diversity, and to commit to end racism and acts of discrimination.

It is an ecumenical observance which began in 1995 in Britain and Ireland following the murder of Black teenager Stephen Lawrence in South London, on 22 April 1993. This year, Racial Justice Sunday will be on 9 February and will be celebrating its 30th anniversary with the theme of 'Coat of Many Colours'.

This year's theme reflects the increasing diversity that exists in the churches in Britain and Ireland. Both the Old Testament, or the Hebrew Bible, and the New Testament are replete with references to diversity, in this world and the Kingdom to come. There is little

doubt that British churches, especially in the larger cities, are a microcosm of the world in a congregation, which is indeed a blessing that must be celebrated. Equally, the fact that the diversity of believers has breathed some much-needed spiritual life into our churches reveals that this is a movement of God worthy of praise and thanksgiving.

Amazing, inequality still exists in the Church and is still a factor that blights the experiences of many people of Global Majority heritage or Black and Brown backgrounds. This leaves people not feeling as if they belong in the house of the Lord, or not being given the opportunity to use their God-given talents to further the Lord's Kingdom. Resources available from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, including sermons and reflections, address the importance of inclusion and the need for all Christians to engage in the righteous work for racial justice.

A diocesan service for Racial Justice Sunday will be taking place at 1600 on Sunday 9 February at Anne's Church, Bewdley, with Bishop Martin preaching

PERSHORE ABBEY AND ST ANDREW'S (PASA)



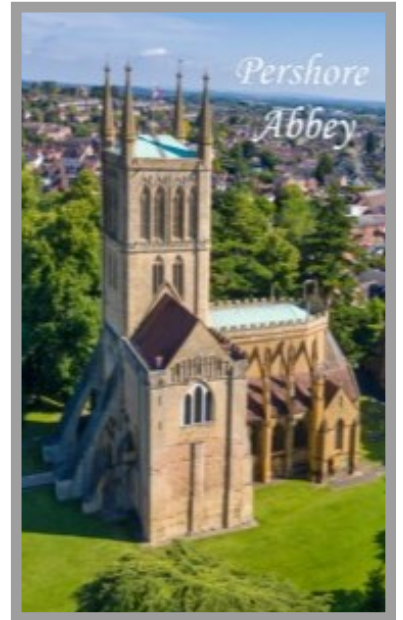
EXCITING OPPORTUNITY! Would you like to play with a state-of-the-art dishwasher? Of course you would! It's available in St Andrew's kitchen each Sunday, following the 1030 service. Each cycle takes only 4 minutes (usually 2 loads of coffee mugs per week) plus a 5 minute drain cycle at the end. An all-terrain camping trolley is available to transport the trays of mugs over to St Andrew's. It

really couldn't be easier... To take advantage of this amazing offer, please contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776 or thespeeds94@gmail.com and bag yourself a spot on the rota. Andy, Martin, Kevin and Sara will make you very welcome.

SERVING COFFEES: Also available are spaces on the rota for serving the hot drinks. Helpers work in pairs and, at the moment, it's once a month but with more volunteers we'd like to aim for a 1 in 6 weeks rota. Please do consider joining our very friendly team. Contact Sara Speed (as above) for more details. Thank you! *Sara Speed*

PERSHORE ABBEY BOOKSTALL

NEW YEAR, NEW TEA TOWEL! New stock on the Bookstall. After requests, I have sourced a tea towel (pictured) featuring our beautiful Abbey. Lovely quality and made in the UK at only £12. Stocks are limited, and will be available at the Bookstall from the end of January. Christmas was a busy period with many visitors, so thank you to anyone who purchased merchandise from us. Thank you especially to all the volunteers who gave their time last year. If you would like to know more about becoming a welcomer in the Abbey please get in touch and I'll be happy to give you more details. You can contact me on pershoreabbeybookstall@gmail.com, call me on 07858 506218, or say hello in person. I look forward to chatting with you! *Sally Whyte, Bookstall Coordinator*



MINISTRY NEWS



FEAST OF EPHIPHANY 2025: The Archbishop of York has written to all clergy, lay ministers and people in the Church of England on the Feast of Epiphany. Read his letter here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/epiphany-letter-archbishop-stephen> or call into the Abbey Office for a hardcopy.

FAIRTRADE AT PERSHORE ABBEY: We are proud supporters of Fairtrade. You can browse and purchase a variety of Fairtrade products on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of every month at our 1030 Sung Eucharist Service.



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

BIRLINGHAM BULB SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 1500: A warm welcome awaits everyone at the annual Bulb Sunday service at St James', Birlingham. This year it is being held on Sunday 9 February at 1500. Canon Claire Lording will be leading the service supported by the Abbey's Director of Music, James MacDowall Scott as the organist and members of the Abbey Choir leading the singing and contributing items. Refreshments are available to purchase in the Village Hall at the Snowdrop Teas after the service. Come a bit earlier to admire the snowdrops and crocuses. *Adrienne Woodward, Churchwarden*



WATCH OUT FOR NEWS: We hope to have a fund-raising social evening in January or February, showing slides of our holidays in 2024, together with food and drink local to the region visited. As yet a date has not been confirmed. We have some expensive church repairs needed in the next few months to keep our roof watertight, and any funds raised, however small, will be welcome at this time. *John Kemp, Churchwarden*

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

SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS OF OUR SERVICES IN PINVIN, WICK AND BIRLINGHAM
THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

LENT IN THE PERSHORE BENEFICE

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 services on 5 March.



SHROVE TUESDAY: Everyone is invited to Pershore Baptist Church at 1230 on Tuesday 4 March for pancakes followed by a presentation about Friends of the Holy Land, a non-political, humanitarian agency which we, as Pershore Together, are supporting as this year's chosen charity.

PRAY ONE FOR ME: Members of Churches Together in Pershore plan to meet in the Abbey's 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 offered at the Ash Wednesday 1930 service. 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. If you would like to join the team, please speak to Claire.

PERSHORE BENEFICE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES: Joining a service on Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent. Everyone is invited to come forward and have a cross made out of ash is marked on their forehead, as a sign of our penitence and God's forgiveness. Our services will take place at the Abbey on Wednesday 5 March at 0830 and 1930. The 1930 service will be livestreamed.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE LENT TALKS -

"EVERYDAY FAITH - CHRISTIANS IN TODAY'S WORLD":

Hear from a different member of our community each week as they share how their faith is lived out in their workplace. There will also be an opportunity to ask each speaker questions. Each session will be from 1930-2030 and will take place at Pershore Library on 12, 19, 26 March and 2 and 9 April. More details on each speaker will follow!

LENT & HOLY WEEK COMPLINE BY ZOOM: Join us via Zoom for this opportunity to share in the quiet and peace of Compline during Lent, with a reflection. Our Zoom sessions will take place on Mondays in Lent from 10 March. The half-hour services will begin at 1900. Please contact Claire at vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a Zoom link each week.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE LENTEN LUNCHESES: This year Churches Together in Pershore will be organising four Lenten Lunches, beginning the week after Ash Wednesday on Thursday 13 March, 20 March, 27 March, and 3 April. All Lenten Lunches will take place at the Pershore Baptist Church 1200-1330. There is no need to book, just to turn up. All welcome. Donations will be go to Friends of the Holy Land.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ABBEY ARCHITECT

Joanna Daykin, Director of Falconer & Gilbert Scott Architects Cheltenham, was appointed as our new architect last summer and we welcomed her in August. Joanna has an impressive CV with experience of architecturally acclaimed historic buildings such as Blenheim Palace, Winchester Cathedral, other cathedrals and churches. She has vision and insight to the needs of both conservation and development and how they might go hand in hand. The challenges of our Grade I Listed Abbey building, as well as repairs, include finding more space for young people's activities, kitchen facilities, more toilets, changes to enable our bellringers to function safely with more room and a stronger bell-frame. And much more...



Joanna Dakin



Joanna's first task was the Quinquennial Inspection - an assessment of the fabric of our beautiful Abbey, noting the strong and weak areas of this ancient building, making recommendations for repair and improvement. This inspection took place in October 2024, taking several days. Alongside, Joanna was also overseeing important external repair work at the north-east and north side of the Abbey including three buttresses. For over 100 years, the ground in this part of the churchyard has suffered from periods of drought shrinking the clay, and the building moving – just a little - causing cracks, heralded by falls of mortar dust. Carefully raking out gaps and filling with lime mortar provides a cushion that holds it all together, expertly done by Ryan Harris, of Treasure & Son. Within a few years we will need to strengthen the Abbey by underpinning in this area.



Another priority must be to address our heating needs – the gas boiler is nearing the end of its life and must be replaced with sustainable energy in line with the Church of England's policy for Net Zero Carbon by 2030. We have already been working to reduce our carbon footprint, and Joanna has experience of this challenge in ancient buildings - tackling draughts and finding other sources of heat such as solar panels and air source heat pumps.

Our Churchwardens and Fabric committee are studying Joanna's report and with her help will consider our order of priorities for the next 5 years and beyond. *Judy Dale, Fabric Committee Chair*

Top: Joanna inspecting the roof space above the nave

Below: Joanna with Ryan, stonemason, and his apprentice Brad

ABBEY ECO CHURCH

If you are keen to care for the environment in which you live, why not join our Eco Church community. We always enjoy welcoming willing volunteers to attend meetings and litter picks. Eco Church is a scheme run by a Rocha UK, equipping churches to care for god's creation through their worship, buildings, land community engagement and individual lifestyles. Visit www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/eco-church for more details.

**NEXT ABBEY
ECO CHURCH MEETING:**

WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2025 1915
ST ANDREW'S CENTRE UPPER ROOM
Please feel free to join us at one of our meetings

**NEXT ABBEY
LITTER PICK DATE:**

SATURDAY 12 APRIL 2025 1000
Meet at the West End of the Abbey
All Welcome - Equipment Provided

PERSHORE PEREGRINES

Preparations are underway for the hopeful return of the Pershore peregrines. Our avid team, including Judy Dale, Martyn Spence, Jason Marston and Christopher Kimberley, have prepared the nesting box that sits at the top of the Abbey tower, returning the cleaned stones and installing the camera, which can be viewed at www.pershoreabbey.org.uk A pair of peregrines have already shown an interest in the box so the early signs are encouraging.



THE SOPHIA COURSE



The SOPHIA course is a Christian Eco Spirituality journey. Worcester Cathedral is running a one-year journey of spiritual formation with a focus on creation-attuned spirituality. It is for anyone seeking to explore and grow in Christian discipleship in a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges. The course will be delivered over six day-long sessions at Worcester Cathedral. There will be two 30-minute Zoom sessions for those wanting to know more, from 1930 until 2000 on Thursday 30 January and Monday 10 February. For more details and the Zoom link, please contact Robin Parry: robinparry@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Join the Diocese of Worcester Climate Action Facebook Group: [Climate Action in the Diocese of Worcester | Facebook](#)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Everyone is welcome a special service at Pershore Baptist Church at 1400 on Friday 7 March to mark World Day of Prayer. The theme for World Day of Prayer 2025 is 'I Made You Wonderful', based on Psalm 139:14:

*For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.*



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN 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

REGULAR SERVICES



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY & SUNDAY 9 MARCH
0930 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Come and join in with our family friendly and informal café-style worship as we meet for worship, music and refreshments.

NEXT SERVICES:

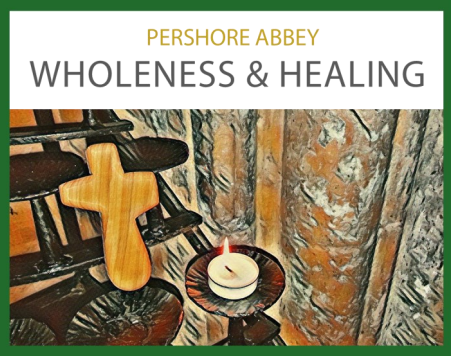
SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY & SUNDAY 9 MARCH
1700 AT PERSHORE ABBEY

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

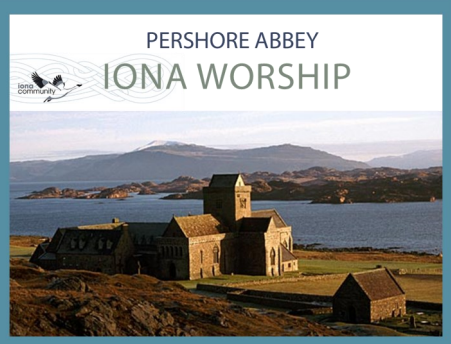
NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY & SUNDAY 23 MARCH
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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



PERSHORE ABBEY
WHOLENESS & HEALING



PERSHORE ABBEY
IONA WORSHIP



LENT TALKS

EVERYDAY FAITH - CHRISTIANS IN TODAY'S WORLD

PERSHORE LIBRARY

1930-2030

12, 19, 26 MARCH AND 2, 9 APRIL

Pershore Benefice

ASH WEDNESDAY



Wednesday 5 March
0830 and 1930
Pershore Abbey

Joining a service on Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent. Everyone is invited to come forward and have a cross made out of ash marked on their forehead, as a sign of our penitence and God's forgiveness.

ALL WELCOME

The 1930 service will be livestreamed and available to view on our YouTube channel: Pershore Abbey Community

Pershore Benefice

LENT & HOLY WEEK COMPLINE BY ZOOM



Mondays in Lent from 10 March
Monday 14, Tuesday 15 &
Wednesday 16 April in Holy Week
Online via Zoom 1900

An opportunity to share in the quiet and peace of Compline during Lent, with a reflection.

This half-hour night service will take place via Zoom.

Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the Zoom link each week



LENTEN APPEAL LAUNCH SHROVE TUESDAY 4 MARCH

PERSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

PANCAKES AT 1230 FOLLOWED BY PRESENTATION



in aid of

Friends of the Holy Land is a non-political Christian Charity whose mission is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan - the part of the world that Christians call the Holy Land.

The focus of their work is providing practical help directly to the most needy and vulnerable of our Christian brothers and sisters through a balance of funding immediate relief of emergency needs and practical small projects to help create a sustainable future in the Holy Land - most importantly to give them hope.

Their work is ecumenical. The beneficiaries of their work come from all Christian communities in the Holy Land. Their supporters in the UK come from all denominations of the Christian Faith and they have the blessing of church leaders in England, Wales and Scotland.



LENTEN LUNCHES

JOIN US FOR HEARTY SOUP AND A ROLL

ALL WELCOME



PERSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

1200-1330

(Last orders 13:00)

THURSDAY 13 MARCH - THURSDAY 20 MARCH
THURSDAY 27 MARCH - THURSDAY 3 APRIL

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

Details of our planned **Sunday** worship services within the Pershore Benefice 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 that the 1030 Sunday Service from Pershore Abbey is livestreamed and available to view on our YouTube Channel: [Pershore Abbey Community](#)

PERSHORE ABBEY

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY

Epiphany 3

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY

Candlemas

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Evensong

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY

4 Before Lent

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness and Healing

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

3 Before Lent

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

2 Before Lent

0800 Eucharist (BCP)

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

SUNDAY 2 MARCH

Next Before Lent

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Evensong

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY

1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

1030 Parish Communion

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

1030 Sunday Praise

SUNDAY 2 MARCH

1030 Holy Communion

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY

1500 Bulb Sunday Service

PLEASE SEE PAGE 5 FOR OUR ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT SERVICE INFORMATION

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

U3A UKULELE AND FISH & CHIPS EVENING: PASA will be hosting this social event at St Andrew's Centre at 1830 on Saturday 1 February. Tickets are £12 and are available from Julie Newman (01386 640497) or any PASA member. All welcome.

PERSHORE ABBEY AND ST ANDREW'S (PASA) PARISH COFFEE MORNING: Everyone is welcome to pop in to St Andrew's Centre anytime between 1030 and 12noon on Saturday 15 February for a cuppa and a chat.

ABBAY VOLUNTEER COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY: As a mark of our appreciation for all the help given by volunteers at the Abbey and St Andrew's, this special coffee morning is being held at 1000-1200 on Saturday 22 February. Volunteers will receive invitations via their group organiser. For more information, please contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776.

PIANOSCAPES WITH CHRIS LONG 1430 ST ANDREW'S CENTRE: Join Chris for a Sunday afternoon of piano pleasure at 1430 on 26 January and 23 February in the St Andrew's Centre. Tickets: chrislong2008@live.co.uk. Information: www.chrislongmusic.co.uk

PERSHORE ABBEY FORTHCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS

SATURDAY 08 FEBRUARY 1500
SINFONIA OF BIRMINGHAM

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 1430
**BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

SATURDAY 15 MARCH 1430
**WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

SATURDAY 29 MARCH 1900
ROCK CHOIR IN CONCERT

For more details or booking information
for any of these concerts,
please visit our website:



Sinfonia
of birmingham

Love and Friendship

WAGNER *Prelude and Liebestod*
from *Tristan und Isolde*

BRAHMS Violin Concerto

ELGAR 'Enigma' Variations

VIOLIN Zoë Beyers 3PM · Saturday, 8 February 2025
CONDUCTOR Michael Seal Pershore Abbey
LEADER Zhivko Georgiev Worcestershire, WR10 1BB

£17.50 · £15 · £5 sinfonia.org.uk/concerts

Sinfonia of Birmingham is registered charity № 1053325

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk