

CHURCH NEWS

Monthly Edition

PERSHORE BENEFICE

March 2025

Welcome to the March 2025 Monthly Edition!

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

LENT 2025: Lent is a time of repentance, solemnity and self-reflection. Traditionally people would also fast. The idea of fasting goes back 2,000 years. After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Christians fasted from all food and drink between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, marking the days between his death and the discovery that his tomb was empty. Lent, as we now know it, has its origins 900 years after Jesus. There was international agreement there should be a season of prayer and seeking forgiveness lasting 40 days, plus Sundays, leading up to Easter Sunday. The significance of the time? Before he began his years of travelling and teaching, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert reflecting on the future of his life. Join us this year for your own time of reflection and personal prayer.



IN THIS EDITION:

LENT IN THE PERSHORE BENEFICE - EARTH HOUR - POVERTY SUNDAY - EASTER 2025

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PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ON 01386 552071**



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.

PERSHORE LIBRARY

1930-2030

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

12 MARCH Revd Jayne Parker - Defence Sector Project Manager

19 MARCH Kevin Alty - Medical Physicist

26 MARCH Alison Wickham - Advanced Clinical Practitioner

2 APRIL Terry Palmer - Sales Executive in Timber Industry

9 APRIL Jason El'Habid - Secondary School Teacher

everyday
faith



LENT IN THE PERSHORE BENEFICE

As well as our Benefice Lent services and activities, there are also lots of events planned with Churches Together in Pershore (CTiP) throughout Lent 2025.



CTiP LENTEN APPEAL LAUNCH AND SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES TUESDAY 4 MARCH 1230 - PERSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

Pancakes followed by a presentation, in aid of Friends of the Holy Land. 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. For more information about the charity, visit: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

CTiP PRAY ONE FOR ME

Members of CTiP plan to meet at Pershore Abbey 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. 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH 0830 & 1930 - 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. The 1930 service will be livestreamed here: [Persnore Abbey Community – YouTube](#)

CTiP LENT TALKS

STARTING 12 MARCH 1930-2030 - PERSHORE LIBRARY

A series of talks entitled ‘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. See page 2 for more details, including a list of speakers.

LENT & HOLY WEEK COMPLINE BY ZOOM

This quiet and reflective service which will last half an hour will be held every Monday during Lent, commencing on 10 March at 1900 via Zoom. For more information and for the zoom invitation please contact vicar@persnoreabbey.org.uk each week.

CTiP LENTEN LUNCHES

THURSDAYS DURING LENT 1200-1300 - PERSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

Join us for hearty soup and a roll. All welcome.

Thursday 13 March, Thursday 20 March, Thursday 27 March, and Thursday 3 April.

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY SUNDAY 2025

Church Action on Poverty is a national ecumenical Christian social justice charity, committed to tackling poverty in the UK. Working in partnership with churches, and with people in poverty themselves, they tackle the root causes of poverty. Church Action on Poverty Sunday is on the last Sunday before Lent each year, that's Sunday 2 March this year. Give, act and pray with others to help build a movement to end UK poverty.



This year's campaign is inspired by the powerful 'Dreams and Realities' art exhibition; a set of nine portraits by Sheffield artist Stephen Martin. Each portrays a person, along with symbols representing the reality they face living in poverty – and the dreams they would pursue if they weren't being held back. The exhibition toured the UK through 2024 in support of the 'Let's End Poverty' campaign.

Why not use the pictures to spark your own reflection? What are the realities facing your community? What are your dreams for a world free from poverty? To find out more about the work carried out by Church Action on Poverty, visit: www.church-poverty.org.uk

MINISTRY NEWS

PERSHORE PEREGRINES: The magnificent birds can be viewed online at www.pershoreabbey.org.uk thanks to our avid team, including Judy Dale, Martyn Spence, Jason Marshall and Christopher Kimberley who have recently prepared the nesting box and set-up the camera livestream. Here's hoping for another successful breeding season.



MIDWEEK COMMUNION: In January 2024 we started this service, which is always followed by refreshments, in the hope that we could grow a midweek worshipping community. It has been wonderful to welcome people who usually attend church on Sundays, those who just come on Wednesdays, those who come when they feel they need space and visitors who are just passing by. It is a special time to be together and everyone is always welcome! Midweek Communion takes place at 1000 every Wednesday at Pershore Abbey. *Claire*



POSIE MAKING FOR PERSHORE ABBEY MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE: Posies for the Mothering Sunday service will be put together on Friday 28 March at Suzanne Clarke's home from 1300 onwards. Suzanne would be most grateful for any donations of daffodils and foliage or any monetary donations to buy flowers. Please contact Suzanne on 01386 553293 if you can help in any way. *Thank you, Suzanne Clarke*

NEWS FROM BIRLINGHAM, WICK AND PINVIN

FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING: St James', Birlingham is holding a Fairtrade Coffee Morning on Sunday 23 March at 1100. Fairtrade coffee and biscuits will be offered on arrival followed by a talk about Fairtrade by Hilary Fowler. There will then be an opportunity to buy a variety of Fairtrade items including coffee, tea, biscuits, chocolate, cards as well as Mothering Sunday and Easter themed items. Only cash or cheques for purchases please. *Adrienne Woodward, Churchwarden*

WICK MOTHERING SUNDAY 30 MARCH: All are welcome to join the 1030 Mothering Sunday Morning Praise service at St Mary's, Wick, when we will be giving thanks for mothers past and present. *Penny Gordon, Churchwarden*

PINVIN SLIDESHOW SOCIAL: All are welcome to St Nicholas', Pinvin at 1900 on Friday 21 March for a social evening and the opportunity to show slides of holidays taken in 2024. Together with soup, and food and drink local to the region visited, we are looking forward to getting together. Funds raised will go towards expensive church repairs needed in the next few months to keep our roof watertight. *John Kemp, Churchwarden*

THANK YOU: As we turn our attention to maintaining the Pinvin churchyard, grass-cutting and general tidiness for 2025, we are very grateful to Pinvin Parish Council for their kind donation of £500 towards our grass-cutting costs. *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 MARCH

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

PERSHORE ABBEY AND ST ANDREW'S (PASA) PARISH COFFEE MORNING: If you like coffee and enjoy a natter, this is a very important date for your diary! Pop along to St Andrew's Centre anytime between 1030 and 12noon on Saturday 15 March where you will be offered a warm welcome, and a cuppa and a chat, by the Café Church team.

PIANOSCAPES WITH CHRIS LONG: Join pianist Chris Long for an hour of improvisations and compositions at St Andrew's Centre at 1430 on 23 March. Tickets £10. For tickets, email: chrislong2008@live.co.uk. For more information: www.chrislongmusic.co.uk



TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC SERVICE 06 APRIL 1600 AT PERSHORE ABBEY: The Town Council Civic Service is an opportunity for the town to gather to give thanks and pray for the work of the Mayor and Town Council. Please come and support Pershore Mayor, Cllr Richard Grantham, and all those who serve our town. There will be no Evensong on this Sunday.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK

The Foodbank continues to be incredibly busy providing vital support to members of our local community. You can help support them too with donations of; tinned goods (vegetables, meat, fish, soup, fruit), long life milk, and cleaning products. The Foodbank is open in St Andrew's Centre 1100-1300 on Tuesdays and 1300-1500 on Fridays. Please visit www.pershore.foodbank.org.uk or contact 01386 555347 for further information.



THE FRIENDS OF PERSHORE ABBEY



Sir Nicholas Coleridge DL has kindly agreed to give this year's Friends Memorial Lecture, entitled 'Heritage, Museums and the joys of living near Pershore.' The lecture will take place on Friday 11 April at Pershore Abbey. Doors open at 1830, with the lecture starting at 1915. £16 suggested donation, students free.

PERSHORE ABBEY AND ST ANDREW'S (PASA)

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. 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. 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*

ABBEY ECO CHURCH

EARTH HOUR 2025: This will take place on 22 March from 2030-2130. It's about switching off our lights to experience how much we miss energy and to show our support for our planet. This year we'd like to suggest you also do something you love during the hour. We hope to make a display in the Abbey of what we all have got up to, so take a photo if you can. There are lots of things you could do during Earth Hour, including going on an evening walk, sharing a candlelight discussion, making shadow puppetry, enjoying a board game. We look forward to hearing what you get up to! Photos can be sent to the Office, David Oldham or Claire. For more information, visit: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/earth-hour>

FIVE FASCINATING EARTH HOUR FACTS

- It is one of the world's biggest environmental movements for nature and climate, organised by WWF but led by the Earth Hour community.
- Every year, hundreds of millions of people, famous landmarks, local businesses and community groups across the world take part in Earth hour events and activities.
- In 2020, Earth hour went fully digital in the UK. As well as switching off lights, many people connected online by joining digital events and live streams during the hour.
- Earth Hour is helping to tackle deforestation - 'Earth Hour Forest' was launched by WWF Uganda as part of their campaign to restore 2,700 hectares of degraded land.
- Earth Hour made it to space - in 2015 Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti joined the Earth Hour movement by holding a sign 'Change Climate Change' floating inside the International Space Station.



**NEXT ABBEY
ECO CHURCH MEETING:**

TUESDAY 25 MARCH 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 Benefice Easter 2025

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday 13 April

0800 BCP Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1000 Palm Sunday Procession on Abbey Park to Abbey. Meet at St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road crossroads. Come and join us singing and drumming to the Abbey.

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

1030 Morning Praise (*St Mary's Wick*)

1500 Ubi Caritas - A Choral Devotion for Holy Week (*Pershore Abbey*)

1700 Wholeness & Healing Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

Monday in Holy Week 14 April

1900 Compline (*Zoom*) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation.

Tuesday in Holy Week 15 April

1900 Compline (*Zoom*) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation.

Wednesday in Holy Week 16 April

1900 Compline (*Zoom*) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation.

Maundy Thursday 17 April

2000 Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars

and the Office of Tenebrae (*Pershore Abbey*) *with LIVESTREAM TO BE CONFIRMED*

This service will be approximately one and three-quarter hours and will be followed by the Watch until Midnight. You are welcome to leave after the Office of Tenebrae.

Good Friday 18 April

1000-1415 Children's Activities (5-10 years) (*St Andrew's Centre*)

No fee - donations welcome. Booking essential via Suzanne Clarke 01386 553293 from 31st March.

1000-1200 Good Friday Witness details to be confirmed.

1400 Service of the Last Hour (*Pershore Abbey*) *with LIVESTREAM*

1445 Bredon Hill Service at the Folly please contact the Bredon Group for details of this service on acbhteam@gmail.com

Holy Saturday 19 April

1700 Evening Prayer with Short Easter Vigil (*Pershore Abbey*)

This service will last approximately one hour.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Daily Offices will also continue to be observed as usual

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: [@pershoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/pershoreabbeycom)

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

Pershore Abbey

UBI CARITAS

A Choral Devotion for Holy Week



PALM SUNDAY, 13 APRIL

15:00

Pershore Abbey

Ubi Caritas - A Choral Devotion for Holy Week

Directed by James MacDowall-Scott



@pershoreabbeycom



@AbbeyPershore



@pershoreabbeycommunity

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk • office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

01386 552071

Pershore Benefice

HOLY WEEK COMPLINE BY ZOOM



Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday in Holy Week



1900

Online via Zoom

An opportunity to share in the quiet and peace of Compline during Holy Week, 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

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: @pershoreabbeycom YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

Pershore Abbey

GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY DAY



Friday 18 April

1000 - 1415

St Andrew's Centre

Enjoy Easter themed activities and crafts including:

- Baking
- Creating an Easter garden
- Telling the Easter story
- & much more...

No Cost - Donations Welcome

Booking Essential

Spaces are limited so reserve your place from 31 March

Booking and information: Suzanne Clarke on 01386 553293

Pershore Benefice

EASTER DAY

April 20 2025



0600 Dawn Service and First Eucharist of Easter (Pershore Abbey)

followed by breakfast of boiled eggs and rolls at St Andrew's Centre. (Please bring an egg cup with you!)

0800 Eucharist (Pershore Abbey)

0900 Parish Communion (St Mary's, Wick)

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

1030 Holy Communion (St Nicholas', Pinvin)

1030 Holy Communion (St James', Birlingham)

ALL WELCOME

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

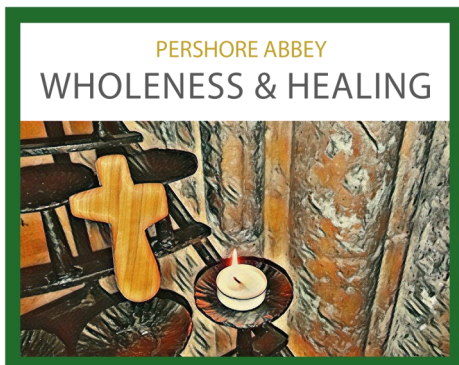
Facebook: @pershoreabbeycom YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

APCM AND ELECTORAL ROLL NEWS

APCM MEETINGS IN THE BENEFICE: In April and May we will be holding meetings to elect churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meetings for each parish. These are an opportunity to reflect on the past year and to thank all those who have been involved in the life of our churches. Everyone is welcome to attend them. The meetings are also when we elect and appoint officers for the current year - there is always room for volunteers who would like to serve as PCC members. If you think this could be you please speak to me or an existing churchwarden for more details. The meetings will be taking place: 1930, 8 April (Pinvin), 1900, 6 May (Pershore Abbey), and 1000, 22 May (Birlingham). Wick TBC. Thank you *Claire*.

PREPARATION OF THE NEW ELECTORAL ROLL: The Electoral Roll has to be completely revised every six years. The Roll is a way of confirming your commitment to the Church, and opens the way to a greater involvement. From PCC to Deanery Synod and to the opportunity to attend the APCM to elect officers and to ask questions. Forms will be available on the Abbey website and in: the Abbey, St James', Birlingham, St Nicholas', Pinvin, and St Mary's, Wick. You can also speak to your parish Electoral Roll officer.

REGULAR SERVICES



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 9 MARCH & SUNDAY 13 APRIL
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

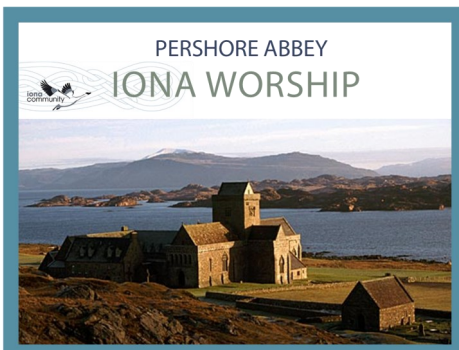
We also offer the opportunity to receive the ministry of healing prayers with two of the Wholeness & Healing team in the St John Chapel after communion has been received at every 3rd Sunday 1030 Eucharist



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 9 MARCH & SUNDAY 13 APRIL
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.



NEXT SERVICES:

SUNDAY 23 MARCH & SUNDAY 27 APRIL
1700 PERSHORE ABBEY

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

PERSHORE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

MARCH 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 2 MARCH

NEXT BEFORE LENT

0800 BCP Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Evensong

SUNDAY 9 MARCH

LENT 1

0800 Eucharist

0930 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

1700 Wholeness & Healing

SUNDAY 16 MARCH

LENT 2

0800 Eucharist

1030 Sung Eucharist *with Livestream*

SUNDAY 23 MARCH

LENT 3

0800 Eucharist

1030 Morning Praise *with Livestream*

1700 Iona Worship

SUNDAY 30 MARCH

MOTHERING SUNDAY

0800 Eucharist

1030 All Age Eucharist *with Livestream*

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 9 MARCH

1030 Morning Praise

SUNDAY 23 MARCH

1030 Parish Communion

SUNDAY 30 MARCH

1030 Mothering Sunday Morning Praise

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 2 MARCH

1030 Holy Communion

SUNDAY 16 MARCH

1030 Sunday Praise

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

There are no services at St James' during March

PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 FOR OUR ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT SERVICE INFORMATION AND PAGES 8 & 9 FOR OUR EASTER SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

PERSHORE ABBEY
CONCERT PROGRAMME

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

SATURDAY 15 MARCH 1430

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra Spring Concert

SATURDAY 29 MARCH 1900

Rock Choir Concert

SATURDAY 17 MAY 1930

Pershore Choral Spring Concert

SATURDAY 14 JUNE 1430

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra Summer Concert

SATURDAY 21 JUNE 1900

The Elgar Chorale Concert

SATURDAY 28 JUNE 1900

CSO / FOAG Concert

SATURDAY 05 JULY 1000

Pershore Midsummer Brass

SATURDAY 12 JULY 1900

Worcester Male Voice Choir

For full details and booking information visit:

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

