



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 20 December, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

A recording of this service will be available to view from Sunday at 1500 on our
Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Please use this service sheet as an aid for worship at home.

ADVENT WREATH SONG

We have this Advent Wreath to remind us of the Coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring,
round the berry bright candles,
and the white and shining King.**

We light this candle to remind us of Mother Mary who told God she would obey.

**And four for Mother Mary.
'I cannot see the way,
but you promise me a baby,
I believe and I obey'.**

THE COLLECT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A reading from the Second Book of Samuel

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all

the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING **Romans 16:25-27**

A reading from the Letter to the Romans

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL **Luke 1:26-38**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

A REFLECTION BY REVD CLAIRE LORDING

I always wanted to be Mary in the nativity but was thought to be too tall and didn't have the right hair cut! Imagine my delight when, as a curate, I found myself cast as Mary in the Mothers' Union nativity. On the day of the production I was getting ready when the door bell rang and I was greeted by a community midwife! I did ask her if she knew something I didn't!

Mary's life is full of surprises, because the God who wanted her to bear his son is full of surprises. As God breaks into the reality of our human experience, God didn't choose the most influential, the most powerful or the most important woman to be the mother of God, because somehow they wouldn't be the best way to share who God really is. God chooses instead to find an ordinary and humble girl to be part of this most amazing story, to show that God is always capable of, and always wanting, to turn societal and cultural expectations on their head.

In this one encounter that Mary has with Gabriel everything changes. And it's not only Mary's life that will never be the same again. With her yes to God, Mary enables God's kingdom to come that much closer. The baby will grow and with him a gospel of redemptive love that will turn society upside down, which Mary will sing about in her special song, the Magnificat.

Mary in the midst of surprise and shock, and fearful of the expectations placed upon her, offers herself to God completely. "Here I am", she says, and with that she becomes a model for all of us as to how we might respond to the God who calls us in surprising and unexpected ways. Mary has trod the path of faith before us and she can continue to inspire and encourage us along the way, as we navigate our own surprises from God. Amen.

COMMUNION

During Communion the choir will sing the following hymns:-

HYMN

A&M 394

(Woodlands)

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

(Cont.)

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

[Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926]

HYMN

A&M 80

(Divinum Mysterium)

Of the Father's heart begotten
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain,
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,
when the Maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth mankind's salvation,
by the Holy Ghost conceived,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
in her loving arms received,
evermore and evermore.

(Cont.)

This is he, whom seer and sybil
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealèd
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

[Aurelius Clemens Prudentius , 348-c. 413
Trans. Roby Furley Davis, 1866--1937]

HYMN

A&M 33a

(Conditore Alme Siderum)

Creator of the starry height,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, redeemer of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.

Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save our fallen race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

When earth was near its evening hour,
thou didst, in love's redeeming power,
like bridegroom from his chamber, come
forth from a virgin-mother's womb.

To thee, O Holy One, we pray,
our judge in that tremendous day,
ward off, while yet we dwell below,
the weapons of our crafty foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.

[John Mason Neale, 1818-1866]

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*

Persnore Abbey

CCLI No. 46441

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 20 DECEMBER 2020

As a Kingdom People we are churches that seek to:

- Worship God
- Welcome All
- Reach out to the world

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Claire Lording

Email: vicar@persnoreabbey.org.uk

Assistant Curate: The Revd Steve Dunton

Email: curate@persnoreabbey.org.uk

Abbey Wardens: Mr Bill Newman (01386 640497) Mrs Suzanne Clarke (01386 553293)

The Benefice Office of Persnore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham

Alveston House, 11, Broad Street, Persnore, WR10 1BB (01386 552071)

Email: office@persnoreabbey.org.uk **Website:** www.persnoreabbey.org.uk

The office remains closed, but we are still working and available by phone and email

OFFICE STAFFING OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

The Benefice Office will not be staffed over the Christmas and New Year period

Our office staff will be on annual leave from:

12 noon on Thursday 24 December 2020 until Tuesday 5 January 2021

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 THROUGH THIS YEAR

IMPORTANT UPDATE

THE CHURCHES OF THE PERSHORE BENEFICE ARE OPEN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

Please see **page 15** for full details of our Benefice services

Our churches continue to be open for **PERSONAL PRAYER**

See **page 16** for full details

PLEASE PRAY FOR

WE PRAY TOGETHER FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT CRISIS

We pray for those whose weddings, blessings and baptisms have been affected by the crisis, and for all those who are making new plans to celebrate these special life events.

We pray for all those welcoming new life into their families.

We pray for those in need.

We pray for those who have died and for their families and friends.

We pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs in the coming week.

*

NOTICES AND MESSAGES

THE VERY REVEREND CHRISTOPHER CAMPLIING: We were all saddened to hear that Christopher died on 9th December at home, after a short spell of ill health. He was Vicar of Pershore from 1968-76, caring also for the village parishes. He is fondly remembered as a faithful, holy and kind parish priest, who kept up his connection with Pershore long after he moved to pastures and responsibilities new. We give great thanks for his faithful ministry and for all those who were blessed by his journeying alongside them. His funeral service will take place on 19th December at St Mary's, Goring-by-sea, so please do pray for Christopher's family and all those who mourn. May he rest in peace. *Claire*

A MESSAGE OF THANKS AND GOOD WISHES: Jean and Keith want to thank you all for your support and prayers particularly over the last few months. Keith is settled into his new home and is looking well. They are eagerly waiting for the day when they can actually meet up in person rather than through a glass wall! They send Christmas Greetings to everyone.

Please visit our **Life Events** page at **www.pershoreabbey.org.uk** for more information on weddings and funerals during the crisis.

You can also find additional resources and information to help those suffering from bereavement and loss

Comfort and Joy



Please join us in the PERSHORE BENEFICE for CHRISTMAS 2020

Sunday 13th December

- 1030 Said Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey*)
1030 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)
1800 **PRE-BOOKED TICKETS ONLY:** Christmas Celebration (*St James', Birlingham*)*

Sunday 20th December

- 1030 Said Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey*)
1030 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
1700 **ONLINE ONLY:** Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 2019
A special showing of the service recorded at Pershore Abbey in 2019
(*View online at Pershore Abbey Community on YouTube and Facebook*)
1800 Walking Carols (*St Mary's, Wick*)

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December

- 1530 **ONLINE ONLY:** Christingle and Crib Service
A specially created Christingle and Crib Service pre-recorded at Pershore Abbey for Christmas 2020
(*View online at Pershore Abbey Community on YouTube and Facebook*)
1700 **PRE-BOOKED TICKETS ONLY:** Christmas Eve Said Service (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)*
2100 **PRE-BOOKED TICKETS ONLY:** Said Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey*)*
2315 **PRE-BOOKED TICKETS ONLY:** Midnight Mass with choir (*Pershore Abbey*)*

Christmas Day Friday 25th December

- 0800 Said Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey*)
0900 Said Eucharist (*St Mary's, Wick*)
1030 Said Eucharist (*St James', Birlingham*)
1030 **PRE-BOOKED TICKETS ONLY:** All Age Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey*)*

Sunday 27th December

- 1030 Sunday Praise (*Pershore Abbey*)

**For Pershore Abbey ticketed services please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk
or call 01386 552071*

For all other ticketed services please speak to your village churchwarden



**A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU THIS CHRISTMAS
BOTH IN CHURCH AND ONLINE**



CHRISTMAS 2020 IN THE PERSHORE BENEFICE

BOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT PERSHORE ABBEY:

Due to Covid 19 restrictions we will not be able to accommodate the number of people that we usually do at our Christmas services.

So that we can safely seat the limited numbers that we are permitted to have we shall be operating a booking system for the following services:

- **Christmas Eve 2100 Said Eucharist with choir**
- **Christmas Eve 2315 Midnight Mass with choir**
- **Christmas Day 1030 All Age Eucharist with choir**



If you would like to book your seat for any of these services please email me at vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk or leave a message **01386 552071**.

We will get back to you to confirm your booking and to allocate you a seat number(s).

Unfortunately you will not be able to attend these services without that confirmation and seat number.

Our services will be a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, but they will be different from previous years. They will be slightly shorter and sadly only the choir will be able to sing. But they will still be full of joy!

The 0800 Eucharist will not require pre-booking. Please just turn up for this service.

If you need any more information please get in touch. Thank you. *Claire*

CHRISTMAS 2020 - COMFORT AND JOY: Comfort and Joy is the Church of England's Christmas campaign for 2020. It holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it is the church's role to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation.



This campaign takes inspirations from the words of St Paul in Romans 12.15, to '**Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep**'. and aims to celebrate, where we can, together in one place, but also embrace a wider community that wants to join in the celebration but may not be physically able or ready to do so.

We hope that this year's theme of Comfort and Joy will help us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to offer God's consoling love in the present.

The C of E are producing weekly reflections published on social media and available by email and app for each Sunday of Advent: **Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas** mirrors the structure of a traditional carol service, exploring both biblical texts and the words of much-loved Christmas carols.

In collaboration with a range of Christian charities and organisations, there will also be online services throughout Advent and Christmas.

To find out more about how to access these C of E Comfort and Joy services and reflections, visit www.churchofengland.org, or to find out more about this year's campaign visit the Worcester Diocese Website: [Comfort and Joy Campaign](#)

COMFORT AND JOY IN THE PERSHORE BENEFICE: Details of our own Pershore Benefice Christmas services embracing the Comfort and Joy theme are available on [page 8](#).

LAST FEW COPIES: We have the last few copies of the beautiful accompanying book, **Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas**, for sale at £1. Please email the office at office@pershoreabbey.org.uk if you would like a copy or speak to Claire after one of our services.

ADVENT COMPLINE ON ZOOM!: Please join us for the last of our quiet and reflective services as we prepare for our Christmas celebrations. Instead of meeting in the Apse of the Abbey we will be meeting on Zoom, from the comfort of our own homes. The service will be around 20 minutes long and will enable us all to pause and reflect on our Advent journeys. Join us live at 1900 on 21st December. If you would like to be part of this new way of worshipping, please get in touch with me for the Zoom invitation and a copy of the order of service by the Monday morning of the Zoom service you would like to attend. *Claire*

SHOEBOX SUCCESS! A massive thank you to everyone who helped us to donate to this year's shoebox appeal. Although we were sadly unable to involve our Junior Church and Upper Room groups in this year's campaign, we still managed to pack and deliver 75 boxes to the Teams4U warehouse as a result of your generations donations of boxes, essential items and knitted goods. We also collected enough money to enable Teams4U to send 100 boxes, so a fabulous effort all round. We understand that the boxes are destined for Moldova, where they will bring much joy and relief in need. Thank you. *Suzanne*

CHRISTMAS CARD MESSAGE FOR CHRISTIAN AID:



TAKE BACK CONTROL with love that unites and builds hope.

Despite restrictions and isolation, reach out to both friends in the Abbey and communities abroad who are having to cope with the fear and impact of Covid in their vulnerable existence in poverty.

Send your Christmas greeting (to be displayed in the Abbey - we'll pin up a card to go with it) together with donation for Christian Aid Christmas Appeal.

GET INVOLVED by sending a cheque (made out to "Christian Aid") or cash, with your message. If you can Gift Aid the donation include your address, amount and name. Either deliver to the Benefice Office, Broad Street or put in an envelope in the offering plate when there is a Sunday service, marking your envelopes '**Christian Aid**'

Thank you. Please spread the word and help us fill the display board and transform lives

MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

The **DISCOVER CHAPLAINCY** event, **Tuesday January 26th, 1900 – 2030** is for anyone wanting to know more – those thinking about volunteering as chaplains as well as people who are just curious. To book a place sign up via [Eventbrite-discovering-workplace-chaplaincy](#)

A copy of the latest Faith at Work newsletter is available to view and download here:
Faith at Work Newsletter November 2020

We need your support now more than ever, so please consider giving through our dedicated give.net page, which offers secure regular or one-off payments from as little as £1. Click on the logo here or visit our website to donate. If you would prefer to set up a Standing Order, download the form [here](#).



HELP IN THE COMMUNITY

CTIP FOODBANK NOW OPEN ON TUESDAYS:

The Foodbank remains open on Tuesdays 1100 - 1300 and Fridays 1300 - 1500.

The Pershore Foodbank will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day over the festive season.

Social distancing procedures remain in place with clients being asked to wait in the entrance hall, as guided by a volunteer.



Our thanks go to all of the volunteers who work so hard to make this possible, and to all those who continue to donate items.

CITIZEN'S ADVICE:

Face to Face sessions have now been suspended. To speak to an adviser please ring **01386 712100**.

For General Advice select option 1.

For help to complete your first Universal Credit application select option 2.

This service is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1000 -1300.

The Worcestershire Adviceline is also available Monday to Friday between 1000 - 1600: ring 03444111303 or email enquiries.wychavon@citizensadvice.org.uk

IMPORTANT LOCAL INFORMATION:

Get all of the latest Covid-19 information from Pershore Town Council by following this link.

www.pershoretowncouncil.gov.uk/latest-news

A MESSAGE FROM PERSHORE FOODBANK

Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas Goodies.

We have delivered many hampers, and with your help have made Christmas more cheerful for many people, not only in the town, but also in the wider community.

The community effort to help others in need has truly been unparalleled.

Lynne Raymer

FOODBANK REQUESTS

We need donations of the following items:

- UHT Milk
- Tinned carrots
- Sugar



OTHER NEWS

RESET THE DEBT CAMPAIGN: Launched by the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, Church Action on Poverty, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. The campaign grew out of listening and learning from communities during the lockdown of 2020. The project heard that debt was becoming an increasing problem for households and communities across the UK.

In the UK an estimated 6 million people, who were only just managing previously, incurred an extra £10- 12 billion in debt due to COVID and lockdown, whilst the better off saved £25 billion in lockdown and were less likely to be furloughed or lose their job. Reset the debt asks us to contact your MP with a Reset the Debt bauble and letter, calling for a Debt Jubilee.

See <https://resetthedebt.uk/> for resources as well as short films which tell people's real stories about living with unmanageable debt.



ST ANDREW'S IS 50 – WELL NEARLY – UPDATE! Many thanks to all who donated to our appeal – you have raised a magnificent **£2,800**. This has enabled us to give funds to the PCC to complete the first part of our work – you will find new fittings in the kitchens, the entrance and corridors – and have some of the funds ready for the Main Hall and the Upper Room. All part of Eco-Church – saving energy and our running costs.



More good news – last week Wychavon granted Listed Building Consent for the remaining works! *Robin Hancox, on behalf of the Trustees*

ADOPT A PIPE UPDATE - ONLY 8 LARGE PIPES REMAINING!



The adopt a pipe scheme continues to be well supported with only 8 of the large visible pipes left for donors to adopt!

There are many smaller pipes still available too, so if you are looking for an alternative Christmas gift, take a look at the [Adopt a Pipe Scheme Leaflet](#) for further details on the scheme.

We also have special certificates available for those wishing to adopt a pipe as a gift.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BLUEBELL BULB PLANTING ON BOXING DAY!: An opportunity for time out from Christmas busyness this Boxing Day - time to be decided. If you would like to help with planting some native bluebell bulbs in the Abbey churchyard, please contact Helen Oldham. You will need to bring gardening gloves and tools for digging a small hole up to 15cm deep, and wear weather appropriate clothing. In the New Year there will be another planting session to add some 'snowdrops in the green'. *Helen*

ONLINE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 1530

Specially pre-recorded for Christmas 2020

Like so many things this year, our Christingle service is going to be a little different - but it will still be a joyous service for people of all ages to enjoy!

With the help of Trudy Burge, we have put together a pre-recorded and completely new Christingle for all of our younger congregation and their families across the Benefice to help them take part in this traditional and hugely popular service.

Please spread the word - we would love as many people as possible to join us on our Pershore Abbey Community YouTube channel at 1530 on Christmas Eve.

Pershore Abbey

Pre-Recorded Online Only

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



CHRISTMAS EVE
15:30

 Available to view on YouTube @
Pershore Abbey Community

Join us online from 15:30 this Christmas Eve for a specially created pre-recorded service

AND FINALLY . . .

A CHRISTMAS WEDDING AT PERSHORE ABBEY! We are very excited to welcome Jessica Dodd and her fiancé Christopher Tomkinson to the Abbey this week to celebrate their marriage, along with a few members of their close family.

It has been a very difficult time for all of our wedding couples this year with the uncertainties and complications that Covid-19 had brought, so we are delighted that we are able to have one more wedding before the New Year!



Other family members and friends will be joining the ceremony via Zoom, so everyone will be able to take part in the celebration. A big thank you to all of the volunteers who have come together to make this possible and to ensure the safety of our wedding couple and their guests.

We wish Jess and Chris much future happiness as they start their new life together as husband and wife.

If you need any help in accessing any of the online features mentioned in the bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact the office or Revd Claire Lording for support.



PERSHORE BENEFICE

INFORMATION ON RE-OPENING FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

Details of our planned public worship services for December and Christmas in 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. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

We understand that some of our congregation are still shielding and will not feel able to attend, however, the decision to attend or not is yours and yours alone.

For those who do wish to attend a service, things will be different. There will be no hymns and the service will be shorter than usual. Please rest assured that people will be available to help you with clear instructions and guidance.

New guidance requires that face-coverings must be worn by those attending a place of worship. The full guidance and list of exemptions can be found [here](#).

PERSHORE ABBEY

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

Said Eucharist at 1030

CHRISTMAS EVE

Said Eucharist at 2100*

Midnight Mass at 2315*



CHRISTMAS DAY

Said Eucharist at 0800

All Age Eucharist at 1030*

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER

Sunday Praise at 1030

**Additional Christmas services online -
see [Page 8](#) for the complete schedule**

** These services will be ticketed to enable us to
maintain a Covid-secure environment - full
details on [page 9](#)*

Please Note: Daily Offices have resumed

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

'Walking Carols' at 1800

CHRISTMAS DAY

Said Eucharist at 0900

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

Sunday Praise at 1030

CHRISTMAS EVE

Said Service at 1700* pre-booked tickets only

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Said Eucharist at 1030

PERSHORE BENEFICE

INFORMATION ON CHURCHES OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

Please see below for information on the current situation for each church in the Benefice.

Please be aware that only restricted areas of our churches will be open and numbers will be limited to ensure your safety.

PERSHORE ABBEY

OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER ONLY

DAILY

1000 - 1700

ST MARY'S, WICK

OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER ONLY

DAILY

1000 - 1600

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

SUNDAYS ONLY

1030 - 1330

ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

SELECTED SUNDAYS

(see website for opening updates)

1000 - 1300

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS IS NOW MANDATORY FOR ALL THOSE ENTERING OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SAFETY OF EVERYONE.

Please be mindful that due to social distancing capacity will be reduced in our churches.

When entering our church please observe social distancing rules at all times.

Hand-sanitiser and tissues will be available to keep you and others safe.

Please be considerate of others and keep to the guidelines.



PERSHORE BENEFICE

NHS COVID-19 APP - TEST AND TRACE THROUGH QR SCANNING

We are now displaying a QR code poster at all entrance points to our buildings.

Visitors with smart phones can chose to leave their details by scanning this code with the NHS COVID 19 App, which is now live and available to download and install using the following links:

iPhone: <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/nhs-covid-19/id1520427663>

Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.nhs.covid19.production>

HOW TO USE THE APP

Once you have opened the downloaded app you need to enter some information.

The first screen asks you to enter your postcode. You simply enter WR10 if you live in Pershore.

You need to enable notifications to receive “Exposure notifications”.

You need to then allow “NHS COVID-19” to send you notifications

You will then see the next screen which shows WR10 risk as medium

Within this App is a Venue Check in. Outside Pershore Abbey and all our village churches will be posters with a QR box. Open that tab and hold your phone so that the black and white box on the poster is in the square box on your phone. The App will do the rest for you.

You can find out more information about the NHS Covid-19 App, including a short video, by visiting the NHS website from here: [NHS COVID-19.](#)



WORSHIP DURING COVID-19 AND KEEPING IN TOUCH

PERSHORE ABBEY COMMUNITY ONLINE

As we go into the Christmas break and prepare for the New Year, we are going to take some time to recharge our batteries and to consider how best to move forward with our online offerings, so our programme may be a little less full than of late.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Trudy Burge for her tireless commitment to the Benefice and for developing and maintaining such a strong online presence.

We will continue to update Facebook with new items when we can, but hope you will bear with us as we look towards putting together a new sustainable level of activity.

There's still plenty to come over the next week though so don't forget to keep up with us 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.

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. This is mostly by telephone or email. 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.

ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

(A) Abbey, (B) Birlingham, (P) Pinvin, (W) Wick,
(St A) St Andrew's, (V) New Vicarage, (CTIP) Churches Together in Pershore

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

PUBLIC WORSHIP SERVICES HAVE NOW RESUMED

Please check on social media and our website for the latest updates

The Abbey remains open daily from 0900 - 1700 for personal prayer

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

1030 Said Eucharist (Abbey)

1030 Sunday Praise (St Nicholas', Pinvin)

1700 ONLINE ONLY: Nine Lessons and Carols 2019 (YouTube)

1800 Walking Carols (St Mary's, Wick)

Monday 21 December

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Tuesday 22 December

1100 FOODBANK (St A)

1300 Funeral of the late Phyllis Clarke
(St Nicholas' Church, Pinvin)

Wednesday 23 December

1230 Wedding of Jess Dodd with
Christopher Tomkinson (Abbey)

Thursday 24 December - CHRISTMAS EVE

0930 WW Weigh and Go (St A) - TBC

1530 Christingle and Crib Service (Online)



1700 Christmas Eve Service (St Nicholas', Pinvin)*

2100 Said Eucharist with choir (Abbey)*

2315 Midnight Mass with choir (Abbey)*

Friday 25 December - CHRISTMAS DAY

0800 Said Eucharist with choir (Abbey)

0900 Said Eucharist (St Mary's, Wick)

1030 Said Eucharist (St James', Birlingham)

1030 All Age Eucharist with choir (Abbey)*

Saturday 26 December

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Sunday 27 December - Christmas 1

1030 All Benefice Sunday Praise (Abbey)

*** ALL SERVICES MARKED WITH * ARE BY PRE-BOOKED TICKET ONLY.
THERE WILL BE NO ENTRY WITHOUT A TICKET**

Please be aware that all funeral, wedding and baptism services are subject to strict controls on the number of people attending, and are therefore private events

Please check our social media pages and website for further updates

WEBSITE:

Please remember you can see all the latest updates and information on our website
www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Search for Pershore Abbey Community to follow us on Facebook.

We are also on Twitter and Instagram.



All of our Social Media feeds are now available through our website.

Scroll to the bottom of each page to follow us there.