



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 13 December, 2020
THIRD 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 John the Baptist who passed on God's message – "get ready for your King".

**And three for John the Baptist
He calls us on to sing:
'O prepare the way for Jesus Christ.
He is coming, Christ the King'.**

THE COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The servant of the Lord said: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort

all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

THE GOSPEL

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?'

John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

A REFLECTION BY JAYNE PARKER (Ordinand)

I love detective stories, and the theme of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" is running through my mind. The glorious, ethereal cadences of The Who's "Who Are You?", followed by the refrain "I really wanna know - who are you? Who, who, who, who?"

This morning's reading is all about John the Baptist and who he is. The Pharisees ask several times "Who are you?" Are you the Messiah? Are you Elijah? Are you the Prophet? Each time he answers no – that's not me. Which makes me consider the times in our lives when we are defined by what we are not? Are we not old enough - yet? Not young enough – anymore? Not employed? Not cool enough?

But despite being none of the things that the Pharisees expect, John is sent from God. He has a mission of his own. He calls people to repentance. He later dies as a martyr. But his most important mission is to testify to the light that is to come: he points to Jesus. John was a witness. He was the prophet for what was to come in Jesus.

John had a certain style, which was not what the Pharisees expected. His message was not just in what he said, but in the way he said it. It was public, it was certain (he staked his life on it) and it was humble. He deflected interest in himself and directed it towards Jesus.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the light and we are called to follow him. No matter how much we think we are defined by what we are not, despite all those things of which we are not so proud, or what the modern-day Pharisees expect, we all have a mission and we can each point towards the light. No matter who we are.

Amen.

COMMUNION

During Communion the choir will sing the following hymns:-

Ye servants of the Lord,
each in his office wait,
observant of his heavenly word,
and watchful at his gate.

Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
gird up your loins as in his sight,
for awful is his name.

Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.

O happy servant he
in such a posture found!
he shall his Lord with rapture see,
and be with honour crowned.

Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise that faithful servant's head
amid the angelic band.

[Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751]

O Child of Promise, come!
O come, Emmanuel!
Come, prince of peace, to David's throne;
come, God, with us to dwell!

The Lord's true Servant, come,
in whom is his delight,
on whom his holy Spirit rests,
the Gentiles' promised light!

O come, anointed One,
to show blind eyes your face!
Good tidings to the poor announce;
proclaim God's year of grace!

O come, Messiah King,
to reign in endless light,
when heav'nly peace at last goes forth
from Zion's holy height!

[James Quinn, SJ, 1919-2010]

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.'

Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

That when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

[Edward Caswall, 1814-1878]

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

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Pershore Abbey
CCLI No. 46441

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 13 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@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Assistant Curate: The Revd Steve Dunton

Email: curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk

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

The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham

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

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

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

IMPORTANT UPDATE

THE CHURCHES OF THE PERSHORE BENEFICE ARE
OPEN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

Please see page 14 for full details of our Benefice services

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

See page 15 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.

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 will be 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 are available on **page 9**.

If you would like a printed copy of this year's reflection booklet, **Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas**, we still have a number of copies available to purchase for £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 this quiet and reflective service 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 14th and 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



PERSHORE ABBEY CHRISTMAS TREE 2020: Despite the limitations of Social Distancing restrictions this festive period, Pershore Abbey now has a beautiful Christmas tree in place which was decorated by a small team and then blessed by Revd Claire Lording on Saturday 5 December. The tree is smaller this year due to its location, but still shines as a beacon of comfort, joy and hope of better things to come.



If any one would like to make a donation to cover the cost of the tree, we would be very grateful. Donations please in an envelope marked 'Abbey Tree' can be handed to either Churchwardens, Suzanne or Bill, Claire, or can simply be popped through the Office door. We will be back next year bigger and better so watch this space!! We hope our tree will be a beacon of light and hope for the coming year. With our best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year to you all. *Ann and Suzanne - just a small part of the Christmas Tree Team.*

MINCE PIES: The Workplace Chaplains are determined our traders don't miss out this year and have organised a large batch of individually wrapped mince pies to be ready for distribution in the town on Tuesday, 15th December. If there are any brave souls who would like to help with this, please contact Angela Gerrard. All Covid-safe rules will be observed. *Angela*

MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

FAITH AT WORK IN WORCESTERSHIRE:

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](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/discovering-workplace-chaplaincy-tickets-12345678901234567890)

Faith at Work in Worcestershire have produced a video containing simple, practical and helpful advice for not only workplace chaplains but anyone wishing to support a friend, neighbour or family member who has lost their job. We as Christians and as a Church are acutely aware there are many who have been made redundant and others who fear they too may be laid off. This 28min video may help you feel more confident in reaching out to our local community in this time of crisis. <https://vimeo.com/446770267>

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

CHURCH GIVING - GIVE.NET DONATION PAGE NOW LIVE:

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.

It will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day only 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

FOODBANK REQUESTS CHRISTMAS 2020

Once again the Foodbank is giving out Christmas bags to our clients.

This year we will deliver the weeks beginning 7th and 14th December.

We also make up small chocolate bags for children; often Mum's tuck these away ready for Christmas day.

Last year the hampers were blessed in the Abbey; we hope to be able to do so again this year.

Please bring your donations to St Andrew's in Church Walk, during our Tuesday and Friday sessions.

Please, please, could you kindly make sure donations are well in date (Mince Pies seem to have a short shelf life) .

Lynne Raymer

Please can you help to provide a Christmas Parcel to those in need. We would particularly like



Christmas Cakes



Biscuits



Sweets and Chocolates

For both Children and Grown ups



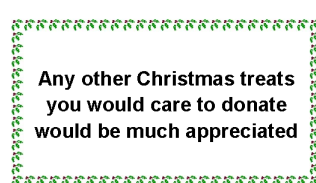
Tinned Ham, Salmon or Chicken



Chocolate money



Custard



Mince Pies

(We are not able to use fresh, chilled or frozen items.)
Churches Together in Pershore

Pershore Foodbank is run in partnership with local churches facilitated by Pershore Abbey
Registered charity number: 1133566 | Registered in England & Wales

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*

DOORSTEP CAROLS 16TH DECEMBER AT 1800: An invitation to everyone to sing along to carols on the radio on your own doorstep. This website gives you a carol sheet to download and the various radio stations involved. If you don't have a radio, you are able to listen in to local radio stations via a computer: <https://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk/>

ADOPT A PIPE UPDATE - ONLY 9 LARGE PIPES REMAINING!



The adopt a pipe scheme continues to be well supported with only 9 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

PIANOSCAPES - LIVE IN ST ANDREW'S TODAY, SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER AT 1430: We are very pleased to welcome Chris Long back to St Andrew's for his popular Pianoscapes series of Sunday afternoon concerts. Please be aware social distancing measures will be in place and audience numbers will be limited and places need to be booked in advance. Please contact Chris for further details at chrislong2008@live.co.uk

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!

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 . . .

ON THIS DAY - CHRISTMAS SEASON 2020: This is always such a wonderful and busy time of year at Pershore Abbey, full of joy, festivity and the gathering together of people. It's a time when we reach out across our wider community, welcoming the teachers, pupils, and families from local schools as they perform their Christmas presentations; enjoy much-loved choirs entertaining us with seasonally-inspired concerts, and a time when we particularly embrace the work of local and national charities hosting special fundraising carol services to promote and support their work.

In the run up to Christmas, we are taking time to remember what should have happened on this day at Pershore Abbey, Christmas Season 2020, so please do take a look at our website at pershoreabbey.org.uk and spare a thought for all of the schools, choirs, charities and groups who are not able to be with us this year. We think particularly of the charities whose fundraising activities have been so seriously affected by Covid, among them The Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven, The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust, St Richard's Hospice Lights of Love and the Retired Firefighters. We look forward to welcoming them back to fill the Abbey with the joy of Christmas once again in 2021.



Click on the above images to be taken directly to their charity website and find out more about their work

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 13 & 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 7](#) for the complete schedule**

** These services will be ticketed to enable us to
maintain a Covid-secure environment - full
details on [page 8](#)*

Please Note: Daily Offices have resumed

ST MARY'S, WICK

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

Morning Praise at 1030

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

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

Christmas Celebration at 1800*

Please contact Adrienne Woodward on 01386
750936 to book your place at this event

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 move forward though this pandemic we will continue to make a copy of the Benefice Service Sheet available both online and by email, and will post a recording of the weekly Pershore Abbey Sunday Service of worship online through our Social Media channels from 1500 every Sunday.

We will continue to regularly update Facebook with new items, messages of encouragement, video recordings and special vicar vlogs from Claire, Steve, Peter and other members of the Ministry Team as we continue to navigate our way through these difficult times.

Our YouTube channel is called **Pershore Abbey Community**

Our Facebook page can be found at **#pershoreabbeycom**

Our Facebook posts, latest Instagram posts and a Twitter feed can also all be found on our website at **www.pershoreabbey.org.uk** at the bottom of every page.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

C OF E LAUNCHES WORSHIP PHONE LINE:

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services 24 hours a day.

Please share this with those who are not online.



C OF E ONLINE SERVICES AND SUPPORT:

The Church of England continues to broadcast online each Sunday via social media at 09:00. For simple daytime and night prayer services, download the free Church of England App "Time to Pray".



The "Daily Prayer" App is free to download and is now available through our website.

There is also an accompanying daily audio offering on SoundCloud and iTunes led by the Archbishop of Canterbury .

STAYING UP TO DATE: The best way to stay up to date with all the current news and information at this time is through our website and Facebook pages.

All of our platforms can be easily accessed directly from **www.pershoreabbey.org.uk**



SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN AND DIARY: If you would like to receive email updates and a copy of the Benefice Service Sheet direct to your inbox, please email the office at **office@pershoreabbey.org.uk**.

A copy is also uploaded to the website every Friday

PASTORAL SUPPORT: The Ministry Team and Abbey Pastoral Group are doing their best to keep in touch with everyone. 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 13 DECEMBER 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

1030 Said Eucharist (Abbey)

1030 Morning Praise (St Mary's Wick)

1800 Christmas Celebration - **pre-booked tickets only** (St James', Birlingham)

The CTiP Wholeness and Healing Service would also have taken place today. Although there is no online service, a copy of the service sheet is available [here](#) for you to follow at home.

Monday 14 December

0915 Musical Explorers

1000 CCTV Engineers (A)

Tuesday 15 December

1100 FOODBANK (St A)

1200 Funeral of the late Mick Neale (A)

1500 Social Media Filming (A)

*Please note the Abbey will be closed
from 1500 onwards*

Wednesday 16 December

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Thursday 17 December

0930 WW Weigh and Go - TBC

Friday 18 December

1300 FOODBANK (St A)

Saturday 19 December

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Sunday 20 December - Advent 4

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)

*All Sunday Abbey Eucharist Services after 2nd
December will be recorded and shown on our
YouTube channel at 1500*



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.