



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 27 December, 2020**  
**JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

**SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY**

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

**HYMN**

**A&M 88**

***Greensleeves***

What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds worship and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him praise  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,  
his love all loves exceeding:  
nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail, the Saviour comes,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
all tongues and peoples own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let every heart enthrone him:  
raise, raise your song on high  
while Mary sings a lullaby,  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

## **THE COLLECT**

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

### **Exodus 33:7-11a**

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

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

## **SECOND READING**

### **1 John 1**

A reading from the First Letter of John

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **John 21:19b-25**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

After this Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.'

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?'

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

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

## **A REFLECTION BY REVD STEVE DUNTON**

***"The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us,"***- This most powerful sentence is at the heart of the Christmas message, written by the Apostle John, whose Feast we celebrate today. John and his brother James, the sons of Zebedee were nicknamed by Jesus "the sons of thunder." John, known as the Beloved Disciple, was a privileged witness to the Transfiguration. It was John who reclined on Jesus' breast at the Last Supper, showing just how much he loved his dear friend, who was also his Master. It was to John, that Jesus entrusted the care of his blessed mother and John was the only one of the twelve disciples to remain faithful to Christ at the foot of the cross.

Just before today's gospel begins, Peter, following his denial of Christ, is restored to his friendship and told that his destiny was to be a shepherd of Christ's flock and that he would die a martyr's death. Peter wonders about John's future, 'Lord, what about him?' Peter's wounded humanity once again comes to the fore. We all too readily compare ourselves to others, sometimes envying another person's journey of discipleship. Like Peter, we need to learn that we all have our own unique relationship with Jesus, so that there is no need to compare ourselves with others, as God loves us with an equal measure.

In his Gospel and throughout his life, John revealed the depth and richness of God's love revealed in Christ, which is at the heart of the Trinity. John becomes a model disciple not only in his fidelity but in showing us how to love and trust Christ. John teaches us to lean on Jesus' bosom, close to his divine heart, to drink deeply of his love, a love for us that will never end. Amen.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

[Isaac Watts, 1674 - 1748]

**FINAL PRAYER**

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that the Word made flesh proclaimed by your apostle John may be, by the celebrations that we share, ever abide and live within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\*

Pershore Abbey  
CCLI No. 46441

# PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

## 27 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*

### 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.

### 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**

## NOTICES AND MESSAGES

**THE VERY REVEREND CHRISTOPHER CAMPLING:** 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.

## MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

**PATTERNS FOR KINGDOM LIVING - A NEW RESOURCE FOR A NEW YEAR:** For many of us the sense of making a fresh start at the turn of a year will be stronger than usual at the end of 2020.

With this in mind, a new recently developed, self-directed, “**Patterns for Kingdom Living**” resource is now available through the Dioces of Worcester website.

They offer a really accessible way to help people renew their sense of God's grace and identify next steps in their journey with God. The start of a New Year seems a great time to embrace this and those who have already taken have described these flexible resources as encouraging and life-giving. You will find all the relevant links, including a 1 minute taster video, here: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-faith/kingdom-patterns/>

### **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](#)

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.

**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](mailto: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](http://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.



**BLUEBELL BULB PLANTING:** An opportunity for time out from Christmas busyness on 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'.

### **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.

## **AND FINALLY . . .**

**The Pershore Benefice wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and brighter New Year.**

Thank you for your support, patience and understanding throughout 2020; for embracing new technologies and connecting with worship in new ways; for accepting our virtual presence where we have not been able to come together physically, and for striving to keep our church, congregation and community together.

*We look forward to welcoming you all in 2021 and moving forward together with hope to meet the challenge of a New Year and all that it will bring.*

*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 PUBLIC WORSHIP

Details of our planned public worship services up to 10 January 2021 within 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

##### CHRISTMAS EVE

Said Eucharist at 2100\*

Midnight Mass at 2315\*

**ONLINE:** Midnight Mass recorded at

Pershore Abbey in 2019

Available to view from 2315



##### CHRISTMAS DAY

Said Eucharist at 0800

All Age Eucharist at 1030\*

**ONLINE:** All Age Eucharist recorded live at Pershore Abbey in 2020

Available to view from 1400

*\* Ticket only services*

##### SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER

Sunday Praise at 1030

##### SUNDAY 3 JANUARY

BCP Eucharist at 0800

Said Eucharist at 1030

##### SUNDAY 10 JANUARY

Said Eucharist at 1030

#### ST MARY'S, WICK

##### CHRISTMAS DAY

Said Eucharist at 0900

##### SUNDAY 10 JANUARY

Morning Praise at 1030

#### ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

##### CHRISTMAS EVE

Said Service at 1700\* pre-booked tickets only

##### SUNDAY 3 JANUARY

Said Eucharist at 1030

#### 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

**DAILY**  
**1000 - 1700**

### ST MARY'S, WICK

**DAILY**  
**1000 - 1600**

### ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

**SUNDAYS ONLY**  
**1030 - 1330**

### ST NICHOLAS', PINVIN

**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.

### 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. 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### **LIMITED 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 27 DECEMBER 2020**

**John, Apostle and Evangelist**

1030 All Benefice Sunday Praise (*Abbey*)

**Monday 28 December**

~

**Tuesday 29 December**

1100 FOODBANK (*St A*)

**Wednesday 30 December**

~

**Thursday 31 December**

0930 WW Weigh and Go (*St A*) - TBC

**Friday 1 January - NEW YEAR'S DAY**

~

**Saturday 2 January**

~

**Sunday 3 January - Epiphany**

0800 BCP Eucharist (*Abbey*)

1030 Said Eucharist (*Abbey*)

1030 Said Eucharist (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

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

**AS THE COVID PANDEMIC CONTINUES TO EVOLVE, PLEASE DO CONTINUE TO CHECK OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES AND OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES TO ADVERTISED SERVICES AND FOR ALL OF THE LATEST INFORMATION**

### **WEBSITE:**

Please remember you can see all the latest updates and information on our website

**[www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://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.