



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 10 January, 2021
BAPTISM OF CHRIST

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

As in person worship in the Pershore Benefice has been suspended until further notice, this service will be recorded in advance and available to view on Sunday morning from 1030 on our YouTube channel and Facebook pages.

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

A hymn sheet to accompany this service is available on [Page 6](#)

THE COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your 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

Genesis 1:1-5

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

SECOND READING

Acts 19:1-7

A reading from the Book of Acts

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1: 4-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

A REFLECTION BY REVd ALMA ORGAN

Most of us cannot remember our baptisms as we were probably babies, at the time. We have, however, the opportunity at Easter to renew our baptism vows. Robin and I visited the Holy land and stood in the River Jordan, at the place where Jesus was supposed to have been baptised by John the Baptist. We renewed our baptism vows and were sprinkled with the water. We filled a bottle with the water, before the time that liquids were excluded from aeroplanes, to add to the font, when baptisms were taking place in the Abbey. Making the link with Jesus' baptism, when God said 'You are my Son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased'

At baptism services in the benefice churches, the priest assures the members of the congregation that we are all created by God and so, are his sons and daughters. More importantly we are loved by him and special in his sight. The signing of the cross, with holy oil, affirms this.

As we are all sons and daughters of one family, baptism also stresses the fact that we are not just members of our immediate family, but members, with all those who have been baptised, of the worldwide church family. Members of the Mothers' Union, represent that family when they act as stewards and hand out the baptism cards and the candle, which represents the light of Christ. Those who have received this light are to become lights by treating all people as special to God.

A member sends out a card on the anniversary of the baptism to reassure the families that the church wants to keep in touch and this confirms that their child is precious in the eyes of God and his church. As we all are.

Revd Alma Organ

COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY BAPTISM

Water is poured into the font with these words

God in Christ gives us water welling up for eternal life.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All Lord, give us this water and we shall thirst no more.

The president stands before the water and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president continues the prayer ending with the words

For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours, now and for ever.

All Alleluia. Amen.

I saw water flowing from the threshold of the temple.

All Wherever the river flows everything will spring to life. Alleluia.

On the banks of the river grow trees bearing every kind of fruit.

All Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail.

Their fruit will serve for food, their leaves for the healing of the nations.

All For the river of the water of life flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

The Prayer over the Water is followed by this act of penitence and dedication

God of truth,
you are faithful to the covenant you have made with us;
look in mercy on your people.
From all our sins, O Lord:

All wash us, and we shall be clean.

We have broken the pledges of our baptism,
and failed to be your disciples.
From all our sins, O Lord:

All wash us, and we shall be clean.

Though we are saved by Christ
and dead to sin through the deep waters of death,
we have not witnessed to his grace by our manner of life.
From all our sins, O Lord:

All wash us, and we shall be clean.

We have shown indifference to those in need
and have been afraid to stand up for justice and truth.
From all our sins, O Lord:

All wash us, and we shall be clean.

We have been slow to forgive, and have failed to remember
your repeated forgiveness of our sins.
From all our sins, O Lord:

All wash us, and we shall be clean.

Today we rejoice and give thanks
because your Son humbled himself to be baptized in the Jordan.
Through the waters you have given us the mystery of baptism
for the remission of our sins.
From all our sins, O Lord:

All wash us, and we shall be clean.

Through water and Spirit
you give us new life as the people of God,
and pour out upon us the gifts of your new covenant.
From all our sins, O Lord:

All wash us, and we shall be clean.

Almighty God,
in our baptism you have consecrated us
to be temples of your Holy Spirit.
May we, whom you have counted worthy,
nurture your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith,
and worship you with upright lives;
through Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

On behalf of everyone, the president signs themselves with the water.

President

‘Come,’ say the Spirit and the Bride.
‘Come forward, you who are thirsty,
receive the water of life,
the free gift to all who desire it.’

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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HYMN SHEET

HYMN 1

A&M 108

(Offertorium)

When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon,
but as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.
He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.
Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make,
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost

[Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000]

HYMN 2

A&M 109

(Herongate)

When Jesus comes to be baptized,
he leaves the hidden years behind,
the years of safety and of peace.
to bear the sins of humankind.
The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
anoints the Christ to suffering,
to preach the word, to free the bound,
and to the mourner, comfort bring.

(Cont.)

He will not quench the dying flame,
and what is bruised he will not break,
but heal the wound injustice dealt,
and out of death his triumph make.

Our everlasting Father praise
with Christ, his well-belovèd Son,
who with the Spirit reigns serene,
untroubled Trinity in One.

[Community of Stanbrook Abbey]

HYMN 3

A&M 338

Refrain:

*Water of life, cleanse and refresh us;
raise us to life in Christ Jesus*

All you who thirst, come to the waters,
and you will never be thirsty again.

Refrain

As rain from heaven, so is God's word,
It waters the earth and brings forth life.

Refrain

Dying with Christ, so we shall rise with him.
death shall no longer have power over us.

Refrain

Turn to the Lord, cast off your wickedness,
you will find peace in his infinite love.

[Stephen Dean, b. 1938]

Pershore Abbey
CCLI No. 46441

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

10 JANUARY 2021

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 NHS staff and all those providing care and support in our hospitals, care homes and communities.

We pray for all teachers, for children and for their families as they enter a new period of remote learning and the challenges it brings.

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.

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NOTICES AND MESSAGES

MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

ALL OF THE PERSHORE BENEFICE CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED FOR IN PERSON PUBLIC WORSHIP UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Following the decision for a further National lockdown, and with the serious situation regarding the spread of Covid, there will be no in-person worship in the Abbey or Village Churches until further notice.

The Abbey will remain open for personal prayer only from 9:00 till 17:00 seven days a week. The Village Churches will also continue to open for personal prayer. See [Page 12](#) for details

We will continue to offer access to worship through our online service sheets and pre-recorded services whilst we review our range of digital media services for those of you who decide to stay at home during these difficult times

COMPLINE ON ZOOM RETURNS!: We may not be able to meet in person for worship but please join us once again for this quiet and reflective service as we journey through this current lockdown. 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, reflect and pray together. Join us live at 1900 every Monday from 18th January. If you would like to be part of this way of worshipping please get in touch with me for the Zoom invitation. *Claire*

IONA ON ZOOM - WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2021 at 1930: There will also be an opportunity to join the January Iona Service via Zoom. Please email Helen Oldham at iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk for further information and the Zoom invitation.

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 Diocese 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](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/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](#).



ECO CHURCH NEWS

CREATION CARE: A new scheme for all those looking for ways to improve their household's care of God's world. Includes lots of easy changes you can make at home. Find out more by looking on the Diocesan website <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/called-to-action--creation-care.php> OR the Creation Care website <https://creationcare.org.uk/>

If you have any queries about this or would like any help or further information, do get in touch. Thank you. *Helen*





Encouraging households to care for God's world

This new scheme for households, has survey questions and a structure similar to Eco Church

- Easy to access and fill in
- Seven sections relevant to households
- Identifies areas to discuss and work on
- Provides ideas and resources
- Inspires others to take action too

	Worship & prayer		
	Home		Food
	Garden		Possessions
	Travel		Community & global engagement

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

Please can you help our Foodbank with these non-perishable items: (We are not able to use chilled or frozen items.)

- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Carrots
- Instant Mash
- UHT Milk and Long-life Fruit Juice

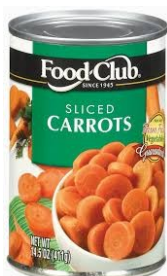


CHRISTMAS 2020

A massive thank you to everyone who donated to the foodbank for Christmas you made a difference.

We gave out 2.5 tonnes of food and fed 268 people of whom 117 were children.

We gave out 70 hampers of Christmas Goodies



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.



AND FINALLY . . .

A Message from Bishop John to the parishes, 5th January 2021:

"Following the announcement last night about the new lockdown, you will have noted that places of worship are allowed to remain open both for private prayer and public worship. I am glad that this is the case: as Theresa May said in the Commons last year, Governments closing churches by diktat, even for the best of reasons, sets a dangerous precedent.

"Having said that, I want to make clear that there is no obligation either way: decisions should be taken locally. I shall support those who decide, after careful consideration of the risks involved, that their churches should be closed during this lockdown. Online worship can, of course, be streamed from them – or elsewhere – as an alternative. Where it is decided that churches are to remain open, risk assessments should be reviewed and, in particular, all mingling before and after worship must be most rigorously discouraged.

"Whatever you decide, I want to pay tribute to the way in which our churches have responded to the challenge of COVID-19 so far. According to Public Health England, there have been only 47 cases of COVID-19 linked to places of worship, of which there are 30,000 – that's about four for every 100,000 acts of worship. Despite what some sections of the media report, I am proud and deeply moved by the way in which the Church has responded to the pandemic, both in terms of limiting its spread and the wonderful outreach to our communities."

Bishop John finished by thanking parishes for their best wishes following his bicycle accident and for all they are doing for the Gospel at this time.

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

OUR CHURCHES REMAIN OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER ONLY

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 choose 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](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19).



WORSHIP DURING COVID-19 AND KEEPING IN TOUCH

PERSHORE ABBEY COMMUNITY ONLINE DURING NEW LOCKDOWN

As we move into this new period of lockdown we are continuing to review our online activity and to consider how best to move forward with a sustainable programme of online and digital activity.

We will continue to update Facebook with new items when we can, but hope you will bear with us as we go through this process.

A copy of our weekly service sheet will be available every week for you to use as an aid to worship at home, together with a pre-recorded online service.

Do continue to check out our activity on the following platforms in the meantime:

- 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.

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

THE PERSHORE ABBEY BENEFICE CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED FOR IN PERSON PUBLIC WORSHIP UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Please check on social media and our website for the latest updates
The Abbey remains open daily from 0900 - 1700 for personal prayer

SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2021

Baptism of Christ

1030 Pre-recorded Eucharist Service available to view via Facebook and YouTube

Our Wholeness and Healing Service would also have taken place today.

The W&H service sheet is available for you to view here as an aid to
worship at home: [W&H Jan 2021](#)

Monday 11 January

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Tuesday 12 January

1100 FOODBANK (St A)

Wednesday 13 January

1400 Funeral of the late Mandy Kirby (Abbey)

Thursday 14 January

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Friday 15 January

1300 FOODBANK (St A)

Saturday 16 January

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Sunday 17 January - Epiphany 2

1030 Pre-recorded Eucharist Service
(Online via Facebook and YouTube)

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 CHECK OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES AND OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES TO ADVERTISED SERVICES AND FOR ALL OF THE LATEST INFORMATION AND 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.