



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 17 January, 2021
EPIPHANY 2

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 5](#)

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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

1 Samuel 3:1-10

A reading from the First Book of Samuel

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

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

SECOND READING

Revelation 5:1-10

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.' Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

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

THE GOSPEL

John 1: 43-51

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

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

A REFLECTION ON JOHN 1:43-51 'THE CALLING OF NATHANIEL' BY ANGELA GERRARD
(Licensed Lay Minister)

Most of us have enjoyed stories of magic, wizardry and sorcery. Think Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, Mickey Mouse as the Sorcerer's Apprentice or Merlin in tales of King Arthur. We might enjoy acts of magic and illusion on television, but we don't believe utterly, we remain sceptical as to how such illusions are achieved. So did Jesus have magical powers? NO! Absolutely not!

We might attach words such as visionary to Jesus' knowledge of Nathaniel sitting under the fig tree, but because we know he is the Son of God and his powers are divine, we also know his powers are above all things and only for good.

Now Nathaniel would have been familiar with the concept of prophets – interpreters of the will of God, able to foretell events. Similarly seers or soothsayers, diviners of the truth, with insight, especially of the future.

So despite Nathaniel's scepticism when told by Philip this was the Messiah, his response to Jesus on meeting him was remarkable. 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God, the King of Israel.' When told he would see even greater things – the heavens opened and angels ascending and descending upon Jesus – the Son of Man, he had no doubts.

This certainty was also expressed by Peter, Thomas, Paul and other disciples, that Jesus was no mere prophet but truly the awaited Messiah. It enabled them and it enables us to believe utterly in his promises – to know with certainty that through Jesus we have access to eternal life in his heavenly kingdom.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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HYMN SHEET

HYMN 1

A&M 104

(St Edmund)

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be,
stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
all will see his glorious sign;
all will then the trumpet hear,
all will see the Judge appear:
thou by all wilt be confest,
God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate thee now,
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany;
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

HYMN 2**A&M 650****(Faithfulness)**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

[Thomas O Chisholm, 1866 - 1960]

HYMN 3**A&M 510****(Kelvingrove)**

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

(Cont.)

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

[John L. Bell, b.1949
Graham Maule, 1958-2019]

Pershore Abbey
CCLI No. 46441

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

17 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.

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

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

WEEKLY 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 each week, as you will need a new meeting ID for each session. *Claire*

IONA PRAYERS ON THE THEME OF HOPE You are welcome to join this service, which will be on Zoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 Jan. Please contact Helen Oldham at iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk if you would like to be sent the Zoom link. Some photos on the theme of Hope will be shown on the screen during the service. If you would like to share a photo, please email it to Helen, but be aware of copyright and privacy issues. There will also be a chance in the service to show others something that gives you hope, such as your cat, or a packet of seeds. *Helen*

DEANERY NEWS: After a period of consultation, the Bishop has approved that there will be a reduction in the number of deaneries in the diocese. So, from 1st February Pershore Deanery will cease to exist as we join with Evesham Deanery to become Pershore and Evesham Deanery. This is an exciting development and means that as a larger deanery there will be more resources to call upon as we work towards being a healthy and sustainable gathering of churches. A new Area Dean and Lay Chair have yet to be appointed but we look forward to getting to know them once they are. *Claire*

SARAH MARTIN: After thirteen years of loyal and faithful service as Secretary in the Benefice Office, Sarah is retiring on 19th March. Sarah has been a wonderful member of the team whom many of you have got to know over the years. Her warm and welcoming

manner, as well as her ability to get things done, has been appreciated by us all and she will be very missed. If you would like to contribute to the leaving gift for Sarah can you please put any donations through the office door. Thank you. *Claire*

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](#)

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*

OTHER NEWS

RESET THE DEBT CAMPAIGN: 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.

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



LENT 2021

An extract from a message from Bishop John, 8 January 2021

“It might feel as though we have been in the season of Lent for a very long time. Because of the pandemic we weren’t able to celebrate Easter properly last year and the remainder of the year had a distinctly penitential feel to it, as has the first part of 2021.

This year, at the end of what feels like a very long Lent, it would be good for us to reflect upon and pray about what the ‘new normal’ might look like. I hope it will involve more care, more community, more goodness and more Godliness – but God will work things out much more wonderfully than I could ever plan.”

Read the full message [here](#)

ASH WEDNESDAY AND PALM CROSSES: This year we are planning to share a pre-recorded Ash Wednesday service which we hope will be available to view online through our YouTube channel and Facebook page on **Ash Wednesday**.



A service on Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and everyone is invited to join us. A cross made out of ash marked on a forehead is the sign of our penitence and God’s forgiveness.

The ash traditionally comes from the palm crosses that have been distributed at the previous Palm Sunday. We still need your Palm Crosses so that we are able to

complete our Ash Wednesday service, so please post any crosses you have through the Benefice Office letterbox, safely sealed in an envelope. Many thanks. *Claire*

Watch this space for more news of our Lent preparations and services

AND FINALLY . . .

We had a fantastic response to the Christian Aid Christmas Message Board with a total of £705 raised so far and still rising!

Not only did this make a lovely display in the Abbey and give us all the opportunity to send Christmas wishes when it was difficult for us to come together in the normal way, it also raised a huge amount of money for the Christian Aid Emergency Appeal, delivering aid where it is needed most.



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.

ABBAY & 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 ABBAY 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 17 JANUARY 2021

Epiphany 2

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

Monday 18 January

1900 Compline (online via Zoom)

Tuesday 19 January

1100 FOODBANK (St A)

1900 Wick PCC (online via Zoom)

Wednesday 20 January

1000 Birlingham PCC (online via Zoom)

Thursday 21 January

~

Friday 22 January

1300 FOODBANK (St A)

Saturday 23 January

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Sunday 24 January - Epiphany 3

1030 Pre-recorded Benefice Sunday Praise
(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.