



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 14 March, 2021
MOTHERING SUNDAY

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

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 [here](#) on our YouTube channel and via our Facebook pages.

**Please use this service sheet as an aid to worship at home in conjunction with the
All Age Eucharist Mothering Sunday Service Booklet**

A hymn sheet to accompany this service is available on [Page 4](#)

THE COLLECT

Loving God, you sent your Son to be part of a human family. Strengthen us as we share family life together, in our homes and in our church, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 2:1-10

A reading from the Book of Exodus

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

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

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the Letter to the Colossians

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

THE GOSPEL

John 19: 25b-27

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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

REFLECTION BY REVD STEVE DUNTON

I've been watching a 'Star Wars' spin off lately called the Mandalorian. It features a tough bounty hunter called 'Mando' charged with abducting a small, green and cute little creature called 'Grogu,' who is a child. Mando hands the child over for money but he then rescues him from almost certain doom because the child has melted his heart, revealing a warm motherly nature.

Mando risks everything to protect the child who is transported in a metallic floating crib. The child brings out the best in Mando, who cares for him, whatever the cost.

There are some parallels here with the story of Moses, where a mother is desperately trying to save her child's life by placing him in a basket of reeds and tar, floating him down the River Nile. We can only empathise with her heartache and that of mothers today facing similar challenges through persecution and war.

Today is called Mothering Sunday because we celebrate the gift of the Church as our Mother. She is not perfect, but no mothers are, but she faithfully teaches us, protects us, guides us, feeding us with the banquet of God's Word and with the Bread of Life at the Lord's Table.

We give thanks for our own mothers today. I challenge our children and young people to do something nice for your mums today; maybe by offer to wash up, setting the table or giving her a bunch of flowers to show her your appreciation and love.

In the gospel, as Jesus was dying on the cross, he looked after his mum by asking his friend John to take care of her, to act as her son and for Mary to be John's mother. In Christ, we are one family and therefore have many spiritual mothers, fathers, and children to care for.

We are never too old to need parenting. Sometimes in the vestry, I need someone to straighten my vestments out, so I don't lead a service looking like a sack of spuds. It is by means of our mutual love and concern, that the world will see that we are followers of Jesus. Amen.

BLESSING

May God who made the whole earth, bless us.

May God who draws us all together, bless us.

May God who loves each one of us, bless us.

And the blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you, and all whom you love,
this day and always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*

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HYMN SHEET

HYMN 1

A&M 136

(Bunessen)

Fathers and mothers,
sisters and brothers,
all those who love us,
for whom we care:
help and befriend them,
keep and defend them,
Jesus our Saviour,
this is our prayer.

And for those others,
fathers and mothers,
children who hunger,
they must be fed:
we would be caring,
readily sharing,
one with another
our daily bread.

Sisters and brothers,
fathers and mothers,
we who together
offer our praise:
hear our thanksgiving,
God ever living,
may we walk with you
all of our days

[Timothy Dudley-Smith, b.1926]

HYMN 2

A&M 137

(Love Divine)

God of Eve and God of Mary,
God of love and mother-earth,
thank you for the ones who with us
shared their life and gave us birth.

As you came to earth in Jesus,
so you come to us today;
you are present in the caring
that prepares us for life's way.

(Cont.)

Thank you that the Church , our Mother,
gives us bread and fills our cup,
and the comfort of the Spirit
warms our hearts and lifts us up.

Thank you for belonging, shelter,
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
and for those who have no children,
yet are parents under God.

God of Eve and God of Mary,
Christ our brother, human Son,
Spirit, caring like a Mother,
take our love and make us one!

[Fred Kaan, 1929- 2009]

HYMN 3

A&M 656

Traditional

He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

[African-American traditional song,
arr. Paul Leddington Wright, b. 1951]

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

14 MARCH 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 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

ALL OF THE PERSHORE BENEFICE CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED FOR IN PERSON PUBLIC WORSHIP 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 13](#) for details.

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

MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES 2021: We are in the process of working through all of our Holy Week and Easter services and deciding how we can best deliver them to be able to reach all of our congregation, whether in church, at home or a combination of both.

We will be offering everyone in the Pershore Benefice the opportunity to join with us for **Holy Week Compline** on **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** evening at **1900** via **Zoom**. Full details of our Holy Week and Easter Services will be available in the bulletin from **21 March**.



Come Worship With Us!

MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE 14 MARCH: Please join us for our special Mothering Sunday service this week - we hope that you will be able to share this All Age Eucharist with your family and friends. It would also be helpful if you could have a pebble or a stone with you during the service.

CTIP WHOLENESS & HEALING 14 MARCH: The service this month on 14 March will be on Zoom at 1700. It is the quarterly Churches Together in Pershore shared service and if anyone would like a Zoom invitation please email Angela Gerrard before 6pm Saturday 13 March.

MOTHERS' UNION WAVE OF PRAYER MARCH 12-14: During these 2 days members of the Mothers' Union, around the world, are praying for us, in Worcester Diocese and our link dioceses. It is a privilege to belong to a movement that empowers women to take control of their lives. Through our prayers and giving we enable local women to teach literacy and numeracy, so women can earn money to pay for their children's education and health care for their whole family. We provide loans to establish cooperatives that bring communities together not only for the financial benefit of families and communities but for community cohesion. This helps to break down racial and ethnic barriers and leads to trust, respect and a greater working for peace. Please remember the work of the Mothers' Union in your prayers. Thank you. *Revd. Alma Organ*

Join the Prayer for Our Nation and set aside time every evening to pray together at **1800**.

Click here to find out more: [Prayer for the Nation](#)



LENT 2021

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT: This quiet and reflective service which will last half an hour will be held every Monday throughout Lent at **1900** via **Zoom**. We will spend time with some of the stations of the cross each week, hopefully enabling us all to actively engage with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. Please contact me for more information and for the Zoom invitation for each week. *Claire*



Ted Degrazia

THURSDAY LENT GROUP CONTINUES: Join us for this half an hour session every **Thursday** evening from **1900-1930** via **Zoom**, enabling us to reflect on the following Sunday's gospel reading.

The format will be gentle; listening to the gospel passage, a period of silence and reading it through again to see what God might be saying to us. Some of us may then choose to share any insights that we have without comments; a question to prompt a brief discussion will follow. This will help us to deepen our love of God and his word, prepare ourselves to celebrate Easter and to have fellowship with one another.

If you would like to join the group, please email curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the weekly invitation to the Zoom session. *Steve*

LENT BOOK READING GROUP - THY WILL BE DONE by Stephen Cherry: The Lent Book Group continues to study Stephen Cherry's book, which sets out to enliven our faith through study of the Lord's Prayer. Providing insights from those who have used the Lord's Prayer throughout the centuries, the book explores how we can live its challenges and learn from its guidance, deepening our understanding of the prayer that holds us together as individuals and as a church. Please email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk if you would like to join.



LENTEN LUNCHES: Don't forget to have a look at our weekly soup recipe posted online each Friday throughout Lent to help you experience this traditional aspect of Lent at home. Click here to view this week's recipe: [Lockdown Lenten Lunches](#)

#LIVE LENT 2021: The Church of England will be running its #LiveLent 2021 campaign from Ash Wednesday (17 February) to Easter Sunday (4 April) with six reflections for each week including a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Click [here](#) for more information.



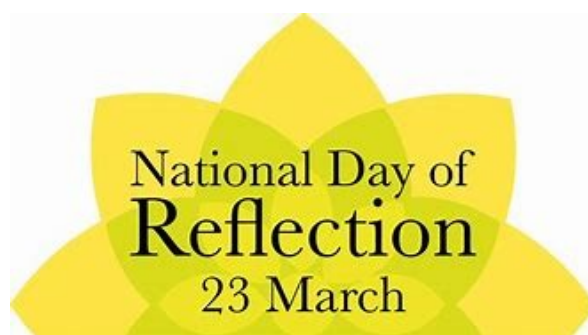
OTHER NEWS

MARIE CURIE NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION:

The Church of England has partnered with Marie Curie on 23 March 2021 to mark the first anniversary of the first lockdown in the UK with a national day of reflection to reflect on our collective loss due to Covid-19, to support those who have been bereaved, and to give hope for a brighter future.

The churches of the Pershore Benefice are being asked to participate in this day by marking the end of the one minute silent reflection at 12 noon by tolling a bell at 12:01.

You can find more information and discover more ways to get involved here at the Marie Curie website: [Marie Curie Day of Reflection](https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/national-day-of-reflection)



GET VACCINATED - #GIVEHOPE: Pershore Benefice is embracing the NHS backed Give Hope campaign convened by YourNeighbour and supported by many churches, including the Church of England. When it comes to sharing the good news of the Covid vaccines, the best way to give hope to your neighbours is through a kind and constructive conversation. It's as simple as H - O - P - E.



**The COVID-19 vaccine
is the first glimpse of
light in the darkness.
Be part of the mission
and give HOPE.**



Have a Conversation

Open up a conversation about the vaccine & listen to concerns.

Offer accurate information

Combat misinformation & bust myths with accurate information.

Provide practical support

Some people may want help to get the vaccine.

Engage others & share opportunity

Share on social media & in your WhatsApp groups to friends & family.

Visit yourneighbour.org to find out more about the Give Hope campaign and the work of the YourNeighbour organisation.

If you have any concerns about the Covid 19 vaccine, or need practical help and support, then do get in touch with our Ministry Team via office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

GIFT BAG APPEAL - THANK YOU! On Monday, Revd Claire Lording, Sandra Long and Sara Speed delivered 48 gift bags to Pershore Community Hospital. The staff were delighted to receive their gifts, remarking that they often feel forgotten and "in the shadows" of the larger hospitals.

Following the handover of 100 gift bags to Worcester Royal Hospital, we have received this note of thanks:



"I just wanted to drop you a note to say a massive thank you to you and all your other colleagues within the Pershore Benefice of churches and the Bredon Hill Group of Churches for the magnificent care packages!

We have just finished distributing them today and the reaction of the staff has been quite phenomenal! They were astounded at the generosity and genuinely moved by the kindness and thoughtfulness shown by yourselves in thinking of them in these challenging times.

I think it's fair to say they were very very much appreciated – please pass on to all those involved in putting them together – such a wonderful variety of items. I just read the press coverage today as well, it was a great picture and write up – thank you so much to you all.

Stay safe and well, Warmest wishes to you all. Kind regards Nicky"

(Nicky Langford MInstF(Cert) , Community Fundraising Officer, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity)

Please note that our collections for the gift bags close on **17 March**. Sara Speed

ECO CHURCH NEWS

LATEST CALLED TO ACTION

NEWSLETTERS NOW AVAILABLE: This month there are two newsletters from the Called to Action group. The first deals with how to reduce the impact of your home and church IT and the second looks at Earth Hour, which will be celebrated on Saturday 27 March. Links to the full newsletters are given here:

[Green IT Newsletter](#)

[Earth Hour Newsletter](#)



Earth Hour

8.30pm—9.30pm Sat. 27th March

<https://www.earthhour.org/>

Join in an act of solidarity with millions around the world, drawing attention to the nature and climate crises. Switch off as many devices as you can, and take time to pray.

There are lots of environmental worship resources at:
<https://www.climatesunday.org/resources>

You are welcome to join Worcester Cathedral, in a candle light vigil starting at 8.30pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/WorcesterCathedral>

Along with Worcester Cathedral and other churches throughout the country, Pershore Abbey will also be marking Earth Hour - watch this space for more details and check out our Earth Hour events on our Facebook page.

St Andrew's - have your say...



Please

fill in our on-line survey about St Andrew's,
the town's vital Community Centre.
Plans for improved facilities and repairs are
afoot and we need public comments
to get grants. Go to

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5CJB6FL

or click on the QR code.



HELP IN THE COMMUNITY

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

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.

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

- Coffee
- Rice Pudding
- Cereal
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Instant Mash
- Sponge Puddings
- Veg /Tomato Soup
- Pasta in Sauce
- Tinned Meat
- Deodorant
- EASTER EGGS!!



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.

**citizens
advice**

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

Get all of the latest Covid-19 information from Pershore Town Council [here](#)

AND FINALLY . . .

CALLING ALL ACTORS - A VIRTUAL PASSION PLAY: We need your help for our diocesan virtual Passion Play! Most of the key roles have been assigned but we are still looking for lots of people to part of the "crowd" and we'd like it to be as diverse as possible.

Film yourself at home shouting "Crucify him!" in front of a plain wall and send us the video, either by [email](#) or [wetansfer](#).

Find our more here: [Worcester Diocese Virtual Passion Play](#)



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

0900 - 1700

The Abbey may sometimes be closed for recording

ST JAMES', BIRLINGHAM

SUNDAYS ONLY

1030 - 1330

ST MARY'S, WICK

DAILY

1000 - 1600

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 through 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 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

Please note: the Abbey may sometimes be closed to allow for recording of services

SUNDAY 14 MARCH 2021

MOTHERING SUNDAY

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

1700 CTiP Wholeness and Healing (Zoom)

Monday 15 March

FIRE EXTINGUISHER SURVEY - ALL BENEFICE

1900 Stations of the Cross (Zoom)

Tuesday 16 March

1030 Abbey ADP Meeting (Zoom)

1100 FOODBANK (St A)

1530 Social Media Recording (Pershore Abbey)

1900 Wick PCC (Zoom)

Wednesday 17 March

1900 V&W (Zoom)

Thursday 18 March

1030 Social Media Recording (Pershore Abbey)

1330 Abbey Finance Committee (Zoom)

1900 Lent Group (Zoom)

Friday 19 March

1300 FOODBANK (St A)

Saturday 20 March

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Sunday 21 March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

1030 Pre-recorded Sunday Praise Service

(Online via YouTube and Facebook)

1430 Service of Holy Baptism (Pershore Abbey)*

*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

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.