



PERSHORE ABBEY

**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 5 December, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

SERVICE SHEET , BULLETIN & DIARY

This service will be live-streamed and available to view on our YouTube channel.

You can join in live at 1030 or catch up later in the day or week.

Please use this service sheet as an aid to worship in church and take it home with you when you leave.

Following a review of Covid arrangements, you can join in singing the hymns in church, but we ask that you wear a mask and sing quietly.

ADVENT WREATH SONG

We have this Advent Wreath to remind us of the Coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring,
round the berry bright candles,
and the white and shining King.**

**And one for God's people,
in every age and day,
we are watching for his coming.
We believe and we obey.**

We light this candle to help us think of God's greatest promise, first told by the prophets.

**O, two is for the prophets
and for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness,
all alight for Christ the King.**

THE COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING**Malachi 3.1-4**

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING**Philippians 1.3-11**

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL**Luke 3.1-6**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If you need any help in accessing any of the online features mentioned in the service sheet or bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact the office or Revd Claire Lording for support.



HYMN SHEET

HYMN 1

A&M 46

(Winchester New)

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.
3. We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.
5. All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

[Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
Transl. John Chandler (1806-1876)]

COMMUNION MOTET

This is the truth—arr. Vaughan Williams

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

HYMN 2

A&M 327

(Deus Tuorum Militum

1. Awake, awake: fling off the night!
For God has sent his glorious light;
and we who live in Christ's new day
must works of darkness put away.
1. Awake and rise, with love renewed,
and with the Spirit's power endued,
the light of life in us will glow,
and fruits of truth and goodness show.
2. Let in the light; all sin expose
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.
Before his cross for guidance kneel;
his light will judge and, judging, heal.
3. Awake, and rise up from the dead,
and Christ his light on you will shed.
Its power will wrong desires destroy,
and your whole nature fill with joy.
4. Then sing for joy, and use each day;
give thanks for everything alway.
Lift up your hearts; with one accord
praise God through Jesus Christ our

[John Raphael Peacey, 1896-1971]

HYMN 3

A&M 30

(Cross of Jesus)

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

[Charles Wesley (1707-1788)]

HYMN 4

A&M 39

(Little Cornard)

1. Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

2. Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

3. Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.

4. Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5. Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

Charles Ernest Oakley (1832-1865)

Pershore Abbey: CCLI No. 46441

This service is being live streamed to the Abbey's YouTube Channel

To find the recording please visit

www.youtube.com and search for Pershore Abbey Community

[Pershore Abbey Community on YouTube](#)

If you have any queries or concerns please do speak
to a sidesperson or churchwarden



PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

05 DECEMBER 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 Benefice Office remains closed due to ongoing maintenance.

Please email you enquiry to office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or leave a message on 01386 552071 and we will get back to you as soon as we are able.

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.

BENEFICE OFFICE: The office is currently under enormous pressure due to the ongoing maintenance works in the Broad Street office. This is even more challenging as the usual work load has increased due to forthcoming Christmas activities. Can I please request that you are mindful of this when thinking of approaching the office to assist you. Can your query wait? Can someone else help you? Thank you for your understanding. *Claire*

WEEKLY BULLETIN 05 DECEMBER 2021

MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

CHRISTMAS IN THE PERSHORE BENEFICE: The full list of our Christmas services, events and activities is included in the Monthly Bulletin, so please take a look. There are also flyers available at the back of all of the Pershore Benefice churches with details of our services. We do hope that we will be able to move forward with all of our Christmas services as planned, but please be aware that it may be necessary to make changes, so do keep yourselves updated through the bulletin, our website and our social media pages.

WEEKLY BULLETIN AND MONTHLY EDITION DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX: Don't forget that you can get ahead with all the news by signing up to receive the weekly service sheet and bulletin, together with the Monthly Edition, direct to your inbox. Email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk and ask to be added to the list today!

CAFÉ CHURCH SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 0945

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE:

Join us for the final Café Church of 2021 in the St Andrew's Centre where we will be gathering together for carols, worship, talk and breakfast, all with a festive twist.



ADVENT COMPLINE BY ZOOM 1900 ON MONDAYS IN ADVENT CONTINUES: Please join us for this quiet and reflective service as we prepare for our Christmas celebrations. Once again we will be meeting on Zoom from the comfort of our own homes for this 20 minute service which will enable us all to pause and reflect on our Advent journeys. If you would like to be part of this service, contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the Zoom invitation and a copy of the order of service. *Claire*

MINCE PIES PLEASE!: Following the Abbey's Carol Service to be held on Sunday 19 December at 1700, mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

Contributions of mince pies (home-made or shop bought) would be very welcome – kindly note your offer on the sheet at the back of church. If possible, please bring your pies to the morning service and place in the collecting box. Any queries to Sara Speed (710776 or email thespeeds94@gmail.com). *Many thanks.*

ECO CHURCH

TASTER SESSIONS FOR GREEN CHRISTIAN'S NEW COURSE 'PLENTY!': Would you like to join a taster session of Green Christian's new course 'PLENTY!' ? It challenges our ideas of a healthy economy and offers alternatives to 'business as usual' which have Kingdom Values. Sessions are available via Zoom and in person. If you are interested email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or visit <https://joyinenough.org/resources/plenty/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GOOD COMPANY AND AFTERNOON TEA!: Pershore Abbey & St Andrew's Social Committee (PASA) are planning an afternoon get-together with afternoon tea for anyone who would appreciate company after Christmas on **Tuesday 28 December 2021** from **1430 until 1600** in **St. Andrew's Centre**. If you are interested tickets can be pre-booked and are limited. Please ring Jane Knox to book a place by **20 December**.

We would be pleased to see you and if you have a friend or neighbour who you would like to bring along we will be delighted to welcome them too. *Thank you, Jane Knox (PASA Secretary)*

STEWARDSHIP

PERSHORE ABBEY PARISH GIVING SCHEME: A huge thank you to everyone who has already looked at the Parish Giving Scheme and made the decision to do their regular giving through it. We thought everyone would like to know that in October we had a total of 4 people signed up and in November we had a total of 17. This is encouraging news. If you'd like to talk about changing the way you give please feel free to contact me, Robin Hancox, Judy Dale or Angela Gerrard. More info is also available on our website. Thank you. *Claire*

AND FINALLY . . .

O CHRISTMAS TREE, O CHRISTMAS TREE . . . A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the Abbey Christmas Trees. The behind the scenes team who turned up despite the snow on Sunday evening to put the tree up and all those who came on Monday morning, and especially everyone who helped decorate. We hope the trees will be a seasonal welcome to all those who come into the Abbey over the festive period and a light of hope for better times ahead. *Many thanks, Ann Bray*



Facebook: [#pershoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/pershoreabbeycom) YouTube: [Pershore Abbey Community](https://www.youtube.com/PershoreAbbeyCommunity)

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

NOVEMBER ABBEY PCC MEETING—NEWS ROUNDUP

Here's a round up of what happened at the November meeting of the Pershore Abbey PCC:

- Many good things are taking off in and around the Abbey. Plans for the Abbey's Eco-Wildflower Area are going ahead with the help of the Wychavon. We are grateful that Pershore Rotary Club has kindly agreed to fund the purchasing of wildflower seeds.
- Our major improvement plan, the ADP (Abbey Development Programme), is progressing well after a site tour and vision evening with the architect, PCC members and advisers. The first stage, the installation of the new organ, should start in June, when a scaffolding arch will be erected temporarily, well clear of the pews. Target completion date is mid-August. Other projects being explored include better refreshment facilities, modern toilets and re-activating the clock and carillon. Funds are being sought.
- The Fabric Committee reported on live-streaming church services, plus work on improving the lighting at the West end.
- The Finance team reported that our funds, though reduced, are adequate thanks to reserves and the return of many paid bookings. We continue to pay our regular Parish Share.
- A busy programme of activities for children and youth is running or planned including Shoebox Sunday, Café Church, Open the Book (in schools) and an Edible Nativity event on 5th December.
- St Andrew's is now very busy, so church users were reminded of the need to check available time slots. It now has new doors and carpet but serious roof repairs are on hold till funds are found.
- Our many good works mean there is an increasing need for volunteers to lend a hand, in particular a new treasurer. Please see the Abbey stewardship leaflet for more information on volunteering opportunities.

The next bi-monthly PCC is planned for **11 January 2022**

All of our PCC members are shown on the Abbey noticeboard, so do take a look!

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR MEETINGS AND EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S
AND THE ABBEY VIA THE OFFICE AS BOTH VENUES ARE GETTING VERY BUSY!**

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

Revd Claire's usual day off is Friday and Revd Steve's is Saturday. They will not be available for commitments on those days but will get back to you as soon as they can.

At the heart of Christmas



Sun 5 December 2021 - Advent 2

- 08:00 BCP Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Edible Nativity - ticket only (*St Andrew's*)
- 10:30 Sung Eucharist with Traidcraft Stall (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
- 10:30 Morning Praise (*St James', Birlingham*)
- 12:30 Private Hire (*St A Main Hall*)
- 14:30 Private Service & Prep (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES:

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

Mon 6 December 2021

- 0900 Staging Crew (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:00 Jungle Jiggles (*St A Main Hall*)
- 10:30 Dramatherapy (*St A Main Hall*)
- 11:45 Jungle Jiggles (*St A Main Hall*)
- 12:40 Recording (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 13:30 Me, You & a Brew Private Sessions
(*St A Upper Room*)
- 14:30 Pershore U3A History Group (*St A Main Hall*)
- 14:00 Funeral Service for the late Roger Hendrick
(*Vale Crematorium*)
- 18:30 Bell Ringing Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Pershore Community Choir (*St A Main Hall*)
- 19:00 Advent Compline (*Zoom*)

Tue 7 December 2021

- 10:30 Holy Redeemer Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 11:00 CTIP Food Bank (*St A Main Hall*)
- 14:00 AWF (*St A Main Hall*)
- 19:15 AA Members Meeting (*St A Upper Room*)

Wed 8 December 2021

- 09:00 Private Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Bowbrook Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 13:15 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St A Upper Room*)
- 18:00 Café Church Musician Rehearsal
(*St A Main Hall*)
- 19:00 Vale Harmony (*St A Main Hall*)
- 19:00 Private Meeting (*St A Upper*)
- 19:00 Pershore Town Choir (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Meeting (*St A Upper Room*)

Thu 9 December 2021

- 09:00 Carpenters St Andrew's All Day
- 09:30 Bowbrook Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 15:00 V&W (*St A Upper Room*)
- 17:30 Christmas Celebration Prep (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 18:00 Choir Practice (*St A Main Hall tbc*)
- 19:00 Bowbrook Christmas Celebration (*Pershore Abbey*)

Fri 10 December 2021

- 09:30 Babies and Toddlers (*St A Main Hall*)
- 11:00 WDC Chairman's Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 13:00 CTIP Food Bank (*St A Main Hall*)
- 15:00 Private Meeting (*Pershore Abbey Vestry*)
- 16:00 Concert Prep (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Worcester Male Voice Choir
(*Pershore Abbey & St A Main Hall*)

Sat 11 December 2021

- 11:30 Worcester Conservative Association
(*St A Main Hall*)
- 18:00 Concert Prep (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Worcester Male Voice Choir
(*Pershore Abbey & St A Main Hall*)

Sun 12 December 2021 - Advent 3

- 09:45 Café Church (*St Andrew's*)
- 10:30 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 15:30 Wholeness & Healing Planning
(*St A Main Hall*)
- 17:00 Wholeness and Healing Service
(*St A Main Hall*)