



PERSHORE ABBEY

**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 12 December, 2021
THIRD 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 the latest government advice, masks must now be worn in church.

You can still join in singing the hymns, but we ask that you wear a mask and sing quietly.

A hymn sheet can be found on **page 4.**

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.**

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

We light this candle to remind us of John the Baptist who passed on God's message—
"get ready for your King".

**And three for John the Baptist
He calls us on to sing:
'O prepare the way for Jesus Christ.
He is coming, Christ the King'.**

THE COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

SECOND READING Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

THE GOSPEL Luke 3.7-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **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

FIRST HYMN

A&M 38

(Merton)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!" | 3 So, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy
And with words of love draw near. |
| 2 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv'n; | 4 Honor, glory, might, dominion
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while eternal ages run! |

Edward Caswell (1814-1878)

Based on Vox Clama ecce intonate, (Latin 5th or 6th Century)

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 52

(Dundee)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been. | 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored. |
| 2 To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home. | 5 His righteous government and power
Shall over all extend;
on judgement and on justice based,
his reign shall have no end. |
| 3 For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven. | 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit One. |

[Scottish Paraphrases, 1781

John Morrison (1750-1798) based on Isaiah 9.2-7]

COMMUNION MOTET

Dyson in F Magnificate

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

- 1 Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing:
Christ over all, our undivided aim.
Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,
wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!
We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,
the will that lacks the courage to be free,
the weary labours, all but unavailing,
to bring us nearer what a church should be.

- 2 Lord of the Church, we seek a Father's blessing,
a true repentance and a faith restored,
a swift obedience and a new possessing,
filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!
We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,
unnumbered voices with a single prayer:
the living water for our souls' reviving,
in Christ to live, and love and serve and care.

- 3 Lord of the Church, we long for our uniting,
true to one calling, by one vision stirred;
one cross proclaiming and one creed reciting,
one in the truth of Jesus and his word.
So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,
one Church triumphant one new song shall sing,
to praise his glory, risen and ascended,
Christ over all, the everlasting King!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

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

12 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: We are sorry that the Benefice office remains closed due to the ongoing maintenance works. This continues to present a challenge to all, especially in the run up to Christmas. If you need anything from the office, they will be more than happy to help, but please contact them first by phone or email to arrange, as they are not always able to gain access. Looking forward, and in line with current government guidance, our office staff will continue to work from home where appropriate. Thank you for your understanding and patience, especially at this time of year. *Claire*

WEEKLY BULLETIN 12 DECEMBER 2021

MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

IMPORTANT UPDATES:

FACE MASKS: Following the recent government announcement, it will once again be mandatory for face coverings to be worn in places of worship from **Friday 10 December**, unless exempt. This applies to all churches in the Pershore Benefice. We thank you in advance for your co-operation in supporting this move to combat the further spread of Covid-19.



REFRESHMENTS IN PERSHORE ABBEY: In response to the current Covid situation, we have taken the decision to suspend refreshments after Sunday services at Pershore Abbey. In addition, we will not be serving refreshments after any of our Christmas services. As a result, we no longer need donations of mince pies, but thank you to everybody who has donated so far. The other churches in the Pershore Benefice are currently reviewing their provision of refreshments.

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*

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU FOR TRADERS: For many years now Churches Together in Pershore and the Workplace Chaplaincy has delivered mince pies to our traders, to wish them a Merry Christmas and to say thank you for all that they've done during the year. For all sorts of reasons it is now very difficult to provide mince pies, so the Workplace Chaplaincy team are going to be sharing chocolates to all our traders instead. Please keep the team and all our traders in your prayers.

At the heart of Christmas



Please join us in the

PERSHORE BENEFICE for CHRISTMAS 2021

Sunday 19 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Tinsel-Free Morning Praise (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1030 Holy Communion and Carols (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
- 1700 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1800 Walkabout Carol Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1800 Carol and Christingle Service (*St James', Birlingham*)

Christmas Eve Friday 24 December

- 1530 **JOIN US IN ABBEY PARK:** Outdoor Christingle (*Abbey Park Bandstand*)
Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our Christingle in the Park!
- 1600 Christingle Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1700 Christingle and Crib Service - ticket only (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
This service will be ticketed, please contact the Pinvin Churchwarden to book
- 2315 Midnight Mass with choir (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Christmas Day Saturday 25 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 0900 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1030 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)
- 1030 All Age Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Sunday 26 December

- 1030 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

**Join in with our LIVESTREAM services at the time advertised on the Pershore Abbey Community YouTube Channel or catch up later*



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We currently have two important volunteer roles that need to be filled.
If you are interested in either position, please get in touch as soon as possible

PERSHORE FOODBANK PROJECT LEADER AND ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY:



Lynne Raymer has been doing a fantastic job as project leader since the Foodbank started but is now standing down.

We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all that she has done for the Foodbank and for the clients it seeks to help. Might you be the next project leader and/or administrator?

Ideally we would like two people to share these roles. Please email office@persnoreabbey.org.uk for more information or click [here](#).

If you would like to know more please contact me or Lynne Raymer. *Claire*

A NEW TREASURER FOR PERSHORE

ABBEY: We have been very fortunate in recent years to benefit from the talents and time that Helen Archer-Smith has given to Persnore Abbey in the role of Treasurer

Helen is now stepping down from this role to meet new challenges. We are looking for a volunteer who can take on the mantle and continue to move the Abbey's finances forward in this rewarding and challenging role.

We thank Helen for the amazing job that she has done in the last few years and wish her all future success.

More information on the role is available from office@persnoreabbey.org.uk or call **01386 552071**.

Persnore Abbey PCC



Persnore Abbey
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross

VACANCY ABBEY TREASURER

We are looking for a volunteer to be Treasurer for the **Abbey** and the **St Andrew's Centre**.

Ideally you will be a qualified accountant or someone with wide accounting experience and an understanding of the charity sector.

We have an excellent Team of paid staff and volunteers to help with this role.

We are a church that takes Safeguarding very seriously and will adhere to the Safer Recruitment Policy for this appointment.

Applications welcomed as soon as possible.

An application pack is available from:

☎ **01386 552071** (please leave your name & contact details)

✉ office@persnoreabbey.org.uk

An application pack may also be collected from the Benefice Office

Persnore Abbey and Benefice Office
11 Broad Street
Persnore
Worcestershire
WR10 1BB

Facebook: [#persnoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/persnoreabbeycom) YouTube: [Persnore Abbey Community](https://www.youtube.com/PersnoreAbbeyCommunity)

Website: www.persnoreabbey.org.uk

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)*

OTHER NEWS

LOOKING FOR EMPTY SPACE: The Christian charity Wheels for the World is looking for small storage space locally to hold donated wheelchairs awaiting collection by volunteers who take them to the re-furbishment depot in Aldershot (recently featured on BBC Songs of Praise). The chairs eventually go to disabled people in developing countries. Does anyone know of an empty garage or part of a barn around Worcestershire that could be made available long term? Please advise Colin Reeves via office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

AND FINALLY . . .

PERSHORE ABBEY'S SHINING MORAVIAN STAR: You may be wondering what the bright light is peeking through our West doors? Well it's our Moravian star which was a wonderful gift from our dear friends at our link church, St Katherine's in Salzwedel, Germany - isn't it fabulous? We are extremely grateful to Andrew Burge for assembling it and fixing it so securely for us.

A Moravian Star or herrnhuterstern as it is known in German, was adopted by the Moravian Church as a representation of the star of Bethlehem .

Traditionally, they are displayed from the first Sunday in Advent through to Epiphany on 6 January. They are used in church and village displays across Germany and in North Carolina, where the largest star (31 feet) is displayed on the North Tower of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center during Advent .

Do pop into Pershore Abbey and see our beautiful new star over the next month.



Article & image courtesy of Trudy Burge

ABBAY & 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 12 December 2021 - Advent 3

09:45 Café Church (*St A Main Hall*)
 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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES:

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

Mon 13 December 2021

10:00 Jungle Jiggles (*St A Main Hall*)
 10:30 Dramatherapy (*St A Main Hall*)
 11:00 Thanksgiving Service
 for the late Joan Ladds (*Pershore Abbey*)
 11:45 Jungle Jiggles (*St A Main Hall*)
 13:30 Me, You & a Brew Private Sessions
 (*St A Upper Room*)
 14:00 Funeral Service of the late Annabel Young
 (*Pershore Abbey & Cemetery*)
 15:00 Funeral Wake for the late Annabel Young
 (*St A Main Hall*)
 18:30 Readeasy Evesham & Pershore Reading
 Coaches Meeting (*St A Upper Room*)
 18:30 Bell Ringing Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
 19:00 Advent Compline (*Zoom*)

Tue 14 December 2021

10:30 Orchard Primary Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)
 10:00 Pershore United Charities Meeting
 (*Zoom*)
 11:00 CTIP Food Bank (*St A Main Hall*)
 13:30 Orchard Primary Recording (*Pershore Abbey*)
 14:30 Mothers' Union (*St A Upper Room*)
 19:15 AA Members Meeting (*St A Upper Room*)
 19:30 Christmas Singing Workshop (*St A Main Hall*)

Wed 15 December 2021

09:00 PHS Recording (*Pershore Abbey*)
 10:30 Lunch Club (*St A Main Hall*)
 13:15 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St A Upper Room*)

15:30 Vicar & Wardens Meeting (*Zoom*)

18:00 U3A Singers (*St A Main Hall*)

19:00 Vale Harmony - Final Session (*St A Main Hall*)

Thu 16 December 2021

10:00 Fire Extinguisher inspection
 (*Pershore Abbey & St A*)
 11:30 Organ Practise (*Pershore Abbey*)
 18:00 Wedding Rehearsal (*St James', Birlingham*)
 18:00 Choir Practise (*Pershore Abbey*)
 19:00 Pershore Wine Society (*St A Main Hall*)

Fri 17 December 2021

13:00 CTIP Food Bank (*St A Main Hall*)
 20:00 Lets Dance (*St A Main Hall & Upper Room*)

Sat 18 December 2021

10:00 Concert Prep (*Pershore Abbey*)
 13:00 Wedding of Hamish Perks with
 Gemma Whiting (*St James', Birlingham*)
 19:30 Pershore Choral Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sun 19 December 2021 - Advent 4

10:30 Morning Praise Tinsel-Free Service
 (*Pershore Abbey*)
 10:30 Holy Communion & Carols
 (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
 14:30 Pianoscapes (*St A Main Hall*)
 17:00 Nine Lessons & Carols (*Pershore Abbey*)
 18:00 Carols & Christingle Service
 (*St James', Birlingham*)
 18:00 Walkabout Carol Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)