



**PERSHORE ABBEY**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 19 December, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**A 'TINSEL FREE' SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS**

**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.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Welcome in the name of Christ. God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

We come together to worship and praise God, to ask forgiveness for our wrongdoings and to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Lord direct our thoughts, teach us to pray, lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ.**

**ADVENT WREATH SONG**

See separate sheet

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down you are before me:  
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
and with love everlasting, you besiege me:  
in every moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
you have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding:  
God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me,  
still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on Earth I can escape you:  
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me,  
gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:  
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

[Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)]

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## Confession

When the Lord comes, He will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

So, in a moment of quiet let us think of things we need to thank God for, recall any wrongs we have done or others have done to us, and anything we wish we had done differently.

*Silence*

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.

## The Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Hymn

### CAHON 80

*(Mary's Child)*

Born in the night, Mary's Child,  
a long way from your home;  
coming in need, Mary's Child,  
born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's Child,  
your face lights up our way;  
light of the world, Mary's Child,  
dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's Child,  
you tell us God is good;  
prove it is true, Mary's Child,  
go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's Child,  
you're coming soon to reign;  
King of the earth, Mary's Child,  
walk in our streets again.

[Geoffrey Ainger, (b. 1925)]

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## **The Gospel**

## **Luke 1.39-45**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Reflection**

## **Declaration of Faith**

*We say together*

**We believe in God the Father,  
who created everything in heaven and on earth.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with His love**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## The Peace

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

## We offer God our Prayers and Thanks

*At the end of each prayer when you hear “Lord in your mercy” please respond ‘**hear our prayer**’*

*We end by saying together The Lord’s Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Hymn

### A&M 394

*(Woodlands)*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Cont’d

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

[Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)]

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## Thanksgiving and Blessing

We give thanks for all we have shared in this service this morning and ask God's blessing on all of us here and all those whom we love.

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Go in the joy and peace of Christ  
**Thanks be to God.**

***Please take this leaflet home with you.***

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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

## 19 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](mailto: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.



**PERSHORE ABBEY CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS CARD BOARD:** Many thanks to all of those who have posted Christmas cards on our Abbey board this year and for your kind donations.

Please do give generously, as these donations are vital to our support of the work of Christian Aid, particularly as they focus on the plight of Afghanistan in response to the Disaster Emergency Committee's call for aid.

# WEEKLY BULLETIN 19 DECEMBER 2021

## MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

**FACE MASKS:** Following the recent government announcement, it is once again be mandatory for face coverings to be worn in places of worship ,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.

**FINAL ADVENT COMPLINE BY ZOOM 1900 MONDAY 20 DEC:** If you would like to be part of this service, contact [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for the Zoom invitation and a copy of the order of service. *Claire*

**LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (LLF) - FACE TO FACE COURSE COMING IN JANUARY 2022 AT THE ST ANDREW'S CENTRE:** We will be offering the whole benefice the opportunity to join the Church of England's "Living in Love and Faith" course which helps us to think more deeply about what it means to be human.

It explores questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ. What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church? Each of the five sessions will take place face to face and will explore one key topic through video input, discussion, Bible study, reflection and prayer. Listening to each other will be really important.

This five session course will be offered at the St Andrew's Centre on these dates:

- Tuesday 18 January 1900
- Tuesday 25 January 1900
- Tuesday 1 February 1900
- Tuesday 8 February 1900
- Tuesday 15 February 1900

Click [here](#) to find out more about the whole project, and please do get in touch if you want to have a chat about the course. *Claire* [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**0800 SERVICE SET TO RETURN TO PERSHORE ABBEY EVERY SUNDAY IN THE NEW YEAR:**

See [Page 10](#) for more information and a request for volunteers!

### **WEEKLY BULLETIN AND MONTHLY EDITION DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX:**

Email [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) to be added to the list and stay ahead with all the latest information! **Please do keep an eye on all of our digital platforms over Christmas and the New Year for updates resulting form the current Covid situation.**

# 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 ARE URGENTLY SEEKING A NEW TREASURER FOR PERSHORE ABBEY**

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

As Helen prepares to step down from this role, we are urgently seeking a volunteer who can take on the mantle and continue to move the Abbey's finances forward in this rewarding and challenging role. Ideally you will be a qualified accountant with an understanding of the charity sector.

More information on the role and an application pack is available from [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) or call **01386 552071**. *Pershore Abbey PCC*

**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.

Contact [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for more information or click [here](#).  
If you would like to know more please contact me or Lynne Raymer. *Claire*



**HELP NEEDED AT 0800 SERVICE IN ABBEY:** The good news is that the 0800 Sunday service will be taking place each Sunday as from January. The challenge is that we desperately need some new volunteers who can act as sidespeople and who are happy to operate the sound system for this service. At the moment several of our 0800 volunteers are also committed to 1030 service duties, so it would be really good if we could spread the load. If you think you can help please let me know! Thank you *Claire*

### **ST ANDREW'S UPDATE**

**A NEW BACK DOOR FOR ST ANDREW'S:** St Andrew's now has a lovely back door. It needs a coat of paint - we can provide the paint, could you provide the labour? Get in touch via [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) if you can help! We also need someone to transport the old door to the recycling facility at Hill & Moor. . .

**PLEASE REMEMBER** when locking up that both the front and back doors need a key - you cannot simply pull the door to.

### **ECO CHURCH**

**TASTER SESSION OF 'PLENTY!':** You are very welcome to join in a Zoom session to find out about this new course looking at our economy from a Christian perspective. It has been organised for local people by the South Worcestershire Methodist Eco group but is open to all. Contact the Abbey office on [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for further information and a Zoom link for the session which is at **1945 on Thursday 6 January 2022** 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**. Tickets must 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)*

**MEADOW ARTS PARTNERSHIP EXHIBITION AT PERSHORE ABBEY SPRING 2022:** We are delighted to be exhibiting a selection of pieces by artist Olly Jones at Pershore Abbey in February and March 2022. We will bring you more news of this installation in the New Year, so watch this space!

## OTHER NEWS

**UNITY SERVICE CANCELLED:** The CTiP Unity Service planned for January 2022 has been postponed due to the current Covid situation. Details of a new date to follow.

**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.

**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. 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](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

## AND FINALLY . . .



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL IN THE  
PERSHORE BENEFICE**

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE, UNDERSTANDING,  
COMMITMENT AND CONTINUED FAITH DURING YET  
ANOTHER VERY CHALLENGING YEAR AND WE LOOK FORWARD  
TO BRIGHTER DAYS TO COME.**

**GLAD TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY**

## 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 19 December 2021 - Advent 4**

- 08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 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*)

#### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES:**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

#### **Mon 20 December 2021**

- 13:30 Me, You & a Brew Private Sessions  
(*St A Upper Room*)
- 18:30 Bell Ringing Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Wedding Rehearsal for Darren Godfrey  
and Katie Haines (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Advent Compline (*Zoom*)

#### **Tue 21 December 2021**

- 10:00 Flower Guild - Christmas Preparations  
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 11:00 CTIP Food Bank (*St A Main Hall*)
- 19:15 AA Members Meeting (*St A Upper Room*)

#### **Wed 22 December 2021**

- 13:15 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St A Upper Room*)
- 15:30 Vicar & Wardens Meeting (*Zoom*)

#### **Thu 23 December 2021**

- 11:00 Funeral service for the late Andrew Purvis  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

- 14:00 Christingle Making (*St A Main Hall*)
- 18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

#### **Fri 24 December 2021 - Christmas Eve**

- 13:00 CTIP Food Bank (*St A Main Hall*)
- 15:30 Outdoor Christingle (*Abbey Park Bandstand*)
- 17:00 Christingle & Crib Service  
(*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

- 18:00 Christingle (*St Mary's, Wick*)

- 23:15 Midnight Mass (*Pershore Abbey*)

#### **Sat 25 December 2021 - Christmas Day**

- 08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 09:00 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 10:30 All Age Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)

#### **Sun 26 December 2021 - St Stephen**

- 10:30 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

## OFFICE STAFFING OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The Benefice Office will not be staffed over the Christmas period.

Our office staff will be on annual leave from:

**12 noon on Thursday 23 December 2021 until Tuesday 4 January 2021**

All email enquiries and answerphone messages will be dealt with on their return.  
If your enquiry is urgent please call the answerphone service on **01386 552071** to access the latest emergency contact details over the Christmas period.