



PERSHORE BENEFICE AT PERSHORE ABBEY
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 30 January 2022
CANDLEMAS

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 the sheet in conjunction with the service booklet you have been given.

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

Although guidance has changed and face-coverings are no longer required, we do ask that you continue to wear a mask when joining in with the hymns.

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

THE COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ 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 Malachi 3.1-5

A reading from the book of Malachi

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.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

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

SECOND READING Hebrews 2.14-18

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-40

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God

and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

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 113

Lourdes

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

The kings have departed, the shepherds are gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.

They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

But Anna and Simeon recognise there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.

They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

The candles invite us to praise and play
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.

[Elizabeth J. Cosnett (b. 1936)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 683

(Ewing)

1 Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blest,
beneath thy contemplation
sink heart and voice opprest.
I know not, O I know not
what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory,
what bliss beyond compare.

2 They stand, those halls of Sion,
conjubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel,
and all the martyr throng;
the Prince is ever with them,
the daylight is serene,
the pastures of the blessed
are decked in glorious sheen.

(Cont.)

3 There is the throne of David;
and there, from care released,
the shout of them that triumph,
the song of them that feast;
and they, who with their leader
have conquered in the fight,
for ever and for ever
are clad in robes of white.

4 O sweet and blessèd country,
the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessèd country
that eager hearts expect!
Jesu, in mercy bring us
to that dear land of rest;
who art, with God the Father
and Spirit, ever blest.

Urbs Sion aurea
[Bernard of Cluny (12th Century)
Translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)]

COMMUNION MOTET

Sing how the age long promise of a Saviour - Plain Song

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 110

(OLD 120th)

1. Hail to the Lord who comes,
comes to his temple gate,
not with his angel host,
not in his kingly state:
no shouts proclaim him nigh,
no crowds his coming wait.
2. But borne upon the throne
of Mary's gentle breast,
watched by her duteous love,
in her fond arms at rest;
thus to his Father's house
he comes, the heavenly guest.
3. There Joseph at her side
in reverent wonder stands;
and, filled with holy joy,
old Simeon in his hands
takes up the promised child,
the glory of all lands.
4. Hail to the great First-born,
whose ransom-price they pay,
the Son before all worlds,
the child of man to-day,
that he might ransom us
who still in bondage lay.
5. O Light of all the earth,
thy children wait for thee:
come to thy temples here,
that we, from sin set free,
before thy Father's face
may all presented be.

[John Ellerton (1826-1893)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 396

(Pastor Pastorum (Gott Ein Vater))

Please refer to Communion Booklet for this hymn

Pershore Abbey CCLI No. 46441

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

30 JANUARY 2022

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 to the public due to ongoing works and Covid-19.

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 can.

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.

THE LATE REVD RICHARD HARDING

We were saddened to learn of the death of former Pershore Abbey curate, Revd Richard Harding. Richard and his family remain in our thoughts and prayers. There will be a Celebration of Life service for Richard at 1300 on 31 January at Christ Church, Totland, Isle of Wight (<https://www.christchurchtotland.org.uk/>) and the family have provided a link to his tribute page to share with you.

<http://gratitodeforrychard.com/>

HELP FOR NHS STAFF

Worcester Royal Hospital has launched an urgent appeal for wellbeing packages for their staff, the priority being for those in A&E working under enormous pressure.

As a result of your very generous support last year, when we provided 175 gift bags for the staff on ITU and Covid wards, I have been asked whether we'd be able to help again. Rather than making up complete gift bags, the request is for lip balm, moisturiser and hand cream – but I'm sure boxes of chocolates or biscuits would be welcome treats!

Should you wish to help, your donations may be left in the collecting box in the Abbey (near the Foodbank box) or delivered to:

Pershore

Wendy Perks at "Omega", 5 Holloway (1st bungalow on the left from Three Springs Road), in the box outside

Birlingham

Caryl Mills at 4 Church Street (box in covered porch)

Wick

Martin & Jill Williams at 6 Wick House Close

Pinvin

Glen Hurst at Tregarthen, Main Street, Pinvin

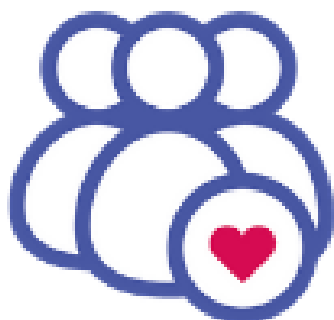
Please contact Sara Speed on 710776, who will also be happy to arrange to collect from your home.

Alternatively, money may be donated via text to 70470 against which the team will purchase packs of these items. Text **HELPWORC 5** to donate £5.

The last day for leaving items in the boxes will be **Sunday 20 February**.

Thank you.

Sara Speed



**WORCESTERSHIRE
ACUTE HOSPITALS
CHARITY**

Putting patients first

WEEKLY BULLETIN 30 JANUARY 2022

MINISTRY AND CHURCH NEWS

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (LLF) COURSE NOW RUNNING: This course is now underway with the remaining sessions due to take place on the following dates:

- Tue 1 February 1900
- Tue 8 February 1900
- Tue 15 February 1900

Please see the monthly bulletin for full details of the course

0800 SERVICE RETURNS EVERY SUNDAY: If you think you can help with sidesperson duties for these services, please let me know! Thank you *Claire*

PERSHORE ABBEY EVENSONG 6 FEBRUARY 1700: At this service we will be remembering in our prayers HM Queen Elizabeth II on the 70th Anniversary of Her Majesty's accession. We are also delighted to let you know that the Abbey bell ringers will be ringing a quarter peal from 1830 to mark this special anniversary. *Claire*

DON'T FORGET: We are still collecting **Palm Crosses** for Ash Wednesday and we have our **Salzwedel Link Zoom** event on **29 January**. Take a look in the monthly bulletin for more information on these and other events, services and information updates!

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

PERSHORE ABBEY TREASURER URGENTLY REQUIRED

PERSHORE ABBEY SEEKS NEW TREASURER: We are still urgently seeking a volunteer to take on the role of Abbey Treasurer. 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 or call **01386 552071**.

It is vital that we have someone in place to work with Helen Archer-Smith before she steps down at the APCM in May.

ABBAY LINK DELIVERY DROP-OFF VOLUNTEER: Urgent request due to ill health and advancing years for a further volunteer to take over a round to distribute packs of Abbey Link magazines to our deliverers. This should take just over 2 hours four times a year, and you would need a car. Please contact Roger Piper on office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

ABBAY LINK DOORSTEP DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need volunteers to deliver the Abbey Link Magazine once every four months to the following streets:-

- Head Street 1-63 & 20-40
- Harding's Court
- Bagshaw Court,
- Worcester Rd (Allesborough Hill)
- Wescott Way (Phase 2)
- Krier Fields
- Jeacock Grove
- Kingfisher Fields
- Skylark Drive,
- Woodpecker Fields.

If you live on or near any of these areas and are thinking of volunteering, then please get in touch. Contact Roger Piper via office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

PERSHORE ABBEY PCC UPDATE

We held our meeting over Zoom on 11 Jan 2022 given the continuing issues with Covid and reviewed our other arrangements. We will continue with our current arrangements in the Abbey for the time being, keeping them under review as the situation develops.

- Colin Reeves has resigned from the PCC after many years faithful service, following his house move. Colin has also handed the role of Editor of Abbey Link magazine to Christopher Kimberly. The PCC have written to thank Colin for all his help over the years and to wish him and Stella well in their new home.
- Plans for a wildflower area to the West of the Abbey are progressing well as part of our commitment to Eco-church.
- We are still looking for a new Treasurer as Helen steps down and this is a really important role for our busy Abbey.
- Our Baby and Toddler group that meets on a Friday morning is thriving with between 12 and 24 children joining in and celebrated Christmas with a visit from Father Christmas.
- Our Junior Church successfully filled 100 shoe boxes for our annual appeal with ex-members returning as well as some new faces joining in.
- Café Church in St Andrews has been a success with around 34 people joining in this informal service with breakfast enjoyed as well. This will now become a regular part of our worship.

Our next meeting is planned for **29 March**

COLIN REEVES: After fifteen years of faithful service on the PCC Colin has decided that it is time to retire. Colin has always served with enthusiasm and energy. He particularly excelled in keeping disability rights and issues to the fore. I speak for the whole PCC, and the wider congregation, when I say that Colin is going to be sorely missed. We have also been thankful for the years Colin gave as editor of the Abbey Link. Although Colin has stepped down from these significant roles we are so pleased though that he is still happy to offer his PR skills should we need his assistance, and Stella remains on hand with her sewing skills. We shall, of course, all look forward to seeing Colin and Stella when they are in the Abbey. *Claire*

OTHER NEWS

PERSHORE U3A SINGERS SEARCH FOR REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST: The U3A singing group are looking for someone to play the piano for them. They meet on the first and third Wednesday afternoons between 1500 and 1630 in St. Andrews. If anyone would like more details, or think they can help, please ring Sue on 01386 553930. or email suegooderham@btinternet.com

NEW DEADLINE FOR WEEKLY BULLETIN: Please can you get your articles for the weekly bulletin into the office by **1700** on **Wednesday** evening going forward. This will allow the office time to prepare a final draft on Thursday morning for approval before printing at 12 noon on Thursday afternoon. Thank you for your support and understanding.

A NEW PIPE ORGAN FOR PERSHORE ABBEY IN 2022

Pershore Abbey has been planning and fundraising for the purchase and installation of a new pipe organ since the old Walker/Nicholson pipe organ was removed from the Abbey during the 1996 restoration of the Abbey and temporarily replaced by the Bradford electronic organ. The outcome of the research and endeavours of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) especially during the past seven years is at last to come to fruition and we are pleased to announce that the new organ is to be installed during this coming Summer.

The new organ is being built by Fratelli Ruffatti, an internationally renowned family organ builder based in Padua, Italy, and selected from some eight organ builders based in the UK and across Western Europe. It will be delivered to the Abbey for installation and voicing between June and August 2022.

The new organ is designed so that it will be not only enable us to have beautiful music at all of our services, but it will also allow many different types of concert and musical events to take place in the Abbey.

This project has been seriously delayed because of the travel restrictions between Italy and the UK caused by Covid 19 - our original plan was to install the organ during the Summer of 2021. However, visitors to the Abbey will note that we have installed two platforms to support the organ casings and much enabling work took place during 2020 in the roof space behind the platforms to create a blower room. We have also installed a new ladder to the blower room to provide access for tuning and maintenance of the organ once installed.

The installation of the organ and associated work is due to commence on 22 May when a major scaffolding structure will be built across the central aisles of the Abbey to support a working platform from which the Fratelli Ruffatti craftsmen will build the organ casings. The component parts of the organ will be stored carefully in the south transept until they are required and suitable hoists and lifting equipment will be installed to raise the various items. It is anticipated that the construction of the organ and blower room will take place from early June until mid-July. The major scaffolding will then be removed to allow the voicing (tuning) of the organ to take place. Voicing is an extremely specialist task that requires complete silence in the Abbey. It is likely to take about five weeks to complete and it will be necessary to close the Abbey during this final and most sensitive part of the organ installation.

The whole installation process will be overseen by Robert Kilgour, Abbey Architect, Clive Haywood, Abbey Structural Engineer, and Matthew Martin, Abbey Organ Advisor, and when they and they and the PCC are content with all aspects of the installation, the organ will be formally handed over for acceptance by the Abbey. Plans are in hand to arrange a formal launch service for the new organ at that time.



A NEW PIPE ORGAN CONT.

During the whole of the installation process there will inevitably be times when there is restricted access to parts of the Abbey. We ask regular users and visitors to the Abbey to bear with us during this time. There will, of course, be interruptions to work activity to allow normal services to take place.

We are naturally delighted that this exciting organ project is shortly to be realised and look forward to the benefits that this new, powerful and versatile instrument will bring to the Abbey congregation and the wider community for generations to come.

The PCC is most grateful for the financial support provided especially by the Friends of Pershore Abbey CIO and those members of the congregation and wider community who have made donations towards the organ pipes. This project would not have been possible without this most generous support.

David Long, Chair, Fabric Committee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ARTIST TALK BY OLIVER JONES - SATURDAY 5 MARCH 2022, 1500-1630 AT PERSHORE ABBEY - FREE ENTRY: Oliver Jones is known for his large format hyper-realistic pastel chalk drawings. His two works on show at Pershore Abbey consider body image, the impact of social media on representation and self-worth. On Saturday 5 March, join him at the Abbey for a talk about **Divine** and **#motherandchild** as well as his wider practice.

Book via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/255997153377>

GREEN HEARTS FAIR SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY 1000 - 1200 IN ST ANDREW'S CENTRE: Enjoy refreshments from Wick Care Farm to music by the U3A Ukulele players, find out about a local regenerative farm, how the zero-waste shop in Worcester is doing deliveries to Pershore, stock up on locally produced food, ask an e-bike enthusiast tricky questions, share your green ideas, collect some free wildflower seeds from the Babies and Toddlers group, and find out what local environmental and conservation groups are doing. Come along and support us!

BREAKING NEWS: AFTER-SERVICE REFRESHMENTS SET TO RETURN IN FEBRUARY!

AND FINALLY . . .

CONGRATULATIONS TO CLAIRE ON BEING MADE AN HONARARY CANON: Bishop John has invited Revd Claire Lording to become an Honorary Canon at Worcester Cathedral. We congratulate Claire on being recognized for all the work she does in these parishes, throughout the Diocese and at General Synod. It is hoped that the service of installation will take place at Evensong on 12 March at Worcester Cathedral. More details on attending this service to follow!



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.

Sun 30 January 2022 Candlemas

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Benefice Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:00 Wychavon Festival of Brass Meeting (*St A Main Hall*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES:

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

Mon 31 January 2022

10:00 Jungle Jiggle (*St A Main Hall*)

10:30 Dramatherapy (*St A Upper Room*)

13:15 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St A Main*)

13:30 Me, You & a Brew (*St A Upper Room*)

14:30 PASA Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:30 Bell Ringing Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Pershore Community Choir (*St A Main Hall*)

19:30 Bell Ringing Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:30 Deanery Synod (*All Saints, Evesham*)

Tue 1 February 2022

11:00 CTIP Food Bank (*St A Main Hall*)

11:00 Funeral of the Late Clive Howes
(*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 LLF Course (*St A Main*)

19:15 AA Members Meeting (*St A Upper Room*)

Wed 2 February 2022

11:30 Lunch Club (*St A Main Hall*)

19:00 Pershore Town Choir (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

Thu 3 February 2022

AM - FIRE ALARM TESTING ST A & ABBEY

09:30 Benefice Church Wardens (*St A Upper Room*)

11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)

13:30 Abbey Finance Meeting (*Zoom*)

14:15 PCC Meeting (*Zoom*)

14:15 Intercessory Prayer (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

Fri 4 February 2022

09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St A Main Hall*)

13:00 CTIP Food Bank (*St A Main Hall*)

Sat 5 February 2022

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Sun 6 February 2022 4th before Lent

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Traidcraft Stall
(*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Morning Praise (*St James' Birlingham*)

10:30 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas' Pinvin*)

17:00 Evensong marking 70th Anniversary of
Queen Elizabeth II's Ascension
(*Pershore Abbey*)

18:30 Quarter Peel marking 70th Anniversary of
Queen Elizabeth II's Ascension
(*Pershore Abbey*)

COMING SOON

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. Read more in the latest monthly bulletin.



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

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk