



THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, PERSHORE

Sunday, 02 December, 2018

Advent Sunday
SUNG EUCHARIST

WEEKLY SERVICE SHEET & BULLETIN

Please use this service sheet in conjunction with the green service booklet

*A very warm welcome to our services today.
Please join us for refreshments after the 10:30 service.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

A&M 45

(Veni Emmanuel)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
2. O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
3. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
4. O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
5. O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

[J. M. Neale, 1818-1866]

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING**1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13**

A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN**A&M 663*****(St Columba)***

1. Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
there they behold thy mercy-seat;
where'er they seek thee thou art found,
and every place is hallowed ground.
2. For thou, within no walls confined,
inhabitest the humble mind;
such ever bring thee when thy come,
and, going, take thee to their home.
3. Dear shepherd of thy chosen few,
thy former mercies here renew;
here to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of thy saving name.
4. Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heaven before our eyes.
5. Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts thine own.

[John Mason, c.1645 - 1694]

THE GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

A&M 42

(Christ be our light)

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.

(cont'd)

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]

COMMUNION MOTET

Wake, O Wake! - *J S Bach*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 431

*Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother;
feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.*

1. As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise
to return again.

3. We eat this living bread,
we drink this saving cup:
sign of hope in our broken world,
source of lasting love.

2. The bread we break and share
was scattered once as grain:
Just as now it is gathered,
make your people one.

4. Be with your people, Lord,
send us your saving Word:
Jesus Christ, light of gladness,
come among us now.

[Bernadette Farrell, b.1957]

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

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.

Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom you have longed to know
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.

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.

Shout, as you journey on,
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 E Oakley, 1832-1865]

PLEASE TAKE THIS SERVICE SHEET & THE PEW BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU

PLEASE LEAVE THE SERVICE BOOKLET WHEN YOU LEAVE

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 02 DECEMBER 2018

As a Kingdom People we are a church that seeks to:

- Worship God
- Welcome All
- Reach out to the world

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Claire Lording

Email: vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

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 is open for visitors on Monday - Friday between 1100 & 1300

PLEASE PRAY FOR

All those who are celebrating their wedding within the Pershore Benefice, those who are being baptised, those who are in need and those who have recently died.

We also pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs today or in the coming week.

NOTICES & EVENTS

ADVENT PRAISE SERVICE: Everyone is welcome TODAY, Sunday 2nd December, at St Mary's Church, Wick, to the Advent Praise service at 18:00.

TODAY, SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER ST NICHOLAS' DAY CELEBRATION:- "A Journey towards Christmas" a concert of readings and music by St Georges' Ladies Choir. Refreshments & retiring collection at 15:00 at St Nicholas' Church, Pinvin. All welcome.

HEARING AID LOOP UPDATE: We now have our re commissioned equipment refitted following repair, please let us know how you get on with it or if any further adjustment is required. Thank you. *Robin Hancox*

PRAYER DIARIES: Please collect and take home the new Diocesan Prayer Diaries which are available at the back of the church.

NEW ASSISTANT CURATE: I am delighted to be able to share with you that the Revd Steve Dunton will be coming to the Pershore Benefice next year to serve his curacy with us. Steve was previously a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. He is currently training at Ripon College Cuddesdon and will be ordained priest in Worcester Cathedral on 22nd June 2019. We look forward to welcoming Steve, his wife Hannah, and two of their children, Will and James. Steve and his family are very much looking forward to coming and serving alongside us. *Claire*

ABBAY LIGHTING: The PCC has recently acquired a specification for the installation of a modern, enhanced energy efficient lighting system to change what is currently an inadequately lit Abbey interior into a warm and welcoming space with the ability to alter the lighting levels and ambient feel within the church through selective switching and dimming. The aim is to provide appropriate lighting for different styles of worship, concerts and performances or drama etc. To this end an application for a faculty is about to be made to the Diocesan Advisory Committee. If you are interested in this project and would like to see details of what is being proposed please speak to David Long or Robin Hancox. Further details about this project will be posted on the notice boards as this project evolves.

LOST IN ST ANDREW'S: Two umbrellas, one spotty, one flowery, a walking stick, a woollen cap and two toy cars are among the items in the St Andrew's lost property box located by the tables trolley in the main hall. Please do check the box for missing items or ask at the office for more valuable items like jewellery or money. Thank you.

BRUSH UP YOUR GERMAN - in time for the May visit from our friends in Salzwedel. The County Council run a class at the library for Pre-Improvers, those who have a beginners knowledge but would like to express themselves better. The course is very inter-active, focusing on speaking and listening. You can sign up online at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/adult> learning for the next 12 week course beginning on Wednesday, 9th January until 3rd April at a cost of £120 (just £10 per 2-hour session) from 1500-1700. The Tutor, Connie Lightowler, can be contacted through Pershore library if you want more information. Angela Gerrard is enrolling and would love people to join her.



CHRISTMAS AT THE ABBEY: Please help yourself to the small colour leaflets showing Christmas services at the Abbey. Do invite your friends and neighbours, a warm invitation is extended to all.

SHOEBOX APPEAL 2018: Thank you very much for all the items, the knitting, and the money donated. The 100 boxes were delivered to the Evesham distribution warehouse during last week. *Suzanne Clarke*

THE ABBEY CRIB: Our Crib is being refurbished and updated with safer lighting using the latest LED low voltage lights. This will also avoid cables trailing across the floor, which can be a hazard. But we urgently need to borrow a 12 volt small car battery if anyone has one hanging around.

PERSHORE FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL: Last year we gave out Christmas Hampers to our clients during December. This was extremely successful and greatly appreciated by recipients. We would particularly like Christmas Cake, Christmassy Biscuits, Sweets and Chocolates (for both children and adults) Tinned Ham, Salmon or Chicken, Mince Pies and Chocolate Money and any other Christmas treats you would care to donate would be much appreciated. You may notice that Christmas puddings are missing that is because we have a quantity already so just a few please. Thank you. *Lynne Raymer*

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS: As Advent approaches you might like to think about doing a Reverse Advent Calendar, in aid of Pershore Foodbank. For every day, instead of eating chocolate from a calendar, you put in a box something Christmassy which can then be used for the Christmas hampers that go out to families and individuals in need. The Foodbank would appreciate any gifts you collect this way to be delivered to them by the middle of December so they can be distributed in time. Many thanks. *Claire*

FESTIVE ENTERTAINMENT including mini panto - Snow White & the Seven Small Sub-Deacons (starring Abbey folk). U3A Ukelele Band, Hand Bells and much more. Saturday 8th December at 18:45 at St Andrew's Centre. £6 per ticket (light refreshments included). *Tickets available from Sara Speed.*

COMPLINE IN ADVENT: On 3rd, 10th and 17th December at 1900 there will be a short service of Compline held in the Apse of the Abbey. The service will last approximately half an hour and will include a short refecton on the season. This is a great opportunity to take some time out from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations and everyone is very welcome. *Claire*

BLESSING THE CHRISTMAS TREE: Last year the Abbey Christmas Tree was greatly admired, and was a wonderful welcome to everyone visiting the Abbey over the Christmas period, especially the schools. On Monday 3rd December we will be decorating this year's Christmas tree, and your help would be most welcome. We will start at 10:00 when there will be a short service to bless the tree. We will then decorate it, and enjoy refreshments and fellowship throughout the morning. We hope you can join us.

FOLLOW THE STAR: For CofE followers this Christmas running through the 12 days of Christmas, discover words to hold close throughout 2019. Follow The Star is a pocket-sized booklet inviting you to travel in the footsteps of the Wise Men this Christmas to meet Jesus. It contains 14 daily reflections, one for each day from Christmas Eve throughout the 12 days of Christmas, ending with the Epiphany on 6th January. Author: Isabelle Hamley, Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop John Sentamu. Retailing at £1.50 each please sign the list at the back of the Abbey if you would like to buy a copy to give us an indication of how many to purchase. Thank you.

MINCE PIES for our Town traders – For the third year Churches Together in Pershore will be delivering mince pies (and including some gluten free and a few mini chocolate rolls) to the traders in the town on Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 December. Any donations of 'bought' mince pies (sorry, we cannot accept home-made) will be gratefully received in the Abbey from now on until Sunday, 16 December. If anyone is able to volunteer and help with distribution please sign up on the form at the back of the Abbey indicating which day you can help. This year we will also be giving out leaflets and a letter of introduction to all the traders about Workplace Chaplaincy, and those who have been training for this role will be accompanying the mince pie distribution and collecting any prayers in the new year for the United Service on 20 January, when they will be commissioned.

MORE MINCE PIES PLEASE! Following the Carol Service at the Abbey on, Sunday 23 December, there will be Mince Pies and Mulled Wine available - contributions of Mince Pies (home-made or shop bought) would be wonderful! If possible please bring them to the morning service. *Sara Speed*

ABBEY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Once again this year there will be a board at the back of church where you can pin up one Christmas card for everyone in the Abbey. You are then invited to give a donation from the money you perhaps won't be spending on individual cards, which will be given to Christian Aid. More information if needed from Margaret Goodrich and Sarah Thomson. Many thanks. *Claire*

ABBEY CHRISTMAS TREES: We are very grateful for donations towards our Abbey Christmas Trees. If you would like to make a donation, please place it in an envelope and mark it clearly "CHRISTMAS TREE". Many thanks. *Ann Bray*

CONCERTS THIS MONTH & NEXT TO BE HELD AT THE ABBEY

DECEMBER 2018

1st (Saturday - 19:30)

FOAG present Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra

7th & 8th (Friday & Saturday - 19:00)

Worcester Male Voice Choir

15th (Saturday 19:30)

Pershore Choral Christmas Concert

JANUARY 2019

5th (Saturday - 14:30)

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra

Festive and Viennese Favourites



Please join us in the
PERSHORE BENEFICE for our **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Sunday 16th December

- 6.00pm Carol Service (St Mary's, Wick)
6.00pm Carol Service (St James', Birlingham)

Sunday 23rd December

- 9.30am Morning Praise - A 'tinsel free' service remembering the coming of the Christ Child (Abbey)
10.30am Sung Eucharist with Nativity Presentation by the Junior Church & Young People
4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service (St Mary's, Wick)
5.00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mince pies & mulled wine (Abbey)

Christmas Eve Monday 24th December

- 3.30pm Christingle Service (Abbey)
4.00pm Christingle and Crib Services (St James', Birlingham)
5.00pm Carols & Christingle Service (St Nicholas', Pinvin)
11.15pm Midnight Mass (Abbey)

Christmas Day Tuesday 25th December

- 8.00am Eucharist (Abbey)
9.00am Family Communion (St Mary's, Wick)
10.30am Christmas Communion (St James', Birlingham)
10.30am All Age Eucharist followed by sherry & soft drinks (Abbey)

Sunday 30th December

- 08.00am Eucharist (Abbey)
10.30am Benefice Eucharist (Abbey)

"A warm welcome awaits you."

For more information on any of these services please contact the Benefice Office on 01386-552071

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

*(A) Abbey, (B) Birlingham, (P) Pinvin, (W) Wick,
(St A) St Andrew's, (V) New Vicarage, (CTIP) Churches Together in Pershore*

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TAKE PLACE EVERY MONDAY TO SATURDAY IN THE ABBEY

08:00 Silent Prayer

08:30 Matins and Eucharist

17:00 Evening Prayer

Everyone is very welcome to attend these services

ABBEY SERVICES - SUNDAY 02 DECEMBER ADVENT SUNDAY

08:00 Eucharist

10:30 Sung Eucharist

17:00 Choral Evensong

Monday 3 December

09:15 Musical Explorers (St A)
10:00 Christmas Tree Coffee Morning (A)
10:30 Bells (St A)
13:00 Set up for School events (A)
14:00 Pershore U3A History Group (St A)
18:30 Weight Watchers (St A)
19:00 Compline for Advent (A)
19:30 Bells (A)

Tuesday 4 December

11:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)
13:30 School Service (A)
18:00 School Service (A)
19:00 Private Booking (St A)

Wednesday 5 December

11:30 Lunch Club-information 01386 554299 (St A)
11:00 Eucharist (Heathlands)
12:30 Funeral for the late Anthony Saunders
at St Nicholas' Pinvin
13:30 School Rehearsal (A)
17:30 School Concert (A)
19:00 Diocesan ALM Course (St A upper room)
20:00 Vale Harmony (St A)

Thursday 6 December

09:15 Weight Watchers (St A)
09:30 School Rehearsal (A)
09:30 Vicar & Wardens' Meeting (St A Upper Room)
11:00 Eucharist (Ganderton Court)
11:00 Finance Committee Meeting (1 Hunter Rise)
13:15 Art Club with Becca (St A, Upper Room)
14:00 Pershore U3A Technology Group (St A)
14:15 Intercessory Prayer (A)
19:00 School Concert (A)
19:00 Guitar Class (St A)

Friday 7 December

09:30 Babies and Toddlers (St A)
11:00 Eucharist (A)
13:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)
14:00 Set up and rehearsal for concert (A & St A)
18:00 Choir Practice (Choir Vestry)
19:00 Worcester Male Voice Choir Concert (A)

Saturday 8 December

12:00 Service of Holy Baptism (A)
17:00 Concert set up (A)
18:45 Festive entertainment & Panto (St A)
19:00 Worcester Male Voice Choir Concert (A)

SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08:00 Eucharist

10:30 Sung Eucharist

15:00 Carol Service for Retired Firefighters

17:00 CTIP Wholeness and Healing at St Andrew's Centre