



PERSHORE BENEFICE  
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with  
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick  
Sunday, 22 March, 2020  
MOTHERING SUNDAY

## WEEKLY WORSHIP SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

Please join in with this service wherever you are  
at the time you would normally be in church

### CALL TO WORSHIP

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

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord, speak to us that we may hear your word. Move among us that we may behold  
your glory. Receive our prayers that we may learn to trust you. Amen.

### HYMN

A&M 537

*(Englands Lane)*

1. For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*
2. For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light:
3. For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
Pleasures pure and undefiled:
4. For each perfect gift of thine,  
To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
5. For thy church which evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love,

[F. S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917]

### THE COLLECT

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all  
the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## FIRST READING

Exodus 2:1-10

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## THE GOSPEL

John 19: 25-27

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "He is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "She is your mother." From that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## A REFLECTION - BY THE REVD CLAIRE LORDING

Last year there would have been a buzz everywhere of families gathering together for meals and celebrations for Mothering Sunday. This year we find ourselves in the middle of a pandemic where our whole lives have been turned upside down.

No wonder then that we feel unsettled, unsure, perhaps anxious and fearful. The past week of announcements and issuing of guidance has changed everything, and we can only wonder what will happen next.

At one point, everything was changing for those closest to Jesus, it all looked really uncertain and people were fearful and afraid. But Jesus, even when he was nailed to a cross, was thinking of others, working out how to bring people together, how to make what looked like a desolate situation into something far more hopeful.

So Jesus tells his mother Mary and his friend John to look to each other, to form a new relationship and bond that will be as strong as any family. Jesus is really setting up a new sort of community, where those involved share the same values, passions and concerns. It certainly worked because the Christian faith and message spread across the world and everyday the love of God, shown through his son Jesus, is shared and spoken about.

In the middle of our current crisis we are prompted to think about what it is to be community, not just with our families, but with all those who live in our town or villages. All week I have seen the most amazing acts of kindness and generosity as people have reached out to friends and strangers in need. I have seen people being hopeful in the midst of their own doubts.

For however long our lives are disrupted let us do all that we can to be a community of love, sharing God's love for us all, bringing hope to everyone.

*Claire*

## HYMN

A&M 136

*(Bunessan)*

1. Fathers and mothers,  
sisters and brothers,  
all those who love us,  
for whom we care:  
help and befriend them,  
keep and defend them,  
Jesus our Saviour,  
this is our prayer.
2. And for those others,  
fathers and mothers,  
children who hunger,  
they must be fed:  
we would be caring,  
readily sharing,  
one with another  
our daily bread.
3. Sisters and brothers,  
fathers and mothers,  
we who together  
offer our praise:  
hear our thanksgiving,  
God ever living,  
may we walk with you  
all of our days.

[Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926]

## INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, we give thanks for the great love you have for each of us. We pray that you will help each of us pass that love on to the next generation. Lord, hear our prayer

Loving God, we give thanks for all mothers and for everything they do, or once did for us, and for all that they mean to us today. We also pray for those who are without family today, for whatever reason, and ask that you would help them to know your love is always close. Lord, hear our prayer

Loving God, we thank you for family life. We pray for those who are waiting for a new baby, and beginning family life. We pray especially for those who are trying to make home and family in difficult circumstances, especially in places of war and struggle. Lord, hear our prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the church. We pray for those who welcome others, who encourage and bless. Inspire us in our worship, and give us a new vision to show your love to those around us. Lord, hear our prayer

Loving God, thank you for everybody who looks after other people. Help us to know that you are always with each one of us. Lord, hear our prayer. Amen

FINAL HYMN

A&M 656

*(Traditional)*

He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.

He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.

He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.

He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.

He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got everybody here in his hand.

He's got everybody here in his hand.

He's got everybody here in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

## BLESSING

Loving God, bless us all, particularly now. Particularly when we are comforting others, particularly when we are offering hope, particularly when people are isolated, particularly when we feel overwhelmed ourselves, particularly when we are afraid. Help us to remember that you are right here, in the midst of us, calling us by name.  
Amen

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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### PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 22 MARCH 2020

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](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

Assistant Curate: The Revd Steve Dunton  
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Abbey Wardens: Mr Bill Newman (01386 640497) Mrs Suzanne Clarke (01386 553293)

The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham  
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Email: [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) Website: [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk)

*The Office is now closed to visitors until further notice,  
but we are still working and available by phone and email*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

WE PRAY TOGETHER FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT CRISIS

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.

## NOTICE BOARD

THE DOORS OF THE PERSHORE BENEFICE CHURCHES ARE NOT CLOSED: Our churches remain open for prayer and private contemplation to all who wish to enter. Please be mindful of others and observe all of the current public health guidelines to ensure the welfare of everyone in our community.

Public Worship in the Church of England has been placed on hold following a joint message from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

We will continue to monitor the situation and implement new guidelines as they are issued.

KEEPING IN TOUCH AT THIS TIME: If you would like to receive email updates and a copy of the weekly service sheet, pew bulletin and diary from the Benefice Office we will be keeping in touch by email and Facebook. If you would like to be included on the email circulation list please email the office with your request at [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

Your personal details will be handled in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations. Our Privacy Notice is available at [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk).

PASTORAL SUPPORT: As many members of our congregations will now be self-isolating under the latest Government guidelines and public worship has been suspended we are all in a position where we are unable to attend church services, so we are exploring the best methods of providing pastoral care and support during this crisis.

The majority of members of the Pastoral Group are themselves over 70 years, but are still able to offer support by keeping in telephone or email contact with people whom they are already in contact with. This applies to anyone else in the same situation and we would ask you please to keep in touch with any house neighbours or pew neighbours, by email or telephone, to check on their well-being. Many will be more than happy to receive a phone call to let them know they are not forgotten and are being prayed for.

Where specific pastoral care needs may be identified please contact either Revd Claire Lording, via the Abbey Office (552071 or [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk)) or Angela Gerrard who will determine the best response to these circumstances.

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE CLOSURES: Many St Andrew's events have been cancelled or postponed in response to the latest guidelines, including all church-led events. Please check the website for the current schedule.

PERSHORE FOODBANK: will be closed on Tuesday's until further notice. The service will continue to operate from St. Andrew's on Fridays from 1300-1500.

CITIZEN'S ADVICE FACE TO FACE SESSIONS SUSPENDED: To speak to an adviser please ring 01386 712100. For General Advice select option 1. For help to complete

your first Universal Credit application select option 2. This service is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10.00-13.00.

The Worcestershire Adviceline is also available Monday to Friday from 10.00-16.00 on 03444111303 or email enquiries.wychavon@citizensadvice.org.uk

BABIES & TODDLER GROUP: We hope to set up a "Virtual Group" delivered through Social Media for those families attending our regular Friday sessions, which will include suggested activities, games and support over the coming weeks. Watch this space!

ABBEY CONCERTS AND EVENTS: All concerts and events due to take place in the Abbey in March, April and May have now been cancelled or postponed. Please see our website or contact the office for full details.

### WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

ARCHBISHOP'S SERVICE: The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby is to lead a national broadcast as the Church of England responds to the challenge of becoming a "different sort of church" in the face of the coronavirus crisis. Join in with the service, which will be broadcast online on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship at 0810 and all local radio stations in England at 0800 and will premier online at 0900 on Sunday. We as a church are also finding new ways to share worship including this new style worship sheet.

LIGHT A CANDLE OF HOPE THIS SUNDAY 22 MARCH AT 1900: This Mothering Sunday all churches are being called to a National Day of Prayer and Action. At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.

At 1900 this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE FOODBANK REQUESTS: Please can you help with the following non-perishable items (we aren't able to use chilled or frozen items). We currently need, tinned cold meats, tea, cereal, tinned potatoes and instant mash, shower gel, cleaning products, tinned sponge puddings. With grateful thanks.

DIG OUT OR GOOGLE THOSE OLD RECIPES: Do you have any old recipes, maybe from the days of rationing, using local and home grown food or tinned produce? I'm starting to put together some ideas for a local food project. Contact me through the Abbey Office. *Many thanks, Helen.*

## ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Due to the Coronavirus Public Worship Services in The Church Of England have been placed on hold following a joint message from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

*Morning and Evening Prayer will continue to be said by the clergy*

SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2020

MOTHERING SUNDAY

There will be no services in the Benefice but our churches are open for personal prayer.

We will find new ways to share our services.

Monday 23 March

13:00 Funeral Service for the late  
Rosina Day - Vale Crematorium

Tuesday 24 March

-

Wednesday 25 March

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Thursday 26 March

14:00 Funeral of the late  
David Leonard Bray (Vale Crematorium)

Friday 27 March

13:00 – 15:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)

Saturday 28 March

-

Sunday 29 March

LENT 5 / PASSION SUNDAY

14:30 Pianoscapes (St A)

Please check the website for the latest information in case of cancellations or changes to this diary

## KEEPING UP TO DATE

### WEBSITE:

Please remember you can see all the latest updates and information on our website

[www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk)

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

Search for Pershore Abbey Community to follow us on Facebook.

We are also on Twitter and Instagram.



All of our Social Media feeds are now available through our website.

Scroll to the bottom of each page to follow us there.