



PERSHORE BENEFICE
Sunday, 30 December, 2018
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

WEEKLY SERVICE SHEET & BULLETIN
A very warm welcome to our services today.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

A&M 59

(Iris)

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship,
Christ, the new-born king,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born king.*

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light:

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

4. Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:

[James Montgomery. 1771-1854]

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

A reading from the First Book of Samuel

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the Letter to the Colossians

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 88

(Greensleeves)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
his love all loves exceeding:
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Saviour comes,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
All tongues and peoples own him,
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let every heart enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
while Mary sings a lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

[William Chatterton Dix, 1837-1898]

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

Alleluia, alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!

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

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

A&M 63

(Glory to God)

'Glory to God!' all heav'n with joy is ringing;
Angels proclaim the gospel of Christ's birth,
'Glory to God!', and still their song is bringing
Good news of God incarnate here on earth.

Lowly in wonder shepherds kneel before him,
No gift to bring save love of heart and mind:
Come like those shepherds, sing his praise, adore him,
A babe so weak, yet Saviour of mankind.

Humble yet regal, wise men kneel before him,
Gold, incense, myrrh, their gifts to Christ they bring:
Come like those wise men, sing his praise, adore him
A babe so poor and modest, yet a King.

Though now no crib or cradle is concealing
Jesus our Lord in that far-distant shrine,
Christ at each eucharist is still revealing
His very self in forms of bread and wine.

[John Edward Bowers, b.1923]

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 453

1. Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendor,
first-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong Defender,
liftest up Thy people's head.
Allelujah! Allelujah!
Jesus, true and living Bread!
2. Here our humblest homage pay we,
Here in loving reverence bow;
Here for faith's discernment pray we,
Lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Thou art here, we ask not how.
3. Though the lowly set form doth veil thee
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there in thine angels hail thee,
Branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia,
We in worship join with them.
4. Paschal Lamb! Thine off'ring finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall forevermore remain.
Alleluia, alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.
5. Life-imparting heavenly manna,
Stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Risen, ascended, glorified!

[George Hugh Bourne, 1840-1925]

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL HYMN

A&M 715

(Lord for the years)

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

(con't)

Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross, and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

[Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926]

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

Please take this service sheet and pew bulletin home with you
and please leave the service booklet when you leave.
Thank you.

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 30 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 AND EVENTS

*"With every good wish for a peaceful New Year
from everyone in the Pershore Benefice"*

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURES & EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

The Benefice Office will re-open on Wednesday 2nd January 2019
(Opening hours for visitors are 1100 - 1300)

Please phone the Benefice Office Answerphone Service on 01386 552071
for all emergency contact details over the Christmas period

PLEASE NOTE: This week's bulletin was been prepared in advance due to the Christmas Break. Apologies for any errors or omissions that may have occurred as a result.

TRAIDCRAFT: In 2019 we will have our first stall on 20th January which will have some sale items along with foodstuffs. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause. We wish you all a brilliant Fairtrade Christmas. *Dora and the team.*

ABBEY 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.

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.

DO YOU MAKE YOUR OWN SAUSAGES? Not the ones with pork or beef but the stuffed cloth type used to prevent drafts at the bottom of doors. If so the Abbey needs one for the North door by the St John's chapel. Can you help ?

Robin Hancox.

MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE MINCE PIES for the Carol Service and CTIP distribution in town which were much appreciated and enjoyed.

NEW ASSISTANT CURATE: Revd Steve Dunton will be coming to the Pershore Benefice next year to serve his curacy with us 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*

WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA - NEW YEAR GALA CONCERT SATURDAY 5 JANUARY at the Abbey at 14:30. Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra are keen to advertise their policy of giving a complimentary ticket to a carer who brings a disabled person and also give a free ticket to a driver, if they bring three others who would otherwise have difficulty getting to the venue.

ABBAY & 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

**ABBAY SERVICES - SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS 1**

08:00 Eucharist (A)

10:30 Benefice Eucharist (A)

Sunday 30 December

08:00 Eucharist (A)

10:30 Benefice Eucharist (A)

Monday 31 December

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

10:30 Bells (St A)

17:00 Evening Prayer (A)

18:30 Bells (A)

19:30 Bells (St A)

Tuesday 1 January 2019

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

NO FOOD BANK TODAY

17:00 Evening Prayer (A)

Wednesday 2 January

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

10:00 Communion at Wick

12:00 Funeral of the late Claire Barrett (A)

17:00 Evening Prayer (A)

20:00 Vale Harmony (St A)

Thursday 3 January

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

09:30 Vicar & Wardens' Meeting (St A Upper)

11:00 Eucharist (Ganderton Court)

13:30 Pershore U3A Technology Group (St A)

14:15 Intercessory Prayer (A)

17:00 Evening Prayer (A)

19:00 Guitar Class (St A)

Friday 4 January

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

11:00 Eucharist (A)

13:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)

17:00 Evening Prayer (A)

Saturday 5 January

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

AM Worcester Philharmonic Concert Set Up

1430 Worcester Philharmonic Concert

(A & St A)

17:00 Evening Prayer (A)

**ABBAY SERVICES - SUNDAY 6 JANUARY
CHRISTMAS 2**

08:00 Eucharist (A)

10:30 Sung Eucharist (A)

17:00 Choral Evensong (A)