



THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, PERSHORE
Sunday, 06 January, 2019
FEAST OF EPIPHANY
SUNG EUCHARIST

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

WEEKLY SERVICE SHEET & BULLETIN
A very warm welcome to our services today.
Please join us for refreshments after the 1030 service

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

A&M 103

(Was Lebet)

O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

[J S B Monsell, 1811-1875]

THE COLLECT

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son 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

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M95

(Stuttgart)

1. Bethlehem, what greater city
can in fame with you compare?
For the gracious God of heaven
chose to meet our people there.
2. Was there ever beauty brighter
than the star which shone that night
to proclaim the incarnation
of our God, the world's true light?

3. From the East come men of learning,
rich the treasures that they hold
tributes to a greater wisdom,
gifts of incense, myrrh and gold.

4. Sacrifice, redeemer, saviour!
Incense shows that God has come,
gold, our mighty king proclaims him,
myrrh foretells his silent tomb.

5. Jesus Christ, to you be glory,
Lord of lords whom we adore
with the Father and the Spirit:
God be praised for evermore!

[Michael Perry, 1942-1996]

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world. Alleluia.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

A&M 96

(Epiphany)

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

(cont'd.)

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with beasts of the stall
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

[Reginald Heber, 1783-1826]

COMMUNION MOTET

Lord When The Wise Men Came From Far

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 98

(Evelyns)

1. From the eastern mountains
pressing on they come,
wise men in their wisdom,
to his humble home;
stirred by deep devotion,
hasting from afar,
ever journeying onward,
guided by a star.

2. There their Lord and Saviour
meek and lowly lay,
wondrous light that led them
onward on their way,
ever now to lighten
nations from afar,
as they journey homeward
by that guiding star.

3. Thou who in a manger
once hast lowly lain,
who dost now in glory
o'er all kingdoms reign,
gather in the peoples,
who in lands afar
ne'er have seen the brightness
of thy guiding star.

[Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903]

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL HYMN

A&M 86

(The First Nowell)

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

Then wise men from a country far
looked up and saw a guiding star;
they travelled on by night and day
to reach the place where Jesus lay:

At Bethlehem they entered in,
on bended knee they worshipped him;
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
for Christ has our salvation wrought
and with his blood our life has bought:

[Cornish carol, possibly 18th Century
adapted by Michael Perry (1942 -1996)]

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

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 06 JANUARY 2019

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

TODAY: Sunday, following the 0800 Eucharist there will be a breakfast for the 0800 Congregation in memory of the late Noel Blakeborough.

THE NEXT PARISH COFFEE MORNING will be held in St Andrew's Centre between 10:00 & 12:00 next Saturday, 12 January, all welcome. Please join us.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18th-25th JANUARY: The annual service for Christian Unity organised by Churches Together in Pershore will be held at 1500 on 20th January at Pershore Baptist Church. Please note the earlier start time than in previous years. The service is being led by Pershore Community Church and will be following the theme 'Only Justice'. At this service the new Workplace Chaplaincy will also be commissioned, which is an exciting new ecumenical project hoping to work alongside all of the shops and businesses in Pershore. Please come and support this important service. Thank you. *Claire*

OUR TRAIDCRAFT STALL has a very dedicated team of four ladies who work to a rota, manning the stall approximately once a month. We would really like to increase our Staff by recruiting two more people. If you feel you would like to be involved and come onto our friendly team, please contact me. Our Traidcraft stall is held on the first and third Sundays of each month after the 10:30 communion service. Thank you. *Dora Paynter, Abbey TRAIDCRAFT representative*

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. 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. Enquiries through Pershore Library if you want more information. Angela Gerrard is enrolling and would love people to join her.

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*

EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 am on January 23, 30, and February 6, 13, 20, 27 at 8, Ashdale Avenue. Subject: God's Covenant with us. Hostess: Margaret Piper. Introduction by Revd Philip Hughes. Participants old and new all welcome. Thank you. Enquiries to Philip or Margaret

CTiP FOOD BANK A very big thank you to everyone who kindly donated Christmas goodies to the Foodbank. We were able to make up a large number of Christmas Hampers and Children Chocolate Bags which were distributed to our clients, most of whom were families. Our clients are always appreciative of the help they have been given to enable them to have a joyful Christmas. Many people gave the Foodbank money and we have endeavoured to thank you personally, however we do know that some people wish to remain anonymous and we wish to thank you as well it was greatly appreciated. You might like to know that in the last few weeks we have had to buy baby milk, nappies and so forth for several families with young babies. *Lynne Raymer, Pershore Foodbank.*

If you are able to help the Food Bank in January there is currently a need the following non-perishable items. (Please be aware that we are not able to use chilled or frozen items.) Dried potato and tinned potatoes, tinned tomatoes, UHT milk, tins of sponge and rice puddings, tinned sardines and mackerel and also long life fruit juice. Thank you so much for your support. Pershore Foodbank is run in partnership with local churches facilitated by the Abbey. Registered charity number 1133566. (CTiP = Churches Together in Pershore.)



A LOOP SYSTEM is installed throughout the Abbey

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 6 JANUARY 2019

THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY

08:00 Eucharist

10:30 Sung Eucharist

17:00 Choral Evensong

Sunday 6 January

After 08:00 Breakfast for the early Service
Congregation (St A)

Monday 7 January

AM Abbey Christmas trees being dismantled (A)

10:30 Bells (St A)

14:00 Pershore U3A History Group (St A)

18:30 Weight Watchers (St A)

19:30 Bells (A)

Tuesday 8 January

11:00 CTiP Food Bank (St A)

19:30 Abbey PCC Meeting (St A Upper Room)

Wednesday 9 January

11:00 Eucharist (Heathlands)

20:00 Benefice Treasurers' Meeting

(St A Upper Room)

20:00 Vale Harmony (St A)

Thursday 10 January

09:15 Weight Watchers (St A)

09:30 Vicar & Wardens' Meeting

(St A Upper Room)

11:00 Eucharist (Roland Rutter Court)

12:00 Funeral of the late Rebecca Ward (A)

13:15 Art Club (St A Upper Room)

Friday 11 January

09:30 Babies and Toddlers (St A)

11:00 Eucharist (A)

13:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)

14:30 Organ Practice - Mike Pegg (A)

18:00 Choir Practice (A)

Saturday 12 January

09:30 Parish Coffee Morning (St A)

SERVICES AT THE ABBEY ON SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2019

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

08:00 Eucharist

10:30 Sung Eucharist

17:00 Wholeness and Healing