



THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, PERSHORE

Sunday, 13 January, 2019

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

SUNG EUCHARIST with JUNIOR CHURCH & UPPER ROOM GROUP

*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 108

*(Offertorium)*

1. When Jesus came to Jordan  
to be baptized by John,  
he did not come for pardon,  
but as his Father's Son.  
He came to share repentance  
with all who mourn their sins,  
to speak the vital sentence  
with which good news begins.
2. He came to share temptation,  
our utmost woe and loss;  
for us and our salvation  
he died upon the cross.  
So when the Dove descended  
on him, the Son of Man,  
the hidden years had ended,  
the age of grace began.
3. Come Holy Spirit, aid us  
to keep the vows we make,  
this very day invade us,  
and every bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction,  
the gift we covet most:  
to share the resurrection  
that leads to Pentecost.

[F. Pratt Green, 1903-2000]

THE COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 43:1-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not over-

whelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 341

*(Leoni)*

1. We turn to Christ anew  
    who hear his call today,  
    his way to walk, his will pursue,  
    his word obey.  
    To serve him as our King  
    and of his kingdom learn,  
    from sin and every evil thing  
    to him we turn.
2. We trust in Christ to save;  
    in him new life begins:  
    who by his cross a ransom gave  
    from all our sins.  
    Our spirits' strength and stay  
    who when all flesh is dust  
    will keep us on that final day,  
    in him we trust.
3. We would be true to him  
    till earthly journeys end,  
    whose love no passing years can dim,  
    our changeless friend.  
    May we who bear his name  
    our faith and love renew,  
    to follow Christ our single aim  
    and find him true

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17,21,22

Alleluia, alleluia. This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Alleluia.

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

(In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.) As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

A&M 107

*(Solothurn)*

1. The sinless one to Jordan came  
to share our fallen nature's blame;  
God's righteousness he thus fulfilled  
and chose the path his Father willed.
2. Uprising from the waters there,  
the voice from heaven did witness bear  
that he, the Son of God, had come  
to lead his scattered people home.
3. Above him see the heavenly Dove,  
the sign of God the Father's love,  
now by the Holy Spirit shed  
upon the Son's anointed head.
4. How blest that mission then begun  
to heal and save a race undone;  
straight to the wilderness he goes  
to wrestle with his people's foes.
5. Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin  
go forth with you, a world to win,  
and send the Holy Spirit's power  
to shield them in temptation's hour.
6. On you shall all your people feed  
and know you are the Bread indeed,  
who gives eternal life to those  
that with you died, and with you rose

[George B. Timms, 1910-1997]

COMMUNION MOTET

God In Mine Eternity - *Alan Bullard*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 149

(Eisenach)

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
It fills the heart with ecstasy,  
that God, the Son of God, should take  
our mortal form for mortals' sake!
2. He sent no angel to our race,  
of higher or of lower place,  
but wore the robe of human frame  
himself, and to this lost world came.
3. For us he was baptized, and bore  
his holy fast, and hungered sore;  
for us temptations sharp he knew,  
for us the tempter overthrew.
4. To him whose boundless love has won  
salvation for us through his Son,  
to God the Father, glory be  
both now and through eternity.

[Translated, Benjamin Webb 1819-1885]

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL HYMN

A&M 595

(Slane)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

[Irish, 8th century *tr.* Mary Byrne 1880-1931]

## PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 13 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) Website: [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://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

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 next Sunday, 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 email me on - [dorabpaynter@hotmail.com](mailto:dorabpaynter@hotmail.com) or leave a message on 07745119974. 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*

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.)

### MARCH HARE CHARITY QUIZ

Saturday 16th March 2019

7.00 for 7.30pm at Birlingham Village Hall

Supporting the unit for Blind Children

Mtandi Primary School, Tanzania

Teams of 4 - 6

Cost £8pp to include a Fish & Chip\* supper

Bar and Raffle

For tickets please contact Steve Arbery 01386 750877

\*A vegetarian and gluten free option will be available.

Please inform me when booking.

**The Friends of Masasi & Newala Charity No.1009963**

THE BENEFICE & ST ST ANDREW'S DIARY: Please make sure that the office have the details of any times and dates when you or your group anticipate meeting in St Andrew's Centre, the Abbey or the Benefice Churches. All these places are much in demand so please be sure to reserve your requirements to avoid clashes and disappointment. The diary is available for booking two years ahead. Email [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) or phone 01386-552071.

CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS CARDS: Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal and pinned a card on our colourful board. We have raised over £450 and the money will go to supporting refugee families in Lebanon and elsewhere. It will, for example, help towards providing counselling for traumatised children and running schools as well as providing for the basic needs of families facing yet another winter in the camps. Your generous giving for all this work will be greatly appreciated. Thank you again to everyone. *Margaret Goodrich, Sarah Thomson*

### BISHOP JOHN'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

As we embark upon 2019, our country is in an unprecedented state, one giving rise to much anxiety, in which we are faced with the most significant of decisions for at least a generation. As the Brexit debate continues, it is very unclear what the future will hold. It is not only parliament that is very divided, we are divided as a country. The referendum, which was supposed to settle the issue, seems to have given rise to hostility as well as division.

In situations such as these, I find the words of Psalm 46, which have given solace to people for thousands of years, of great relevance: 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.'

Whether or not we feel able to put our trust in God, one thing is clear: there is an overriding need for us to come together as a nation in this coming year and beyond. Reconciliation is at the heart of the Christian faith: Christ came to reconcile us to God and to one another. Human reconciliation is essential for the well-being of our society, the communities within it and ourselves. whether or not we have faith.

I hope and pray that we shall all be able to work for that reconciliation and the common good in the months ahead.

May God bless you richly in 2019

*Bishop John.*

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

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*

SERVICES AT THE ABBEY ON SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2019

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

08:00 Eucharist

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church & Upper Room Group

17:00 Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 13 January

17:30 Youth Group c/o Suzanne Clarke (St A)

Monday 14 January

09:15 Musical Explorers (St A)

10:30 Bells (St A)

13:00 Organ practice JK (A)

14:15 Fabric Committee Meeting (St A  
Upper Room)

18:30 Weight Watchers (St A)

19:30 Bells (St A)

Tuesday 15 January

09:20 Food Bank Meeting (St A)

09:30 Bells (St A)

10:00 Meditation Group (Holy Redeemer  
Church)

11:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)

14:00 Abbey Development Fundraising  
Steering Group (St A Upper Room)

19:30 Abbey Women's Fellowship (St A)

Wednesday 16 January

11:30 Lunch Club - Enquiries 554299 (St A)

20:00 Vale Harmony (St A)

Thursday 17 January

09:15 Weight Watchers

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

10:00 Birlingham PCC Meeting (B)

13:15 Art Club with Becca (St A Upper Room)

19:00 Guitar Class (St A)

Friday 18 January

09:30 Babies and Toddlers (St A)

11:00 Eucharist (A)

13:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)

14:30 Organ Practice MP (A)

18:00 Choir Practice (A)

19:30 Friday Quarter Peal (St A)

Saturday 19 January

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SERVICES AT THE ABBEY ON SUNDAY 20 JANUARY 2019

EPIPHANY 3

08:00 Eucharist

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Laying on of Hands

15:00 CTIP Unity Service *to be held at the Baptist Church* (Launch of Chaplaincy Project)