



THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, PERSHORE

Sunday, 27 January, 2019

THE FOURTH SUNDAY 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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

A&M 721

(Blaenwern)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

[Charles Wesley, 1707-1788]

THE COLLECT

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

A reading from the Prophet Nehemiah

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel.

Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third

teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 387

(Sussex)

1. Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking,
as the gospel words unfold;
we, in all our agelong seeking,
find no firmer truth to hold.
2. Word of goodness, truth, and beauty,
heard by simple folk and wise,
word of freedom, word of duty,
word of life beyond our eyes.
3. Word of God's forgiveness granted
to the wild or guilty soul,
word of love that works undaunted,
changes, heals, and makes us whole.
4. Speak to us, O Lord, believing,
as we hear, the sower sows;
may our hearts, your word receiving,
be the good ground where it grows.

[Howard Charles Adie Gaunt, 1902-1983]

THE GOSPEL

Luke 4:14-21

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 Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too;
make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too;
in the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too;
let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too;
Where good conquers evil, let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."

Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few:
walk one step before me, I will follow you

[John L. Bell, b. 1949
and Graham Maule, b. 1958]

COMMUNION MOTET

O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace - *Christopher Tye*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 694

(*Vienna*)

1 Jesus, Lord, we look to thee,
let us in thy name agree:
show thyself the Prince of peace;
bid all strife for ever cease.

2 Make us of one heart and mind,
courteous, pitiful, and kind,
lowly, meek in thought and word,
altogether like our Lord.

3 Let us for each other care,
each the other's burden bear;
to thy church the pattern give,
show how true believers live.

4 Free from anger and from pride,
let us thus in God abide;
all the depths of love express,
all the heights of holiness.

[Charles Wesley, 1707-1788]

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous Lord, in word and Eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of your love:
help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of your wonders in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

FINAL HYMN

A&M 549

(Church Triumphant)

1. The heavens declare thy glory, Lord;
in every star thy wisdom shines;
but when our eyes behold thy word,
we read thy name in fairer lines.
2. The rolling dun, the changing light,
and nights and days, thy power confess;
but the blest volume thou has writ
reveals thy justice and thy grace.
3. Sun, moon, and stars convey thy praise
round the whole earth, and never stand;
so, when thy truth began its race,
it touched and glanced on every land.
4. Nor shall thy spreading gospel rest
till through the world thy truth has run;
till Christ has all the nations blest
that see the light or feel the sun.
5. Great sun of righteousness, arise;
bless the dark world with heavenly light;
thy gospel makes the simple wise,
thy laws are pure, thy judgements right.
6. Thy noblest wonders here we view,
in souls renewed and sins forgiven:
Lord, cleanse my sins, my soul renew,
and make thy word my guide to heaven.

[Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
based on Psalm 19]

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

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

CHORAL EVENSONG 03 FEBRUARY (Candlemas) 17:00 The choir will be singing: Preces and Responses: John Reading in A (d. 1692), Psalm 122, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis: Samuel Arnold in A, (1740-1802), Anthem: When To The Temple Mary Went. Johannes Eccard (1553-1611) Congregational hymns. We welcome you to join us and support the choir in this ancient, contemplative and beautiful service which has its origins in the old Latin Services of Vespers and Compline. Our augmented choir enjoy singing this service with a variety of settings and responses on the first Sunday of each month and we would love to see you there. *Michael Pegg*

ST ANDREW'S CONTRACTORS: We are expecting contractors to be on site from Monday to replace the guttering. Our apologies in advance as they may be restricting access to the car parking and for any inconvenience caused. *Robin Hancox*

CONCERTS AT THE ABBEY: The Mayor of Pershore's next charity concert is on 9th February at the Abbey and features the acclaimed Flowers Brass Band. Tickets are available for £12 from the Town Hall, Library and Blue and all proceeds from the event will go to the local Prostate Cancer Support Group.

THE ABBEY CONCERT BROCHURE FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2019 is in the process of being prepared and will be available soon. Meanwhile more details are on the Abbey website. pershoreabbey.org.uk

BOOKSTALL: Many thanks to the welcomers and helpers on the bookstall. Due to illness, holidays, family commitments etc. we have some vacancies. Have you got 2 hours you could spare to welcome visitors and operate the bookstall? This needs to be a regular commitment but not necessarily weekly - perhaps once a month? With grateful thanks and looking forward to growing the team. *Toni Harris.*

EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY continues on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 on January 30, and February 6, 13, 20, 27 at 8, Ashdale Avenue. Enquiries to Philip Hughes or Margaret.

MARCH HARE CHARITY QUIZ Saturday 16th March 19:00 for 19:30 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. *A vegetarian and gluten free option will be available. Please inform me when booking. (The Friends of Masasi & Newala Charity No.1009963)

A FISH & CHIP SUPPER with quiz will take place on Saturday February 16th 18:45 - 19:00 at St Andrew's Centre. Tickets £8.00 available from Julie Newman. Soft drinks, tea and coffee provided or please bring your own. Teams of 4 or just come along and make up a team on the night.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CARERS Meet on the last Tuesday of each month at The Riverside Centre, Pershore. More information from Maureen Oliver.

SNOWDROPS & BULB TEAS AT BIRLINGHAM The snowdrops are already coming out in the churchyard at St James' Church, Birlingham WR10 3AB. "Bulb Teas" will be

available in the Village Hall every weekend in February between 11:00 & 16:30. Midweek group visits can be arranged by contacting Caryl Mills.. The annual Bulb Sunday Service will be held on Sunday 17 February at 15:00 at St James'.

LENT 2019: Please make a note of the following services and events in your diaries:

5th March Shrove Tuesday: Lunchtime pancakes and launch of Churches Together in Pershore Lent charity at St Andrew's Centre. Please note change of time for this event. 6th March Ash Wednesday: Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 0830 Abbey, 1100 Wick, 1930 Abbey. Please get your palm cross ready to bring to church to make the ash.

Lent groups: More details to follow on this but we are hoping to run an ecumenical course based on the BBC Broken series.

Lent soup: This will be on Thursday lunchtimes at St Andrew's. Please note change of venue and time from previous years.

More details will follow shortly. *Claire*

ROBIN STEPS DOWN: For many years Robin Hancox has been fulfilling the roll of Day Verger at the Abbey, which has meant doing all sorts of jobs that most people never see, although we would notice if they weren't being done! Robin is now stepping down from that role to focus on our work at St Andrew's. A huge thank you to Robin for all that he has done. We have been busily finding people who can take on the jobs that Robin has done so ably but we still need some help. If you think you can help with any of the following, please get in touch with me, Bill Newman or Suzanne Clarke. Training will be provided. Thanks, Claire.

Bill Newman would like someone to assist him with adjusting the various heating and lighting timers, putting the floodlights and heating on in the Abbey, and doing the fire alarm and lighting tests.

We need someone who is able to carry out minor repairs around the Abbey. This is someone who can potentially spot when something needs looking at but who can also respond to Churchwarden requests.

The fabric committee need someone who can make VAT Grant claims so that we can get any VAT back on the numerous repairs that take place.

PARISH COFFEE MORNING: Please come along to our next Parish Coffee Morning between 10:00 & 12:00 on Saturday 9th February at St Andrew's Centre. Invite your friends and neighbours. Open to all, everyone welcome.

ABBEY VOLUNTEERS' COFFEE MORNING: We will be holding a special coffee morning on Saturday 16th February to say "Thank you" to our many volunteers for their help at Pershore Abbey. Please drop in to St Andrew's Centre between 10:00 & 12:00 noon for coffee and cakes. Invitations will be sent by email (or via the letter rack). With over 180 people to contact, there's a chance that some could get lost! If you are a volunteer and don't hear by the end of January, please contact Sara Speed.

REIMAGINE CHURCH CONFERENCE - SATURDAY 09 MARCH Keynote addresses by John Bell of Wild Goose Resource Group and others at Carrs Lane Conference Centre, Birmingham. For further information, please speak to Helen & David Oldham.

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

(A) Abbey, (B) Birlingham, (P) Pinvin, (W) Wick, (St A) St Andrew's,
(St A U) St Andrew's Upper Room (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 - SUNDAY 27 JANUARY 2019
EPIPHANY 4

08:00 Eucharist

09:30 Morning Praise

10:30 Sung Eucharist

Sunday 27 January

14:00 Pianoscapes with Chris Long (St A)

Monday 28 January

08:00 Replacement guttering works (St A)

09:15 Musical Explorers (St A)

09:30 Church Cushion Company (A)

10:30 Bells (St A)

15:00 Meeting (A)

18:30 Weight Watchers (St A)

18:30 Bells (A)

19:30 Bells (St A)

Tuesday 29 January

08:00 HEATING OFF FOR 2/3 HOURS,
Boiler Maintenance (A)

11:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)

13:00 RB meeting with concert organiser (A)

19:00 Civic Society Exec. Meeting (St A U)

Wednesday 30 January

18:30 Pershore Choral Meeting ((St A U)

19:30 Iona Service (A)

20:00 Vale Harmony (St A)

Thursday 31 January

09:15 Weight Watchers (St A)

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

11:00 St Andrew's Committee (St A U)

12:30 Mission Giving Meeting (St A U)

13:15 Art Club with Becca (St A U)

14:00 Funeral of late Joyce Smith (A & St A)

Followed by burial at St Mary's Church, Wick

19:00 Guitar Class (St A)

Friday 1 February

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)

Saturday 2 February

10:00 Bells Peal (A)

SERVICES AT THE ABBEY SUNDAY 03 FEBRUARY
CANDLEMAS

08:00 Eucharist

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Candlemas procession

17:00 Choral Evensong