



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 08 December 2024
ADVENT 2

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

The 1030 Service from the Abbey will be livestreamed and available to view on our YouTube channel. To view, visit www.youtube.com and search for [Persnore Abbey Community](#) Please use this sheet in conjunction with the service booklet provided. Please take this sheet home with you and recycle when you have finished with it. If you have any queries or concerns please do speak to a sidesperson or churchwarden.

THE ADVENT WREATH

We have this Advent Wreath to remind us of the Coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring,
round the berry bright candles,
and the white and shining King.**

**And one for God's people,
In every age and day,
We are watching for his coming.
We believe and we obey.**

We light this candle to help us think of God's greatest promise, first told by the prophets.

**O, two is for the prophets
and for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness,
all alight for Christ the King.**

THE COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Baruch 5.1-9

A reading from the book of Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards

the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1.3-11

A reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3.1-6

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."'

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 46

WINCHESTER NEW

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

[Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
Translated by John Chandler (1806-1876)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 38

MERTON

1 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.'

2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

4 That when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

[Edward Caswall (1814-1878)
Music: William Henry Monk (1823-1889)
Descant by John Barnard (b.1948)]

THIRD HYMN

- 1 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

A&M 604

- 4 I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.

[Richard . M. Gillard (b.1953)

Arranged by Betty Pulkingham (b.1928)]

COMMUNION MOTET

View me Lord—Richard Lloyd

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*View me, Lord, a work of thine;
Shall I then lie drowned in night?
Might thy grace in me but shine,
I should seem made all of light.*

*Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel
At thine altar, pure and white;
They that once thy mercies feel,
Gaze no more on earths delight.*

*Worldly joys, like shadows, fade
When the heavenly light appears;
But the covenants thou hast made,
Endless, know nor days nor years.*

*In thy word, Lord, is my trust,
To thy mercies fast I fly.
Though I am but clay and dust,
Yet thy grace can lift me high*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 373

- 1 Purify my heart
Let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold, pure gold

Cont'd

*Refiner's fire,
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You, my Master
Ready to do Your will*

- 2 Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within and make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within

[Brian Doerksen (b.1965)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 75

PERSONENT HODIE

- 1 Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?*

2 God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

3 Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,

- 4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

[Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)]

*Voluntary: Toccata in g - Theodore Dubois
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary*

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

08 DECEMBER 2024

As a Kingdom People we are churches that seek to:

- Worship God
- Welcome All
- Reach out to the World

Vicar: The Revd Canon Claire Lording

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The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham

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BENEFICE OFFICE OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 1100 - 1200 ONLY (excluding Bank Holidays)

The office staff will also be available to answer enquiries by phone or email on weekday mornings from **0930 –1300**

Please email your enquiry to office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or leave a message on 01386 552071 and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT TODAY, PRAYING ESPECIALLY FOR ALL PEOPLES OF THE HOLY LAND. WE PRAY FOR LASTING PEACE.

We pray for those whose weddings, blessings and baptisms are taking place and for all those who are making new plans to celebrate these special life events.

We pray for all those welcoming new life into their families.

We pray for those in need.

We pray for those who have died and for their families and friends.

We pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs in the coming week.

If you need any help in accessing any of the online features mentioned in the service sheet or bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact the office or Canon Claire Lording for support.



Facebook: [#pershoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/pershoreabbeycom) YouTube: [Pershore Abbey Community](https://www.youtube.com/PershoreAbbeyCommunity)
Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

23 NOVEMBER - UPDATE FROM CLAIRE: Thank you so much for all the messages, cards and good wishes I received before my surgery on Thursday. All went really well and the staff at Kidderminster Hospital were simply amazing. I now have time to recover before I have five sessions of radiotherapy in a couple of months time. Please continue to pray for me, for all being treated for cancer and all health professionals. *Claire*

LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS - SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER, 1700: Join us at St Andrew's Centre for this service of reflection with prayers for wholeness and healing. This is a service for people who would like to find some peace and quiet during this busy Christmas time.

A WARM WELCOME AT THE ABBEY FOR ALL: We take seriously our mission aim to be a warm and welcoming church to anyone who walks in through the Abbey doors. We do our best to look out for folks who are new to the congregation or perhaps just visiting for a while, but some times we do miss people. If you are new to the Abbey please do let one of the sidespeople, churchwardens or officiant at the service know that you are with us so that we can welcome you properly! *Claire*

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE READERS 05 JANUARY AT 1700: If you would like to read at this beautiful service, where we continue to celebrate the gift of Jesus to the world, please let me know. *Claire*

ABBAY CHRISTMAS TREES! THANK YOU to all who helped in putting up the trees and those who came to decorate them at our Christmas Decoration Morning. It was a wonderful morning of fun and laughter. A huge thank you to all who donated towards the cost of our trees. We hope they will be a warm welcome to those who visit the Abbey over the Christmas season. *Suzanne Clarke*



FOR ALL
CHRISTMAS
NOTICES
PLEASE SEE
OUR
MONTHLY
DECEMBER/
JANUARY
BULLETIN



Available at the back of all our churches

Pershore Abbey

LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS



SUNDAY 08 DECEMBER

17:00

St Andrew's Centre

A service of reflection with prayers for Wholeness and Healing.

This is a service for people who would like to find some peace and quiet during this busy Christmas time.



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ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

Canon Claire's usual day off is Friday. Claire will not be available for commitments on this day.

Sunday 8 December - Advent 2

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:30 Café Church (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)

14:30 Private Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:30 Wholeness & Healing Planning meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

17:00 Light in Our Darkness - a service of reflection with prayers for wholeness and healing (*St Andrew's Main*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 9 December

10:00 U3A Ukelele Group (*St Andrew's Main*)

11:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:15 Art & Craft for wellbeing (*St Andrew's Main*)

18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

19:00 Art & Craft for wellbeing (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:00 Advent Compline (*Zoom*)

19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

Tuesday 10 December

09:30 Bells VOE Peal (*St Andrew's*)

09:30 Arrival of Foodbank Staff (*St Andrew's Main*)

11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)

11:00 Funeral service for the late Beryl Baker (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Abbey Women's Fellowship (*St Andrew's Upper*)

Wednesday 11 December

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Bring your own craft & chat (*St Andrew's Upper*)

14:00 Pershore U3A Bridge Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)

15:45 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)

19:00 Vale Harmony (*St Andrew's Main*)

Thursday 12 December

09:45 i-Sing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)

11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)

Friday 13 December

09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)

09:30 Pershore High School Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)

13:30 Orchard Primary School Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:00 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:30 Pershore Town Choir Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 14 December

19:30 Pershore Choral Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 15 December - Advent 3

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with fairtrade stall and with *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Carol Service (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

14:00 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)

18:00 Carols and Christingle Service (*St James', Birlingham*)

