



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 15 December 2024
ADVENT 3

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 [Persshore 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.**

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

We light this candle to remind us of John the Baptist who passed on God's message—
"get ready for your King".

**And three for John the Baptist
He calls us on to sing:
'O prepare the way for Jesus Christ.
He is coming, Christ the King'.**

THE COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3.14-20

A reading from the book of Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

SECOND READING

Philippians 4.4-7

A reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3.7-18

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' 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.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

**If you would like to receive a gluten-free host during communion
please let a sidesperson know**

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.



Persore Abbey

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



CHRISTMAS EVE
15:30
Persore Abbey

JOIN OUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE!
Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle

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Persore Abbey

MIDNIGHT MASS



CHRISTMAS EVE
23:15
Persore Abbey

A special service celebrating the birth of Christ, the Light of the World, in the midst of darkness.

ALL WELCOME

*This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
Persore Abbey Community*

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Website: www.persoreabbey.org.uk

HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 486

VULPIUS

1 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;
brothers and sisters, with one voice
tell all the world he is your choice.
Alleluia.

2 O magnify the Lord, and raise
anthems of joy and holy praise
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.
Alleluia.

5 Christ through all ages is the same:
place the same hope in his great name,
with the same faith his word proclaim.
Alleluia.

3 They with a faith for ever new
followed the King, and round him drew
thousands of faithful hearts and true.
Alleluia.

6 Let love's unconquerable might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the Lord of light.
Alleluia.

4 O Christian women, Christian men,
all the world over, seek again
the Way disciples followed then.
Alleluia.

7 So shall God's will on earth be done,
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
and the whole church at last be one.
Alleluia.

[George Kennedy Allen Bell (1883-1958)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 37

HIGHWOOD

- 1 Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of his people's prayer?
- 2 Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!
- 3 This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
cast at his feet the burden of our care.

Cont'd

- 4 Through life and death, through sorrow and through sinning,
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

[Frederick William Henry Myers (1843-1901)
Music: Richard Runnciman Terry (1865-1938)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 47

BESANCON CAROL

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 People, look east to see at last
hopes fulfilled from ages past:
no in the promise of the morning,
see, a brighter day is dawning,
rich with the visions long foretold,
Prophets' dreams from days of old.</p> <p>3 Now, with the coming of the light,
darkest fears are put to flight;
see how the clouds of gloom are clearing,
blown aside by hope's appearing.
Jesus, the Light of all our days,
comes and sets our hearts ablaze.</p> | <p>2 God reaffirms the gracious call:
words of welcome meant for all;
comfort enough for all our sorrows;
justice shaping new tomorrows.
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,
freed to praise and serve the Lord.</p> <p>4 Born of our race, a child so small -
hail the promised Lord of all!
Nailed to a cross for our salvation,
he shall rule God's new creation.
Lift up your eyes, and look again:
See, he comes in power to reign!</p> |
|---|---|

[Martin Leckebusch (b1962)]

COMMUNION MOTET

O Radiant Dawn—Sir James MacMillian

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light
Sun of Justice: come, shine on those who dwell
In darkness and the shadow of death
Isaiah had prophesied, The people who walked
In darkness have seen a great light upon those
Who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone'.
Amen*

1 May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do or say.

2 May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.

4 May the love of Jesus fill me,
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self abasing —
this is victory.

3 May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

5 May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

[Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 641

ABBOTS LEIGH

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

3 Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
light by night and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding
which he gives them when they pray.

2 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage:
grace which, like the Lord the giver,
never fails from age to age?

4 Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure,
none but Zion's children know.

[John Newton (1725-1807)]

Voluntary: Nun Komm, der heiden heiland—JS Bach
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

15 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

Email: vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Assistant Curate: The Revd Jayne Parker

Email: curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Abbey Wardens: Mrs Sam Andrews 07443904635 Mr Martin Fowler (01386) 552243

The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham

Alveston House, 11, Broad Street, Pershore, WR10 1BB (01386) 552071

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.

BENEFICE OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

The Benefice Office will not be staffed over the Christmas period.

Our office staff will be on annual leave from:

12 noon on Monday 23 December 2024 until Thursday 2 January 2025

All email enquiries and answerphone messages will be dealt with on their return.

If your enquiry is urgent please call the answerphone service on **01386 552071** to access the latest emergency contact details over the Christmas period.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING

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.

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*

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*

MINCE PIES PLEASE! Mince pies required please for the Abbey Carol Service on Sunday 22 December. Please can you bring them (either homemade or bought) along to the morning services (0800 and 1030) on Sunday 22 December or contact Sara Speed on 01386 710776 and we can arrange collection.



Thank you in anticipation, the PASA Team



HELPERS NEEDED FOR MAKING CHRISTINGLES: Would you be willing to help make this year's Christingles? If so, your help would be much appreciated. Please come along to St Andrew's Centre at 1000 on Monday 23 December. Refreshments will be provided. *Thank you, Suzanne*

POST-CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA: Invitation to a Post-Christmas Afternoon Tea on Saturday 28 December from 1400 until 1600 in St Andrew's Centre. Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy tea and company, (bring a friend or neighbour), all are welcome. There is no need to book, but please do notify us if you have any special dietary needs. Please just turn up ready to enjoy fellowship and a continuation of the Christmas celebration! Any questions please don't hesitate to ring Jane Knox on 01386 556981. *Looking forward to seeing you, the PASA Team*

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 WHEELCHAIR: This is currently missing in action! If anyone has a wheelchair they don't need and would like to donate it to the Abbey we would be really grateful. Many thanks. *Claire*

**PLEASE SEE OUR DECEMBER/JANUARY BULLETIN FOR
ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND MORE NOTICES**

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 16 December

09:30 Pinvin C of E Academy Carol Service
(*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

10:30 Pinvin C of E Academy Carol Service
(*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

11:10 Pershore High School Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

13:50 Pershore High School Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Pershore High School Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Compline (*Zoom*)

Tuesday 17 December

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
Sandra Lambert (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Orchard Primary Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)

Wednesday 18 December

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

11:30 Lunch Club (*St Andrew's Main*)

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:30 Abbey Park Y3 Rehearsal
(*Pershore Abbey*)

13:45 Pinvin C of E Academy Carol Service
(*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

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

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

Thursday 19 December

09:30 Pinvin C of E Academy Carol Service
(*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

11:30 Private Hire (*St Andrew's Main*)

12:00 Funeral service for the late
Angela Thompson (*St Mary's, Wick*)

13:30 Abbey Park Federation Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)

Friday 20 December

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

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

19:30 Bells Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 21 December

10:30 PASA Coffee Morning (*St Andrew's Main*)

Sunday 22 December - Advent 4

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Morning Praise with *LIVESTREAM*
(*Pershore Abbey*)

15:00 PASA Refreshments Preparation
(*St Andrew's Main*)

17:00 Christmas Carol Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:00 Carol Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)

