



MORNING PRAISE

PERSHORE ABBEY

Sunday, 22 December 2024

ADVENT 4

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

The 1030 Service from the Abbey will be livestreamed and available to view on our YouTube channel. To find the recording visit www.youtube.com and search for **Pershore Abbey Community** [Pershore Abbey Community on YouTube](#)

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.

Welcome and Introduction

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

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.**

**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'.**

We light this candle to remind us of Mother Mary who said she would obey.

**And four for Mother Mary
'I cannot see the way,
but you promise me a baby
I believe and I obey'.**

Cont'd

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn 85

The Angel Gabriel

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

- 1 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!
- 2 'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

[Basque Carol
Arranged by Charles Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)]

Please sit or kneel for the Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society,
in the misuse of God's creation. God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we
have used your gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them
to us.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

May almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and
deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in
life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for the day

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in
glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great
salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Hebrews 10.5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you
have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-
offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your
will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You
have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings
and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have
come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by
God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all .

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 442 (CHANON) Mary, Blessed Teenage

PRAISE MY SOUL

1. Mary, blessed teenage mother,
With what holy joy you sing!
Humble, yet above all other,
From your womb shall healing spring.
Out of wedlock pregnant found,
Full of grace with blessing crowned.
2. Mother of the homeless stranger
Only outcast recognised,
Point us to the modern manger;
Not a sight for gentle eyes!
Oh the joyful news we tell:
'Even here, Immanuel!'
3. Now, throughout the township ringing,
Now hear the black Madonna cry,
Songs of hope and freedom singing,
Poor and humble lifted high.
Here the spirit finds the womb
For the breaker of the tomb!
4. Holy mother, for the nations
Bring to birth the child divine:
Israel's strength and consolation,
And the hope of Palestine!
All creation reconciled
In the crying of a child!

[Michael Forster (b. 1946)
© 1996 Kevin Mayhew Ltd]

The Gospel – Luke 1.39-45

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Please stand for our Affirmation of Faith

We say together:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

*Please sit or kneel as we offer God our Prayers and Thanks. At the end of each prayer when you hear 'God of love' please respond '**hear our prayer**'. We end by saying together The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn during which the collection will be taken:

Hymn 394

Tell out my Soul

WOODLANDS

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Thanksgiving and Blessing

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy, and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, accompany us in this day's journey. Dawn on our darkness, open our eyes to praise you for your creation and to see the work you set before us today. Take us and use us to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Go in the joy and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: Fugue on the Magnificat—JS Bach

The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000.

*New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included in this service is copyright:
© The Archbishops' Council 2002
CCLI Licence Number 46441*

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 22 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.**

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.

SHEILA GRANTHAM RIP: After many years of poor health we were all saddened to hear that Sheila died on Sunday evening. She was a faithful servant of the Abbey for decades and did so much for both the Abbey and St Andrew's. Her contribution is often spoken about and is very much missed. Funeral arrangements are not confirmed yet but everyone will be welcome to attend Sheila's service. Please pray for Richard, Eli and all those who mourn Sheila's passing. *Claire*

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

22 DECEMBER - UPDATE FROM CLAIRE: Thank you so much for all your care and support as I have recovered from my recent surgery. My consultant has shared with me the good news that my lymph nodes were clear. However, to enable the best possible outcome I am going to need further surgery on 16 January. This will be followed by some more chemotherapy over the next few months. Please continue to pray for me, for all being treated for cancer and all health professionals. *Claire*

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 1700: Sing carols, listen to the Abbey choir sing and enjoy the organ being played. The service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: ***Pershore Abbey Community***

BENEFICE OFFICE OPENING HOURS: The Benefice Office will not be staffed over the Christmas period. Our staff will be on annual leave from 12 noon 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 01386552071 to access emergency contact details over the Christmas period.

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*

PLEASE SEE OUR DECEMBER/JANUARY BULLETIN FOR MORE NOTICES

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 23 December

09:00 Christmas Flowers (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:00 Christingle Preparation (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:30 Bells Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

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

19:00 Compline (*Zoom*)

19:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

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

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

13:30 Private Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:30 Christingle Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

16:00 Christingle Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)

17:00 Christingle & Crib Service

(*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

23:15 Midnight Mass (*Pershore Abbey*)

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:00 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)

10:30 All Age Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)

Thursday 26 December - St Stephen

~

Friday 27 December - St John

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

Saturday 28 December - Holy Innocents

14:00 PASA Afternoon Teas (*St Andrew's Main*)

18:30 Private Party (*St Andrew's Main*)

Sunday 29 December - Christmas 1

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Benefice Sung Eucharist with

LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)



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

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk