



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 29 December 2024
CHRISTMAS 1

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 [Pershore 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 COLLECT

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 2.18-20,26

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

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

SECOND READING

Colossians 3.12-17

A reading from the Letter to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2.41-52

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.



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

HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 64

GOD REST YOU MERRY

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay!
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we had gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

2 From God our heavenly Father
a holy angel came;
the shepherds saw the glory
and heard the voice proclaim
that Christ was born in Bethlehem —
and Jesus is his name:

4 The shepherds at these tidings
rejoiced in heart and mind,
and on the darkened hillside
they left their flocks behind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this holy Child to find:

3 'Fear not,' then said the angel,
'let nothing cause you fright;
to you is born a Saviour
in David's town tonight,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's power and might:'

5 And when to Bethlehem they came,
where Christ the infant lay,
they found him in a manger
where oxen fed on hay;
and there beside her new-born child
his mother knelt to pray:

6 Now to the Lord sing praises,
all people in this place;
with Christian love and fellowship
each other now embrace,
and let this Christmas festival
all bitterness displace: [Refrain]

[Traditional, adapted by Jubilate Hymns
Music: English Traditional Melody
arranged by John Stainer (1840-1901)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 72

ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

[Isaac Watts (1674-1748)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 83

HUMILITY (OXFORD)

1 See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the Lamb of God appears,
promised from eternal years!

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

2 Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!

3 Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

4 'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels, singing "Peace on earth,"
told us of a Saviour's birth.'

[Edward Caswall (1814-1878)
Music: John Goss (1800-1880)]

COMMUNION MOTET

There is no Rose—Sir Benjamin Britten

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluya*

*For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space:
Res miranda*

*By that rose we may well see
That he is God in person three:
Pari forma*

*The angels sung the shepherds to:
"Gloria in excelsis Deo"
Gaudeamus*

*Leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth:
Transeamus*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 76

HERMITAGE

- 1 Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, Love divine;
love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.
- 2 Worship we the Godhead,
love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus:
but wherewith for sacred sign?
- 3 Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
love for plea and gift and sign.

[Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Music: Reginald Owen Morris (1886-1948)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 86

THE FIRST NOWELL

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

- 2 Then wise men from a country far
looked up and saw a guiding star;
they travelled on by night and day
to reach the place where Jesus lay:
- 3 At Bethlehem they entered in,
on bended knee they worshipped him;
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
- 4 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
for Christ has our salvation wrought

[Cornish Carol *adapted by* Michael Perry (1942-1996)
Music: English Traditional Melody *adapted by* John Stainer (1840-1901)]

Voluntary: Prelude in b major—Marcel Dupre
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

29 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.

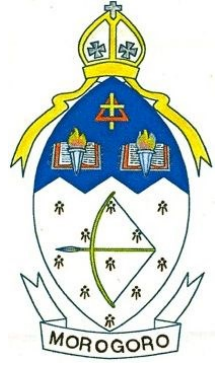
We pray for those in need.

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 15 December. 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. Sheila's funeral will be taking place at the Abbey
at 1300 on Tuesday 14 January 2025 and everyone is welcome to attend. Please pray for
Richard, Eli and all those who mourn Sheila's passing. *Claire*

*Dear Pershore Abbey Congregation,
Many greetings from Berega Hospital, Berega Institute of Health Sciences,
Bishop Chitemo Pre and Primary School and Bishop Gresford Chitemo
Memorial Secondary School. Thank you so much for working together
with us in this ending year 2024. You have been a fabulous Blessing to us
and our rural community at large. We look forward to working together
in the new year which just around the corner.
We wish you all **A MERRY CHRISTIMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025***



Pershore Abbey

EPIPHANY

CAROL SERVICE



SUNDAY 5 JANUARY

17:00

Pershore Abbey

Please join us for a celebratory service of singing and praise

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 29 December - Christmas 1

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

BENEFICE OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

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

Monday 30 December

12:00 Funeral Service for the late

Ross Garratt (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:00 Wake for the late Ross Garratt

(*St Andrew's Main*)

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

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

Tuesday 31 December - New Year's Eve

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

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

18:30 Bells Quarter Peal - Passing of the old
year (*Pershore Abbey*)

Wednesday 01 January - Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion

(*Pershore Abbey*)

Thursday 02 January

11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)

14:15 Intercessory Prayer (*Pershore Abbey*)

Friday 03 January

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:30 Bells Surprise Major Practice (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 04 January

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Sunday 05 January - Epiphany

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

10:30 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

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



PLEASE SEE OUR DECEMBER/JANUARY BULLETIN FOR MORE NOTICES