



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 02 FEBRUARY 2025
CANDELMAS

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

The 1030 Service from the Abbey will be livestreamed and available to view on our YouTube channel. 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 and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ 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

Malachi 3.1-5

A reading from the Prophet Malachi.

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

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

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2.14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able

to help those who are being tested.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-40

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he 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.



HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 113

LOURDES

1 When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

2 The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.

3 They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

4 But Anna and Simeon recognise there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

5 The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.

6 They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

7 The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.

[Elizabeth J Cosnett (b.1936)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 111

VASEY

1. Light of the world, true light divine,
in glory break and splendour shine
upon our nature's night,
upon our nature's night!
The darkness dies before the morn
and God himself a child is born,
the long-awaited Light,
the long-awaited Light.

2. Life of the world, a life laid down,
who chose the cross before the crown
and opened heaven's door,
and opened heaven's door:
he broke the chains of death and hell,
our Saviour Christ, Emmanuel,
who lives for evermore,
who lives for evermore.

3. Lord of all worlds, a manger bed
was room enough to lay your head
when, from your throne above,
when, from your throne above,
you came to set a lost world right,
immortal Life, unfading Light,
and all-prevailing Love,
and all-prevailing Love.

Timothy Dudley Smith (1926-2024)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 110

1 Hail to the Lord who comes,
comes to his temple gate,
not with his angel host,
not in his kingly state:
no shouts proclaim him nigh,
no crowds his coming wait.

2 But borne upon the throne
of Mary's gentle breast,
watched by her duteous love,
in her fond arms at rest;
thus to his Father's house
he comes, the heavenly guest.

3 There Joseph at her side
in reverent wonder stands;
and, filled with holy joy,
old Simeon in his hands
takes up the promised child,
the glory of all lands.

4 Hail to the great First-born,
whose ransom-price they pay,
the Son before all worlds,
the child of man to-day,
that he might ransom us
who still in bondage lay.

5 O Light of all the earth,
thy children wait for thee:
come to thy temples here,
that we, from sin set free,
before thy Father's face
may all presented be.

[John Ellerton (1826—1893)]

COMMUNION MOTET

Nunc Dimittis in f - Dyson

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

[Basil Bridge (b.1927)]

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace:

Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum

Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:

Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 467

MOUNT EPHRAIM

1 The Son of God proclaim,
The Lord of time and space;
The God who bade the light break forth
Now shines in Jesus' face.

3 The lord of life and death
With wond'ring praise we sing;
We break the bread at his command
And name him God and King.

2 He, God's creative word,
The Church's Lord and Head
Here bids us gather as his friends
And share his wine and bread.

4 We take this cup in hope;
For he, who gladly bore
The shameful cross, is risen again
And reigns for evermore.

FINAL HYMN

A&M 396

PASTOR PASTORUM

Please see the communion service booklet for the words.

Organ Voluntary: Mit Fried' und Freud BWV 616- JS Bach
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

02 FEBRUARY 2025

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

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.

REVD CANON MARTIN COOMBS

It is with great sadness that I write to let you know that Martin, who many of you will remember as a former Vicar of Pershore, died this week. Martin was Vicar here from 1977 until 1992, when he moved to the Diocese of Oxford. His life was one of faithful service and he was key to the churches ecumenical agreement in Pershore. Martin died peacefully, on Wednesday morning, in hospital, with his family at his side. We shall share details of his funeral once arrangements have been confirmed. May he rest in peace. *Jayne Parker*

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

2 FEBRUARY - UPDATE FROM CLAIRE: Thank you for all your encouragement as I have recovered from my recent surgery. The next stage of treatment is eight rounds of chemotherapy, which I am having to make sure that I have the best possible outcome. If all goes to plan I should finish that treatment by the end of June. Please continue to pray for me, for all being treated for cancer and all health professionals. *Claire*

BIRLINGHAM BULB SUNDAY: A warm welcome awaits everyone at St James' Church, Birlingham, at 1500 on Sunday 9 February. Claire will be leading the service, supported by James MacDowall Scott, as the organist, and members of the Pershore Abbey Choir. Refreshments will be available in the Village Hall afterwards, with proceeds raised going towards the upkeep of the church. *Adrienne Woodward*



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Everyone is welcome to a special service at Pershore Baptist Church at 1400 on Friday 7 March to mark World Day of Prayer. World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Volunteers are wanted to take part in the readings for the service. Anyone willing to do this is asked to either telephone Angela Gerrard on 01386 556545 or email Secretary at the Baptist Church, Carla Auger at secretary.pershorebaptist@gmail.com

THANK YOU ALMA! The Abbey Mothers' Union held their Annual Meeting on 28 January, when they gave thanks for all that they have achieved in the past year. They also said a huge thank you to Alma as she stood down as Branch Leader. Alma has been a passionate and committed leader, who has made the most of every opportunity to promote the values of Mothers' Union as they seek to serve the needs of children and their families, both close to home as well as overseas. *Claire*



DIOCESE OF WORCESTER RECOGNISES SAM ANDREWS' WORK: A recent article, issued by the Diocese of Worcester, explained how our Children and Families Worker, Sam Andrews' role is funded in part thanks to a grant from the Healthier Churches Fund. Having volunteered at the Abbey in a similar role, now as a paid worker Sam has been able to expand the Abbey's work with children, families and schools in the local area. Sam has extended the programme of events for children and families, where they get the best levels of engagement. To read the Diocese of Worcester's article in full, visit:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/sam-andrews-expands-work-with-children-families-and-schools-in-pershore.php>

PLEASE SEE OUR FEBRUARY BULLETIN FOR MORE NOTICES
AND LENT 2025 DETAILS

ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 02 February - Candlemas

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 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

13:00 Private Party (*St Andrew's Main*)

16:00 Evensong Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

17:00 Evensong (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 03 February

14:30 U3A History Group (*St Andrew's Main*)

18:00 Wick PCC (*Wick*)

18:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Pershore Community Choir
(*St Andrew's Main*)

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 04 February

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

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

13:00 Funeral Service for the late
Arthur Young (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:30 Foodbank Christmas Catchup and Lunch
(*St Andrew's Main*)

18:30 Pershore Civic Society (*St Andrew's Main*)

Wednesday 05 February

10:00 Mid Week Holy Communion
(*Pershore Abbey*)

11:00 Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre Lunch
Club (*St Andrew's Main*)

14:00 Funeral Service for the late
Audrey Jones (*Vale Crematorium*)

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

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

19:15 Abbey Eco Church Group Meeting
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

Thursday 06 February

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

11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)

14:15 Intercessory Prayer (*Pershore Abbey*)

Friday 07 February

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

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

16:00 Funeral Service for the late
Nancy Donald (*Vale Crematorium*)

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

Saturday 08 February

10:00 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)

15:00 Sinfonia of Birmingham Concert
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 09 February—4 Before Lent

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

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

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

15:00 Bulb Sunday Service (*St James', Birlingham*)

17:00 Wholeness & Healing (*Pershore Abbey*)

