



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 05 January 2025**  
**EPIPHANY**

## **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](http://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**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son 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**

**Isaiah 60.1-6**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

### **SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 3.1-12**

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **THE GOSPEL**

### **Matthew 2.1-12**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

## HYMN SHEET

### FIRST HYMN

**A&M 103**

**WAS LEBET**

- 1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.
- 2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.
- 3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.
- 4 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.
- 5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)

### GRADUAL HYMN

**A&M 99**

**CRUGER**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,<br/>great David's greater Son!<br/>hail, in the time appointed,<br/>his reign on earth begun!<br/>He comes to break oppression,<br/>to set the captive free,<br/>to take away transgression,<br/>and rule in equity.</li></ol>                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2 He comes with succour speedy<br/>to those who suffer wrong;<br/>to help the poor and needy,<br/>and bid the weak be strong;<br/>to give them songs for sighing,<br/>their darkness turn to light,<br/>whose souls, condemned and dying,<br/>were precious in his sight.</li></ol> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3 He shall come down like showers<br/>upon the fruitful earth,<br/>and love, joy, hope, like flowers,<br/>spring in his path to birth:<br/>before him on the mountains<br/>shall peace, the herald, go;<br/>and righteousness in fountains<br/>from hill to valley flow.</li></ol> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

*Cont'd*

4 Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing:  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

5 O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever,  
his changeless name of love.

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

**THIRD HYMN**

**A&M 94**

**DIX**

1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

4 Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

5 In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

**COMMUNION MOTET**

Bethlehem Down - Warlock  
*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**A&M 87**

**FRAGRANCE**

1 Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
all for love's sake becamest poor;  
thrones for a manager didst surrender,  
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
all for love's sake becamest poor.

- 2 Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
all for love's sake becamest man;  
stooping so low, but sinners raising  
heavenwards by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
all for love's sake becamest man.
- 3 Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, with us dwelling,  
make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love, beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

Frank Houghton (1894-1972)

**FINAL HYMN**

**A&M 104**

***ST EDMUND***

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,  
manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee address,  
God in man made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana, wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in power divine,  
changing water into wine:  
anthems be to thee address,  
God in man made manifest.
- 3 Manifest in making whole  
palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill:  
anthems be to you address,  
God in man made manifest.
- 4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,  
stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine;  
all will see his glorious sign;  
all will then the trumpet hear,  
all will see the judge appear:  
thou by all wilt be confest,  
God in man made manifest.
- 5 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
mirrored in your holy word;  
may we imitate thee now,  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we like to thee may be  
at thy great Epiphany;  
and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

*Organ Voluntary: Toccata - Suite, Op 5 - Maurice Durufle*  
*The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary*

# PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

## 05 JANUARY 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**

**Email:** vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

**Assistant Curate: The Revd Jayne Parker**

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**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](mailto: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.*



## 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*

**POST-CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA:** Everyone had a wonderful time at the Post-Christmas Afternoon Tea on Saturday 28 December! It was lovely to have time to chat and share a scrumptious tea! Huge thanks to those who helped in any way. *Claire*



**PERSHORE ABBEY AND ST ANDREW'S (PASA) SOCIAL EVENING:** PASA will be hosting a U3A Ukulele and Fish & Chips Evening at 1830 on Saturday 1 February at St Andrew's Centre. Tickets are £12 and are available from Julie Newman (01386 640497) or any PASA member. Soft drinks available, or bring your own alternative. All welcome.



**ABBEY LINK MAGAZINE:** Thank you to all the folk who have contributed articles and ideas for past editions of Abbey Link! Now it's time to prepare the next edition and I would be grateful for fresh input. There's lots of activity I don't know or hear about myself so it would be great if you could share with our audience. This request includes our lovely folk at Pinvin, Wick and Birlingham. If you feel inspired to offer an article, around 400 words is ideal. For guidance, at least two out of four from the list - Church/Christianity, Local, Interesting and about People - qualifies an article. I'd also welcome photos, especially from the villages. You can reach me at [editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk) I look forward to hearing from you! *Christopher Kimberley*



**HOUSE BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:** From the week beginning 20 January 2025 and running for 4 weeks, there will be the opportunity to join a house group and look in more depth at St Luke's Gospel. **Please see below the revised dates and venues:**

Mondays 1000-1130 at the home of Martin and Hilary Fowler

Tuesdays 1030-1200 at the home of Sarah Thomson

Wednesdays 1400-1530 at the home of Peter and Janet Stansbie

And from 31 January - Fridays 1900-2030 at the home of Terry and Jodie Palmer

Spaces are limited so please book fast! Sign up sheets in the Abbey or contact me by emailing [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk) *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 05 January—Epiphany**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 06 January**

AM Sound Engineers (*St Andrew's*)

11:00 Burial of ashes of the late Ann Vint  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

12:00 Christmas Tree Removal (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

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

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Tuesday 07 January**

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

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

14:00 Private Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)

16:00 Funeral of the late Michael Barber  
(*Vale Crematorium*)

19:15 Abbey PCC Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Wednesday 08 January**

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

11:45 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

12:00 PASA Christmas Lunch (*Thai*)

14:00 Bring Your Own Craft And Chat  
(*St Andrew's Main*)

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

14:00 Funeral of the late Dorothy Forster  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

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

19:30 Vale Harmony (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Thursday 09 January**

09:45 I-sing Choir Rehearsal  
(*St Andrew's Main*)

11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)

### **Friday 10 January**

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

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Saturday 11 January**

09:30 Marriage Preparation Course  
(*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Sunday 12 January - Baptism of Christ**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*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*)

17:00 Wholeness and Healing Service  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Wychavon Festival of Brass AGM  
(*St Andrew's Main*)

