



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 12 January 2025
BAPTISM OF CHRIST

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

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 43.1-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

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

SECOND READING

Acts 8.14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3.15-17,21-22

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance. 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.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through 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 102

UNSER HERRSCHER

1 Jesus, come! for we invite you,
Guest and Master, Friend and Lord;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak, and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need or doubting,
hope be born and joy restored.

2 Jesus, come! transform our pleasures,
guide us into paths unknown;
bring your gifts, command your servants,
let us trust in you alone:
though your hand may work in secret,
all shall see what you have done.

3 Jesus, come in new creation,
heaven brought near in power divine;
give your unexpected glory
changing water into wine:
rouse the faith of your disciples —
come, our first and greatest Sign!

4 Jesus, come! surprise our dullness,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe, and live!

Christopher Idle (b.1938)

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

4 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like incense shall arise
with every morning sacrifice.

3 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all the sons of want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

THIRD HYMN**A&M 52****DUNDEE**

1 The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.

2 To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.

5 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.

3 For thou their burden dost remove,
and break the tyrant's rod,
as in the day when Midian fell
before the sword of God.

6 His righteous government and power
shall over all extend;
on judgement and on justice based,
his reign shall have no end.

4 For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.

7 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit One.

John Morrison (1750-1798)

COMMUNION MOTET

Come down O love divine—Harris
Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

1 *Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

2 *O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.*

3 *Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.*

4 *And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
ill he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 263

1. Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

FINAL HYMN

A&M 646

BENSON

1 God is working his purpose out,
as year succeeds to year,
God is working his purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the
glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

2 From utmost east to utmost west,
wherever feet have trod,
by the mouth of many messengers
goes forth the voice of God,
'Give ear to me, ye continents,
ye isles, give ear to me,
that the earth may be filled with the
glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.'

3 What can we do to work God's work,
to prosper and increase
the love of God in all mankind,
the reign of the Prince of peace?
What can we do to hasten the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the
glory of God
as the waters cover the sea?

4 March we forth in the strength of God,
with the banner of Christ unfurled,
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth
may shine throughout the world;
fight we the fight with sorrow and sin,
to set their captives free,
that the earth may be filled with the
glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

5 All we can do is nothing worth
unless God blesses the deed;
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
till God gives life to the seed;
yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841-1919)

Organ Voluntary: Chaconne in f Minor—Johann Pachelbel
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

12 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

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.

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*



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 *Claire*

IONA SERVICE, SUNDAY 26 JANUARY, 1700: This month's Iona service is an opportunity to reflect on reconciliation and how restorative practices, a method used for dealing with conflict, could help. Emily Miller will be leading the service. She is a restorative practices practitioner and a spiritual director in the Worcester Diocese. Everyone is most welcome. If you're unable to join in the Abbey, please email Helen for a Zoom link: iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk

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.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE DROP-IN



1000-1200

Saturday 25 January 2025

Pershore Town Hall



Come together for a reflective space, enjoy a coffee and a chat, and find out more about what Churches Together are doing in Pershore

PLEASE SEE OUR DECEMBER/JANUARY BULLETIN FOR MORE NOTICES

SUMMARY OF ABBEY PCC HELD ON 7 JANUARY 2025

Music

James MacDowall Scott our Director of Music attended to talk about his plans and progress with the choir. He hopes that over the next 3 years we can further expand our excellent choir, continue and expand our organ workshops, hold more organ recitals with some outside organists, hold further Evensong services with visiting choirs adding to our own and develop a junior choir with local schools.

We will also look at the possibility of finding a young organ scholar who can help James with services.

We agreed that we would approach the Friends to purchase some additional new robes for our increasing choir.

James was thanked for his enthusiasm and asked to pass on our thanks to the choir for their excellent work, especially at Christmas.

Foodbank

We heard that the foodbank had been extremely busy over the Christmas period but with amazing support from donors had managed to cope with the extra demand. A representative from the Abbey to join the Steering Group is needed to replace Judy Dale who is standing down. Please let Claire know if you would be interested.

Children and families

We received a report on the work Sam Andrews is doing to grow our mission with children and families.

Fabric

We received the five-year report on the Abbey (known as the Quinquennial Inspection) from our Architect that will give us a basis for major work needed over the next five years and beyond. As you can imagine there is lots that needs doing to maintain our beautiful Abbey.

St Andrew's Centre

We have now received the go-ahead to start work on maintaining and improving the outside area around the old Font. We are now working with our Architect to resolve the design and obtain any approvals.

Our next meeting will be on 11 March.

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.



ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 13 January

09:00 Maintenance (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:30 Yoga Class (*St Andrew's Upper*)

10:00 U3A Ukulele Group (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:30 Birlingham PCC (*Birlingham*)

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

13:30 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

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

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

Tuesday 14 January

09:30 Bells - Vale of Evesham Peals (*St Andrew's*)

09:20 Foodbank Steering Group (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

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

13:00 Funeral of the late Sheila Grantham
(*Pershore Abbey*)

14:30 Private Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

13:30 Private Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)

Wednesday 15 January

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

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

14:00 Abbey Mission Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)

15:45 V&W (*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

Thursday 16 January

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

13:00 Maintenance (*St Andrew's*)

Friday 17 January

ALL DAY Maintenance

(*Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's*)

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

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

Saturday 18 January

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

Sunday 19 January - Epiphany 2

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

10:30 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

