



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

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 Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Exodus 34.29-35

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2

A reading from the Second letter to the Corinthians.

Since we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the

glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

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

THE GOSPEL

Luke 9.28-43a

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' Peter did not know what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And the disciples kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God. Everyone was amazed at all that he was doing.

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 603

LAUS DEO (REDHEAD NO.46)

1 Bright the vision that delighted
once the sight of Judah's seer;
sweet the countless tongues united
to entrance the prophet's ear.

2 Round the Lord in glory seated
cherubim and seraphim
filled his temple, and repeated
each to each the alternate hymn:

3 'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

4 Heaven is still with glory ringing,
earth takes up the angels' cry,
'Holy, holy, holy,' singing,
'Lord of hosts, the Lord most high.'

5 With his seraph train before him,
with his holy church below,
thus unite we to adore him,
bid we thus our anthem flow:

6 'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

[Richard Mant (1776-1848)
Music: Richard Redhead (1820-1901)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 280

1 Jesus, restore to us again
the gospel of your holy name,
that comes with power, not words alone,
owned, signed and sealed from heaven's throne.
Spirit and word in one agreed;
the promise to the power wed.

*The word is near, here in our mouths
and in our hearts, the word of faith:
proclaim it on the Spirit's breath: Jesus!*

2 Your word, O Lord, eternal stands,
fixed and unchanging in the heavens.
The world made flesh, to earth come down
to heal our world with nail-pierced hands.
Among us here you lived and breathed,
you are the message we received.

3 Spirit of truth, lead us, we pray
into all truth as we obey.
And as God's will we gladly choose,
your ancient powers again will prove
Christ's teaching truly comes from God,
he is indeed the living Word.

Cont'd

4 Upon the heights of this great land
with Moses and Elijah stand.
Reveal your glory once again,
show us your face, declare your name.
Prophets and Law, in you complete
where promises and power meet.

5 Grant us in this decisive hour
to know the Scriptures and the power:
the knowledge in experience proved,
the power that moves and works by love.
May word and works join hands as one,
the word go forth, the Spirit come.

[Graham Kendrick (b.1950)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 766

PRAISE MY SOUL

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.

3 Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.

4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the high eternal One.

5 Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.

[Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)]

Music: John Goss (1800-1880) & Leonard James Blake (1906-1989)

COMMUNION MOTET

Ave Verum—WA Mozart

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine:
Vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine:
Cuius latus perforatum
Unda fluxit et sanguine:
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine*

*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary:
Having truly suffered, and sacrificed
on the cross for mankind:
From thy pierced side,
water and blood flowed:
Be for us a sweet foretaste
in the trial of death!*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 747

- 1 O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.
- 2 You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life and death, you are.
- 3 Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future too.
- 4 Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.
- 5 For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

[Bernadette Farrell (b1957)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 769

GOPSAL

- 1 Rejoice! The Lord is King,
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

- 2 Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:

- 3 His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:

Cont'd

4 He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:

5 Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:

[Charles Wesley (1707-1788)]

Organ Voluntary: Litanies—Jehan Alain
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

02 MARCH 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 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.

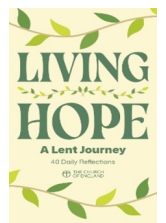
REVD CANON MARTIN COOMBS

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Martin, who many of you will remember as a former Vicar of Pershore. He died on Wednesday 29 January, in hospital, with his family at his side. 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. His funeral will take place on **Friday 7 March** at 1430 at St Mary & St John Church, on the Cowley Road in Oxford. All are welcome to attend. We share our love and prayers with Margaret, Daniel, Anna and the rest of the family.

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

FEBRUARY - UPDATE FROM CLAIRE: Thank you all for your continued prayers and good wishes. I have now started my post-surgery chemotherapy and am grateful that side effects seem to be minimal at the moment. I have had confirmation that my treatment should be finished by the end of June. Please continue to pray for me, for all being treated for cancer and all health professionals. *Claire*

LIVING HOPE IN LENT: The Church of England's theme for Lent 2025 is Living Hope. Booklets with daily reflections, Bible readings and actions to put down roots of hope are available via their website ([Living Hope](#)) and there are a few hardcopies available from the Abbey Office priced £2.00 each.



ABBEY FLOWER GUILD AGM: The AGM will be held on Monday 3 March in St. Andrew's Main Hall at 1030. Enquiries and apologies to the Secretary, Mary Cope on 01386 554773.



PALM CROSSES NEEDED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY: Please leave your old palm crosses in the marked box at the back of Pershore Abbey, as we need to recreate the ash in the traditional way for this year's Ash Wednesday service on the 5 March at Pershore Abbey.

PREPARATION OF THE NEW ELECTORAL ROLL: The Electoral Roll has to be completely revised every six years. The Roll is a way of confirming your commitment to the Church, and opens the way to a greater involvement. From PCC to Deanery Synod and to the opportunity to attend the APCM to elect officers and to ask questions. Forms will be available on the Abbey website and in the Abbey. You can also contact Bill Newman who is the Electoral Roll officer on 01386 640497.

SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL: £204.00 has been sent off to Christian Aid for this Appeal (from the plate collection in the Abbey and donations at the Breakfast fundraiser last week). Many thanks for all who contributed and please still donate in Sunday's collection in an envelope marked Sudan Crisis Appeal. *Sarah Thomson*

PLEASE SEE OUR MARCH BULLETIN FOR LENT & EASTER 2025 DETAILS

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 02 March - Next before Lent

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

10:30 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 March

10:30 Flower Guild AGM (*St Andrew's Main*)

11:00 Evesham U3A Private Tour
(*Pershore Abbey*)

14:30 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 04 March - Shrove Tuesday

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

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

Wednesday 05 March - Ash Wednesday

08:30 Matins and Eucharist with imposition
of Ashes (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

12:00 Funeral of the late Stewart Speake
(*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

19:30 Sung Eucharist with imposition of
Ashes (*Pershore Abbey*)

Thursday 06 March

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

11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)

14:15 Intercessory Prayer (*Pershore Abbey*)

Friday 07 March

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

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Pershore Civic Society AGM
(*St Andrew's Main*)

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

Saturday 08 March

09:30 Marriage Preparation Course
(*St Andrews Main & Upper*)

Sunday 09 March - Lent 1

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 & Healing (*Pershore Abbey*)

