



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 09 FEBRUARY 2025
4 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

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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 6.1-8

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

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

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

A reading from the First letter to the Corinthians.

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was

raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 5.1-11

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; 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.



HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 588

SAGINA

- 1 And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
- 2 'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more.
- 3 He left his Father's throne above —
so free, so infinite his grace —
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me!
- 4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
- 5 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 621

REPTON

- 1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.
- 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.
- 3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!
- 4 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.
- 5 Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Daniel L. Schutte (b.1947)

COMMUNION MOTET

Clare Benediction—Rutter

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*May the Lord show his mercy upon you;
may the light of his presence be your guide:
May he guard you and uphold you;
may his spirit be ever by your side.*

*May the Lord's loving kindness surround you;
keep you safe as you journey on your way:
May he lead you and inspire you
as he grants you the gift of each new day.*

*When you sleep may his angels watch over you;
when you wake may he fill you with his grace:
May you love him and serve him all your days
Then in heaven may you see his face.*

*May he bless all your loved ones and cherish them;
Ev'ry friend, ev'ry stranger at your door:
In the name of his Son our Saviour Christ
May God bless you now and evermore*

COMMUNION HYMN

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

Cont'd

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
Give thanks
We give thanks to You oh Lord
We give thanks

Henry Smith (b.1952)

FINAL HYMN

A&M 795

WOLVERCOTE

1. The kingdom is upon you!
The voice of Jesus cries,
Fulfilling with its message
The wisdom of the wise;
It lightens with fresh insight
The striving human mind,
Creating new dimensions
Of faith for all to find.

2 'God's kingdom is upon you!'
The message sounds today,
It summons every pilgrim
To take the questing way,
With eyes intent on Jesus,
Our leader and our friend,
Who trod faith's road before us,
And trod it to the end.

3 The kingdom is upon us!
Stirred by the Spirit's breath,
We glory in its freedom
From emptiness and death;
We celebrate its purpose,
Its mission and its goal,
Alive with the conviction
That Christ can make us whole.

Robert Willis (1947-2024)

Organ Voluntary: Trio Sonata in C major - JS Bach
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

09 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

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 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. We share our love and prayers with Margaret, Daniel, Anna and the
rest of the family. *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*

BIRTHDAY THANKS: A huge thank you to everyone who made my special day really special! Thank you to Hilary for making the delicious cake. And thank you for the many cards and gifts I received, and the kind words shared. I really am truly blessed to be part of such an amazing Church family! *Claire*



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. Volunteers are wanted to take part in the readings for the service. Anyone willing to do this is asked to telephone Angela Gerrard on 01386 556545 or email the Secretary at the Baptist Church, Carla Auger, at secretary.pershorebaptist@gmail.com

THANK YOU FROM PASA: Thank you to all who supported last Saturday's supper and Ukulele evening. Everyone said it was a very enjoyable event. Good too to invite our local U3A band to entertain us. Thanks for your generosity supporting the raffle. £125 was made with a donation going to the Acorns Charity. *The PASA team.*

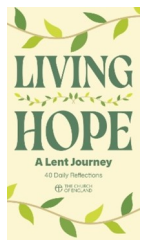


WILDFLOWER SEEDS FOR SALE: Packets of donated wildflower seeds are available at the Abbey bookstall. They are 50p each, with money raised going to the Abbey. There are 27 different varieties from aquilegia to wallflowers!

SALZWEDEL VISITORS ARRIVING MAY 29TH!: A planning meeting for the forthcoming visit of 10 members from our twin parish in Germany will be held at 1000 on Monday 17 February 2025 at 27 Bridge Street, Pershore. All are welcome. Please join us as we prepare to welcome our visitors. Topics for discussion will include fundraising, the programme and accommodation. Our visits to Salzwedel and the return visits by our friends have served over the years to strengthen the bonds of mutual support.

SAVE THE DATE: You are invited to attend a Carnival Planning Meeting at St Andrew's Centre at 1900 on Thursday 20 February. More details available in next week's bulletin.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND LIVING HOPE: The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is Living Hope. Booklets with 40 daily reflections, Bible readings and actions to put down deep roots of hope this Lent are available via the Church of England's website ([Living Hope](#)) and there is a limited supply of hardcopies are available from the Abbey Office priced £2.00 each.



IONA SERVICE SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 1700: Refugees is the focus of the next service in Pershore Abbey. Everyone is welcome to this informal service with thoughtful Iona Community worship materials and time to hear about what's happening in Pershore to support recently arrived refugees. If you would like to join by Zoom, please email Helen on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk

PLEASE SEE OUR FEBRUARY BULLETIN FOR 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 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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 10 February

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday 11 February

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

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

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

14:30 Abbey Women's Fellowship
(*St Andrew's Main*)

Wednesday 12 February

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday 13 February

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

11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

Friday 14 February

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

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 15 February

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

Sunday 16 February—3 Before Lent

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 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

12:45 Private Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)

16:30 Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra
Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

