



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 16 February 2025
3 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 God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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

Jeremiah 17.5-10

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse – who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15.12-20

A reading from the First letter to the Corinthians.

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If

Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.
For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 6.17-26

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where 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 584

MICHAEL

- 1 All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.
- 2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.
- 3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.
- 4 Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.
- 5 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 421

ALL FOR JESUS

- 1 All for Jesus, all for Jesus,
this our song shall ever be;
for we have no hope, nor Saviour,
if we have not hope in thee.
- 2 All for Jesus, thou wilt give us
strength to serve thee, hour by hour;
none can move us from thy presence
while we trust thy love and power.
- 3 All for Jesus, at thine altar
thou wilt give us sweet content;
there, dear Lord, we shall receive thee
in the solemn sacrament.
- 4 All for Jesus, thou hast loved us;
all for Jesus, thou hast died;
all for Jesus, thou art with us;
all for Jesus crucified.
- 5 All for Jesus, all for Jesus,
this the church's song must be,
till, at last, we all are gathered,
one in love and one in thee.

W J Sparrow-Simpson (1859-1952)

- 1 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Jesu, true and living bread.
- 2 Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.
- 3 Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia,
we in worship join with them.
- 4 Paschal Lamb! thine offering finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.
- 5 Life-imparting heavenly manna,
stricken rock, with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia, alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified!

George Hugh Bourne (1840-1952)

COMMUNION MOTET

O taste and see by Vaughan Williams
Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*O taste and see how gracious the Lord is,
blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.*

*O taste and see, and see, taste and see how gracious the Lord is,
blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.*

*O taste and see how gracious the Lord is,
blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.*

COMMUNION HYMN**A&M 489****THE SERVANT KING**

- 1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.
- 2 There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

- 3 Come, see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.
- 4 So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

FINAL HYMN**A&M 715****WOLVERCOTE**

- 1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
- 2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
- 3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
- 4 Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
- 5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

Organ Voluntary: Toccata, Adagio and fugue in c - 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

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.

REVD CANON MARTIN COOMBS

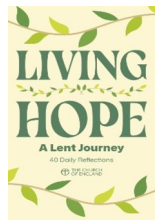
It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Martin, who many of you will
remember as a former Vicar of Pershore. He died on Wednesday 29 January, in
hospital, with his family at his side. Martin was Vicar here from 1977 until 1992,
when he moved to the Diocese of Oxford. His life was one of faithful 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*

SALZWEDEL VISITORS ARRIVING MAY 29!: 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** 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.

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.



IONA SERVICE SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 1700, PERSHORE ABBEY: Refugees is the focus of the next service. During the service, there will be time to learn how people can claim asylum in the UK as they flee from persecution and death. A volunteer from Pershore Welcomes Refugees will explain how recently arrived refugees are being supported in Pershore. Everyone is very welcome. If you would like to join by Zoom, please email Helen on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk



PERSHORE CARNIVAL 2025: For anyone looking for fun, excitement and a true feeling of teamwork, then look no further as once again we will be looking to enter a walking float on behalf of Pershore Abbey. The carnival is on the Bank Holiday Monday 26 May and this year's theme is Children's TV shows past & present. If you would like to participate either as part of the

float or helping with the preparation all help would be gratefully received. There will be a Carnival Planning Meeting at St Andrew's Centre at 1900 on **Thursday 20 February** - everyone is welcome. For more details please contact Beth Seale on 07824446143.

CONCERT FOR FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND: Please join supporters of Friends of the Holy Land for an evening of musical enjoyment at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham on 27 February at 1900. There will also be a short talk by Fr Mamdouh Abusada (Director of the School of Joy in Bethlehem) during the concert, giving you the opportunity to hear first-hand about life in the West Bank currently. Tickets and further details can be found at www.eventbrite.co.uk or [here](#).



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.

PLEASE SEE OUR FEBRUARY BULLETIN FOR LENT 2025 DETAILS

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

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 (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 17 February

09:00 Electrical Inspection

(*Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's*)

13:15 Art & Craft for Wellbeing

(*St Andrew's Main*)

16:00 PUC AGM (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

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

Tuesday 18 February

09:00 Electrical Inspection (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

10:00 Private Meeting (*Vicar's Vestry*)

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

19:00 Benefice Churchwardens' Meeting (*Zoom*)

Wednesday 19 February

09:00 Electrical Inspection (*St Andrew's*)

10:00 Mid Week Holy Communion

(*Pershore Abbey*)

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

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

Thursday 20 February

09:00 Electrical Inspection (*St Andrew's*)

11:00 Funeral of the late Fred Carter

(*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Pershore Abbey Carnival Planning
Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

Friday 21 February

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

14:00 Funeral of the late Dennis Gubbins
(*Cemetery Chapel*)

16:00 Set-Up for Volunteer Coffee Morning
(*St Andrew's Main*)

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

Saturday 22 February

10:00 Volunteer Coffee Morning
(*St Andrew's Main*)

Sunday 23 February - 2 Before Lent

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Morning Praise with *LIVESTREAM*
(*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)

14:30 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)

14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)

17:00 Iona Worship Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

