



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 09 March 2025**  
**LENT 1**

## **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**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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**

#### **Deuteronomy 26.1-11**

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people, saying: When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

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

## **SECOND READING**

### **Romans 10.8b-13**

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

What does scripture say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **Luke 4.1-13**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; 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 128**

***ABERYSTWYTH***

- 1 Jesu, lover of my soul,  
let me to thy bosom fly,  
while the nearer waters roll,  
while the tempest still is high:  
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
till the storm of life is past;  
safe into the haven guide,  
O receive my soul at last.
- 2 Other refuge have I none,  
hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
leave, ah, leave me not alone,  
still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed,  
all my help from thee I bring;  
cover my defenceless head  
with the shadow of thy wing.
- 3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want;  
more than all in thee I find;  
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,  
heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Just and holy is thy name,  
I am all unrighteousness;  
false and full of sin I am,  
thou art full of truth and grace.
- 4 Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
grace to cover all my sin;  
let the healing streams abound,  
make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art:  
freely let me take of thee,  
spring thou up within my heart,  
rise to all eternity.

[Charles Wesley (1707-1788)]

### GRADUAL HYMN

**A&M 729**

***WESTMINSTER***

- 1 My God, how wonderful thou art,  
thy majesty how bright,  
how beautiful thy mercy-seat  
In depths of burning light!
- 2 How dread are thine eternal years,  
O everlasting Lord,  
by prostrate spirits day and night  
incessantly adored!
- 3 How wonderful, how beautiful,  
the sight of thee must be,  
thine endless wisdom, boundless power,  
and awful purity!
- 4 O how I fear thee, living God,  
with deepest, tenderest fears,  
and worship thee with trembling hope  
and penitential tears!
- 5 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,  
almighty as thou art,  
for thou hast stooped to ask of me  
the love of my poor heart.
- 6 No earthly father loves like thee,  
no mother, e'er so mild,  
bears and forbears as thou hast done  
with me, thy sinful child.
- 7 Father of Jesus, love's reward,  
what rapture will it be,  
prostrate before thy throne to lie  
and gaze and gaze on thee!

[Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)]

**THIRD HYMN**

**A&M 121**

**AUS DER TIEFE (HEINLEIN)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Forty days and forty nights<br>thou wast fasting in the wild;<br>forty days and forty nights<br>tempted, and yet undefiled:           | 2 Sunbeams scorching all the day;<br>chilly dewdrops nightly shed;<br>prowling beasts about thy way;<br>stones thy pillow, earth thy bed. |
| 3 Shall not we thy sorrows share,<br>and from earthly joys abstain,<br>fasting with unceasing prayer,<br>glad with thee to suffer pain? | 4 And if Satan, vexing sore,<br>flesh or spirit should assail,<br>thou, his vanquisher before,<br>grant we may not faint nor fail.        |
| 5 So shall we have peace divine;<br>holier gladness ours shall be;<br>round us too shall angels shine,<br>such as ministered to thee.   | 6 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,<br>ever constant by thy side;<br>that with thee we may appear<br>at the eternal Eastertide.              |

[George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870)  
And Francis Pott (1832-1909)]

**COMMUNION MOTET**

**The tree of life — Sir John Rutter**

*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit, and always green;  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

I'm wearied with my former toil,  
Here I shall sit and rest awhile;  
Under the shadow I will be  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.  
*The tree of life . . .*

This beauty doth all things excel;  
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.  
*The tree of life . .*

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.  
*The tree of life . . .*

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought;  
I missed for all, but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

## COMMUNION HYMN

## A&M 700

1. King of Kings, majesty,  
God of heaven living in me.  
Gentle Saviour, closest Friend,  
Strong Deliverer, Beginning and End,  
All within me falls at your throne.

*Your majesty, I can but bow;  
I lay my all before you now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve,  
I live to serve your majesty.*

2. Earth and Heaven worship you,  
Love eternal, faithful and true,  
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls,  
Brought this sinner near to your throne;  
All within me cries out in praise.

*Your majesty, I can but bow;  
I lay my all before you now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve,  
I live to serve your majesty.  
I live to serve your majesty.*

[Jarrod Cooper (b.1978)]

## FINAL HYMN

## A&M 678

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,  
he is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

3. There in the ground his body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory  
sin's curse has lost it grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine -  
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

2. In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones he came to save:  
till on that cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied -  
for every sin on him was laid;  
here in the death of Christ I live.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
can ever pluck me from his hand;  
till he returns or calls me home,  
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend (b. 1963)  
And Keith Getty (b.1974)]

*Organ Voluntary: Concerto in a Minor—JS Bach / Antonio Vivaldi  
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary*

# PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

## 09 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](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.

## 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 at the Abbey Bookstall, priced £2.00. Copies are also available via The Church of England's website: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)



**PREPARATION OF THE ABBEY'S NEW ELECTORAL ROLL:** The Abbey's 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 Abbey's Electoral Roll officer on 01386 640497. Other parishes will each have their own Electoral Roll officer to contact.

**BISHOP MARTIN'S LENT MESSAGE:** In this year's Lent Message from Bishop Martin, he encourages us to use Lent as a time to reset and refocus on God through prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness. To read Bishop Martin's Lent Message in full, visit: [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)



**PRAYING FOR OUR NEW BISHOP:** The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) will soon be shortlisting and interviewing candidates to become the next Bishop of Worcester. During this time, please pray! Shortlisting takes place on 9 May and the interviews 12 and 13 June. On all three dates the Diocese of Worcester would like people to pick a time slot when they will commit to praying for the CNC and the candidates. There will be a dedicated prayer space in Worcester Cathedral on the June dates, but you could just pray by yourself at home. If you would like to pray at the Cathedral, visit: [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk) In the meantime, while we are in vacancy, please continue to use our general diocesan prayer: *Heavenly Father, we thank you for those you call to faithfully lead and shepherd your church. As we seek a new Bishop of Worcester, help us to be attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance, give us heavenly wisdom, and bless our diocese that we might enter a new season of growth and fruitfulness as Kingdom People. For your glory and in the name of Christ. Amen.*

PLEASE SEE OUR MARCH BULLETIN FOR LENT SERVICE INFORMATION & EASTER SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

## ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

### **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*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 10 March**

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

09:30 Fire Extinguisher Testing  
(*Pershore Abbey & St Andrew's*)

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

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

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*)

19:00 Compline on Zoom (*Zoom*)

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

### **Tuesday 11 March**

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

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

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

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

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

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

19:00 PCC Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Wednesday 12 March**

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

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

11:00 Abbey Meeting (*Choir Vestry*)

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

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

19:30 Lent Talks (*Pershore Library*)

### **Thursday 13 March**

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

11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)

12:00 Lenten Lunches (*Holy Redeemer*)

14:30 Mothers' Union - Wave of Prayer Service  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Friday 14 March**

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

10:00 Ukrainian Women's Empowerment  
Network (*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

### **Saturday 15 March**

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

11:00 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Upper*)

14:30 Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra  
Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Sunday 16 March - Lent 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*)

14:30 Baptism Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

