



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 16 March 2025
LENT 2

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 [Persnore 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, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 15.1-12,17-18

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram,

saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

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

SECOND READING

Philippians 3.17-4.1

A reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

THE GOSPEL

Luke 13.31-35

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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 595

SLANE

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
 be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
 both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

- 2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
 be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
 be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

- 3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
 be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
 O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

- 4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
 be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
 O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

- 5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
 O grant me its joys after victory is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*[Irish, 8th Century
Translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)]*

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 683

EWING

- 1 Jerusalem the golden,
 with milk and honey blest,
beneath thy contemplation
 sink heart and voice opprest.
I know not, O I know not
 what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory,
 what bliss beyond compare.

Cont'd

2 They stand, those halls of Sion,
conjubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel,
and all the martyr throng;
the Prince is ever with them,
the daylight is serene,
the pastures of the blessed
are decked in glorious sheen.

3 There is the throne of David;
and there, from care released,
the shout of them that triumph,
the song of them that feast;
and they, who with their leader
have conquered in the fight,
for ever and for ever
are clad in robes of white.

[Bernard of Cluny (12th Century)
Translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1886)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 763

GERONTIUS

1 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

2 O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

3 O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;

4 And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

5 O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;

6 And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

7 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

[John Neale Newman (1801-1890)]

COMMUNION MOTET

Turn thy face from my sins - Thomas Attwood *Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

Turn thy face from my sins,
and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart,
O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 598

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD

1 Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
a great High Priest, whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

2 When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look, and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

3 Behold him there! the risen Lamb!
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with my Lord, I cannot die;
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.

[Charitie Lees De Chenez (1841-1923)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 321

LOVE UNKNOWN

1 Thou art the Christ, O Lord,
the Son of God most high:
for ever be adored
that name in earth and sky,
in which, though mortal strength may fail,
the saints of God at last prevail.

3 Thrice fallen, thrice restored,
the bitter lesson learnt,
that heart for thee, O Lord,
with triple ardour burnt.
The cross he took he laid not down
until he grasped the martyr's crown.

2 O surely he was blest
with blessedness unpriced,
who, taught of God, confessed
the Godhead in the Christ;
for of thy church, Lord, thou didst own
thy saint a true foundation-stone.

4 O bright triumphant faith,
O courage void of fears,
O love most strong in death,
O penitential tears!
By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,
and make us go where thou shalt call.

[William Washam How (1823-1867)]

Organ Voluntary: Passacaglia in C minor - JS Bach
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

16 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.

PERSHORE ABBEY PCC REPORT

At our meeting on the 11th March, the PCC discussed a wide range of topics, including:

- Health & Safety policy documents were reviewed and approved. A copy of the Abbey H&S policy is available to view in the Flower Vestry, and the St Andrew's version is in the kitchen. The Benefice Office has a copy of both policies.
- Following on from our previous meeting, when James MacDowall-Scott (*Director of Music*) shared his ideas for musical provision at both the Abbey and in the community, the Mission Group (*Vicar, Sam Andrews, Martin Fowler, Peter Stansbie and Suzanne Clarke*) invited him to join the Group in making plans for his vision for musical outreach.
- Sam Andrews (*Children & Families Worker*) gave an encouraging report of the many interesting activities for children and families. The Babies & Toddlers Group continues to thrive and, over the past 3 months, Café Church has attracted between

4 and 10 children, plus 15 – 18 adults. Children from Stepping Stones Nursery visit the Abbey most Wednesday mornings, often bringing biscuits & cakes for 1000 Service refreshments. Plans are underway for another 'God and the Big Bang' workshop and a possible iSingPop workshop.

- As at every meeting, Suzanne Clarke (*Safeguarding Officer*) reviewed safeguarding procedures to ensure that we comply with the relevant regulations.
- Preparations for the APCM to be held on 6th May are well underway. Application forms for the new Electoral Roll are available. The Annual Accounts are being reviewed by the Independent Examiner. Two members of the PCC will be standing down – should you be interested in joining the PCC, please contact Sara Speed (*PCC Secretary*).

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*

PERSHORE ABBEY IONA WORSHIP: Please join this month's Iona Worship for Evening Prayers on Sunday 23 March at 1700. The theme is based on Mother's Day and 'mothering' in today's world. All welcome. Bring a photo of your Mother or carer if you are comfortable doing so. *Shirley Lynch*

ORGAN RECITAL 23 MARCH & 30 MARCH 1400-1500: Pershore Abbey hosts the Bath Abbey connection! Our Director of Music, James MacDowall-Scott and Gavin Phelps have worked at Bath Abbey as organists on the world famous Klais organ. It is a real pleasure to welcome Gavin, a former Head Chorister at Bath Abbey to make his debut at Pershore Abbey on the Ruffatti Organ. Please do join us from 1400-1500 for some superb music from both James and Gavin.

PREPARATION OF THE ABBEY'S NEW ELECTORAL ROLL: The Abbey's Electoral Roll has to be completely **renewed** every six years. If you want to be on the Roll you must sign up **now**, even if you have been on the Roll before. 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.

DON'T FORGET ABBEY MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIE MAKING!: Friday 28 from 1300 at Suzanne Clarke's home. Donations of daffodils and foliage or monetary donations to buy flowers welcome. Contact Suzanne for more details 01386 553293.



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

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 17 March

10:00 Salzwedel Planning Meeting
(*27 Bridge Street, Pershore*)

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 Compline on Zoom (*Zoom*)

19:15 Abbey Sidespeople and Sunday
Welcomers' Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 18 March

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

10:15 Signage Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

18:00 Wick PCC (*Wick*)

19:30 Pinvin PCC (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

Wednesday 19 March

10:00 Midweek 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*)

19:30 Lent Talks (*Pershore Library*)

Thursday 20 March

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

12:00 Lenten Lunches (*Pershore Baptist Church*)

Friday 21 March

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

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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 22 March

10:00 Choir Social Event (*St Andrew's Main*)

16:30 Classical Guitar Recital (*St Andrew's Main*)

Sunday 23 March - Lent 3

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

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

14:00 Organ Recital (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

