



MORNING PRAISE

PERSHORE ABBEY

Sunday, 23 March 2025

LENT 3

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

The 1030 Service from the Abbey will be livestreamed and available to view on our YouTube channel. To find the recording visit www.youtube.com and search for **Pershore Abbey Community** [Pershore Abbey Community on YouTube](#)

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.

Welcome and Introduction

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you.**

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn 116

Be thou my guardian and my guide

ABRIDGE

1 Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.

2 The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.

3 And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.

4 Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.

[Issac Williams (1802-1865)]

Please sit or kneel for the Prayers of Penitence

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation.

God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

May almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for the day

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Isaiah 55.1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that

he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 90 *Iona Book*

God on earth

WALY WALY

1 When God Almighty came to earth,
he took the pain of Jesus' birth;
he took the flight of refugee
and whispered, 'Humbly follow me.'

3 When God Almighty walked the street,
the critic's curse he had to meet;
the cynic's smile he had to see
and whispered, 'Humbly follow me.'

5 When God Almighty took his place
to save the fallen human race
he took it boldly on a tree
and whispered, 'Humbly follow me.'

2 When God Almighty went to work,
carpenter's sweat he did not shirk;
profit and loss he did not flee,
but whispered, 'Humbly follow me.'

4 When God Almighty met his folk,
of peace and truth he gladly spoke
to set the slave and tyrant free,
and whispered, 'Humbly follow me.'

6 When God Almighty comes again
he'll meet us incognito then;
and though no words may voice his plea,
he'll whisper, 'Are you following me?'

Known Unknowns (John L Bell & Graham Maule/Wild Goose Resource Group)

The Gospel – Luke 13.1-9

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Please stand for our Affirmation of Faith

We say together:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Peace

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

*Please sit or kneel as we offer God our Prayers and Thanks. At the end of each prayer when you hear 'God of love' please respond '**hear our prayer**'. We end by saying together The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn during which the collection will be taken:

Hymn 772

Rock of ages

PETRA

1 Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure:
cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2 Not the labours of my hands
can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears for ever flow,
all for sin could not atone:
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyelids close in death,
when I soar through tracts unknown,
see thee on thy judgement throne;
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

[Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778)
Music: Richard Redhead (1820-1901)]

Thanksgiving and Blessing

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength to our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord . **Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Go in the joy and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: Thema met Variates - Hendrick Andriessen

The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

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PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 23 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

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 AND UKRAINE. 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.

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.



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.

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.



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. 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Sign up sheets will be at the back of the Abbey for those who would like to have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday and those who would like to read at the service of Tenebrae. There will also be a rota for those who would like to keep the watch until midnight. Those who would like to be involved in the dramatised reading of the Passion on Good Friday can also sign up. Thank you in advance to all who will volunteer. *Claire*



FRIENDS OF SALZWEDEL SAVE THE DATES 29 MAY—01 JUNE: Ten of our friends from Salzwedel's Katherinenkirche will be spending three days with us at the end of May. Opportunities to invite them into our homes for hospitality are encouraged. There are so many Biblical parallels. Opportunities to join our guests as we show them Tewkesbury Abbey, Ripple Church and Coventry Cathedral are also available. In between, we will be worshipping, playing skittles and watching football from Munich. All Pershore Benefice folk are invited to participate. If you would like to contribute to the costs, that would also be very welcome. Dates for a return visit to Germany in 2026 will be announced soon. Please contact Michael Hodges at mh@broadwayplc.com or 01386 552417 or Claire at the Benefice Office to find out more.



TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC SERVICE 06 APRIL 1600 AT PERSHORE ABBEY: The Town Council Civic Service is an opportunity for the town to gather to give thanks and pray for the work of the Mayor and Town Council. Please come and support Pershore Mayor, Cllr Richard Grantham, and all those who serve our town. There will be no Evensong on this Sunday.

SAVE THE DATE!: On Tuesday 13 May at 7pm you are invited to the Cathedral for a Service of Celebration of the Life of Smaller Churches. Smaller Churches are an important part of our diocese, and only 'smaller' when separate. This will be a great opportunity to come together at the invitation of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, Bishop Martin and Alison Maddocks, Dean of Smaller Churches, to witness to our strength and delight in being together. It will also be an opportunity to say farewell to Alison as she retires from her Smaller Churches role. We hope to see lots there, everyone welcome.

FIVE ALIVE ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED: An Administrator is required for a busy group of seven churches between Pershore and Evesham. This is a part-time post of 21.5 hours a month. For a role description please email: fmwcc01@gmail.com; To apply please send your CV and cover letter to Sarah Dangerfield revsarahdangerfield@outlook.com; stating how your knowledge, skills and experience match our requirements laid out in the person specification. Closing date will be 07 April.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY 30 MARCH: As we get excited for the start of Spring, don't forget Sunday 30 March, the clocks *SPRING FORWARD* by one hour at 0100.



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 23 March - Lent 3

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*)

14:00 Organ Recital (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 24 March

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

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

10:30 Bells - FOM Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

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*)

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

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

Tuesday 25 March

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

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

14:30 Mothers' Union (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:15 Abbey Eco Church Meeting
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

Wednesday 26 March

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

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

14:15 U3A Bridge Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

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

19:30 Lent Talks (*Pershore Library*)

Thursday 27 March

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

10:00 Abbey Pastoral Group
(*25 Rushers Close, Pershore*)

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

14:00 Funeral for the late Frances Steady
(*Pershore Abbey*)

14:30 Wake for the late Frances Steady
(*St Andrew's Main*)

Friday 28 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*)

19:30 Bells - Roy Williams' last Friday Quarter
Peal (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 29 March

10:00 Visiting Bell Ringers (*Pershore Abbey*)

12:00 Visiting Bell Ringers (*St Andrew's*)

14:00 Concert Use (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:00 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:00 Rock Choir Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 30 March - Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 All Age Eucharist with *LIVESTREAM*
(*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Mothering Sunday Morning Praise
(*St Mary's, Wick*)

14:00 Organ Recital (*Pershore Abbey*)

