



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 06 April 2025
LENT 5 / PASSION SUNDAY

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.

EASTER LILY SUNDAY AT THE ABBEY: At services on 6 April it will be possible for people to make a donation towards the Easter lilies that will be used to decorate the Abbey from Easter Day. Mary Cope, a member of the Abbey Flower Guild, will be on hand to write down any names of loved ones that you may wish to be remembered as you give your donation. Donating Easter lilies in memory of a loved one is a beautiful tradition and reflects our hope and joy in the resurrection for us all. *Claire*



THE COLLECT

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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 43.16-21

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

SECOND READING

Philippians 3.4b-14

A reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of

Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

THE GOSPEL

John 12.1-8

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **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 707

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, let us follow where our Captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God:

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee:

Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our souls from death and hell:

From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on his cross adore their Saviour King:

Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace:

For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
creation's praises rise before thy throne:

George William Kitchin (1827-1912)
And Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956)

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 671

HYFRYDOL

1 I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ Who died for me—
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.

2 I was lost, but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way.
Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's path I oft may tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led.

3 He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet:
then he'll bear me safely over,
made by grace for glory meet.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me —
sing it with the saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.

Francis H. Rowley (1886-1952)

THIRD HYMN

A&M 135

(BRESLAU)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me. | 2 Take up thy cross: let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine |
| 3 Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,
to save thy soul from death and hell. | 4 Take up thy cross then in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
'twill guide thee to a better home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave. |
| 5 Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only they who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown. | 6 To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
all praise for evermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heavenly life that knows no end. |

[Charles William Everest (1814-1877)]

COMMUNION MOTET

God so loved the world - Sir John Stainer

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*God so loved the world,
God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten son,
that whoso believeth,
believeth in him should not perish,
should not perish
but have everlasting life.*

*For God sent not his Son
into the world to condemn the world,
God sent not his Son
into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world through him might be
saved.
God so loved the world,*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 144

- 1 How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
that he should give his only Son
to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
the Father turns his face away,
as wounds which mar the chosen One
bring many souls to glory.

2 Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon his shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there,
until it was accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life-
I know that 'it is finished.'

3 I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,
his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer;
but this I know with all my heart
his wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

FINAL 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)]

Organ Voluntary: Choral in a minor—Cesar Franck
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

Pershore Abbey CCLI No. 46441

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

06 APRIL 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

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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.



CANON JOHN PAUL HOSKINS

It is with enormous sadness that we announce Canon John Paul Hoskins, Precentor at Worcester Cathedral, died suddenly at his home on 1 April. John Paul, 50, was installed as Cathedral Precentor in January 2022 and had particular responsibility for the Cathedral's music and liturgy. He joined the Cathedral Chapter from the Diocese of Gloucester, where he was Priest-in-Charge of Winchcombe and previously a Minor Canon of Gloucester Cathedral and Chaplain to two Bishops of Gloucester. He was ordained in the Diocese of Derby in 2007 and served his curacy in the Bakewell benefice. Before ordination he was a Lay Clerk at Guildford and Durham Cathedrals. He was married to Liz and they have one daughter.

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*

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS - JOIN THE DAWN CHORUS: We are seeking musicians to play for the Easter Morning Eucharist at 0600. There are three hymns to offer joyfully at this service and we'd love for you to join us if you are able. Please contact Jayne Parker for more details on curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk



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*

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY MARATHON: My grandson Oliver is running in the London Marathon on April 27. He is sponsored by the CofE Children's Society for whom he has to raise a massive £2000 to retain his place. You probably know the Society works with children in difficulty and troubled teenagers. Ollie would be extremely grateful for any help in reaching his target, his fund raising page is: <https://2025tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/oliver-taylor> or cheques or cash to me at church will be gratefully received. *Margaret Goodrich*



MYANMAR CRISIS: Please contribute with your prayers and donations (with gift aid if possible). There will be a collection bucket at services this Sunday, 6 April, in the Abbey. Your support would be appreciated. *Sarah Thomson*

TIME OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE - IONA SERVICE 1700 SUNDAY 27 APRIL: Provides space for reflection on what peace means, music and times of quiet prayer for areas of conflict around the world. Everyone is very welcome to join in the Abbey or by Zoom. If you'd like a link, please email Helen on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk Please do bring along a prayer or poem for peace, a news story, or your favourite quote about what peace is. *Helen Oldham*

PLEASE SEE OUR APRIL BULLETIN FOR 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 06 April - Lent 5 / Passion Sunday

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Fairtrade Stall and *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

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

16:00 Pershore Civic Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 07 April

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

10:00 PASA Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

11:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:30 School Service (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

14:00 Pershore U3A History Group
(*St Andrew's Main*)

18:00 Wick APCM (*St Mary's, Wick*)

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

19:00 Compline on Zoom (*Zoom*)

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

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 08 April

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

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

14:00 School Service (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

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

Wednesday 09 April

09:30 School Service (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

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

11:30 Abbey Development Group (*Choir Vestry*)

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:30 School Service (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

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

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

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

19:30 Lent Talks (*Pershore Library*)

Thursday 10 April

10:15 Bells -Four Shires Tour Visiting Ringers
(*St Andrew's*)

11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)

13:30 School Service (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

14:00 Talk for Foodbank Volunteers
(*St Andrew's Main*)

16:00 Burial of the late Diana Gaskell (*St Mary's, Wick*)

Friday 11 April

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

11:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:15 The Friends of Pershore Abbey
Memorial Lecture (*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 12 April

10:00 Abbey Eco Church Litter Pick (*Pershore Abbey*)

12:00 Service of Holy Baptism (*St Mary's, Wick*)

Sunday 13 April - Palm Sunday

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:30 Café Church (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:00 Palm Sunday Procession
(*St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road*)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with *LIVESTREAM*
(*Pershore Abbey*)

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

14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

15:00 Ubi Caritas - A Choral Devotion
(*Pershore Abbey*)

17:00 Wholeness & Healing (*Pershore Abbey*)