



# THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, PERSHORE

Sunday, 17 June, 2018

Third Sunday after Trinity

SUNG EUCHARIST with Junior Church

## WEEKLY SERVICE SHEET & BULLETIN

*A very warm welcome to our services today,  
during which there will be laying on of hands.  
Please join us after the 1030 service for refreshments.*

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

A&M 99

(Crüger)

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son;  
hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to let the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains  
shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.
4. Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.
5. O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever;  
his changeless name of love.

[James Montgomery, 1771-1854]

### THE COLLECT

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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

Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

A reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters, we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 284

*(East Acklam)*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. For the fruit of all creation,<br>thanks be to God;<br>For his gifts to every nation,<br>thanks be to God;<br>For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,<br>silent growth while we are sleeping,<br>future needs in earth's safekeeping,<br>thanks be to God. | 2. In the just reward of labour,<br>God's will is done;<br>In the help we give our neighbour,<br>God's will is done;<br>In our world-wide task of caring<br>for the hungry and despairing,<br>in the harvests we are sharing,<br>God's will is done. |
|---|--|

3. For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

[Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000]

THE GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

Alleluia, alleluia. Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
Glory to you, O Lord.

Such a large crowd gathered around Jesus that he got into a boat and began to teach them using many parables. Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.' Jesus also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

A&M 506

*(Aurelia)*

1. The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word:  
from heaven he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses  
with every grace endued.

*(Cont'd)*

3. Though with a scornful wonder  
men see her sore opprest,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distrest,  
yet saints their watch are keeping,  
their cry goes up, 'How long?'  
and soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.

4. Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace for evermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.

5. Yet she on earth hath union  
with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won;  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with thee.

[Samuel John Stone, 1832-1900]

### CHOIR ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas - *Taize*

### COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 429

(*Grace in Essence*)

1. Bread is blessed and broken,  
wine is blessed and poured:  
take this and remember  
Christ the Lord.

2. Share the food of heaven  
earth cannot afford.  
Here is grace in essence –  
Christ the Lord.

3. Know yourself forgiven,  
find yourself restored  
Meet a friend forever –  
Christ the Lord.

4. God has kept his promise  
sealed by sign and word:  
here, for those who want him –  
Christ the Lord.

[John L Bell *b.* 1949 & Graham Maule *b.* 1958]

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

### FINAL HYMN

A&M 676

(*St Denio*)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
not wanting, not wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

[W. Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908]

*PLEASE TAKE THIS SERVICE SHEET & PEW BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU.*

PLEASE LEAVE THE SERVICE BOOKLET WHEN YOU LEAVE.

As a Kingdom People we are a church that seeks to:

- Worship God
- Welcome All
- Reach out to the world

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Claire Lording  
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Wardens: Mr Bill Newman (01386 640497) Mrs Suzanne Clarke (01386 553293)

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*Notices for next Bulletin no later than Thursday at 12:00 noon please*

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

All those who are celebrating their wedding within the Pershore Benefice, those who are being baptised, those who are in need and those who have recently died.

We also pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs today or in the coming week.

## NOTICES AND EVENTS

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WICK is on the move on Sunday 24 June with the 10:30 Morning Praise service being held in the marquee at the confetti flower fields in Wick. All welcome so please come and join us.

JULY CHORAL EVENSONG: There will be no Choral Evensong at 17:00 on Sunday 01 July, however at 15:00 there will be the Pershore Town Council Civic Service at the Abbey. All welcome.

WOOBURN SINGERS IN THE ABBEY: We look forward to welcoming once again the Wooburn Singers to the Abbey for Choral Evensong at 15:00 on Sunday 08 July, an event much enjoyed in the past, do make a note to come along. Everyone welcome.

SALZWEDEL LINK: This week we welcomed back the group from our Benefice who spent last weekend in our link parish of St Catherine's, Salzwedel. By all accounts everyone had a wonderful time spending time with our friends, sharing in worship and visiting all sorts of interesting places. Watch this space for more details of when we will all have the opportunity to hear more about this trip. If you are interested in getting involved with the link please let me know. *Claire*

GIFTS FOR TANZANIA: A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the gifts that I will be taking out to St John's, Kihonda in Morogoro, Tanzania. Everything is neatly sorted in my spare room and it is overwhelming to see how generous everyone has been. Everyone at St John's is looking forward to meeting me and I know they are working hard to put together an itinerary that will enable me to meet lots of people and visit lots of community and church groups. *Claire*

BOOKSTALL SECURITY BOX: Please collect and sign for your key for the new bookstall security box from the Abbey Office or from the Bookstall on a Sunday morning, once Jean and/or Toni are back.

There has been some confusion over this. Please note that the cash box is not to be placed in the security box until ALL volunteers are in possession of a key! The present arrangements are to stay in place for now and a notice will go up when the change is to take place. After that, you will need both keys, old and new - one for the cupboard and one for the security box. Please also note that all the new keys have been successfully tested although some of them may be a little rough at first, so please be gentle with them! *Jean Andrews*

CREAM TEA AND CRUISE POSTPONEMENT: Unfortunately due to a clash of dates it has been necessary to postpone this event for the time being, we hope to reschedule it for next summer. Many thanks for your understanding.

TEDDY BEARS WANTED FOR PLUM FAYRE: Once again we are collecting teddies to sell at the Plum Fayre Teddy Stall on Monday 27 August. Donations would be very much appreciated, please place in the "Teddy Box" at the back of the Abbey or phone Liz Gunhouse or Suzanne Clarke. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN AID: To celebrate Christian Aid Week and thank all who were involved there is an open invitation to attend a reception with light refreshments at The Bishop's House, Hereford HR4 9BN 1730-1900 on Wednesday 20 June. *Sarah Thomson*

SABBATICAL: I am taking a sabbatical through July, August and September. This means I won't be taking part in Sunday services or attending any meetings during that time, but am planning to attend worship in the villages. This is an opportunity to have the space in my diary to attend to a number of home matters and review direction in life. I would really appreciate your prayers during this time and will look forward to 'taking up the reins' again in October. *Angela Gerrard*

Taking time out can be a fruitful and important time for everyone and we all hope that Angela we be able to do all that she wants to do in her three months. Please do remember Angela in your prayers as she makes the most of her sabbatical. We will all look forward to welcoming her back in October. *Claire*

ON SUNDAY 24 JUNE Eddie Howell is involved in a Charity Concert event at Evesham Arts Centre at 1500, Sunday 24 June, to raise money in aid of St Richard's Hospice and Cancer Research UK. Tickets for the concert are £1100 & £8.00 from Almonry Centre Evesham, Evesham Arts Centre, online or telephone 01386-446944 or email Eddie at eddiehowelluk@yahoo.co.uk. Taking part are The Hanley Voices, Prince Henry's High School, Cheltenham Youth Choir and The De Montfort School. The Concert is Eddie's last effort to try and break the £10K barrier. He is currently up to just under £9K.

CAN YOU LEAD OUR PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP? Every Friday between 09:30 and 11:30, during school term time, we run a Parent and Toddler group in St Andrew's Centre. Parents (and sometimes other family members) and their babies and pre-school toddlers join in playing with our toys and doing craft activities. The aim is to provide a friendly, open atmosphere where parents can meet and talk to each other as well as find something to occupy the children, who often enjoy playing with their new friends. We see this as an important part of our Mission to families at a time when they can sometimes feel isolated and stressed. Jean Pritchard has been successfully running the group for some years but is standing down this summer. So we need someone to help us from September. It would obviously be good if we could identify someone to overlap with Jean and learn the ropes. So please think about whether you could help. We have some volunteers who help with setting up and others providing tea and biscuits so you will not be on your own. Please talk to Jean, Claire or me if you can help in this really important area. *Peter Stansbie*.

DO YOU ENJOY GARDENING: If so would you like to look after our small garden area behind St Andrews Centre. It needs someone to love it and care for it. Pershore College students are looking at new designs for it but in the meantime it needs someone who loves gardening to care for it. If you would like to help please speak to Robin Hancox, Claire or me. *Peter Stansbie*.

PERSHORE MIDSUMMER BRASS: Is being celebrated on Saturday 07 July in various venues throughout the town, including the Abbey, from 10:00.

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

(A) Abbey, (B) Birlingham, (P) Pinvin, (W) Wick,  
(St A) St Andrew's, (V) New Vicarage, (CTIP) Churches Together in Pershore

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TAKE PLACE EVERY MONDAY TO SATURDAY IN THE ABBEY

08:00 Silent Prayer                      08:30 Matins and Eucharist                      17:00 Evening Prayer

*Everyone is very welcome to attend these services*

Sunday 17 June

TRINITY 3

08:00 Eucharist (A)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Laying on of Hands (A)

Junior Church

17:30 Youth Group with Suzanne Clarke (St A)

Monday 18 June

09:15 Musical Explorers (St A)

09:30 Bells (St A)

18:00 Weight Watchers (St A)

19:30 Bells (A)

Tuesday 19 June

09:30 Bells (St A)

10:00 Meditation Group (Holy Redeemer)

11:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)

12:00 Funeral of the late Mr Brian Stanton  
(St James' Church, Birlingham)

14:00 PUC Meeting (Upper Room)

14:30 Funeral of the late Mrs Lily Long  
(St Mary's Churchyard, Wick)

19:30 Abbey Women's Fellowship (St A)

Wednesday 20 June

09:15 Meeting (Upper Room)

11:30 Lunch Club - Enquiries 554299 (St A)

11:00 Eucharist (Heathlands)

20:00 Vale Harmony (St A)

Thursday 21 June

09:15 Weight Watchers (St A)

09:30 Vicar & Wardens' Meeting (St A, Upper)

11:00 Abbey Architecture Tour Party (A)

14:00 Abbey History Tour Party (A)

Birlingham IW

19:00 Guitar Class (St A)

Friday 22 June

09:30 Parent and Toddlers (St A)

11:00 Eucharist (A)

13:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)

18:00 Choir Practice (A)

19:30 Bells Quarter Peal (St A)

Saturday 23 June

10:30 Bells (A)

12:00 Private Booking (St A)

Sunday 24 June

10:30 St Mary's Church Morning Praise service at  
the Confetti Fields, Wick

*See box below for Abbey Services*

Sunday 24 June

Birth of John the Baptist

08:00 Eucharist (A)

09:30 Morning Praise (A)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church (A)

14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (A)

*Robert James, McKenzie Quinn & Ida Grace Chandler*