



**PERSHORE ABBEY**

**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with  
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**

**Sunday, 11 December, 2022**

**ADVENT 3**

## **SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY**

The 1030 Service will be live-streamed and available to view on our YouTube channel.

You can join in live at 1030 or catch up later in the day or week.

Please use this sheet in conjunction with the service booklet provided.

*Please leave the service booklet, but do remember to take this sheet and bulletin home with you when you leave and recycle when you have finished with it.*

### **ADVENT WREATH SONG**

We have this Advent Wreath to remind us of the Coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**The holly and the ivy  
are dancing in a ring,  
round the berry bright candles,  
and the white and shining King.**

**And one for God's people,  
in every age and day,  
we are watching for his coming.  
We believe and we obey.**

**O, two is for the prophets  
and for the light they bring.  
They are candles in the darkness,  
all alight for Christ the King.**

We light this candle to remind us of John the Baptist who passed on God's message—  
"get ready for your King".

**And three for John the Baptist  
He calls us on to sing:  
'O prepare the way for Jesus Christ.  
He is coming, Christ the King'.**

## **THE COLLECT**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 35.1-10**

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus<sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

**James 5.7-10**

A reading from the Letter of James

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

## **Matthew 11.2-11**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever . **Amen**

**This service is being live streamed to the Abbey's YouTube Channel**

To find the recording please visit

**[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for **Pershore Abbey Community****

**[Pershore Abbey Community on YouTube](#)**

If you have any queries or concerns please do speak to a sidesperson or churchwarden



Facebook: [#pershoreabbeycom](#) YouTube: [Pershore Abbey Community](#)

Website: [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk)



*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

Pershore Abbey CCLI No. 46441

### FIRST HYMN

**A&M 46**

***(Winchester New)***

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings from the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

*Jordanis oras pravevia*  
Charles Coffin (1676-1749)  
*Translated by John Chandler (1806-1876)*

### GRADUAL HYMN

**A&M 57**

***(Narenza)***

1. Ye servants of the Lord,  
each in his office wait,  
observant of his heavenly word,  
and watchful at his gate.
2. Let all your lamps be bright,  
and trim the golden flame;  
gird up your loins as in his sight,  
for awful is his name.
3. Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,  
and while we speak, he's near;  
mark the first signal of his hand,  
and ready all appear.
4. O happy servant he  
in such a posture found!  
he shall his Lord with rapture see,  
and be with honour crowned.
5. Christ shall the banquet spread  
with his own royal hand,  
and raise that faithful servant's head  
amid the angelic band.

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

### **THIRD HYMN**

**A&M 38**

**(Merton)**

*There will be no offertory plate collection at this time, however, there is a collection bowl available on the Welcome Table for those wishing to contribute.*

*Alternatively, donations can be made at our contactless donation station located by the bookstall or online via our website at [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk)*

1. Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;  
    'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
    'cast away the dreams of darkness,  
    O ye children of the day.'
2. Wakened by the solemn warning,  
    let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,  
    shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,  
    comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
    one and all to be forgiven;
4. That when next he comes with glory,  
    and the world is wrapped in fear,  
with his mercy he may shield us,  
    and with words of love draw near.
5. Honour, glory, might, and blessing  
    to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
    while eternal ages run.

Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

### **COMMUNION MOTET**

The Angel Gabriel (Traditional) - *Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

**A&M 44**

1. O Child of promise, come!  
    O Come, Emmanuel!  
Come, Prince of Peace, to David's Throne;  
    Come, God, with us to dwell.
2. The Lord's true Servant, come,  
    In whom in his delight,  
On whom his Holy Spirit rests,  
    The Gentiles' promised light.
3. O come, Anointed One,  
    To show blind eyes your face!  
Good tidings to the poor announce;  
    Proclaim God's year of grace!
4. O come, Messiah King,  
    To reign in endless light,  
When heavenly peace at last goes forth  
    From Sion's holy height.

James Quinn (1919-2010)

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining:  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
set us free by the truth you now bring us:  
shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth your word, Lord,  
and let there be light!*

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
from the shadows into your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter your brightness:  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness:  
shine on me, shine on me.

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
so our faces display your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory:  
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story:  
shine on me, shine on me.

Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

**As a Kingdom People we are churches that seek to:**

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

**Vicar: Canon Claire Lording**

**Email:** vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

**Abbey Wardens:** Mrs Suzanne Clarke (01386 553293) Mrs Sam Andrews (01386 556083)

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**BENEFICE OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

**TUESDAY - 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.***

# PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

11 DECEMBER 2022

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**WE PRAY FOR ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY WAR AND WHO CONTINUE TO BE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT**

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

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## BULLETIN NOTICES

**Please see the latest Monthly Edition for the latest notices and information**

**ADVENT COMPLINE BY ZOOM MONDAYS IN ADVENT AT 1900:** Please email [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for the Zoom link and a copy of the order of service. *Claire*

**MINCE PIES PLEASE!:** Following the Abbey Carol Service on Sunday 18 December at 1700, PASA (Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's Social Committee) will be serving mince pies and refreshments. Contributions of mince pies (home-made or shop bought) would be very welcome. Full details on how to contribute are in the monthly bulletin. Queries or requests for collection to PASA Secretary Jane Knox. *Many thanks.*

**BOOK NOW FOR GOOD COMPANY AND AFTERNOON TEA!:** Pershore Abbey & St. Andrew's Social Committee (PASA) are planning an afternoon get-together with afternoon tea for anyone who would appreciate company after Christmas. The event will take place on **Wednesday 28 December 2022** from **1400** until **1600** in **St. Andrew's Centre**. Please call Jane to book your place or **email** the office. We do hope you will be able to join us. *PASA*

**PRESHORE ABBEY CHRISTINGLE MAKING:** If you are able to help make Christingles for the Abbey Service on Christmas Eve you will be very welcome at 1000 at St Andrew's Centre on Friday 23 December. Refreshments will be served. Thank you. *Suzanne Clarke*

**CRAFT MORNING SUCCESS:** A big 'thank you' to all my friends in the Abbey congregation who supported my craft coffee morning. A total in excess of £1,500 was raised for the very worthy cause the Worcester Breast Unit Haven. Thank you all! *Sandra Long*

**THANK YOU:** Margaret Goodrich would like to extend her grateful thanks to you all for your wonderful support and prayers over the last few weeks. Margaret is now well on the road to recovery and is looking forward to joining in with Abbey life again very soon.

**EDIBLE NATIVITY A SWEET TREAT FOR ALL!** We've had some lovely emails from parents whose children has a wonderful morning decorating gingerbread and learning about the Christmas story while happily nibbling on their edible donkey's ears!

## ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

Canon Claire's usual day off is Friday. Claire will not be available for commitments on this day. If you have an enquiry, she will get back to you as soon as she can.



### Sunday 11 December—Advent 3

- 08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 09:45 Café Church (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 10:30 Sung Eucharist with *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 12:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 15:30 Wholeness & Healing Planning (*St Andrew's*)
- 17:00 Wholeness & Healing Service (*St Andrew's*)

### PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES:

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

Pershore Abbey will be lit up Gold as we prepare for Christmas

### Monday 12 December

**Abbey Office Closed** due to staff holiday

- 09:30 Cherry Orchard Rehearsal (*Abbey*)
- 13:00 Craft & Chat (*St A Main*)
- 13:30 APMS Christmas Celebration (*Abbey*)
- 18:30 Bell Ringing Practice (*Abbey*)
- 18:45 Evening Craft Sessions (*St A Upper*)
- 19:00 Advent Compline (*Zoom*)

### Tuesday 13 December

- 11:00 Cherry Orchard Christmas Celebration (*Abbey*)
- 11:00 CTIP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:00 Cherry Orchard Christmas Celebration (*Abbey*)
- 14:00 Abbey Women's Fellowship (*St A Main*)
- 15:45 V & W (*Choir Vestry*)
- 19:15 Private Meeting (*St A Upper*)

### Wednesday 14 December

- 12:00 Pershore High Christmas Celebration (*Abbey*)
- 13:00 Craft & Chat (*St A Main*)
- 15:00 Funeral service for the late Yvonne Leckie (*Abbey*)
- 15:30 Pershore Town Choir (*St A Main*)
- 18:30 Pershore High Christmas Celebration (*Abbey*)

### Thursday 15 December

- ALL DAY—PAT Testing—Abbey, St A & Office
- 12:00 Pershore High Christmas Celebration (*Abbey*)
- 15:00 Funeral service for the late Thomas Haynes (*Vale Crematorium*)

16:00 Funeral Wake (*St A Main*)

- 17:30 Choir Practice (*Abbey*)
- 19:30 Pershore Wine Society Party (*St A Main*)

### Friday 16 December

- 13:00 CTIP Foodbank (*St A Main*)
- 14:00 Funeral service for the late Anthony Hill (*Abbey*)
- 15:00 Funeral Wake (*St A Main*)
- 18:00 Concert Prep (*Abbey*)
- 19:30 Pershore Town Choir Christmas Concert (*Abbey*)
- 20:00 Let's Dance (*St A Main*)

### Saturday 17 December

- 10:00 Concert Prep and Rehearsal (*Abbey*)
- 19:30 Pershore Choral Carol Concert (*Abbey*)

### Sunday 18 December—Advent 4

- 08:00 Eucharist (*Abbey*)
- 10:30 Tinsel Free Morning Praise (*Abbey*) with Traidcraft Stall *LIVESTREAM*
- 10:30 Holy Communion and Carols (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)
- 14:00 Pianoscapes Concert (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 15:30 Choir Practice (*Abbey*)
- 17:00 Nine Lessons and Carols (*Abbey*)
- 18:00 Carol and Christingle Service (*St James', Birlingham*)
- 18:00 Carol Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)