



PERSHORE ABBEY
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 18 December, 2022
Advent 4
A 'TINSEL FREE' SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

*The Christmas season is not always a joyous time for everyone, so this is a
'Tinsel Free' celebration of the birth of the Christ child.*

This 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.

*Remember to take this sheet and bulletin home with you when you leave and recycle
when you have finished with it.*

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome in the name of Christ. God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.

And also with you.

THE ADVENT WREATH

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.**

**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'.**

(Cont.)

We light this candle to remind us of Mother Mary who said she would obey.

And four for Mother Mary

**'I cannot see the way,
but you promise me a baby
I believe and I obey'**

We come together to worship and praise God, to ask forgiveness for our wrongdoings and to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Lord direct our thoughts, teach us to pray, lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ.

**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

A&M 747

(O God, you search me)

O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting, you besiege me:
in every moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on Earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

(Cont.)

For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

[Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)]

© 1992 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo,
Portland, OR 97213, USA. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Please sit or kneel for our Confession

Confession

When the Lord comes, He will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

So, in a moment of quiet let us think of things we need to thank God for, recall any wrongs we have done or others have done to us, and anything we wish we had done differently.

Silence

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

A&M 27

(Light up the fire)

Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we meet.

(Cont.)

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
the people of darkness are needing a friend.

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
the darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
but Jesus is living, his Spirit is near.

Sue McClellan (b. 1951)
John Paculabo (1946-2013)
Keith Rycroft (b. 1949)

© 1974, Administered by worshiptogether.com Songs excl. UK & Europe, administered by Kingswaysongs, a
division of David C Cook Used by permission

The Gospel

Matthew 1.18-25

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Declaration of Faith

We say together

**We believe in God the Father,
who created everything in heaven and on earth.**

**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

We offer God our Prayers and Thanks

*At the end of each prayer when you hear “Lord in your mercy’ 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.**

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
 Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
 tender to me the promise of his word;
 in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
 his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
 Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
 Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
 the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
 Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
 to children's children and for evermore!

[Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)]

© Timothy Dudley-Smith in Europe and Africa; © Hope Publishing Company for the United States of America and the rest of world. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Thanksgiving and Blessing

We give thanks for all we have shared in this service this morning and ask God's blessing on all of us here and all those whom we love.

Come, Light of Life, lighten the darkness in our lives with your mighty word of love.
 Lighten our hearts with the joy of your promised coming.
 Lighten our world with the hope that faith in you brings.
 And the blessing of God,
 The Creator, the redeemer and the sustainer,
 Go with us and remain with us now and always. Amen.

Go in the joy and peace of Christ

Thanks be to God.

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service is copyright:
 © The Archbishops' Council 2000.*

New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2002

CCLI Licence Number 46441

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

18 DECEMBER 2022

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)

The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham

Alveston House, 11, Broad Street, Pershore, WR10 1BB (01386 552071)

Email: office@pershoreabbey.org.uk **Website:** www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

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 someone will get back to you as soon as they can.

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 have been affected by the crisis, 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.

Please visit our [Life Events](#) page at www.pershoreabbey.org.uk for more information on weddings, baptisms and funerals at Pershore Abbey

BULLETIN NOTICES

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

A NEW CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER FOR PERSHORE ABBEY: Following work done by the PCC earlier this year on our priorities as a church we applied to the Diocese for funding a half time Children and Families Worker to develop our mission in this area. We were successful in obtaining funds for 5 years from the Healthier Churches Fund.

Working with the Diocese, the new post was advertised, and competitive interviews held last week.

We are very pleased to let you know that Sam Andrews was successful in obtaining the post and she plans to start working with us from 6 February. This is a new and exciting post in an important area, and I am sure we will all wish Sam well and will offer her all the support we can. *Claire*

PERSHORE ABBEY NINE LESSONS & CAROLS SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER AT 1700: Please join us for this beautiful candlelit service where the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings, or lessons, interspersed with traditional carols and music from the Pershore U3A handbell ringers and Pershore Abbey choir.

FINAL CALL FOR 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. please can we have homemade donations at either the 0800 or 1030 Sunday morning service to give us time to warm them up! Queries or collection requests to PASA Secretary Jane Knox.

FINAL ADVENT COMPLINE BY ZOOM MONDAYS 19 DECEMBER AT 1900: Please email vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the Zoom link and a copy of the order of service. *Claire*

BOOK BY 20 December 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 by **20 December**. We do hope you will be able to join us. *PASA*

PERSHORE 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*

ST ANDREW'S BOOKINGS 2023: Please can we ask all regular users of St Andrew's to confirm their dates for meetings throughout 2023 as soon as possible. There is a lot of pressure on the St Andrew's diary so it is essential that we have the correct information. Many thanks.

QUARTERLY ROTA BOOKLET JAN-MARCH 2023: The quarterly rota booklet for Jan - March 2023 has now been circulated by email and hard copies placed in the letter rack for those who need them. If you have not received your copy, please contact the office on **01386 552071** or email **office@peshoreabbey.org.uk** and we will get a copy to you.

A WARM WELCOME SPACE FROM PERSHORE CHURCHES: Everyone is welcome to come in from the cold and enjoy a hot drink and chat with friends this winter. **Pershore Baptist Church** will be open from **1000-1600** on **Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays, 1300-1600** on **Wednesdays** and **1000-1600** on **Fridays** from early December.



Holy Redeemer opens from **4 January** on **Wednesdays 1000-1300** and **Thursdays 1300-1600** whilst **Pershore Abbey** are holding an **Afternoon Tea** on **28 December** in the **St Andrew's Centre** (see **page 2**). **Pershore Library** will also be offering a warm space during their regular opening times, Monday -Saturday.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR INFORMATION

SERVICE SHEET & BULLETIN FOR CHRISTMAS DAY: Please be aware that we will be using our All Age Eucharist service booklet on Christmas Day, together with the Embrace Carol Sheet. There will be no additional printed service sheet available in church. We will provide the readings and bulletin online and via email as usual. If you wish to have the readings in church with you on Christmas Day, please bring a copy with you to the service. There will be a **limited number of printed bulletin flyers** available in the church.

SERVICE SHEET & BULLETIN FOR BENEFICE SERVICE AT PERSHORE ABBEY ON NEW YEAR'S DAY: The full service sheet and bulletin will be available as normal at the Benefice Service on New Year's Day. It will also be distributed via email and be available online as usual. Please be aware that this bulletin will be printed in advance due to staff holidays over the Christmas period.

CLERGY AND STAFF HOLIDAYS: As we enter into holiday season, if you require a Priest in an emergency, please telephone the office on 01386 552071 where you will be able to access all emergency contact numbers.

OFFICE STAFFING OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The Benefice Office will not be staffed over the Christmas period.

Our office staff will be on annual leave from:

12 noon on Thursday 22 December 2022 until Tuesday 3 January 2023

All email enquiries and answerphone messages will be dealt with on their return. If your enquiry is urgent please call the answerphone service on **01386 552071** to access the latest emergency contact details over the Christmas period.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING

CHRISTMAS IN THE PERSHORE BENEFICE

We invite you all to join us in church and online



Sunday 18 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Tinsel-Free Morning Praise (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1030 Holy Communion and Carols (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
- 1700 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1800 Carol Service (*St Mary's, Wick - followed by party and panto at Wick club*)
- 1800 Carol and Christingle Service (*St James', Birlingham*)

Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December

- 1530 Christingle Service (*Pershore Abbey*)
Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle!
- 1600 Christingle Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1700 Christingle and Crib Service (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
- 2315 Midnight Mass with choir (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Christmas Day Sunday 25 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 0900 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1030 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)
- 1030 All Age Eucharist with choir (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

New Year's Day Sunday 1 January

- 0800 BCP Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Advent Compline continues on Mondays in Advent via Zoom

**Join in with our LIVESTREAM services at the time advertised on the Pershore Abbey Community YouTube Channel or catch up later*



@pershoreabbeycom



@AbbeyPershore



@pershoreabbeycommunity

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk  office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

01386 552071

PERSHORE BENEFICE

GOOD COMPANY & AFTERNOON TEA



WEDNESDAY 28 DECEMBER

14:00 - 16:00

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE



We are providing a warm space for a post-Christmas get together with afternoon tea for anyone looking for company and fellowship

Please book your place by emailing office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or speak to Jane Knox by **20 December**



@pershoreabbeycom



@AbbeyPershore



@pershoreabbeycommunity

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk • office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

01386 552071

ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 18 December - Advent 4

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Tinsel Free Morning Praise with Traidcraft Stall and *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

14:00 Pianoscapes Concert (*St Andrew's Main*)

15:30 Choir Practice (*Pershore 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*)

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 19 December

09:15 Work to Abbey Vestries (*Pershore Abbey*)

12:00 Funeral Service for the late Joan Ball
(*Pershore Abbey*)

13:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)

18:30 Bell Ringing Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Advent Compline (*Zoom*)

Tuesday 20 December

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

19:15 Private Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)

Wednesday 21 December

11:30 Lunch Club (*St Andrew's Main*)

15:45 V&W (*Choir Vestry*)

Thursday 22 December

09:30 Flower Guild Decorating for Christmas
(*Pershore Abbey*)

11:00 Funeral service for the late
Patrick Smith (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

Friday 23 December

10:00 Christingle Making (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

Saturday 24 December - Christmas Eve

15:30 Christingle Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

16:00 Christingle Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)

17:00 Christingle & Crib Service

(*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

23:15 Midnight Mass (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 25 December - Christmas Day

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:00 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)

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

10:30 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)



Facebook: [#pershoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/pershoreabbeycom) YouTube: [Persshore Abbey Community](https://www.youtube.com/PershoreAbbeyCommunity)

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk