



**PERSHORE BENEFICE AT PERSHORE ABBEY**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 29 January 2023**  
**CANDLEMAS**

**SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY**

**WELCOME TO OUR BENEFICE SERVICE AT PERSHORE ABBEY**

We welcome the congregations of all the churches in the Pershore Benefice to Pershore Abbey for our Candlemas service.

**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.

Please use the sheet in conjunction with the service booklet you have been given.

A hymn sheet can be found on **page 4**

*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.*

**THE COLLECT**

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ 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 Malachi 3.1-5**

A reading from the book of Malachi

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

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

## **SECOND READING Hebrews 2.14-18**

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

## **THE GOSPEL**

**Luke 2.22-40**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God

and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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## **PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE**

**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](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) or leave a message on 01386 552071 and they will get back to you as soon as they can.***

## HYMN SHEET

### FIRST HYMN

**A&M 113**

*Lourdes*

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day  
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way

*A glory dawns in every dark place,  
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

The kings have departed, the shepherds are gone,  
the child and his parents are left on their own.

They go to the temple, obeying the law,  
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

But Anna and Simeon recognise there  
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

The old who have suffered and waited so long  
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.

They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,  
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

The candles invite us to praise and play  
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.

[Elizabeth J. Cosnett (b. 1936)]

### GRADUAL HYMN

**A&M 111**

*(Vasey)*

1. Light of the world, true light divine,  
in glory break and splendour shine  
upon our nature's night,  
upon our nature's night!  
The darkness dies before the morn  
and God himself a child is born,  
the long-awaited Light,  
the long-awaited Light.

2. Life of the world, a life laid down,  
who chose the cross before the crown  
and opened heaven's door,  
and opened heaven's door:  
he broke the chains of death and hell,  
our Saviour Christ, Emmanuel,  
who lives for evermore,  
who lives for evermore.

3. Lord of all worlds, a manger bed  
was room enough to lay your head  
when, from your throne above,  
when, from your throne above,  
you came to set a lost world right,  
immortal Life, unfading Light,  
and all-prevailing Love,  
and all-prevailing Love.

[Timothy Dudley Smith (b.1926)]

**COMMUNION MOTET**

Tantum Ergo Sacramentum - *Fernand Laloux*  
*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

On our knees let us venerate this great sacrament, as the Old Covenant gives way to the New. Faith will supply what our minds cannot grasp. To God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we ascribe the power to save us, with all honour, strength and blessing, as we praise him in our joyful celebration. Amen.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**A&M 110**

**(OLD 120th)**

1. Hail to the Lord who comes,  
comes to his temple gate,  
not with his angel host,  
not in his kingly state:  
no shouts proclaim him nigh,  
no crowds his coming wait.
2. But borne upon the throne  
of Mary's gentle breast,  
watched by her duteous love,  
in her fond arms at rest;  
thus to his Father's house  
he comes, the heavenly guest.
3. There Joseph at her side  
in reverent wonder stands;  
and, filled with holy joy,  
old Simeon in his hands  
takes up the promised child,  
the glory of all lands.
4. Hail to the great First-born,  
whose ransom-price they pay,  
the Son before all worlds,  
the child of man to-day,  
that he might ransom us  
who still in bondage lay.
5. O Light of all the earth,  
thy children wait for thee:  
come to thy temples here,  
that we, from sin set free,  
before thy Father's face  
may all presented be.

[John Ellerton (1826-1893)]

**FINAL HYMN**

**A&M 467**

**(Carisle)**

Please refer to Communion Booklet for this hymn

Pershore Abbey CCLI No. 46441

**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

# PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

## 29 JANUARY 2023

### IMPORTANT UPDATES

#### PERSHORE ORGAN FESTIVAL POSTPONEMENT:

Sadly, due a delay in the shipping of our new organ, it has now become clear that this resulting delay on the installation schedule means that our organ will not be 'concert-ready' by the end of April. The organ is now expected to be delivered at the beginning of February. Ruffatti will then be working long hours to complete the installation and voicing. Please be assured that we are now looking at new dates for our Festival and will let you know about those as soon as we can. Thank you for your support and understanding as we near the completion of this incredible project. *Claire*

#### ADDITIONAL ABBEY CLOSURE

Due to some further work on the scaffolding, Pershore Abbey will be **CLOSED** to all visitors and worshippers on the following dates:

FRIDAY 27 JANUARY

TUESDAY 31 JANUARY - THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but once again thank you for your support and understanding.

A revised schedule of works will be available via our Pipe Dreams web page soon

<https://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/pipe-dreams/>

### 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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**MIKE PEGG FRCO:** It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Mike Pegg. For many years he was a faithful servant of the Abbey, sharing his musical skills and talent as our Director of Music. Mike faithfully travelled in to Pershore every Sunday to be with us and was part of some significant musical events in the life of the Abbey, including a recording of BBC Songs of Praise. Mike retired at Easter in 2019. We give thanks to God for all that Mike did for us in the service of God's Church. Please remember Laurel and all the family in your prayers. Details of Mike's service will follow. *Claire*

## BULLETIN NOTICES

PLEASE PICK UP A MONTHLY EDITION FOR DETAILS ON OUR LENT SERVICES & MORE

### ORGAN INSTALLATION - EFFECTS OF SCAFFOLDING ON PERSHORE ABBEY:

With the scaffolding now in place to allow for the installation of the new organ, a few things will be different for a while.

- **LIVE STREAMING:** We may broadcast only one shot for an entire service or still pictures with sound due to impaired sight lines for our cameras. Services will still be broadcast, and you will be able to hear them even if the pictures are limited. 'Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible'. In the meantime, we hope you can still enjoy our services while we get ready for the organ to be ready.
- **FLOORING:** The floor of the Abbey has been covered in protective material for the installation of the scaffolding. We have decided that this temporary flooring will remain in place while work continues so that our main floor is safe. So please do be careful as some parts of the floor may be uneven.
- **LIGHT LEVELS:** The light levels in the Abbey have been affected by the scaffolding, so it will be a little darker in the pews. Please bear with us through this period.

**CARNIVAL TIME!** It is that time of year again when thoughts turn to Pershore Carnival 2023. The theme this year is "Summer Holidays " and if you would like to join us either preparing costumes, props, or would simply like to join us in the procession on the day (Monday 29 May) then contact me via the Abbey Office. Alternatively we will be holding a planning meeting at the Three Springs Road Vicarage on 31 January 2023 at 1830 and we would be delighted if you could join us. *Beth Seale*

**THANK YOU:** A huge thank you to all those who came to the coffee morning on Saturday braving the freezing fog! The next one is on **Saturday 18 February** when hopefully the weather will be kinder. All who came on Saturday enjoyed chatting over a cuppa & delicious cake in the lovely warmth of St. Andrew's. *Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's Social Committee (PASA)*

**FISH & CHIP SUPPER 11 FEBRUARY 1845 ST ANDREW'S:** Tickets are on sale now at **£10** to include supper, soft drinks & tea or coffee (or bring your own!) and of course the Quiz & a raffle ticket! If anyone would like to donate raffle prizes please can they give them to the Abbey Office or a member of PASA. There will be teams of 4, but please do just come along as teams can be made up on the night. Please see or ring either Julie Newman or Jane Knox. *Thank you PASA.*

**LENT COURSE UPDATE - SAVE THE DATE 17 FEBRUARY:** Churches Together in Pershore will show the Steven Spielberg reworking of **West Side Story** at **Pershore Baptist Church** on **Friday 17 February** at **1900** as an aid to this year's Lent Course, 'A Place for Us'. More details to follow.

**AND FINALLY - HOME SWEET HOME FOR OUR PEREGRINE FALCONS!:** As well as all the activity in the Abbey over recent days, there has also been a great deal of work going on outside to provide our resident Peregrine falcons with a nesting box. We look forward to updating you on how they receive and make use of their new accommodation!

## ABBEY & 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 29 January - Candlemas**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES TO TAKE PLACE IN CHOIR VESTRY**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 30 January**

11:00 Benefice Treasurers meeting (*Zoom*)

13:00 Funeral Service for the late

Linda Champken (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:15 Art & Craft for Wellbeing Group

(*St Andrew's Main*)

14:00 Foodbank Administration

(*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

19:00 Pershore Community Choir

(*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Tuesday 31 January - ABBEY CLOSED**

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

12:30 Carnival Meeting (*Three Spring's Road*)

14:00 Abbey Fabric Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

### **Wednesday 01 February - ABBEY CLOSED**

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

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

19:00 Pershore Town Choir (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

### **Thursday 02 February - ABBEY CLOSED**

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

11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)

14:15 Intercessory Prayer (*Choir Vestry tbc*)

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Friday 03 February**

09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

### **Saturday 04 February**

09:45 Private Party (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Sunday 05 February - 3 Before Lent**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

15:00 Bulb Service (*St James', Birlingham*)

16:00 Evensong Choir Practice

(*Pershore Abbey*)

17:00 Evensong (*Pershore Abbey*)

*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 Revd Claire Lording for support.*



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

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