



PERSHORE BENEFICE

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

Sunday, 03 December 2023

ADVENT SUNDAY

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

The 1030 Service from the Abbey will be live-streamed and available to view on our YouTube channel. To find the recording visit 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.

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.

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.**

We light this candle to remind us of God's people who in every age watch for his coming.

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

THE COLLECT

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.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64.1-9;

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1.3-9;

A reading from the first letter of the Corinthians.

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 13.24-37

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**If you would like to receive a gluten-free host during communion
please let a sidesperson know**



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

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 45

VENI EMMANUEL

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

- 2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:
- 3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:
- 4 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:
- 5 O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 50

ST THOMAS

- 1 The advent of our King
our prayers must now employ,
and we must hymns of welcome sing
in strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son
incarnate deigns to be;
himself a servant's form puts on,
to set his servants free.
- 3 Daughter of Sion, rise
to meet thy lowly King;
nor let thy faithless heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
and his true members all unite
with him in heaven to reign.
- 5 All glory to the Son
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever One,
through all eternity.

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

- 1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.
- 2 Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 4 Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
and John Cennick (1718-1755)

COMMUNION MOTET

The truth from above – Vaughan Williams

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

1. This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.
2. The first thing which I do relate,
Is That God did man create
The next thing which to you I tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.
3. Then after this was God's own choice
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain from evil free
Except they eat of such a tree.
4. But they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin —
Ruin'd themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity.
5. Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose
And so a promise soon did run
That He would redeem us by His Son.

COMMUNION HYMN**A&M 409****ANNE QUIGLEY**

*There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.*

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| <p>1. For justice, for freedom, for mercy:
hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief:
be near, hear our prayer, O God.</p> | <p>3. For healing, for wholeness,
for new life: hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death:
be near, hear our prayer, O God.</p> |
| <p>2. For wisdom, for courage,
for comfort: hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear:
be near, hear our prayer, O God.</p> | <p>4. Lord save us, take pity,
light in our darkness.
We call you, we wait:
be near, hear our prayer, O God.</p> |

Anne Quigley

FINAL HYMN**A&M 54****WACHET AUF**

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| <p>1 Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling
the watchmen all the air are filling,
arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! No more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying,
'where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
raise high your torches bright!
Alleluia!
The wedding song swells loud and strong:</p> | <p>3 Every soul in thee rejoices;
from earth and from angelic voices
be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
thy presence never more shall leave us,
we stand with angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
the bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluia!
Grant us to raise, to length of days,
the triumph-chorus of thy praise.</p> |
| <p>2 Zion hears the watchmen shouting,
her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
she stands and waits with eager eyes;
see her Friend from heaven descending,
adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son!
Alleluia!
Let us prepare to follow there,
where in thy supper we may share.</p> | |

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

translated by Francis Crawford Burkitt (1864-1935)

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

03 DECEMBER 2023

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

Email: vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Assistant Curate: The Revd Jayne Parker

Email: curate@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 they will get back to you as soon as they can.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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.

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.



PERSHORE ABBEY BULLETIN NOTICES

MINISTRY NEWS

As winter approaches we know that it is starting to feel chillier outside. Our churches will hopefully be warm and welcoming but please remember to dress warmly if attending a service. Lots of thin layers are the top recommendation. Keep warm and help all of our churches to use less energy on their heating!



FOLLOW THE STAR: The Church of England's 2023 Christmas Campaign booklet, *Follow the Star*, offers a musical journey to the heart of Christmas. Copies are £1.00. If you would like a copy, please email the office via office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or phone 01386 552071. Alternatively, large print copies are available online at: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/follow-the-star>

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 03 DECEMBER: Come along to Pershore Abbey at 1500 for this enjoyable festive service. The service will include favourite advent carols and will feature the Abbey Choir singing beautiful advent anthems.

CHRISTMAS TREE SUNDAY AT PERSHORE ABBEY: So many people enjoy the Christmas trees which decorate the Abbey during December. As with everything else, the cost of them is going up. To help fund them, **03 December 2023** will be Christmas Tree Sunday, as well as Advent Sunday! On this day, there will be a box at the back of the Abbey labelled *Christmas Trees*. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of our Christmas trees, any donations will be gratefully received. Thank you. *Claire*

EDIBLE NATIVITY SUNDAY 03 DECEMBER: Join us at 1030 as we tell the story of the birth of Jesus in a fun way, making an edible nativity! If you would like your child to attend, please contact the Office on **01386 552071** or office@pershoreabbey.org.uk **Booking is essential as places are limited.**

PERSHORE BENEFICE FOR CHRISTMAS: There are many services taking place across the Benefice this December. We invite to join us if you are able. For more details, please see our Monthly Bulletin or visit our website www.pershoreabbey.org.uk



PLEASE SEE OUR DECEMBER/JANUARY 2024 MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND NOTICES

Pershore Abbey

LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS



SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER
17:00
St Andrew's Centre

A service of reflection with prayers for Wholeness and Healing.
This is a service for people who would like to find some peace and quiet during this busy Christmas time.



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@AbbeyPershore



@pershoreabbeycommunity

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

Pershore Abbey

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE



SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER
15:00
Pershore Abbey

A wonderful chance to sing your favourite Advent Carols and to hear the Abbey Choir sing some beautiful anthems
Organist: Matthew Martin / Director of Music: Paul Trepte
This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
Pershore Abbey Community



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Pershore Abbey

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER
17:00
Pershore Abbey

A wonderful chance to sing your favourite Christmas Carols and to hear the Abbey Choir sing some beautiful anthems
Organist: Iain Simcock / Director of Music: Paul Trepte
This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
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Pershore Benefice

ADVENT COMPLINE ZOOM SESSIONS



Mondays in Advent
4, 11 and 18 December
1900
Online via Zoom



An opportunity to share in the quiet and peace of Compline during Advent

This half-hour night service will take place via Zoom

Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the Zoom link each week

ADVENT RETREAT

Where: High Street, Pershore
When: Thurs 7th Dec, 9:30–2:30
Cost: £30

“Come away with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” Mark 6:31

Beat the Christmas rush with restoration for the soul through craft and reflection.



Only 15 spaces, so book now!

Booking closes Thurs 30th Nov

For booking form, email
walkthewalk_christianretreats@mail.com



Why Come?

- ✓ Time out with God in a warm, homely space before Christmas gets busy
- ✓ Creative activities help you focus and think
- ✓ Guided reflections help you hear God's voice
- ✓ Quality crafts to take away and remember by
- ✓ £30 includes crafts and refreshments - Bring a lunch you'll enjoy!

Planned Itinerary

Refreshments available from 9am

- 9:30 Welcome Session
- 10:30 Morning Activity and Reflection
- 12pm Lunch
- 12:30 Afternoon Activity and Reflection
- 2:00 Closing Session

Refreshments and Departure from
2:30pm

Email for more information or to book:
walkthewalk_christianretreats@mail.com



Find out more about
Walk the Walk Christian Retreats:



Walk the Walk - Christian
Retreats in the Outdoors
[@walkthewalk_retreats](https://www.facebook.com/walkthewalk_retreats)

We invite you all to join us in church and online PERSHORE BENEFICE for CHRISTMAS

In addition to these special seasonal services and activities, our regular Sunday worship services will continue to take place each week as usual



Sunday 3 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1030 Edible Nativity - Booking Essential (*St Andrew's Centre*)
Email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or call 01386 552071 by 27 November
- 1030 Patronal Holy Communion (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)
- 1500 Advent Carol Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 10 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 0945 Café Church (*St Andrew's Centre*)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1030 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1700 Wholeness & Healing Service—Light in Our Darkness (*St Andrew's Centre*)



Sunday 17 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1030 Carol Service (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)
- 1700 Christmas Carol Service (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 1800 Carol Service and Christmas Trees (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1800 Carol and Christingle Service (*St James, Birlingham*)



Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December

- 0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 1030 Morning Praise (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*
- 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 Monday 25 December

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



New Year's Eve Sunday 31 December

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

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

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 03 December—Advent Sunday

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Edible Nativity (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

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

15:00 Advent Carol Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 04 December

09:00 Staging being put up (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

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

19:00 Advent Compline (*Zoom*)

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

19:30 Bell Ringing Practice (*St Andrew's*)

Tuesday 05 December

10:30 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)

14:00 Funeral Service for the late
Leslie Edwards (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:30 Mothers' Union (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

Wednesday 06 December

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

11:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Meadow Arts—Stich workshop art
installation (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:30 U3A Singers (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

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

19:30 Pershore Community Choir Practice
Session (*Pershore Abbey*)

Thursday 07 December

09:30 Bowbrook School Rehearsal
(*Pershore Abbey*)

14:15 Intercessory Prayer (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Bowbrook School Christmas
Presentation (*Pershore Abbey*)

Friday 08 December

09:00 Mental Health Matters (*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

10:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

12:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:00 Worcester Male Voice Choir Christmas
Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 09 December

19:00 Worcester Male Voice Choir Christmas
Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 10 December—Advent 2

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

14:00 Private Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:30 Wholeness & Healing Planning Meeting
(*St Andrew's Main*)

17:00 Light in our Darkness Service
(*St Andrew's Main*)