



PERSHORE BENEFICE

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

Sunday, 10 December 2023

ADVENT 2

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](https://www.youtube.com)

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.

REVD PHILIP HUGHES: To celebrate Philip's 60th Anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, he will be presiding at the 1030 Sung Eucharist in the Abbey on Sunday. Philip was ordained priest on 22 December 1963 and has served as a faithful priest, sharing in a much appreciated ministry wherever he has been. It will be a huge privilege for Jayne and I to stand alongside Philip and share in this special celebration with him. He is an inspiration to both of us and all those who are still some way off their 60th anniversary! May God continue to richly bless Philip's ministry. *Claire*



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.**

We light this candle to help us think of God's greatest promise, first told by the prophets.

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

THE COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3.8-15a

A reading from the Second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1.1-8

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’, John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; 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 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.

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.

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.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

[Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
Translated by John Chandler (1806-1876)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 30

CROSS OF JESUS

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

4 By thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

[Charles Wesley (1707-1788)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 31

DUNDEE

1. The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.

Cont'd

2. To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.
3. For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.
4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.
5. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit One.

Scottish Paraphrases, 1781
John Morrison (1750-1798)
based on Isaiah 9.2-7

COMMUNION MOTET

Remember O thou man – Ravenscroft arr. Paul Treppe

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

1. Remember, O thou Man,
O thou Man, O thou Man,
Remember, O thou Man,
Thy time is spent.
Remember, O thou Man,
How thou camest to me then,
And I did what I can.
Therefore repent.
2. Remember Adam's fall,
O thou Man, O thou Man,
Remember Adam's fall
From Heaven to Hell.
Remember Adam's fall,
How we were condemned all
To Hell perpetual,
There for to dwell.

Cont'd

3. Remember Adam's fall,
O thou Man, O thou Man,
Remember Adam's fall
From Heaven to Hell.
Remember Adam's fall,
How we were condemned all
To Hell perpetual,
There for to dwell.

4. Remember God's goodness,
O thou Man, O thou Man,
Remember God's goodness
And promise made.
Remember God's goodness,
How his only Son he sent
Our sins for to redress.
Be not afraid.

5. The Angels all did sing,
O thou Man, O thou Man,
The Angels all did sing
On Sion hill.
The Angels all did sing
Praises to our Heavenly King,
And peace to man living,
With right good will.

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 319

DIVA SERVATRIX

1. Sing we the praises of the great forerunner,
tell forth the mighty wonders of his story:
so may his Master cleanse our lips and make them
fit to extol him.
- 2 Lo, God's high herald, swift from heaven descending,
gives to thy father tidings of thy coming,
telling thy name and all the tale of marvels
that shall befall thee.

Cont'd

3 Oft had the prophets in the time before thee
spoken in vision of the Daystar's coming;
but when he came, 'twas thou that didst proclaim him
Saviour of all men.

[Paul the Deacon (730-799)]

Translated by Charles Stanley Phillips (1883-1949)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 75

PERSONENT HODIE

1 Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

2 God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

3 Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,

4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

[Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)]

Voluntary— Fantasia and fugue in C minor BWV 537 - Bach

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

10 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



FOLLOW THE STAR: Copies of The Church of England's 2023 Christmas Campaign booklet, Follow the Star, are available from the Abbey Office. They are £1.00. If you would like a copy, please email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk phone 01386 552071 or visit: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/follow-the-star>

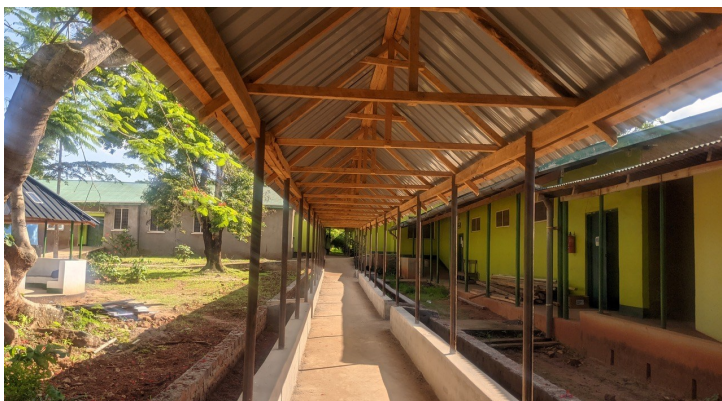
PRESHORE ABBEY CHRISTINGLE MAKING: If you are able to help make Christingles for the Abbey's Christingle Service on Christmas Eve you will be very welcome at 1000 at St Andrew's Centre on Saturday 23 December. Refreshments will be served. Thank you. *Suzanne Clarke*

LOST AND FOUND: If you attended the Benefice Eucharist at St James', Birlingham, and lost a scarf, please contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071 to be reunited.

BABIES & TODDLERS: The Babies & Toddlers group baked Pudsey gingerbread cookies and raised £50.50 for this year's Children in Need appeal. *Sara Speed*

ABBEY CHRISTMAS TREES! THANK YOU to all who helped in putting up the trees and those who came to decorate them at our Christmas Tree Decoration Morning. It was a wonderful morning of fun and laughter with coffee and mince pies too. A huge thank you to all who donated towards the cost of our trees. We hope they will be a warm welcome to those who visit the Abbey over the Christmas season. *Suzanne Clarke*

ABBEY MISSION MONEY MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Every year the Abbey choose charities to support with our mission giving, which totals £3000. This year we chose to give £1000 to Berega Hospital in Tanzania. They have used it to create a walk way for patients getting from one part of the hospital to the maternity ward, avoiding the hot sun and the rain. They have also been able to build a shelter for the patients. The photos are wonderful and share what has been achieved. Canon Isaac Mgego, Director at the hospital, has written: "Dear Claire, I would like again to thank you together with the congregation at large for the donations we regularly receive from you. The recent support we used to build a walkway and a shelter shed for patients. Both costed us Tzs.9,500,000 of which almost 3,000,000 came from you. This has been a great help to us for this project. Surely we could not finish this project without your support. Asante sana sana! [translated: Thank you very much!] Issac." *Claire*



MINCE PIES PLEASE!: PASA would appreciate donations of home made or bought mince pies (vegan, gluten-free and nut-free also welcome) to serve following the Abbey Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 17 December. If you are able to help please sign the list at the back of the Abbey and then bring your offering along to either the 0800 or 1030 service on Sunday 17 December and put them in the boxes at the back of the Abbey. *With grateful thanks from the PASA team.*




POST-CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA INVITATION: The PASA team are providing an afternoon tea of sandwiches, cakes, savouries and of course a cuppa, for those who would like to share in friendship and fellowship after Christmas. Come along to St Andrew's Centre on Thursday 28 December, between 1430-1600 and bring a friend. Please ring the secretary of PASA, Jane on 01386 556981 to leave your names and if you have any dietary requirements for catering arrangements that would be appreciated by the team. *Thank you and the PASA Team look forward to seeing you there.*

ABBEY STITCH PROJECT ON DISPLAY: 'Streams of Consciousness' the Pershore Abbey and Pershore High School collaborative stitch project, facilitated by Meadow Arts is now on display in the south aisle. It's only here for a short time, so come and have a look while you can.

CAFÉ CHURCH: Please note that Café Church takes place on the 2nd Sunday of the month and not the 3rd Sunday as incorrectly advertised in the monthly bulletin. The next Café Church will therefore be at 0930, Sunday 17 December at St Andrew's Centre.




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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Pershore Benefice

ADVENT COMPLINE ZOOM SESSIONS



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

 **Follow The Star**
Join the Song

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

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

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 10 December—Advent 2

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:30 Café Church (*St Andrew's Main*)

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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 11 December

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

10:00 Pershore U3A Ukelele Group
(*St Andrew's Main*)

13:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing
(*St Andrew's Main*)

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

18:45 Art & Craft for Wellbeing
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

19:00 Advent Compline (*Zoom*)

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

Tuesday 12 December

09:30 Bell Ringing - Peal (*St Andrew's*)

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

13:00 St Nicholas CE Middle School
Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

18:30 St Nicholas CE Middle School Carol
Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

Wednesday 13 December

09:30 Abbey Park Federation Rehearsal
(*Pershore Abbey*)

12:30 Bring you Own Craft & Chat
(*St Andrew's Main*)

13:00 Abbey Park Federation Christmas
Celebration (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

Thursday 14 December

10:00 Funeral for the late Shari Marshall
(*Pershore Abbey*)

14:15 Intercessory Prayer (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:30 Read Easy Coach Meeting
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

Friday 15 December

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

10:30 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

14:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

17:30 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:30 Pershore Town Choir Concert
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 16 December

19:30 Pershore Choral Christmas Concert
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 17 December—Advent 3

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

10:30 Carol Service (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

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

17:00 Christmas Carol Service with
LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:00 Carol Service and Christmas Trees
(*St Mary's, Wick*)

18:00 Carols and Christingles Service
(*St James', Birlingham*)