

PERSHORE BENEFICE

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

Sunday, 17 December 2023

ADVENT 3

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.

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 61.1-4,8-11

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord said: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

A reading from the First letter to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

John 1.6-8,19-28

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 36

BRISTOL

- 1 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

[Phillip Doddridge (1702-1751)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 451

SAFFRON WALDEN

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.
4. Just as I am, of that free love,
The breadth, length, depth and height to
prove,
Here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

[Charlotte Elliot (1789-1871)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 595

SLANE

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Cont'd

- 3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

[translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880—1931)
Versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935)]

COMMUNION MOTET

How beautiful upon the mountains—Stainer
Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings,
that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation;
that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 720

FAIRMEAD

1. Lord, you are the light of life to me;
When darkness hides my path, you help me see.
Shine on me, O Lord, that now and all my days
Your light may lead me on, guiding my ways.
2. Lord, you are the rock on which I stand,
Stable and strong in you, held by your hand.
Keep me safe, O Lord; in weakness let there be
Your loving, firm embrace upholding me.

Cont'd

3. Lord, you are the truth that sets me free;
Only in you is found true liberty.
Teach me then, O Lord, in all things to pursue
Your good and perfect will, growing like you.
4. Lord, you are the kings who ever reigns.
Earth's rulers rise and fall; your throne remains.
Rule my life, O Lord, I yield myself anew
Your name to glorify, living for you.

[Brian Hoare (b.1935)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 719

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

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)]

Voluntary— Wachet auf – Karg Elert

The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

17 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>



A THANK YOU FROM PHILLIP: Thank you for your kind, supportive reaction to my opportunity to observe the diamond jubilee of my ordination as a priest. It was a great joy to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with you in this way. Thank you, Claire and Jayne, my deacons, for looking after me so well. *Philip Hughes*

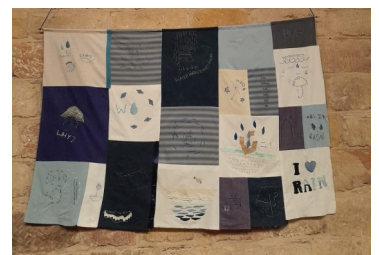
PRESHORE ABBEY CHRISTINGLE MAKING: If you are able to help make Christingles for the Abbey's Christingle Service on Christmas Eve you will be very welcome at 1000 at St Andrew's Centre on Saturday 23 December. Refreshments will be served. Thank you. *Suzanne Clarke*

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.*

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, on Sunday 14 January 2024 at St Andrew's Centre.

ABBAY 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.



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

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*



CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM SALZWEDEL: We have received this beautiful wooden gift from our friends in our link parish of St Katherine’s, Salzwedel! It depicts the main buildings of Salzwedel around a Christmas tree. It will be on display in the Office for everyone to see. *Claire*



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

Pershore Abbey Community



@pershoreabbeycom



@AbbeyPershore



@pershoreabbeycommunity

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

Pershore Abbey

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



CHRISTMAS EVE

15:30

Pershore Abbey

JOIN OUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE!

Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle



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01386 552071

Pershore Abbey

MIDNIGHT MASS



CHRISTMAS EVE

23:15

Pershore Abbey

A special service celebrating the birth of Christ, the Light of the World, in the midst of darkness.

ALL WELCOME

This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

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Pershore Abbey

ALL AGE EUCHARIST



CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30

Pershore Abbey

A family-friendly Christmas Day service for everyone, followed by refreshments

ALL WELCOME

This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

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01386 552071

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 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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 18 December

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

09:30 Orchard Primary School Rehearsal
(*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

19:00 Advent Compline (*Zoom*)

19:30 Bell Ringing Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 19 December

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

10:30 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Orchard Primary School Christmas
Celebration (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:00 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)

19:00 Benefice Churchwardens' meeting
(*Zoom*)

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

Wednesday 20 December

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

11:55 Pershore High School Christmas
Celebration (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Funeral Service for the late Peter Pugh
(*Pershore Abbey*)

18:30 High School Christmas Celebration
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Thursday 21 December

11:55 Pershore High School Christmas
Celebration (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:00 Removal of Staging (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:00 Funeral Service for the late
Pauline Widdus (*Vale Crematorium*)

Friday 22 December

09:15 Flower Guild (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

14:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:00 Christingle Preparation (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:30 Bells—Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 23 December

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

Sunday 24 December - Advent 4/Christmas Eve

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Morning Praise
with *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:30 Christingle Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

17:00 Crib and Christingle Service
(*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

23:15 Midnight Mass (*Pershore Abbey*)