



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**

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

**Sunday, 31 December 2023**

**CHRISTMAS 1**

## **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](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.

**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 COLLECT**

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 61.10-62.3**

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah.

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 Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**

**Galatians 4.4-7**

A reading from the Letter to the Galatians.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE GOSPEL**

**Luke 2.15-21**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

## HYMN SHEET

### FIRST HYMN

**A&M 59**

**IRIS**

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship  
Christ the new-born King,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ the new-born King.*

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant Light:

3 Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of Nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:

- 4 Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down:

[James Montgomery (1771-1854)]

### GRADUAL HYMN

**A&M 72**

**ANTIOCH (COMFORT (MASON))**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

[Issac Watts (1674-1748)]

**THIRD HYMN**

**A&M 86**

**THE FIRST NOWELL**

1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!*

2 Then wise men from a country far  
looked up and saw a guiding star;  
they travelled on by night and day  
to reach the place where Jesus lay:

3 At Bethlehem they entered in,  
on bended knee they worshipped him;  
they offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

4 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
for Christ has our salvation wrought  
and with his blood our life has bought:

[Michael Perry (1942-1996)]

**COMMUNION MOTET**

*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**A&M 88**

**GREENSLEEVES**

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
this, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds worship and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him praise  
the babe, the son of Mary.

2 Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,  
his love all loves exceeding:  
nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail, the Saviour comes,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

3 So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
all tongues and peoples own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let every heart enthrone him:  
raise, raise your song on high  
while Mary sings a lullaby,  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

- 1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
  
- 2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
  
- 3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
  
- 4 Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
  
- 5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;  
past put behind us, for the future take us,  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

[[Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)]]

*Voluntary: **Noel Suisse – D'Acquin** The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary*

*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 & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

## 31 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

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### **BENEFICE OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

**TUESDAY - THURSDAY 1100 - 1200 ONLY**

*(excluding Bank Holidays)*

*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.*

### **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 Friday 22 December 2023 until Tuesday 2 January 2024**

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.

### **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.

Pershore Abbey

# EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE



**SUNDAY 14 JANUARY**

**15:00**

**Pershore Abbey**

Please join us for a celebratory service of singing and praise

*This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel*

**Pershore Abbey Community**



@pershoreabbeycom



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[www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk) • [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

01386 552071

## ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

### **Sunday 31 December - Christmas 1**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

18:30 Bells—Quarter Peal (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 1 January - Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**

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### **Tuesday 2 January**

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

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

### **Wednesday 3 January**

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

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

### **Thursday 4 January**

11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)

14:15 Intercessory Prayer (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

### **Friday 5 January**

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:30 Bells—Surprise Major (*St Andrew's*)

### **Saturday 6 January**

12:45 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)

14:30 Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra  
Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Sunday 7 January - Epiphany**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

13:15 Breathworks Class (*St Andrew's Main*)

17:00 Said BCP Evening Prayer (*Pershore Abbey*) This is instead of the usual Evensong service as the choir are singing on 14



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)