



PERSHORE BENEFICE

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

Sunday, 7 January 2024

EPIPHANY

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 COLLECT

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son 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

Isaiah 610.1-6

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3.1-12

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have

become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2.1-12

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, 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 103

WAS LEBET

- 1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.
- 2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.
- 3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.
- 4 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.
- 5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

[John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 95

STUTTGART

- 1 Bethlehem, what greater city
Can in fame with you compare?
For the gracious God of heaven
Choose to meet our people there.

Cont'd

2. Was there ever beauty brighter
Than the star which shone that night
To proclaim the incarnation
Of our God, the world's true light?

4. Sacrifice, redeemer, saviour!
Incense shows that God has come,
Gold, our mighty king proclaims him,
Myrrh foretells his silent tomb.

3. From the East come men of learning,
Rich the treasures that they hold-
Tributes to a greater wisdom,
Gifts of incense, myrrh and gold.

5. Jesus Christ, to you be glory,
Lord of lords whom we adore
With father and the Spirit:
God be praised for evermore!

[Michael Perry (1942-1996)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 96

EPIPHANY

- 1 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
- 2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.
- 3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
- 5 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

[Reginald Heber (1783-1826)]

COMMUNION MOTET

New Year Carol—Britten

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*Here we bring new water from the well so clear
For to worship God with, this happy New Year
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

*Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, etc.*

*Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, etc.*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 98

EVELYNS

1 From the eastern mountains
pressing on they come,
wise men in their wisdom,
to his humble home;
stirred by deep devotion,
hasting from afar,
ever journeying onward,
guided by a star.

2 There their Lord and Saviour
meek and lowly lay,
wondrous light that led them
onward on their way,
ever now to lighten
nations from afar,
as they journey homeward
by that guiding star.

3 Thou who in a manger
once hast lowly lain,
who dost now in glory
o'er all kingdoms reign,
gather in the peoples,
who in lands afar
ne'er have seen the brightness
of thy guiding star.

[Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)]

- 1 Angel-voices ever singing
 round thy throne of light,
 angel-harps for ever ringing,
 rest not day nor night;
 thousands only live to bless thee
 and confess thee
 Lord of might.
- 2 Thou who art beyond the farthest
 mortal eye can scan,
 can it be that thou regardest
 songs of sinful man?
 Can we know that thou art near us,
 and wilt hear us?
 Yea, we can.
- 3 Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
 o'er each work of thine;
 thou didst ears and hands and voices
 for thy praise design;
 craftsman's art and music's measure
 for thy pleasure
 all combine.
- 4 In thy house, great God, we offer
 of thine own to thee;
 and for thine acceptance proffer
 all unworthily
 hearts and minds and hands and voices
 in our choicest
 psalmody.
- 5 Honour, glory, might, and merit
 thine shall ever be,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 blessèd Trinity.
 Of the best that thou hast given
 earth and heaven
 render thee.

[Francis Pott (1832-1909)
 Music; Edwin George Monk (1819-1900)
 Descant by John Barnard (b.1948)]

*Voluntary: **Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern—Buxtehude**
 English translation: How beautifully shines the morning star*

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

7 JANUARY 2024

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

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 BULLETIN NOTICES

NEWS

EXPLORING AND GROWING OUR FAITH QUESTIONNAIRE: At Abbey services this Sunday a questionnaire will be distributed that will help us all look at what we can do to explore and grow our faith. Come along and find out more! Copies will be available at the back of the Abbey after Sunday if you can't make it this week. *Claire*

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY'S EVENING SERVICE: Please note that Sunday's evening service at 1700 will be said BCP Evening Prayer instead of Evensong as the choir are singing on Sunday 14 January.

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 1500: If you would like to read at this service, celebrating the great Feast of Epiphany, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. *Claire*

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.

MIDWEEK COMMUNION: On 3 January we launched a new midweek communion service. These services start at 1000 in the St John Chapel at the Abbey and will be a simple said service followed by refreshments with the chance to sit down and chat to others who have attended the service. If you don't feel like attending the service please do feel free to come along for refreshments and a chat, which will begin around 1045 and end at 1130. We look forward to welcoming those who would like a quiet communion service in the week and all those for whom getting to church on a Sunday is difficult. For more information please get in touch with me. *Claire*



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2024: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 runs from 18-25 January with a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service with Churches Together in Pershore taking place at Pershore Abbey on Sunday 21 January at 15:00.

ABBAY PUDDING EVENING TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE SUNDAY 14 JANUARY!: The Pudding Evening will be held at St Andrew's on Saturday 3 February at 18:30 for 19:00. Jacket potatoes with a choice of tuna or cheese and garnish followed by a selection of puddings. Tickets £7 and please bring your own wine/beer and soft drinks will be available. There will also be a sign up sheet for all you keen pudding makers out there to contribute your "signature pudding" please. *Thank you Julie and the PASA team.*

THANK YOU: I would like to thank the many people who sent cards of condolence on the death of my husband, Ray, and also those that so kindly came to his funeral. The family and I were overwhelmed by the number present - almost filled the crematorium - we all felt the love which helped us to cope with the sad occasion. Thank you. *Heather Franklin*



Pershore Abbey
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross

VACANCY

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Pershore Abbey seek a part time Director to maintain and develop a strong and vibrant tradition of church music and to work with our enthusiastic and growing choir. We need someone who can respond with flair to our brand new Ruffatti pipe organ.

Salary £11,000

With the opportunity for additional payments

For an informal discussion about the post with Paul Trepte, interim DoM, please contact the office or more more general information visit our website www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

Closing date: 28 January 2024

For a full job description and application form please contact our office on :
01386 552071 (*please leave your name & contact details*)
Or email: **office@pershireabbey.org.uk**

An application pack may also be collected from the Benefice Office

Pershore Abbey and Benefice Office
11 Broad Street, Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1BB

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

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

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 • office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

01386 552071

Go and do likewise



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service with Churches Together in Pershore

Sunday 21 January 2024

15:00

Pershore Abbey



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer



ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 08 January

09:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

13:00 Funeral Service for the late
Lawrence Champken (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

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

Tuesday 09 January

09:20 Foodbank Steering Group
(*St Andrew's Main*)

18:30 Bells Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

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

11:00 PAT Testing (*Abbey Office, St Andrew's*
& *Pershore Abbey*)

11:30 Funeral service for the late Eileen Perry
(*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Abbey Misson Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)

14:30 Abbey Women's Fellowship
(*St Andrew's Main*)

15:30 V&W (*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

Wednesday 10 January

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

14:00 Bring you own Craft & Chat
(*St Andrew's Main*)

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

Thursday 11 January

09:45 iSinging Choir Rehearsals (*St Andrew's Main*)

11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)

Friday 12 January

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

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

15:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

Saturday 13 January

14:00 Visiting Gloucestershire Organist
Association (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 14 January - Epiphany 2

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

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

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

17:00 Wholeness & Healing Service
(*St Andrew's Main*)



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