



# MORNING PRAISE

PERSHORE ABBEY

Sunday, 28 JANUARY 2024

Candlemas

## 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.

### Welcome and Introduction

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**HYMN 59**

**Angels from the realms of glory**

**(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:

Cont'd

*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)  
From *Iris*, 1816 and *The Christmas Box*, 1825]

*Please sit or kneel for the Prayers of Penitence*

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.' Let us therefore bring our sins into the light and confess them in penitence and faith.

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation. God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied but ignore the cry of the hungry.  
Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

May almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us  
in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Collect for the day**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:

grant that we may be presented to you

with pure and clean hearts,

by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Reading: Malachi 3.1-5**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn 639

## Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ His Son.

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong!"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us!"  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong!"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us!"*

Henry Smith (b1952)

## The Gospel – Luke 2.22-40

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

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him .

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Reflection**

*Please stand for our Declaration of Faith*

We say together:

**We believe in God the Father,  
who created everything in heaven and on earth.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with His love**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*Please sit or kneel as we offer God our Prayers and Thanks*

*At the end of each prayer when you hear 'God of love' please respond '**hear our prayer**'*

*We end by saying together The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

*Hymn during which the collection will be taken:*

## **HYMN 650**

## **Great is thy faithfulness**

**(FAITHFULNESS)**

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

- 2 Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

# Stripping of the crib, lighting of candles and Candlemas Procession

*After the candles are lit we say:*

**Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,  
pour into the hearts of your faithful people  
the brilliance of eternal splendour,  
that we, who by these kindling flames  
light up this temple to your glory,  
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,  
and so be counted worthy to stand before you  
in that eternal city where you live and reign,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**Hymn 396**

**Faithful vigil ended**

**(PASTOR PASTORUM)**

*During which we process to the font*

1 Faithful vigil ended,  
watching, waiting cease;  
Master, grant your servant  
his discharge in peace.

2 All the Spirit promised,  
all the Father willed,  
now these eyes behold it  
perfectly fulfilled.

3 This your great deliverance  
sets your people free;  
Christ their light uplifted  
all the nations see.

4 Christ, your people's glory!  
Watching, doubting cease:  
grant to us your servants  
our discharge in peace.

[Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)]

## **Candlemas Responsory said around the font**

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

**Help us, in whom he has been born,  
to live his life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

**Help us, who have received the gifts of life,  
to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

**Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,  
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we have greeted the Light of the world.

**Help us, who now extinguish these candles,  
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

*We now extinguish our candles*

Here we now stand in the place of baptism.

**Help us, who are marked with the cross,  
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

**Help us, for whom Lent is near,  
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Here we bless one another in your name.

**Help us, who now go in peace,  
to shine with your light in the world.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Voluntary: - Prelude and fugue in E - Lübeck*

***Please take this leaflet home with you.***

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000. New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2002*

*CCLI Licence Number 46441*



# PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

## 28 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, WEDNESDAY & 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.*

### **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

## NEWS

**IONA SERVICE - SUNDAY 28 JANUARY, 1700:** Following the Week of Christian Unity, the Iona service will be an Agape, based on the inclusive fellowship meal of the early church. With some Iona Community songs and prayers, there will be an invitation to share in little homemade honey oatcakes and water. Everyone is very welcome to this informal service no matter what their denomination or background. If you are unable to attend in person, the service will also be on Zoom. Please email Helen on [iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for a link.

**PALM CROSSES NEEDED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY:** Please leave your old palm crosses in the marked box which will be placed at the back of Pershore Abbey from 14 January, as we need to recreate the ash in the traditional way for this year's Ash Wednesday service on **14 February** at Pershore Abbey.



**ASH WEDNESDAY - 14 FEBRUARY:** Everyone is invited to come forward and have a cross made out of ash marked on their forehead as a sign of our penitence and God's forgiveness. There will be two services at the Abbey, one at 0830 and another at 1930, which will be Livestreamed and available to view on our YouTube channel. To view, visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for **Pershore Abbey Community**

**EVENSONG - SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY, 1700:** We are delighted that members of the choir of St Martin's, London Road will be joining the Abbey choir to sing choral evensong on Sunday 4th February at 1700. The organist for the service will be John Swindells who is Director of Music at St Martin's. The music for the service (canticles and anthem) will be by John Ireland.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024:** All are welcome to attend this year's World Day of Prayer service at 1400 on Friday 1 March at Pershore Baptist Church. If any volunteers would be willing to take part, please contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071.

**DAY OF REFLECTION:** There will be a day of reflection for Lent at Holland House led by Christine Dodd on Monday 18 March, 1000-1600. Please let Janet Stansbie know either in person or via the Abbey Office by the end of February if you wish to book a place. The cost is £20. Drinks will be provided, please bring packed lunch.

**PARISH COFFEE MORNING—SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY AT 1030—1200:** On behalf of St Andrew's Parish Trust Centre, the Abbey choir will be running this month's Parish coffee morning at St. Andrew's Centre. Please come along for fellowship & a warming cup of tea/coffee along with other goodies, bring a friend, everyone is welcome.



**ABBEY PUDDING EVENING:** Tickets are still available for this fun social evening! You are invited to the Abbey Pudding Evening at St Andrew's Centre on Saturday 3 February, 1830 for 1900. Food and a fun 'pudding themed' quiz for all you quizzers and pudding fans out there. Please come and support a good local cause and enjoy a great selection of puddings! Jacket potatoes with a choice of tuna or cheese followed by a taste of various puddings. Tickets £7 and please bring your own wine/beer - soft drinks will be available. There will be a sign up sheet for all you keen pudding makers out there to contribute your 'signature pudding'. Julie Newman will be selling tickets on Sunday morning or you can ring her on 01386 640497. All proceeds are going to the Pershore Wellbeing Hub. *Thank you Julie and the PASA team.*



**ARCHBISHOP VISIT:** All are welcome to join us as we pray for our diocese as well as peace and justice throughout the world in 2024 and beyond. On Saturday 3 February the Archbishop of Canterbury will be visiting Pershore Abbey for a Prayer Lunch at 1230. Bring your own picnic lunch and join us for this special occasion. *Claire*

Pershore Benefice

## ASH WEDNESDAY



Wednesday 14th February  
0830 and 1930

Pershore Abbey *with Livestream*

Joining a service on Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent.

Everyone is invited to come forward and have a cross made out of ash marked on their forehead, as a sign of our penitence and God's forgiveness.

**ALL WELCOME**

Pershore Benefice

## LENT & HOLY WEEK COMPLINE BY ZOOM



Mondays in Lent from 19 February  
Monday 25, Tuesday 26 &  
Wednesday 27 March in Holy Week  
1900

Online via Zoom

An opportunity to share in the quiet and peace of Compline during Lent, with a reflection

This half-hour night service will take place via Zoom

Please contact [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for the

**PLEASE SEE OUR MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR ALL OTHER EVENTS  
AND SERVICES TAKING PLACE DURING LENT**

## ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

### **Sunday 28 January - Candlemas**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

10:30 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)

14:00 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)

17:00 Iona Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 29 January**

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

13:15 Art & Craft for Wellbeing  
(*St Andrew's Main*)

15:00 Funeral Service for the late  
Linda Young (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

19:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing  
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

### **Tuesday 30 January**

09:30 Shortlisting Meeting for Abbey  
Director of Music (*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

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

### **Wednesday 31 January**

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

12:00 Wychavon Civic Service Meeting  
(*Choir Vestry*)

13:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

18:30 Wick PCC (*Wick*)

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

### **Thursday 01 February**

09:30 School Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)

14:15 Intercessory Prayer (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Friday 02 February**

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

09:30 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

14:00 Burial of Ashes for the late Michael &  
Christine Harris (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

15:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

### **Saturday 03 February**

09:00 PASA Social Preparation  
(*St Andrew's Main*)

12:30 Archbishop of Canterbury Visit  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

13:00 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

18:30 Abbey Pudding Evening (*St Andrew's*)

### **Sunday 04 February—2nd before Lent**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

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

11:30 Musyck Anon Choir Concert  
(*St Andrew's Main*)

15:00 Bulb Sunday (*St James', Birlingham*)

16:00 Evensong Choir Practice  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

17:00 Evensong (*Pershore Abbey*)