



PERSHORE BENEFICE

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

Sunday, 04 February 2024

2 BEFORE LENT

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

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever . **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Colossians 1.15-20

A reading from the Letter to the Colossians.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or

dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

John 1.1-14

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; 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 810

MOSCOW

1. Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

2. Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind,
let there be light

4. Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light.

[John Marriott (1780-1825)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 220

NOEL NOUVELET

1. Word that formed creation, earth and sea and sky;
Word that brings salvation, Word that will not die;
Speak now in us that we might hear your call;
Living Word of Jesus, sound within us all.
2. Love that formed and named us, filled this clay with breath;
Love that seeks and claims us, Love beyond all death;
Come now and fire the life that flows from you;
Love that raised up Jesus, raise us up anew.
3. Song of joy and wonder, sound so wild and free;
Voice of wind and thunder, boundless as the sea;
Music of God, the love that casts out fear;
Song that sang in Jesus, sing within us here.
4. God of all creation, from our hearts anew;
God of our salvation, lead us home to you;
Spirit, inspire our hearts to hear your call;
Living God of Jesus, come renew us all.

1. Light of the minds that know him,
 may Christ be light to mine!
my sun in risen splendour,
 my light of truth divine;
my guide in doubt and darkness,
 my true and living way,
my clear light ever shining,
 my dawn of heaven's day.
2. Life of the souls that love him,
 may Christ be ours indeed!
the living bread from heaven
 on whom our spirits feed;
who died for love of sinners
 to bear our guilty load,
and make of life's brief journey
 a new Emmaus road.
3. Strength of the wills that serve him,
 may Christ be strength to me,
who stilled the storm and tempest,
 who calmed the tossing sea;
his Spirit's power to move me,
 his will to master mine,
his cross to carry daily
 and conquer in his sign.
4. May it be ours to know him
 that we may truly love,
and loving, fully serve him
 as serve the saints above;
till in that home of glory
 with fadeless splendour bright,
we serve in perfect freedom
 our strength, our life, our light.

[Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)]

COMMUNION MOTET**God is our hope—J S Bach**

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*God is our hope and strength,
All heaven and earth adore Him.
Renew eternal praise,
And prostrate fall before him!
For all things are of him,
And in all things is he,
The works that aye have been,
And evermore shall be.*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 439

LIEBSTER JESU (DESSAU)

1. Dearest Jesu, we are here,
at thy call, thy presence owning;
pleading now in holy fear
that great sacrifice atoning:
Word incarnate, much in wonder
on this mystery deep we ponder.

2. Jesu, strong to save — the same
yesterday, today, for ever —
make us fear and love thy name,
serving thee with best endeavour:
in this life, O ne'er forsake us,
but to bliss hereafter take us.

[George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

Tobias Clausnitzer (1619-1684)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 610

NUN DANKET

1. Christ is the world's true light,
Its captain of salvation,
The daystar clear and bright
Of every land and nation;
New life, new hope awakes
Where peoples own his sway:
Freedom her bondage breaks,
And night is turned to day.
2. In Christ all races meet,
Their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete,
From sunrise to its setting:
When Christ is throned as Lord
Lands shall forsake their fear,
To ploughshare beat the sword,
To pruning-hook the spear.
3. One Lord, in one great name
Unite us all who own thee,
Cast out our pride and shame
That hinder to enthrone thee;
The world has waited long
Has travailed long in pain,
To heal its ancient wrong,
Come, Prince of Peace, and reign!

[George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959)]

Voluntary: Fugue ("Wedge") in E Minor—Bach

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

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

04 FEBRUARY 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

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BENEFICE OFFICE OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & 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



ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY VISIT TO PERSHORE ABBEY SATURDAY 3

FEBRUARY AT 1230: 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*

PALM CROSSES NEEDED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY: Please leave your old palm crosses in the marked box at the back of Pershore Abbey, 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 services at the Abbey at 0830 and 1930, both will be livestreamed. To view, visit www.youtube.com and search for **Pershore Abbey Community**

ABBEY EVENSONG - SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY AT 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 will be by John Ireland and the anthem will be 'God is our hope' by JS Bach.

ABBEY FLOWER GUILD AGM MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY AT 1030: The AGM will be held in St. Andrew's. Enquiries and apologies to the Secretary, Mary Cope, on 01386 554773.

ABBEY SUNDAY MORNING COFFEES - HELP NEEDED: I am very grateful for the continued support of the volunteers in the Sunday Coffees team but we really do need more help. We are in need of helpers to operate the dishwasher in St Andrew's (tuition provided!), plus others to serve teas & coffees. The duty would be on one Sunday morning as part of a 4 to 6 weeks rota? Please contact Sara Speed (01386) 710776, or talk to any member of the team, for further information.

THE ABBEY ORGAN: The congregation will notice that the organ console has moved to the opposite side of the Abbey in a swap with the grand piano. This is an experiment designed to discover if the organ can be heard more clearly *by the organist* in this alternative position. First tests seem to indicate that this will prove to be worthwhile, but please watch this space and we shall see..! *Paul Trepte*

PERSHORE CARNIVAL: The theme for this year's carnival is 'Musicals' and will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 27 May 2024. Anyone who would like to participate in the procession or help with carnival preparations are invited to Suzanne Clarke's house (Greenbank 1A Worcester Road) for a meeting on Wednesday 7 February at 1900 or contact Beth Seale on 01386554547 with ideas or comments. *Beth Seale*

**PLEASE SEE OUR MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR ALL LENT INFORMATION
& OTHER NOTICES**

ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

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 Service (*St James', Birlingham*)

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

17:00 Evensong (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 05 February

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

14:00 U3A History Group (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

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

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 06 February

10:00 Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

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

14:00 Abbey Mission Group (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:30 Pershore Civic Society (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

Wednesday 07 February

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

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

13:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

Thursday 08 February

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

11:30 Funeral for the late Peter Griffiths
(*Pershore Abbey*)

14:30 Severn & Wye John Betjeman Society
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

Friday 09 February

All Day Abbey Director of Music Auditions
(*St Andrew's Upper and Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 10 February

10:00 Volunteers' Coffee Morning
(*St Andrew's Main*)

12:00 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

12:30 Bells Quarter Peal (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:30 Private Party (*St Andrew's Main*)

13:45 Bells Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

14:45 Bells Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

16:00 Pershore Relief in Sickness Charity
(*St Andrew's Main*)

Sunday 11 February - Next before Lent

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*)

13:00 Breathwork Class (*St Andrew's Main*)

17:00 Wholeness and Healing Service
(*Pershore Abbey*)