



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 18 February 2024
LENT 1

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

The 1030 Service from the Abbey will be livestreamed 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](#)

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. If you have any queries or concerns please do speak to a sidesperson or churchwarden.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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

Genesis 9.8-17

A reading from the book of Genesis

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3.18-22

A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1.9-15

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord . **Amen.**

HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 121

AUS DER TIEFE (HEINLEIN)

1 Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:

2 Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

3 Shall not we thy sorrows share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?

4 And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

5 So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

6 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

[George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870)
and Francis Pott (1832-1909)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 702

MANNHEIM

1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

3 Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

[James Edmeston (1791-1867)]

- 1 Before I take the body of my Lord,
before I share his life in bread and wine,
I recognize the sorry things within:
these I lay down.
- 2 The words of hope I often failed to give,
the prayers of kindness buried by my pride,
the signs of care I argued out of sight:
these I lay down.
- 3 The narrowness of vision and of mind,
the need for other folk to serve my will,
and every word and silence meant to hurt:
these I lay down.
- 4 Of those around in whom I meet my Lord,
I ask their pardon and I grant them mine,
that every contradiction of Christ's peace
might be laid down.
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast,
I empty now my heart and stretch my hands,
and ask to meet you here in bread and wine
which you lay down.

[John L Bell (b. 1949)
and Graham Maule (1958-2019)]

COMMUNION MOTET**Turn thy face from my sins— Attwood**

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.*

COMMUNION HYMN**A&M 434****FRANCONIA**

- 1 Christ bids us break the bread
and share the cup he gave,
in token of the blood he shed
for those he died to save.
- 2 It was for us he came,
to bear, by human birth,
a crown of thorn, a cross of shame,
for every child of earth.
- 3 The Saviour crucified
in glory rose again:
we here remember him who died,
ascended now to reign.
- 4 O Christ, once lifted up
that we might be forgiven,
we take the bread and drink the cup
and share the life of heaven.

- 1 O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame;
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!

- 2 What peaceful hours I once enjoyed,
how sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void
the world can never fill.

- 3 Return, O holy Dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest:
I hate the sins that made thee mourn
and drove thee from my breast.

- 4 The dearest idol I have known,
whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from thy throne
and worship only thee.

- 5 So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

[William Cowper (1731-1800)]

Voluntary: Prelude and fugue in F sharp minor - Buxtehude

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

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

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

18 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

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)

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

ABBAY OFFICE CLOSURE: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Abbey Office was not open to the public on Tuesday or Wednesday. We are pleased to report the technical issue which led to this is due to be resolved by the weekend.

ABBAY 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.



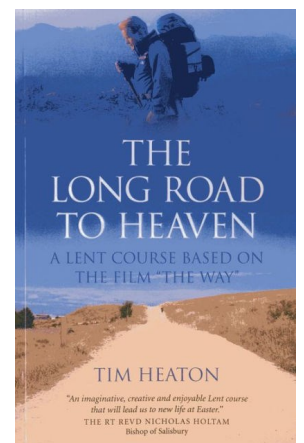
ABBAY SUNDAY MORNING COFFEES - HELP NEEDED: I am very grateful for the continued support of the volunteers in the Sunday Coffees team but we really do need more help. We are in need of helpers to operate the dishwasher in St Andrew's (tuition provided!), plus others to serve teas & coffees. The duty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

IONA SERVICE AND TALK ON THE THEME OF PALESTINE/ISRAEL: On Sunday 25 February at 1700 in the Abbey there will be a short reflective service with cello music, images and readings in preparation for the talk about the situation in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel. After the service, refreshments will be available in St Andrew's followed by a talk with slides by Ian Cave at 6pm also in St Andrew's. Ian volunteered in the West Bank in 2023 as an Ecumenical Accompanier with EAPPI (for further information please see <https://www.eappi.org/en/>). Free event but donations to the ongoing work of EAPPI would be appreciated. If you would like zoom link or can help in any way on the night with the service or talk, please email Helen on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk

PERSHORE CUPPA AND CHAT: Have you been stuck inside of late and would like to meet other people over refreshments, some friendly chat or perhaps a game or two? If so, please head to St Andrew's Centre on Wednesday 28 February, 1030-1230, for the first of three free Pershore Cuppa and Chat sessions. For more information telephone Amanda on 07966883780.

LENT GROUP BOOKS: Due to difficulties in obtaining enough printed copies of this year's Lent book it would be a huge help if some attendees could buy their own Kindle version. If you can do that can you please let Claire know **as soon as possible**. Many thanks.

For those who have access to an iPad, the book is also available to purchase via the Google Play Books and Audiobooks app ([click or tap to purchase](#)) or Apple Books app. The cost is £3.99.



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

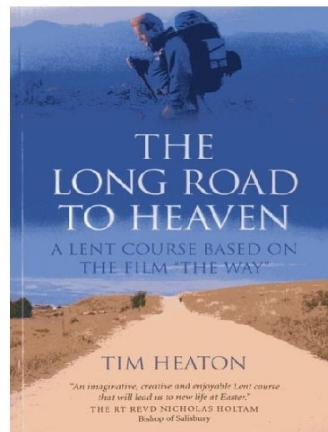


LENT 2024

The Abbey - Pershore Baptist Church - Holy Redeemer Catholic Church - Community Church

THE LONG ROAD TO HEAVEN LENT GROUPS FROM THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY

The Long Road to Heaven is a five-part study course based on the film *The Way*. Starring Martin Sheen as a bereaved father, this soulful and uplifting film observes a group of pilgrims walking the Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela. As it follows their journey of inner transformation, the course examines biblical accounts and images of salvation - past, present and future - and addresses the questions: What are we saved from? What are we saved for? Who can be saved? What do we have to do to be saved? How are we saved?



The course will run for 5 sessions during Lent and will take place at **Pershore Baptist Church**, after Lenten Lunches on the following days from 1400-1530.

- Thursday 22 February
- Thursday 29 February
- Thursday 7 March
- Thursday 14 March
- Thursday 21 March

St Andrew's sessions will take place on **Thursday evenings** on the following days from **1900-2030**:

- Thursday 22 February
- Thursday 29 February
- Thursday 7 March
- Thursday 14 March
- Thursday 21 March



The Abbey - Pershore Baptist Church - Holy Redeemer Catholic Church - Community Church

LENTEN LUNCHES

JOIN US FOR HEARTY SOUP AND A ROLL

ALL WELCOME



PERSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

1200 - 1330

(Last orders 13:00)

THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY - THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY
THURSDAY 7 MARCH - THURSDAY 14 MARCH

Followed by the Lent Group 1400-1530
on the above dates and Thursday 21 March

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 for the

Pershore Benefice Easter 2024

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday 24 March

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

1000 Palm Sunday Procession on Abbey Park to Abbey. Meet at St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road crossroads. Come and join us singing and drumming to the Abbey.

1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*) *with LIVESTREAM*

1030 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)

1500 Hear my Prayer A Choral Devotion for Holy Week. The Abbey Choir and The Five Alive Parish Choir will lead a programme of seasonal favourites including music by Mendelssohn and Stainer. (*Pershore Abbey*)

1700 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

Monday in Holy Week 25 March

1900 Compline (*Zoom*) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation

Tuesday In Holy Week 26 March

1900 Compline (*Zoom*) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation

Wednesday in Holy Week 27 March

1900 Compline (*Zoom*) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation

Maundy Thursday 28 March

2000 Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars

and the Office of Tenebrae (*Pershore Abbey*) *with LIVESTREAM TO BE CONFIRMED*

This service will be approximately one and three-quarter hours and will be followed by the Watch until Midnight. You are welcome to leave after the Office of Tenebrae.

Good Friday 29 March

1000-1415 Children's Activities (5-10 years) (*St Andrew's Centre*)

No fee - donations welcome. Booking essential via Suzanne Clarke 01386 553293.

1000-1200 Good Friday Witness Drop in anytime at the corner of the High Street and Broad Street, to mark Good Friday by leaving a prayer in a sand tray.

1400 Service of the Last Hour (*Pershore Abbey*) *with LIVESTREAM*

1445 Bredon Hill Service at the Folly please contact the Bredon Group for details of this service on acbhteam@gmail.com

Holy Saturday 30 March

1700 Evening Prayer with Short Easter Vigil (*Pershore Abbey*)

This service will last approximately one hour.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Daily Offices will also continue to be observed as usual

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: [@pershoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/pershoreabbeycom)

YouTube: [Pershore Abbey Community](https://www.youtube.com/PershoreAbbeyCommunity)

Pershore Benefice

EASTER DAY

March 31 2024



0600 Dawn Service and First Eucharist of Easter (*Pershore Abbey*)
followed by breakfast of boiled eggs and rolls at St Andrew's
Centre. (Please bring an egg cup with you!)

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

0900 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)

1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*) *with LIVESTREAM*

1030 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)

1030 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

ALL WELCOME

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: @persshoreabbeycom

YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

Life in the West Bank under the Israeli occupation: First hand witness

A talk by Ian Cave



Ecumenical
Accompaniment
Programme
in Palestine
and Israel

Who spent three months there in 2023 as a Human Rights Monitor

Sunday 25 February, 6.00-7.15pm

St Andrew's Centre, Church Walk, Pershore

WR10 1BH (across the road from the Abbey)

Free entry, donations to EAPPI Quakers in Britain Charity welcome.

ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 18 February - Lent 1

- 08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 09:15 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 10:30 Sung Eucharist with *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)
- 12:00 Private Party (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 13:00 Burial of Ashes of the Late Maggie Payne (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 15:00 Private Party (*St Andrew's Main*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 19 February

- 09:30 Yoga Class (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 10:30 Flower Guild AGM (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 13:15 Art and Craft for Wellbeing
(*St Andrew's Main*)
- 15:45 PUC Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 18:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Pershore Community Choir
(*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:00 Lent Compline (*Zoom*)
- 19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 20 February

- 11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:15 Private Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)

Wednesday 21 February

- 10:00 Midweek Holy Communion
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 11:00 Funeral Service for the late
Michael Annis (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)
- 11:30 Lunch Club (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 15:45 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)
- 19:00 Vale Harmony (*St Andrew's Main*)

Thursday 22 February

- 09:45 iSing Choir Rehearsals (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 10:00 Visiting Bell Ringers (*St Andrew's*)

- 11:00 Funeral for the late Margaret Lealan (*Vale*)
- 12:00 Lenten Lunches (*Baptist Church*)
- 13:00 Visiting Bell Ringers (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:00 Lent Course (*Baptist Church*)
- 19:00 Lent Course (*St Andrew's Main*)

Friday 23 February

- 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 Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 24 February

- 14:00 Visiting Bell Ringers (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 15:15 Visiting Bell Ringers (*St Andrew's*)

Sunday 25 February - Lent 2

- 08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 09:15 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 10:30 Morning Praise with *LIVESTREAM*
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 14:30 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 18:00 Iona Presentation and Teas
(*St Andrew's Main*)

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

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk