



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 21 April 2024**  
**EASTER 4 / VOCATIONS SUNDAY**

## **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](http://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 is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

**Acts 4.5-12**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING**

**1 John 3.16-24**

A reading from the first Letter of John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

**THE GOSPEL**                      **John 10.11-18**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

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

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

*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.*



Persore Abbey CCLI No. 46441

## HYMN SHEET

### FIRST HYMN

**A&M 507**

**FULDA**

1. We have a gospel to proclaim,  
Good news for all throughout the earth;  
The gospel of a Saviour's name;  
We sing his glory, tell his worth.
2. Tell of his birth at Bethlehem  
Not in a royal house or hall  
But in a stable dark and dim,  
The Word made flesh, a light for all.
3. Tell of his death at Calvary,  
Hated by those he came to save,  
In lonely suffering on the Cross;  
For all he loved his life he gave.
4. Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
Empty the tomb, for he was free.  
He broke the power of death and hell  
That we might share his victory.
5. Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
By all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
To live for him, the Lamb who died.
6. Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel message we proclaim:  
We sing his glory, tell his worth

[Edward Joseph Burns (b.1938)]

### GRADUAL HYMN

**A&M 669**

**KINGSFOLD**

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast':  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live':  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright':  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till travelling days are done.

[Horatius N. Bonar (1808-1889)]

1. Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know,  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my love be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind,  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare,  
will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
will you set the prisoners free,  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside,  
and never be the same?  
will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you,  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

[John L. Bell (b.1949)  
And Graham Maule (b.1958)]

**COMMUNION MOTET**

**Ave Verum—Sir Edward Elgar**

*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

*We greet you, the very same one who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
who truly suffered when you were sacrificed upon the cross for us all,  
and water and blood flowed from your wounded side. As we receive you,  
be for us a foretaste (of what you have in store) beyond the testing-point  
of death.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**A&M 788**

**TAKE THIS MOMENT**

1. Take this moment, sign and space;  
Take my friends around;  
Here among us make the place  
Where your love is found

2. Take the time to call my name,  
Take the time to mend  
Who I am and what I've been,  
All I've failed to tend.

4. Take the little child in me  
Scared of growing old;  
Help me here to find my worth  
Made in Christ's own mould.

3. Take the tiredness of my days,  
Take my past regret,  
Letting your forgiveness touch  
All I can't forget.

5. Take my talents, take my skills,  
Take what's yet to be;  
Let my life be yours, and yet  
Let it still be me.

[John L. Bell (b.1949)  
And Graham Maule (b.1958)]

**FINAL HYMN**

**A&M 748**

**WOLVERCOTE**

1 O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

2 O let me feel thee near me:  
the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

Cont'd

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

5 O let me see thy foot-marks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly  
is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

[John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)]

*Voluntary: Toccata in f—JS Bach*

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

## **PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY**

### **21 APRIL 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)

### **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](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) or leave a message on  
01386 552071 and they will get back to you as soon as they can.**

**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 BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

**ECO CHURCH LITTER PICK:** Join the Abbey Litter Pickers (ALPs) 1000-1100 on Saturday 20 April. Meet at the West End of the Abbey. All welcome. Equipment provided.

**EARTH DAY PLASTIC POLLUTION QUIZ:** Abbey Eco Church would like to encourage everyone to find out how much they know about the threats our planet faces from plastic pollution. Test your knowledge and learn something new with the earthday.org quiz which can be found here: <https://www.earthday.org/plastic-pollution-quiz/> If you do not have access to the internet, please request a paper copy from the Abbey Office.

**IONA SERVICE FOCUS ON CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - SUNDAY 28 APRIL 1700:** Find out about life in Burundi, which is this year's Christian Aid Week (12-18 May) theme. Using Christian Aid and Iona Community materials, we will hear the story of a family helped by Christian Aid to build a better life in a country recovering from genocide like neighbouring Rwanda. Everyone is very welcome. If you would like to join by Zoom, please email Helen for a link: [iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**ABBEY LINK REQUEST:** I am on the lookout for material for the Summer edition of our magazine. Suggestions and questions to be answered are all welcome, and if you have an idea of interest and are willing to write an article yourself that would be fantastic! If you're unsure, please don't hesitate to contact me at [editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk) or catch me in person on Sunday mornings. Thank you for your help! *Christopher Kimberley*

**ABBEY APCM AND ST ANDREW'S AGM - TUESDAY 7 MAY 1900:** The Abbey APCM and St Andrew's AGM will take place at 1900 on Tuesday 7 May at St Andrew's Centre. Elections of the Churchwardens and additional PCC members will take place at this meeting. Anyone wishing to be nominated for any of these roles should contact Sara Speed (PCC Secretary) on 01386 710776 for further information. The APCM booklet is available on our website and here: [extension://pjmlamainkoemaaofddboidllnogmhe/https://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/APCM-Booklet-2023.pdf](https://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/APCM-Booklet-2023.pdf) Please contact [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) to receive a copy by email. Hardcopies can be obtained via Sara Speed and a printed copy is available to view on the Abbey noticeboard.

**ABBEY ELECTORAL ROLL 2024:** The Electoral Roll is due to be revised before the APCM. Anyone wishing to be added should apply now. The Roll will of course be open again after the meeting. Please contact the office on 01386 552071 or speak to Bill Newman. Completed application forms must be received by Monday 23 April.

**ASCENSION DAY SERVICE THURSDAY 9 MAY:** We begin our Thy Kingdom Come journey with a special Eucharist at 1900 at Pershore Abbey, marking the moment Jesus ascended into heaven before his disciples at the village of Bethany near Jerusalem. All welcome.

**NOVENA OF PRAYER 10 MAY-18 MAY:** During this special nine day period of prayer we shall be holding Zoom services so we can join with others in the Benefice, and across the world, praying for the Holy Spirit to come. The services will start at 1900 and will last between 10-15 minutes on each of these days. If you'd like to join on any of the days please contact Claire on [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for a Zoom link. Please note, hardcopies of the Novena prayers are available at the back of our churches.



## ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

### **Sunday 21 April - Easter 4 / Vocations Sunday**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

10:30 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

15:00 Wychavon 50th Anniversary Civic Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 22 April**

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

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

10:30 Bells Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

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

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*)

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Tuesday 23 April - St George's Day**

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

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Abbey Fabric Committee Meeting  
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

14:30 Mothers' Union (*St Andrew's Main*)

18:30 Pershore Civic Society (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

### **Wednesday 24 April**

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

14:00 BYO Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)

14:00 North Staffordshire & District Organ  
Association (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

### **Thursday 25 April**

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

14:00 Foodbank Training (*St Andrew's Upper*)

15:00 Wedding Blessing for  
Phillip & Dereth Thomas (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Friday 26 April**

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

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:30 Bells - Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

### **Saturday 27 April**

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

14:30 Aylesbury Bell Ringers (*St Andrew's Main*)

15:45 Aylesbury Bell Ringers (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Sunday 28 April - Easter 5**

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 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)

17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

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Website: [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**PLEASE SEE OUR MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MORE  
INFORMATION & OTHER NOTICES**