



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 11 May 2025**  
**EASTER 4 / VOCATIONS SUNDAY**

## **SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY**

At the Abbey's 1030 Sung Eucharist we will be welcoming guest preacher Nick Stephens. Nick worships at St Nicholas Church in Warndon Village, Worcester and is a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader). He will share with us what it means to be a Reader and to ask whether God might be calling us to this ministry.

The 1030 Service from the Abbey will be livestreamed and available to view on our YouTube channel. Visit [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for [Pershore Abbey Community](#)  
**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 9.36-43**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

### **SECOND READING**

#### **Revelations 7.9-17**

A reading from the Revelation to St John the Divine.

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and

before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

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

### **THE GOSPEL**

**John 10.22-30**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

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.**

<p><b>If you would like to receive a gluten-free host during communion please let a sidesperson know</b></p>
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## HYMN SHEET

### FIRST HYMN

### **A&M 612**

### **QUITTING POWER**

1 Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.*

2 Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:

4 Priestly king, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:

3 Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:

5 So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:

[Michael Saward (1932-2015)]

### GRADUAL HYMN

### **A&M 569**

### **PADERBORN**

1 The kingdom of God is justice and joy;  
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;  
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

2 The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;  
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,  
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;  
And hope is awakened instead of despair.

3 The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:  
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!  
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:  
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

4 God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;  
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.  
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;  
And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

[Bryn Rees (1911-1983)]

1 All for Jesus, all for Jesus,  
this our song shall ever be;  
for we have no hope, nor Saviour,  
if we have not hope in thee.

2 All for Jesus, thou wilt give us  
strength to serve thee, hour by hour;  
none can move us from thy presence  
while we trust thy love and power.

4 All for Jesus, thou hast loved us;  
all for Jesus, thou hast died;  
all for Jesus, thou art with us;  
all for Jesus crucified.

3 All for Jesus, at thine altar  
thou wilt give us sweet content;  
there, dear Lord, we shall receive thee  
in the solemn sacrament.

5 All for Jesus, all for Jesus,  
this the church's song must be,  
till, at last, we all are gathered,  
one in love and one in thee.

[W. J Sparrow-Simpson (1859-1952)]

**COMMUNION MOTET****Jesu Joy of Man's desiring—J S Bach**

*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

1. *Jesu joy of man's desiring  
Holy wisdom, love most bright  
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring  
Soar to uncreated light*
2. *Word of God, our flesh that fashioned  
With the fire of life impassioned  
Striving still to truth unknown  
Soaring, dying round Thy throne*
3. *Through the way where hope is guiding  
Hark, what peaceful music rings  
Where the flock in Thee confiding  
Drink of joy from deathless springs*
4. *Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure  
Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure  
Thou dost ever lead Thine own  
In the love of joys unknown*

*Alleulia, Alleluia,  
Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleulia, alleluia,  
Give praise to his name.*

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth:  
He is the king of creation:
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen:
3. We have been crucified with Christ:  
Now we shall live forever:
4. God has proclaimed the just reward:  
Life for the world, alleluia:
5. Come, let us praise the living God,  
Joyfully sing to our Saviour:

[Donald Fishel (b.1950)]

**FINAL HYMN****A&M 507****FULDA**

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

Edward Joseph Burns (b.1938)]

***Organ Voluntary: The Gothique Suite Op25—Boellmann***  
*The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary*

# PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

## 11 MAY 2025

**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](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**Assistant Curate: The Revd Jayne Parker**

**Email:** [curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**Abbey Wardens:** Mrs Sam Andrews 07443904635 Mr Martin Fowler (01386) 552243

**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 AND UKRAINE. 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.



*Heavenly Father, we thank you for those you call to faithfully lead and shepherd your church. As we seek a new Bishop of Worcester, help us to be attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance, give us heavenly wisdom, and bless our diocese that we might enter a new season of growth and fruitfulness as Kingdom People.  
For your glory and in the name of Christ. Amen*

*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 BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

**FEBRUARY - UPDATE FROM CLAIRE:** Thank you all for your continued prayers and good wishes. I have now started my post-surgery chemotherapy and am grateful that side effects seem to be minimal at the moment. I have had confirmation that my treatment should be finished by the end of June. Please continue to pray for me, for all being treated for cancer and all health professionals. *Claire*

### **ABOUNDING HOPE - THE SURPRISING AND CHALLENGING TITLE OF CHRISTIAN AID**

**WEEK'S STORY:** The Iona service at 1700 on Sunday 25 May explores this thought provoking Christian Aid Week story of a farmer and community leader in Guatemala, who is helping her community be resilient to the impact of environmental degradation. Email Helen on [iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk) if you'd like a zoom link for the service.

**MARCH FOR GAZA:** There is a National March of Support against further destruction in Gaza in London Saturday 17 May meeting 12noon at Embankment Tube Station. If interested, I ([davidandhelena@gmail.com](mailto:davidandhelena@gmail.com)) will be catching the train leaving Worcester Parkway 0919 and Pershore 0925. There is also a petition at the back of the Abbey you can sign that will be sent on to Christian Aid in a few weeks time. There are copies of a Just Peace leaflet at the back of the Abbey that Christian Aid has produced, and it is also available on line here: **Christian Aid leaflet Just Peace** *David Oldham*



**HOUSE BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:** From the start of June and running for 4 weeks, there will be the opportunity to join a house group and continue to look in more depth at St Luke's Gospel. The dates and venues are as follows:



Mondays 1000-1130 at 58 Three Springs Road, starting 9 June  
Mondays 1900-2030 at Wick Club, Wick, 9, 16, 30 June and 7 July  
Tuesdays 1400-1530 at 19 Acorn Grove, starting 3 June  
Wednesdays 1830-2000 at 41 Westcott Way, starting 11 June  
Thursdays 1030-1200 at 55 Bridge Street, starting 12 June  
Spaces are limited so please book fast! Sign up sheets in the Abbey or contact me at [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk) *Claire*

**NEW EUCHARIST SETTING AT THE ABBEY!:** We shall be introducing a new Communion setting, The Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne, at the 1030 Sung Eucharist on 1 June. If you'd like the opportunity to learn it before then interested members of the congregation are welcome to join choir practice on 18 and 25 May at 0915. *James MacDowall-Scott*

**MORNING PRAISE INSTRUMENTAL GROUP:** Our Director of Music, James MacDowall-Scott, will be starting an instrumental group for Morning Praise. If you are interested in joining this group and can play an instrument, please get in touch with James on 07968 307916 or via email [jjcms1976@gmail.com](mailto:jjcms1976@gmail.com)



**PLEASE SEE OUR MAY BULLETIN FOR MORE NOTICES**



## ABBAY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

### **Sunday 11 May - Easter 4 / Vocations Sunday**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)  
09:15 Choir Practice (*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*)  
14:00 Organ Recital with Paul Trepte (*Pershore Abbey*)  
17:00 Wholeness & Healing Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 12 May**

10:00 U3A Ukulele Group (*St Andrew's Main*)  
10:00 PASA Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)  
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*)  
19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

### **Tuesday 13 May**

09:30 Bells - Vale of Evesham Peals (*St Andrew's*)  
09:20 Foodbank Steering Group (*St Andrew's Main*)  
09:30 Arrival of Foodbank Staff (*St Andrew's Main*)  
11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Wednesday 14 May**

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)  
12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)  
13:00 Funeral of the late Alexandra Brown  
(*St Mary's, Wick*)  
13:45 Bring Your Own Craft & Chat  
(*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:00 U3A Bridge Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)  
16:00 V&W (*Choir Vestry*)  
19:00 Vale Harmony (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Thursday 15 May**

09:45 i-Sing Choir Rehearsal (*St Andrew's Main*)  
10:00 Salzwedel Planning Meeting  
(*27 Bridge Street*)

14:00 Funeral of the late Barbara Shalders  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Friday 16 May**

09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)  
10:00 Ukrainian Women's Empowerment  
Network (*St Andrew's Upper*)  
13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)  
18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)  
19:30 Bells - Pershore Development Quater  
Peal (*St Andrew's*)

### **Saturday 17 May**

*Abbey lit blue for Shine A Light on  
Neurofibromatosis Awareness Campaign*  
10:30 PASA Coffee Morning (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:00 Abbey Walking Church (*Abbey Park*)  
14:45 Abbey Walking Church Refreshments  
(*St Andrew's Main*)  
19:30 Pershore Choral Spring Concert  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Sunday 18 May - Easter 5 / Christian Aid**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)  
09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)  
10:30 Sung Eucharist with *LIVESTREAM* and  
Fairtrade Stall (*Pershore Abbey*)  
14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)





Pershore Abbey

# ORGAN RECITALS



## ORGAN RECITAL - 1400 SUNDAY 11 MAY

Do come along and join Paul Trepte for an enjoyable recital as he plays the organ at Pershore Abbey.

Admission free with a retiring collection.



## ORGAN RECITAL AT GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

Our Director of Music, James MacDowall-Scott, will be performing an organ recital at Gloucester Cathedral at 1930 on Wednesday 17 May.

Entrance is free with a retiring collection.



## DAVID BRIGGS ORGAN RECITAL - 1930 FRIDAY 20 JUNE

Renowned organist David Briggs will be performing a special recital at Pershore Abbey. Quoted by The New York Times as being 'one of the world's greatest contemporary organists', we are delighted to be hosting this concert.

Tickets on sale soon! £20, including a glass of wine.

01386 552071

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

