



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 18 May 2025**  
**EASTER 5 / CHRISTIAN AID**



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

At the Abbey's 1030 Sung Eucharist we will be welcoming guest speaker Paul Robert. Paul is inspired by Christian Aid's vision of eradicating poverty. He has been a supporter for many years, and since 2012 has been a volunteer speaker. From 2022-2024 Paul was a Christian Aid climate justice campaigner. He continues to promote climate justice as a member of Worcester Cathedral Eco Group and Worcester Christian Aid Group.

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, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

#### **Acts 11.1-18**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy

Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

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

## **SECOND READING**

### **Revelations 21.1-6**

A reading from the Revelation to St John the Divine.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.’

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

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **John 13.31-35**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

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

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **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.*



## **HYMN SHEET**

### **FIRST 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)]

### **GRADUAL HYMN**

**A&M 621**

***REPTON***

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
    forgive our foolish ways;  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
    in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence praise.

2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
    beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
    let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
    O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
    the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

4. Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
    till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
    and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

5. Breathe through the heats of our desire  
    thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
    speak through the earthquake, wind,  
    and fire,  
O still small voice of calm.

1. How shall I sing that majesty  
which angels do admire?  
Let dust in dust and silence lie;  
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.  
Thousands of thousands stand around  
thy throne, O God most high;  
ten thousand times ten thousand sound  
thy praise; but who am I?
2. Thy brightness unto them appears,  
whilst I thy footsteps trace;  
a sound of God comes to my ears,  
but they behold thy face.  
They sing, because thou art their Sun;  
Lord, send a beam on me;  
for where heaven is but once begun  
there alleluias be.
3. Enlighten with faith's light my heart,  
in flame it with love's fire;  
then shall I sing and bear a part  
with that celestial choir.  
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,  
with all my fire and light;  
yet when thou dost accept their gold,  
Lord, treasure up my mite.
4. How great a being, Lord, is thine,  
which doth all beings keep!  
Thy knowledge is the only line  
to sound so vast a deep.  
Thou art a sea without a shore,  
a sun without a sphere;  
thy time is now and evermore,  
thy place is everywhere.

[John Mason (c.1645-1694)]

Music: Kenneth Naylor (1931-1991)]

**COMMUNION MOTET****I will Sing with the Spirit - Rutter**

*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

*Will sing with the spirit  
I will sing with the spirit  
Halleluja, halleluja  
Halleluja, halleluja  
Halleluja  
Halleluja  
Halleluja  
Halleluja*

*I will sing with the spirit  
I will sing with the spirit  
Halleluja, halleluja  
Halleluja, halleluja  
Halleluja  
Halleluja  
Halleluja  
Halleluja*

*And I will sing with the understanding also  
Halleluja, Halleluja  
And I will sing with the understanding also  
Halleluja, Halleluja  
And I will sing with the understanding also  
Halleluja, Halleluja  
Halleluja*

*I will sing (I will sing)  
With the spirit (sing halleluja)  
I will sing with the spirit  
Halleluja, halleluja  
Halleluja, halleluja  
Halleluja  
Halleluja  
Halleluja  
Halleluja*

## COMMUNION HYMN

## A&M 592

1. As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.*

2. I want you more than gold or silver,  
only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
and the apple of my eye.

3. You're my Friend and you're my Brother,  
even though you are a king.  
I love you more than any other,  
so much more than anything.

[Martin J Nystrom (b.1956)]

## FINAL HYMN

## A&M 394

## WOODLANDS

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

[Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)]

### ***Organ Voluntary: Concerto in G - JS Bach***

*The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary*  
Pershore Abbey CCLI No. 46441

# PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

## 18 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

**Assistant Curate: The Revd Jayne Parker**

**Email:** 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.

**DAPHNE GLOVER RIP:** We were all saddened to learn of Daphne's death. She was such a stalwart of both the church and the wider community and will be greatly missed. Everyone is invited to her funeral which will be at the Abbey at 1400 on 30 May.



*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*

**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*

## PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

**IONA SERVICE - SUNDAY 25 MAY, 1700:** We will be exploring the thought provoking story of a farmer and community leader in Guatemala, who is helping her community be resilient to the impact of environmental degradation. If you would like a zoom link for the service, email Helen on [iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk)



**THANK YOU PARISHIONERS:** Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for £76.50 raised for Christians in the Holy Land, at a time when they desperately need our help. Please continue to remember our work in your prayers, giving our brothers and sisters strength to continue. *Friends of the Holy Land*

**CARNIVAL TEAS:** Garden tables and chairs are needed for the outside space at St. Andrew's. If you can help please contact Hilary Fowler on 01386 552243 *The PASA Team*



**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*

**DEMENTIA ACTION WEEK 19-25 MAY:** As a church community we want to take the needs of all those who live with dementia seriously. If you would like to be part of a small group that will be looking at how the Abbey can be more aware of the needs of those living with dementia please get in touch with me. *Claire*

**CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING:** You are invited to St Andrew's Centre on Saturday 17 May, 1000-1200 to help raise funds for Christian Aid, by enjoying tea and cake!

**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 you 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)

**DAVID BRIGGS ORGAN RECITAL - 1930 FRIDAY 20 JUNE:** Renowned organist David Briggs will be performing a special recital at Pershore Abbey. Tickets £20, including a glass of wine. Available from the bookstall and the office.

PLEASE SEE OUR MAY BULLETIN FOR MORE NOTICES



## ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

### **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 DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 19 May**

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

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

18:00 Wick Fabric Committee (*Wick*)

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Tuesday 20 May**

09:30 Arrival of Foodbank Staff (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

19:00 Abbey PCC Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Wednesday 21 May**

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

11:00 Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre Lunch  
Club (*St Andrew's Main*)

11:30 Abbey Development Group  
(*Choir Vestry*)

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

12:00 Funeral of the late Richard Henry  
(*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

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

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

### **Thursday 22 May**

09:45 i-Sing Choir Rehearsal (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:00 Birlingham APCM (*St James', Birlingham*)

14:00 SAEC Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)

### **Friday 23 May**

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

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:30 Bells - Roy Williams' last Friday Quarter  
Peal (*St Andrew's*)

### **Saturday 24 May**

09:30 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)

11:00 Proteus Ensemble Coffee Concert  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Sunday 25 May - Easter 6 / Rogation**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:30 Carnival Teas Set Up (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

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

10:30 Rogation Service (*Orchard Farm, Pinvin*)

15:00 Spring Walk Around Birlingham  
(*Birlingham*)

17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

