



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 7 September 2025**  
**TRINITY 12**

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

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 and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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**

#### **Deuteronomy 30.15-20**

A reading from the book Deuteronomy.

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

### **SECOND READING**

#### **Philemon 1-21**

A reading from the Letter to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I

have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love – and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother – especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

### **THE GOSPEL**

### **Luke 14.25-33**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, ‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.” Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.’

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

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **HYMN SHEET**

### **FIRST HYMN**

### **A&M 753**

### ***LAUDATE DOMINUM***

- 1 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;  
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;  
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,  
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.
- 2 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,  
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;  
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,  
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.
- 3 O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;  
each jubilant chord re-echo around;  
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,  
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.
- 4 O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured all ages along:  
for love in creation, for heaven restored,  
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!  
(Amen, amen.)

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

### **GRADUAL HYMN**

### **A&M 382**

### ***BILLING***

- 1 Lord, I have made thy word my choice,  
my lasting heritage:  
there shall my noblest powers rejoice,  
my warmest thoughts engage.
- 2 I'll read the histories of thy love,  
and keep thy laws in sight,  
while through the promises I rove  
with ever-fresh delight.
- 3 'Tis a broad land of wealth unknown,  
where springs of life arise,  
seeds of immortal bliss are sown,  
and hidden glory lies.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

*Music:* Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938)

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 (1958-2019)]

**COMMUNION MOTET****If ye love me—Thomas Tallis**

*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

*If ye love me, keep my commandments,  
And I will pray the father,  
And he shall give you another comforter,  
That he may abide with you forever,  
E'en the spirit of truth.  
That he may abide with you forever,  
E'en the spirit of truth.*

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

## **A&M 747**

1. O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down you are before me:  
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.
2. You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
and with love everlasting you besiege me:  
In every moment of life and death, you are.
3. Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
You have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding:  
God of my present, my past and future too.
4. Although your Spirit is upon me,  
Still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:  
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.
5. For you created me and shaped me,  
Gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:  
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

[Bernadette Farrell (b1957)]

## **FINAL HYMN**

## **A&M 604**

## **SERVANT SONG**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Brother, sister, let me serve you,<br>Let me be as Christ to you;<br>Pray that I may have the grace to<br>Let you be my servant too.            | 4 I will weep when you are weeping;<br>When you laugh I'll laugh with you;<br>I will share your joy and sorrow<br>Till we've seen this journey through. |
| 2 We are pilgrims on a journey,<br>And companions on the road;<br>We are here to help each other<br>Walk the mile and bear the load.              | 5 When we sing to God in heaven<br>We shall find such harmony,<br>Born of all we've known together<br>Of Christ's love and agony.                       |
| 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you<br>In the night-time of your fear;<br>I will hold my hand out to you,<br>Speak the peace you long to hear. | 6 Brother, sister, let me serve you,<br>Let me be as Christ to you;<br>Pray that I may have the grace to<br>Let you be my servant too.                  |

Richard A. M Gillard (b.1953)

***Organ Voluntary: Sonata di primo tono—Jose Lidon***

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

## PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

### 7 SEPTEMBER 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**

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**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.

#### **Please pray for Bishop Hugh**

*Gracious and loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,  
you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church:*

*we thank you for calling your servant Hugh to be Bishop of Worcester;*

*sustain him by your love, strengthen him in faith*

*encourage him in hope and grant him the needful gifts of grace;*

*that through his ministry among us we may live and grow as Kingdom People  
sharing faith, hope and love in Jesus' name.*

*Amen*

## PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

**PLUM FESTIVAL THANK YOU:** A very big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with the - Classic Cars, Teddy activities in the Abbey, Tower Tours, St Andrew's Teas and bell ringing. Your help over the Plum Festival weekend was much appreciated. All the visitors seem to have had a really enjoyable time and this would not have been possible without your support. *Suzanne Clarke*

**PLUM FESTIVAL THANK YOU FROM THE PASA TEAM:** Thank you to all the wonderful Abbey cake makers who made the Plum Teas such a success on Monday, we could not do it without you. We had many compliments about your delicious cakes and despite the fact the dishwasher broke down everyone was still cheerful attacking the mountains of washing up! Your cake boxes will be by the tea urn at the back of the Abbey on Sunday for collection. Thank you *Sara, Hilary, Jane & the PASA team*

**ABBAY CHORAL EVENSONG 1700, 7 SEPTEMBER:** After a well deserved summer break James and the Abbey Choir are back! This is a beautiful service full of heavenly music, which is a perfect way to end any Sunday.



**NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER:** The National Week of Prayer (NWoP) is a nationwide invitation to pray, across churches, workplaces and communities, asking God to move powerfully across the UK. 2025's NWoP is taking place 6-14 September. For more information visit [www.nationalweekofprayer.uk](http://www.nationalweekofprayer.uk)

**SUNFLOWER DISPLAY:** The displays of sunflowers that can be seen in the Abbey this week have been donated by Chris, Helen and Richard in memory of Maureen Meredith who died on 8 September 2017.



**AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL:** At the end of today's service there will be buckets at the back of the Abbey collecting money for Christian Aid's Afghanistan Earthquake Appeal. Please give what you can to help those affected by the crisis. Thank you. *Sarah Thomson*

*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.*



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

**PLEASE SEE OUR SEPTEMBER 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 07 September - Trinity 12**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)  
09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)  
10:30 Sung Eucharist with Traidcraft Stall  
and LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)  
10:30 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas, Wick*)  
14:00 Wedding Service for William Cameron  
and Samantha Johns (*Pershore Abbey*)  
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 08 September**

09:30 Yoga Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)  
10:00 U3A Ukelele Group (*St Andrew's Main*)  
10:00 Birlingham PCC (*Birlingham*)  
13:15 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St Andrew's Main*)  
18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)  
19:00 Pershore Community Choir  
(*St Andrew's Main*)  
19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

### **Tuesday 09 September**

09:30 Arrival of Foodbank Staff (*St Andrew's Main*)  
09:30 Bells - Vale of Evesham Peal (*St Andrew's*)  
11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)  
11:00 Burial of Ashes of the Late  
Phyllis Davies (*Pershore Abbey*)  
14:30 Abbey Woman's Fellowship  
(*Pershore Abbey*)  
19:00 Abbey PCC Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Wednesday 10 September**

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)  
12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)  
14:00 Bring Your Own Craft & Chat  
(*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:15 U3A Bridge Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)  
15:45 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)  
19:15 Abbey Eco Church Meeting  
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

### **Thursday 11 September**

09:45 i-Sing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)  
11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)

### **Friday 12 September**

09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)  
13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)  
13:00 Wedding Service for Oliver Rose and  
Emma Powell (*St Mary's, Wick*)  
18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Saturday 13 September**

All Day - Ride & Stride (*Pershore Abbey,  
St Mary's, Wick, and St Nicholas', Pinvin*)  
11:00 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)  
15:00 Chandos Symphony Orchestra Concert  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Sunday 14 September - Holy Cross Day**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)  
09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)  
09:30 Café Church (*St Andrew's Main*)  
10:30 Patronal Sung Eucharist with  
LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)  
10:30 Harvest Festival (*St James', Birlingham*)  
10:30 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)  
12:00 Friends of Pershore Abbey AGM  
(*Pershore Abbey*)  
17:00 Wholeness & Healing (*Pershore Abbey*)