



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 21 September 2025
MATTHEW

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 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

O almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax-collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Proverbs 3.13-18

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

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

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4.1-6

A reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians.

Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 9.9-13

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in 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.



www.persoreabbey.org.uk

HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 487

LOVE UNKNOWN

1 Christ is the one who calls,
the one who loved and came,
to whom by right it falls
to bear the highest name:
and still today
our hearts are stirred
to hear his word
and walk his way.

2 Christ is the one who seeks,
to whom our souls are known.
The word of love he speaks
can wake a heart of stone;
for at that sound
the blind can see,
the slave is free,
the lost are found.

4 Christ is the one who rose
in glory from the grave,
to share his life with those
whom once he died to save.
He drew death's sting
and broke its chains,
who lives and reigns,
our risen King.

3 Christ is the one who died
forsaken and betrayed;
who, mocked and crucified,
the price of pardon paid.
Our dying Lord,
what grief and loss,
what bitter cross,
our souls restored!

5 Christ is the one who sends,
his story to declare;
who calls his servants friends
and gives them news to share.
His truth proclaim
in all the earth,
his matchless worth
and saving name.

[Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 671

HYFRYDOL

1 I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me.
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.
Yes I'll sing the wondrous story,
of the Christ who died for me-
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.

Cont'd

2 I was lost but Jesus found me,
 Found the sheep that went astray,
 Raised me up and gently led me
 Back into the narrow way.
 Days of darkness still may meet me,
 Sorrow's path I oft may tread;
 But his presence still is with me,
 By his guiding hand I'm led.

3 He will keep me till the river
 Rolls its waters at my feet:
 Then he'll bear me safely over,
 Made by grace for glory meet.
 Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
 Of the Christ who died for me-
 Sing it with his saints in glory,
 Gathered by the crystal sea.

[Francis Harold Rowley (1854-1952)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 518

BOW BRICKHILL

1 O Christ, the Healer, we have come
 to pray for health, to plead for friends.
 How can we fail to be restored,
 when reached by love that never ends?

2 From every ailment flesh endures
 our bodies clamour to be freed;
 yet in our hearts we would confess
 that wholeness is our deepest need.

4 In conflicts that destroy our health
 we diagnose the world's disease;
 our common life declares our ills:
 is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

3 How strong, O Lord, are our desires,
 how weak our knowledge of ourselves!
 Release in us those healing truths
 unconscious pride resists or shelves.

5 Grant that we all, made one in faith,
 in your community may find
 the wholeness that, enriching us,
 shall reach the whole of humankind.

[Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)]

COMMUNION MOTET

O for a closer walk—CV Stanford

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*O for a closer walk with God
 A calm and heavenly frame
 A light to shine upon the road
 Leading to the Lamb
 Where is the blessedness I knew
 When once I saw the Lord
 Where is the soul refreshing view
 Living in His Word
 O fire of God come burn in me
 Renew a holy passion
 Til Christ my deepest longing be*

*My never-failing fountain
 My never-failing fountain
 A light to be my guide
 The Father's presence at my side
 In Your will my rest I find
 O for a closer walk with God - leading to
 the Lamb
 So shall my walk be close with God
 With all the hopes made new
 So purer light shall mark the road
 Leading to the Lamb*

1 Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
a great High Priest, whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

2 When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look, and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

3 Behold him there! the risen Lamb!
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with my Lord, I cannot die;
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.

[Charitie Lees De Chenez (1841-1923)]

FINAL 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 (1938)]

Organ Voluntary: Postlude in d—CV Stanford

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

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

21 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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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 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

AUTUMN HAS ARRIVED: As the days are beginning to get cooler, please
remember to wrap up warm when coming to our church services.



PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES


REQUEST FOR HELP: Abbey Link Magazine needs a volunteer to deliver the magazine to houses in Meadow Walk (22 copies). The next edition is due to be delivered on 22 November (4 deliveries a year). If anyone feels they can lend a hand please contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071 or Roger Piper on 01386 553110.

HELP NEEDED AT BABIES & TODDLERS: We have a thriving group of 20–25 families that meets on Friday mornings (term time) at St Andrew's Centre, providing play activities for babies and pre-schoolers. It also serves as a friendly support to their parents and other carers. I urgently need an extra volunteer to help set up child size tables and chairs/play equipment at approx. 0900, and to return at 1130 to help clear away. The monthly rota is for 1 in 4 Fridays. Should you be interested in joining our happy team - fun and laughter guaranteed - please contact me on 01386 710776. Thank you. *Sara Speed*

ABBEY IONA SERVICE - SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, 1700: The theme of this informal service is 'Departures and Journeys' and uses Kathy Galloway's inspirational songs and prayers. Do come along to celebrate Kathy's life and legacy as former leader of the Iona Community, and passionate campaigner for social justice including in Palestine and Israel. Kathy says "A blessing on our departures; for without them, we cannot walk the way."

HARVEST FESTIVALS: Our Harvest services enable us to give thanks for what we receive from God and give thanks for all who work in the farming community. If you can, please bring non-perishable food donations for Pershore Foodbank to the Abbey Service. Our harvest services will take place on the following days:

Pershore Abbey	1030 05 October	All Age Harvest Eucharist
St Nicholas', Pinvin	1030 05 October	Harvest Holy Communion
St Mary's, Wick	1130 12 October	Harvest Festival

 **ABBEY HARVEST LUNCH - SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER AT ST ANDREW'S:** Tickets are on now sale for the Harvest Lunch on Sunday 5 October at 1230 in St Andrew's Centre priced £10 (the same as last year!). This includes shepherd's pie and mixed veg (kindly made by Ken Tallis), apple crumble and cream, and a drink. If anyone has any dietary requirements please let Jane Knox know asap on 01386 556981 and an alternative can be arranged. If anyone would like to make an apple crumble for the Harvest Lunch (for 8), please sign up with Mary Cope on Sunday. Please can the crumbles have a basic crumble topping and be cooked beforehand as we can only re-heat on the day. Apples will be provided by Kevin O'Neill for those who need them. *Thank you from the PASA team.*

ABBEY LIGHT PARTY - 31 OCTOBER: Children aged 5-10 years are invited to the Abbey 1500-1700 for this fun party. Volunteers to help on the day and with some preparation beforehand would be appreciated - please either see me in church or contact me on 07879 310312. *Many thanks, Sam Andrews*



ABBEY PCC MEETING NOTES - TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

Our PCC met on Tuesday 9 September.

As always, we received and discussed reports on Safeguarding, Finance, Café Church, Eco-church, and our Deanery.

We were pleased to learn that the Plum Fair had been our busiest yet and we had taken a record amount of around £10,000. There were some 70 volunteers who made all this possible and our grateful thanks go to every one of them.

The Friends of Pershore Abbey have been generous enough to purchase a 1983 Steinway grand piano to replace our current one, that has done such sterling service but is now due for retirement. The new piano will appear soon and will be a real asset to our own music and that of our concert performers.

We were updated on the consultation arrangements now being undertaken on our plans for a new sustainable heating system. So far, all comments received had been positive. We also heard that the dry summer had caused some cracking to take place in the Abbey and advice was being sought as to how best to repair this damage.

Our Mission Group that meets monthly have started to look at how we can become more Dementia Friendly as part of our 'Welcome' initiative. If you are interested in helping to take this work forward, please let Claire know. We also had an update on our new 'Walking Church' and noted that work had begun on how the Diocese and we can link into the new housing being built.

We noted that the consultation on the move of St Andrew's to the ownership of the PCC was now over and the formal transfer had been agreed. This would take place in about 3 months when the legalities had been completed. Thanks to a grant from the St Andrew's Trust, we had been able to install an improved sound system in St Andrew's.

So, a busy meeting as usual that reflects all that goes on in the Parish.

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 21 September - Matthew

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Fairtrade Stall

and with LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

14:30 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)

14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 22 September

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

10:00 Autumn House Group (58 Three Springs Road)

10:30 Bells - Friends of Madeline Quarter
Peal (*St Andrew's*)

12:15 Private Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

15:30 Burial of ashes of the late
Cheryl Johnson (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

19:00 Pershore Community Choir
(*St Andrew's Main*)

19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

Tuesday 23 September

Lighting the Abbey blue for Leukodystrophy

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

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

13:00 Funeral for the late Margaret Pitt
(*Pershore Abbey*)

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

19:00 Pershore Civic Society (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:30 Organ Demonstration for U3A Talk
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Wednesday 24 September

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

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Autumn House Group (*25 Rushers Close*)

14:00 Bring Your Own Craft and Chat
(*St Andrew's Main*)

14:15 Pershore U3A Bridge Group
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

Thursday 25 September

09:00 God and the Big Bang - Closed Event
(*Pershore Abbey*)

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

14:15 Severn and Wye Betjeman Society
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

19:00 Autumn House Group (*41 Westcott Way*)

19:00 'Living Off Grid' Eco Church Talk
(*St Andrew's Main*)

Friday 26 September

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

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

15:00 Private Event (*St Andrew's Main*)

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

Saturday 27 September

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Sunday 28 September - Trinity 15 / Climate Sunday

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)