



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 16 November 2025
2 BEFORE ADVENT / SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY



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

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Malachi 4.1-2a

A reading from the Book of Malachi

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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

SECOND READING

2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

A reading from the Second Letter to the Thessalonians

We command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

THE GOSPEL

Luke 21.5-19

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.' They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And Jesus said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **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 635

ALLELUIA DULCE CARMEN

1 For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

[Fred Khan (1929-2009)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 762

BLAENWERN

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the prisoners
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
curing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory.
Praise the One who makes us one.

[Rusty Edwards (b.1955)]

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

[Richard A. M. Gillard (b.1953)]

COMMUNION MOTET**Een so Lord Jesus—Paul Manz**

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be
sing Holy, Holy to our Lord
The Lord, Almighty God
Who was, and is, and is to come
Sing Holy, Holy Lord
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming, is coming soon
For Christ is coming soon
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come
And night shall be no more
They need no light nor lamp nor sun
For Christ will be their All!*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 774

CREATOR GOD

1 Safe in the shadow of the Lord
beneath his hand and power,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
my fortress and my tower.

2 My hope is set on God alone
though Satan spreads his snare;
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
to keep me in his care.

3 From fears and phantoms of the night,
from foes about my way,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
by darkness as by day.

4 His holy angels keep my feet
secure from every stone;
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
and unafraid go on.

5 Strong in the everlasting Name,
and in my Father's care,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
who hears and answers prayer.

6 Safe in the shadow of the Lord,
possessed by love divine,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
and meet his love with mine.

[Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 505

THORNBURY

1. Tell all the world of Jesus,
Our Saviour, Lord and King;
And let the whole creation
Of his salvation sing:
Proclaim his glorious greatness
In nature and in grace;
Creator and Redeemer,
The lord of time and space.

2. Tell all the world of Jesus
that everyone may find
the joy of his forgiveness-
true peace of heart and mind;
proclaim his perfect goodness,
his deep, unfailing care;
his love so rich in mercy,
a love beyond compare.

3. Tell all the world of Jesus,
that everyone may know
of his almighty triumph
defeating every foe;
proclaim his coming glory,
when sin is overthrown
and he shall reign in splendour-
the King upon his throne!

[James Seddon (1915-1983)]

Organ Voluntary: Passacaglia in c minor—JS Bach

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

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE

16 NOVEMBER 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 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.



NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: On Friday 3 October, The Church of
England announced The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE as
the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury.

A prayer for the Archbishop of Canterbury

*Almighty and everlasting God, the only worker of great marvels,
send down upon your servant Sarah, called to be Archbishop of Canterbury
and all who are committed to her care, the spirit of your saving grace,
and that they may truly please you, pour upon them the continual dew of your
blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our advocate and mediator,
Jesus Christ. Amen.*

BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

WELCOME SERVICE FOR BISHOP HUGH NELSON - 17 JANUARY 2026: The service of welcome and installation for Hugh Nelson as our next Bishop of Worcester will be on Saturday 17 January at 1400 in Worcester Cathedral.

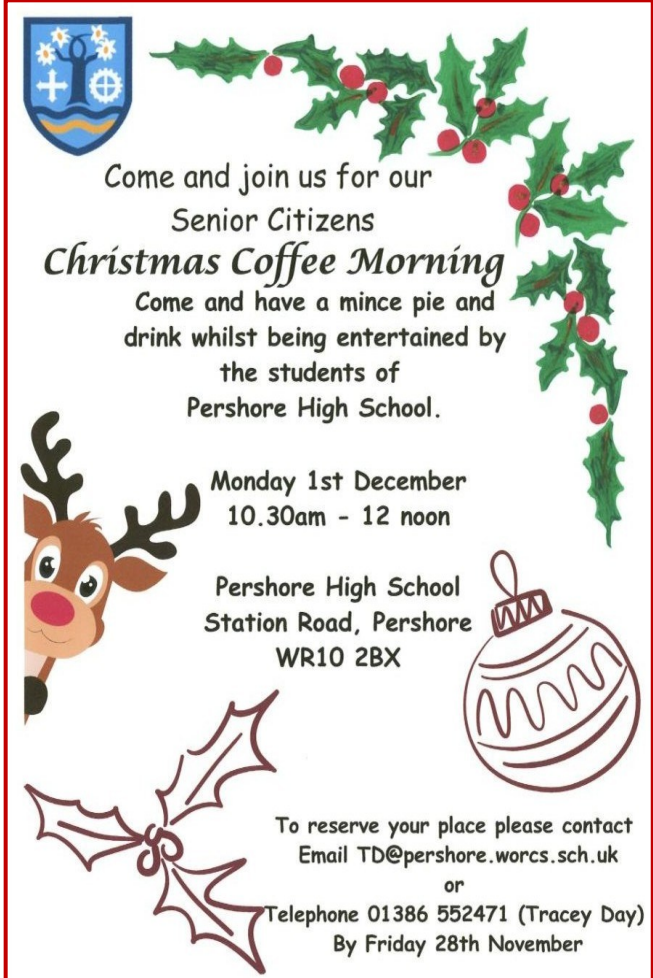
Please pray for Bishop Hugh

*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*

'FORGIVENESS' - IONA WORSHIP - SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 1700: 19 year old Jacob Dunne killed a man with a single punch. We'll hear Jacob's story and explore the power of forgiveness and restorative justice. If you'd like a zoom link for this service, please email iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk If you'd like to bring an item or story that demonstrates forgiveness for you, there will be time to share these during the service. *Helen Oldham*

ABBEY SHOEBOX APPEAL: A huge 'thank you' to everyone who donated lots of essential items, cloth bags, knitting and kindly gave monetary contributions towards our Shoeboxes this year. We had a wonderful team of volunteers who helped to pack 100 shoeboxes ready to be taken to the Teams4U warehouse, then sent to the children in Romania, Ukraine and Moldova for their Christmas. *Suzanne Clarke*

PLEASE NOTE: An area on the pulpit side of the Abbey has been cordoned off, including part of the north aisle and the St John Chapel. Following the drought this summer, there has been further movement of the stone structure in that corner of the Abbey, affecting one of the buttresses. Urgent repair is soon underway and long term there will be strengthening of the north east stonework by more underpinning. For now, we must keep away from the area and stay safe. Be assured, the rest of the Abbey remains strong! *Judy Dale*



Come and join us for our
Senior Citizens
Christmas Coffee Morning
Come and have a mince pie and
drink whilst being entertained by
the students of
Pershore High School.

Monday 1st December
10.30am - 12 noon

Pershore High School
Station Road, Pershore
WR10 2BX

To reserve your place please contact
Email TD@pershore.worcs.sch.uk
or
Telephone 01386 552471 (Tracey Day)
By Friday 28th November

The poster features a blue shield with a cross and a gear, a sprig of holly with red berries, a cartoon reindeer, and a Christmas bauble.

PLEASE SEE OUR NOVEMBER MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR FURTHER NOTICES

ABBEY PCC MEETING NOTES

The Abbey PCC met on Tuesday 11 November.

Judy Dale reported on the urgent repairs needed to the flying buttresses - please see her report in the weekly Bulletin.

We also discussed:

- Sam Andrews reported on the very successful “God and the Big Bang” event held in September. Over 120 pupils from 4 local primary schools spent the day finding out how faith and science can work together. Our thanks to Pershore Rotary for helping to fund transport costs.
- Children enjoyed taking part in the iSing Pop workshop held at Abbey Park Primary. An encouraging outcome was that 4 new families attended the October Café Church.
- The Wardens had attended a Diocesan conference focused on reaching out to residents of the many new housing developments.
- The Dementia Friendly Church Group had completed the toolkit audit and would now prioritise actions to be taken. Our work will link with the project to make Pershore a Dementia Friendly Town. During Dementia Awareness Week 2026, and as part of the Elgar Festival, arrangements have been made for a string quartet from the English Symphony Orchestra to perform a “relaxed” afternoon concert on 21 May at the Abbey. Those living with dementia and their carers will be invited to this free concert.
- New carpet tiles will be fitted to the raised area (former chancel) in the main hall of St Andrew’s Centre (date in December to be confirmed).
- An unannounced hygiene inspection of the Lunch Club resulted in high praise for the standard of cleanliness of the kitchen – well done, Julie!
- There is a busy schedule of services and activities during Advent and Christmas with details available in the Bulletins and on the website. We look forward to welcoming you.

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 16 November - Safeguarding Sunday / 2 before Advent

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
09:30 Café Church (*St Andrew's Main*)
10:30 Sung Eucharist with Fair Trade 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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 17 November

ALL DAY—Organ Tuning (*Pershore Abbey*)
09:30 Yoga Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)
10:00 Private Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)
10:30 PASA Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)
10:30 Birlingham PCC (*Birlingham*)
13:15 Art and Craft for Wellbeing (*St Andrew's Main*)
16:00 PUC Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)
18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)
19:00 Abbey Sidespeople Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)
19:00 Pershore Community Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)
19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 18 November

10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
14:00 Abbey Sidespeople Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)
14:30 St Andrew's AG Steering Meeting
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

Wednesday 19 November

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)
11:00 Lunch Club (*St Andrew's Main*)
12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
15:45 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)

Thursday 20 November

Lighting up the Abbey in Purple for
Pancreatic Cancer
09:00 Private Use (*St Andrew's Upper*)
09:45 i-Sing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)

Friday 21 November

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 - Pershore Development Quarter Peal
(*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 22 November

09:30 Christmas Craft Fair (*St Andrew's Main*)
15:00 La Mattina, Mourning to Morning:
The music of Gibbons and Palestrina
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 23 November - Christ the King

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*)
14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)
17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

