



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 30 November 2025
ADVENT 1

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.

CHRISTMAS TREE DONATIONS: If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Abbey Christmas trees, there will be a box at the back of the Abbey today labelled 'Christmas Trees' - today is Christmas Tree Sunday.



THE ADVENT WREATH

We have this Advent Wreath to remind us of the Coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring,
round the berry bright candles,
and the white and shining King.**

We light this candle to remind us of God's people who in every age watch for his coming.

**And one for God's people,
In every age and day,
We are watching for his coming.
We believe and we obey.**

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2.1-5

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge

between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

SECOND READING

Romans 13.11-14

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 24.36-44

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus spoke to his disciples: 'About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through 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.



HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 45

VENI EMMANUEL

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

4 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

5 O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

[John Mason Neale (1818-1866), *Music*: Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)
Harmonised by Noël Tredinnick (b.1949), descant by David Iliff (b.1939)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 38

MERTON

1 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.'

2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

4 That when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

[Edward Caswall (1814-1878)
Music: William Henry Monk (1823-1889)
Descant by John Barnard (b.1948)]

1. People, look east to see at last,
hopes fulfilled from ages past:
now in the promise of the morning,
see, a brighter day is dawning,
rich with the visions long foretold,
prophets' dreams from days of old.
2. God reaffirms the gracious call:
words of welcome meant for all;
comfort enough for all our sorrows;
justice shaping new tomorrows.
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,
freed to praise and serve the Lord.
3. Now, with the coming of light,
darkest fears are put to flight;
see how the clouds of gloom are clearing,
blown aside by hope's appearing.
Jesus, the Light of all our days,
comes and sets our hearts ablaze.
4. Born of our race, a child so small-
hail the promised Lord of all!
Nailed to a cross for our salvation,
he shall rule God's new creation.
Lift up your eyes, and look again;
see, he comes in power to reign!

[Martin Leckebusch (b.1962)]

COMMUNION MOTET**The Truth from above—Ralph Vaughan Williams**

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love,
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.*

*The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell
Woman was made with man to dwell.*

*Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That he would redeem us by his Son.*

*And at that season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear;
He here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.*

*Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 803

1. There is a hope that burns within my heart,
that gives me strength for every passing day;
a glimpse of glory now revealed in meager part,
yet drives all doubt away:
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven;
and Christ in me, the hope of heaven!
My highest calling and my deepest joy,
to make His will my home.
2. There is a hope that lifts my weary head,
a consolation strong against despair,
that when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,
I find the Savior there!
Through present sufferings, future's fear,
he whispers 'courage' in my ear.
For I am safe in everlasting arms,
and they will lead me home.
3. There is a hope that stands the test of time,
that lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,
to see the matchless beauty of a day divine
when I behold His face!
When sufferings cease and sorrows die,
and every longing satisfied.
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul,
for I am truly home.

[Stuart Townsend (b. 1963) and Mark Edwards]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 39

LITTLE CORNARD

- 1 Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.
- 2 Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.
- 3 Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.

4 Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5 Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

[Editors of English Praise, 1975
Based on Charles Earnest Oakley (1832-1865)]

Organ Voluntary: Wacht Auf, JS Bach

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

**PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE
30 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.

THE LATE COLIN REEVES: We were all very saddened to hear of Colin's death. He was always such a bundle of enthusiasm and energy when he lived in Pershore and came to the Abbey. He was a faithful PCC member and brilliant editor of the Abbey Link. He had so many ideas that encouraged us all to think big! He will be missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. There will be a memorial service for Colin at Holy Trinity Church, Eckington on Friday 5 December at 1030. Parking will be available at Eckington Recreation Centre, Pershore Road WR10 3DD. At the family's request they would prefer people not to wear black. Donations will be for Through the Roof, which Colin always supported. Please remember Stella and all the family in your prayers. *Claire*

BENEFACTICE 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.

CAROL SINGING: Last year Love Pershore organised an evening of Carol Singing around Heathlands and some of our sheltered accommodations and they are planning to do the same again this year on Wednesday 10 December. If you'd like to join this lovely venture please click on the link. Numbers are strictly restricted at each venue, so Lydia Martin, who is coordinating the event, is asking people to sign up via the link so she knows who is coming. [Carol Singing \(10-Dec-2025\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

RIVER TOURS: Book your FREE place at a Story Sharing Workshop at 1400 on Wednesday 3 December at Pershore Riverside Centre. For more details about the event, [click here](#).

AID TO UKRAINE: Martin and Hilary Fowler met Father Lubomyr Pidluskyj who was very grateful for the donations you all made. All being well, they will arrive in Ukraine on 2 December. Thank you to everyone who donated.



VENUE EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR: Stevie Quick has recently resigned from managing events at the Abbey. We would like to thank Stevie for all his hard work that was really appreciated by us and all our visitors and wish him well in the future. Following interviews, our Director of Music, James MacDowall-Scott, will start as Venue Events Co-ordinator on 1 January. We all wish James well in this new role. *Peter Stansbie*

Pershore Abbey

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE



SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER
15:00
Pershore Abbey

A wonderful chance to sing your favourite Advent Carols and to hear the Abbey Choir sing some beautiful anthems
Director of Music: James MacDowall-Scott
This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
Pershore Abbey Community

JOY

  

PLEASE SEE OUR NOVEMBER MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR FURTHER NOTICES

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 30 November Advent Sunday

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Benefice Sung Eucharist with LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Choir Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:00 Advent Carol Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 01 December

ALL DAY - Treasure & Sons (*Pershore Abbey*)

AM - Fusion Energy (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:30 Pershore U3A History Group
(*St Andrew's Main*)

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

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

19:00 Compline by Zoom (*Zoom*)

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 02 December

ALL DAY - Treasure & Sons (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:00 Staging Installation (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

13:00 Vale Fire & Security (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Abbey Misson Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)

15:30 Vale Fire & Security (*St Andrew's*)

19:30 Pinvin PCC (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

Wednesday 03 December

ALL DAY - Treasure & Sons (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

11:00 Lunch Club (*St Andrew's Main*)

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:00 Funeral of the late Shirley Finch (*Vale*)

15:00 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)

19:00 Wedding Rehearsal for Benedict Ashworth
and Amy Price (*Pershore Abbey*)

Thursday 04 December

09:30 Bowbrook School Rehearsal
(*Pershore Abbey*)

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

13:30 Bowbrook School Rehearsal
(*Pershore Abbey*)

15:30 Private Visit (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Bowbrook School Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)

Friday 05 December

09:00 Removal of Staging (*Pershore Abbey*)

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 - Surprise Major Practice (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 06 December

10:00 Burial of ashes of the late Hazel
Larcombe (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

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

12:30 Wedding Service for Benedict Ashworth
and Amy Price (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 07 December Advent 2

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Edible Nativity (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Fairtrade Stall
and with LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Patronal Holy Communion
(*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

13:30 Private Party (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

16:00 Evensong Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

17:00 Evensong (*Pershore Abbey*)