



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 07 December 2025
ADVENT 2

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 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.**

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

We light this candle to help us think of God's greatest promise, first told by the prophets.

**O, two is for the prophets
and for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness,
all alight for Christ the King**

THE COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11.1-10

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight

shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

SECOND READING

Romans 15.4-13

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3.1-12

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the

region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; 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.



PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE 07 DECEMBER 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 Persore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham
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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@persoreabbey.org.uk or leave a message on 01386 552071 and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 75

1 Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?*

2 God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

3 Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,

4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

[Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)]

GRADUAL 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)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 663

COE FEN

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)]

COMMUNION MOTET

How beautiful upon the mountains - Sir John Stainer

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings,
that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation;
that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 840

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

1. Lord, you have searched me and known me;
You know when I sit down, when I rise up.
You are acquainted with all my ways.
2. If I take the wings of the morning,
And settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
Even there your hand shall hold me fast.
3. If I say 'Let the darkness cover me,'
Even the darkness is not dark to you,
And night is as bright as the day.
4. Search me, God, and know my heart
And lead me in the everlasting way.

[Taizé Community]

- 1 Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth You now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.
*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth Your word, Lord,
and let there be light.*
2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me, shine on me.
3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
shine on me, shine on me.

[Graham Kendrick (b.1950)]

Organ Voluntary: Nun freut euch BWV 734 - JS Bach

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

PRAYERS

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 Dean of Worcester
warmly invites you to attend a
Service of Welcome and Installation
for

The Right Reverend Hugh Nelson
114th Bishop of Worcester

on Saturday 17 January 2025 at 2pm in
The Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Mary the Virgin of Worcester

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*

VACANCY: Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre are looking for a Volunteer Co-ordinator for their growing Pershore team. Approximately 15 hrs/week). Competitive hourly rate. For an application form or more information please contact Karon Swinburn on 01386 554299 or admin@pershorevolunteers.org.uk



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'. Thank you.



www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

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 LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)
10:30 Patronal Holy Communion (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)
14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*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 December

09:00 Staging Up (*Pershore Abbey*)
09:30 Yoga Class (*St Andrew's Upper*)
10:00 Pershore High School Visit (*Pershore Abbey*)
10:00 U3A Ukelele Group (*St Andrew's Main*)
13:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St Andrew's Main*)
18:00 FOPA Sub Committee Meeting
(*Choir Vestry*)
18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)
19:00 Pershore Community Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)
19:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St Andrew's Upper*)
19:00 Compline by Zoom (*Zoom*)
19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

Tuesday 09 December

09:00 Private Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)
09:00 Private Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)
09:30 Bells - Vale of Evesham Peal
(*St Andrew's*)
10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
14:00 Abbey Women's Fellowship
(*St Andrew's Main*)
18:45 Soundbath (*St Andrew's Main*)

Wednesday 10 December

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)
14:00 Bring Your Own Craft & Chat
(*St Andrew's Main*)
15:00 U3A Bridge Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)
18:30 Pershore Town Choir Rehearsal
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Thursday 11 December

09:30 Pershore High School Rehearsal
(*Pershore Abbey*)
11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)
11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)
15:30 V&W's (*Vicar's Vestry*)

Friday 12 December

09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)
13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
18:00 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's*)
19:30 Pershore Town Choir Concert
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 13 December

11:30 Private Event (*St Andrew's Main*)
18:00 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)
19:00 Worcester Male Voice Choir Concert
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 14 December Advent 3

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
09:30 Café Church (*St Andrew's Main*)
10:30 Sung Eucharist with LIVESTREAM
(*Pershore Abbey*)
10:30 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)
14:30 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)
15:00 Private Service (*Pershore Abbey*)
16:00 Wholeness & Healing Planning
(*St Andrew's Main*)
17:00 Light in our Darkness (*St Andrew's Main*)