



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 14 December 2025
ADVENT 3

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 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.**

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

We light this candle to remind us of John the Baptist who passed on God's message—"get ready for your King".

**And three for John the Baptist
He calls us on to sing:
'O prepare the way for Jesus Christ.
He is coming, Christ the King'.**

THE COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35.1-10

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

SECOND READING

James 5.7-10

A reading from the Letter of James.

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11.2-11

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go

out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **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 14 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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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 99

(CRÜGER)

1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

2 He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.

3 He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing:
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

5 O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
his changeless name of love.

[James Montgomery (1771-1854)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 319

1 Sing we the praises of the great forerunner,
tell forth the mighty wonders of his story:
so may his Master cleanse our lips and make them
fit to extol him.

2 Lo, God's high herald, swift from heaven descending,
gives to thy father tidings of thy coming,
telling thy name and all the tale of marvels
that shall befall thee.

Cont'd

3 Oft had the prophets in the time before thee
 spoken in vision of the Daystar's coming,
 but when he came, 'twas thou that didst proclaim him
 Saviour of all men.

[Ut queant laxis resonare fibris - Paul the Deacon (730-799)
 Translated by Charles Stanley Phillips (1883-1949)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 337

BLAENWERN

- 1 Source and fount of all creation,
 pour your Spirit from above
 on all bearers of your image,
 offspring of a human love.
 Human hopes and human graces
 break beneath the weight of sin;
 fear and envy wrench asunder
 world without and self within.
- 2 Human love is unavailing
 counter-weight to sin and strife
 love of God alone can hold us
 on the way that leads to life.
 Praised be God, whose Son our Saviour
 human nature has restored,
 living, dying, raised in glory,
 to the likeness of its Lord.

- 3 Trace, O Christ, salvation's pattern,
 God and sinner reconciled,
 in an all-embracing story:
 new creation, new born child.
 Word incarnate, world's Redeemer,
 here in us your work repeat,
 signed and sealed your own for ever,
 till the pattern stands complete.
- 4 Christ our universal Saviour,
 nature's poet, nature's priest,
 through life's troubled waters bring us
 to the eucharistic feast,
 where rejoicing saint and sinner
 praise the Lord of time and space,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 fount of being, source of grace.

[Peter Baelz (1923-2000)]

COMMUNION MOTET

Come thou redeemer of the earth - Traditional

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
 And manifest thy virgin-birth:
 Let every age adoring fall;
 Such birth befits the God of all.*

*Begotten of no human will,
 But of the Spirit, Thou art still;
 The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
 The promised Fruit to man displayed.*

*The virgin womb that burden gained
 With virgin honor all unstained;
 The banners there of virtue glow,
 God in His temple dwells below.*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 802

1. There is a higher throne
than all this world has known,
where faithful ones from every tongue
will one day come.
Before our God we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace
Salvation comes

*Hear heaven's voices sing,
their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honour are
to God our King, who reigns on high
for evermore.*

2. And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
we'll honour Him in perfect song
where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye,
as thirst and hunger die;
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd King
we'll reign with him.

Keith Getty (b.1974) and Kristyn Getty (b.1980)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 46

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come. | 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more. |
| 3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay. | 5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore. |

Charles Coffin (1676 -1749)
translated by John Chandler (1806 -1876)

Organ Voluntary: Vom Himmel hoch - BWV 700 -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.

BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES



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

HELPERS NEEDED FOR MAKING CHRISTINGLES: Would you be willing to help make this year's Christingles? If so, your help would be much appreciated. Please come along to St Andrew's Centre at 1400 on Tuesday 23 December. Refreshments will be provided.

Thank you, Suzanne

ABBEY VOLUNTEERS' COFFEE MORNING: SAVE THE DATE! We will be hosting a coffee morning for our many volunteers' on Saturday 31 January at St Andrew's Centre. Invitations and full details will be sent out after Christmas. For now, just save the date!

Sara Speed

KEEPING THE ABBEY WARM: Our sustainable heating project continues - our proposals are described on posters in the south transept near the tower door. If you would like to discuss please contact Judy Dale via judy.dale@doctors.org.uk or phone the office 01386 552071.

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

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*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 15 December

09:00 Orchard Primary Rehearsal
(*Pershore Abbey*)
13:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing
(*St Andrew's Main*)
14:00 Orchard Primary School Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)
18:30 Pershore High School Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)
19:00 Compline by Zoom (*Zoom*)

Tuesday 16 December

10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
11:00 Pershore High School Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)
13:45 Pershore High School Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)
18:00 Vocal High Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)

Wednesday 17 December

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)
11:00 Lunch Club (*St Andrew's Main*)
13:30 Pinvin C of E Academy Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)
15:45 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)

Thursday 18 December

ALL DAY - Bradford Carpets (*St Andrew's Main*)
09:00 Abbey Park Primary School Rehearsal
(*Pershore Abbey*)

13:30 Abbey Park Primary School Christmas
Performance (*Pershore Abbey*)

Friday 19 December

AM ONLY - Bradford Carpets
(*St Andrew's Main*)
13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
18:00 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's*)
19:30 Vocal High Winter Warmers Concert
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 20 December

13:30 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)
19:30 Pershore Choral Christmas Concert
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 21 December Advent 4

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 Carol Service (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)
15:00 PASA Refreshments Preparation
(*St Andrew's Main*)
17:00 Lessons & Carols (*Pershore Abbey*)
18:00 Carols and Christingles (*St James', Birlingham*)
18:00 Carols with Friends of St Mary's
(*St Mary's, Wick*)



www.pershoreabbey.org.uk