



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 21 December 2025**  
**ADVENT 4**

## **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.

**Heating Issues:** We have been experiencing issues with the heating system at Pershore Abbey this week. Our engineers are working hard to resolve the issues however we cannot guarantee our heating will be working when you visit. Please therefore wrap up warm when attending services and concerts and please accept our apologies.

### **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.**

**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'.**

We light this candle to remind us of Mother Mary who said she would obey.

**And four for Mother Mary  
'I cannot see the way,  
but you promise me a baby  
I believe and I obey'.**

## **THE COLLECT**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 7.10-16**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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

## **SECOND READING**

**Romans 1.1-7**

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

## **THE GOSPEL**

**Matthew 1.18-25**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; 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 21 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**

**Email:** vicar@persnoreabbey.org.uk

**Assistant Curate: The Revd Jayne Parker**

**Email:** curate@persnoreabbey.org.uk

**Abbey Wardens:** Mrs Sam Andrews 07443904635 Mr Martin Fowler (01386) 552243

**The Benefice Office of Persnore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham**

Alveston House, 11, Broad Street, Persnore, 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@persnoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@persnoreabbey.org.uk) or leave a message on 01386 552071 and they will get back to you as soon as they can.**

## **PERSHORE ABBEY AND BENEFICE OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS**

The Persnore Abbey and Benefice Office will not be staffed over the Christmas period.

Our office staff will be on annual leave from:

**12 noon on Tuesday 23 December 2025 until Friday 2 January 2026**

All email enquiries and answerphone messages will be dealt with on their return.

If your enquiry is urgent please call the answerphone service on 01386 552071 to access the latest emergency contact details.

**We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Persnore Benefice  
a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year**

## **HYMN SHEET**

### **FIRST HYMN**

**A&M 30**

***O-SO-SO***

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thy own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thy all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

[Charles Wesley (1707-1788)]

### **GRADUAL HYMN**

**A&M 314**

***FARLEY CASTLE***

- 1 Her Virgin eyes saw God incarnate born,  
when she to Bethlem came that happy morn:  
how high her raptures then began to swell,  
none but her own omniscient Son can tell.
- 2 As Eve, when she her fontal sin reviewed,  
wept for herself and all she should include,  
blest Mary, with man's Saviour in embrace,  
joyed for herself and for all human race.
- 3 All saints are by her Son's dear influence blest;  
she kept the very fountain at her breast:  
the Son adored and nursed by the sweet Maid  
a thousandfold of love for love repaid.
- 4 Heaven with transcendent joys her entrance graced,  
near to his throne her Son his Mother placed;  
and here below, now she's of heaven possest,  
all generations are to call her blest.

[Thomas Ken (1637-1711)]

### **THIRD HYMN**

**A&M 315**

***ABBOT'S LEIGH***

- 1 Sing we of the blessed Mother  
who received the angel's word,  
and obedient to his summons  
bore in love the infant Lord;  
sing we of the joys of Mary  
at whose breast that child was fed  
who is Son of God eternal  
and the everlasting Bread.
- 2 Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
of the sword that pierced her through,  
when beneath the cross of Jesus  
she his weight of suffering knew,  
looked upon her Son and Saviour  
reigning high on Calvary's tree,  
saw the price of man's redemption  
paid to set the sinner free.

3 Sing again the joys of Mary  
when she saw the risen Lord,  
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
waited on his promised word:  
from on high the blazing glory  
of the Spirit's presence came,  
heavenly breath of God's own being,  
manifest through wind and flame.

4 Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
when on earth her work was done,  
and the Lord of all creation  
brought her to his heavenly home:  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,  
raised on high and crowned with grace,  
may your Son, the world's redeemer,  
grant us all to see his face.

[George B. Timms (1910-1997)]

**COMMUNION MOTET**

**Gaudete arr, MacDowall-Scott**

*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

*Rejoice, rejoice!  
Christ is born  
Of the Virgin Mary –  
Rejoice!*

*The time of grace has come—  
What we have wished for;  
Songs of joy  
Let us give back faithfully.*

*God has become man,  
With nature marvelling,  
The world has been renewed  
By the reigning Christ.*

*The closed gate of Ezekiel  
Is passed through,  
Whence the light is risen;  
Salvation has been found.*

*Therefore, let our assembly  
Now sing in brightness  
Let it bless the Lord:  
Greetings to our King.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**A&M 40**

**NOEL NOUVELET**

1 Into the darkness of this world,  
into the shadows of the night,  
into this loveless place you came,  
lightened our burden, eased our pain,  
and made these hearts your home.  
Into the darkness once again,  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Come with your love to make us whole.  
Come with your light to lead us on,  
driving the darkness far from our souls:  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

2 Into the longing of our souls,  
into these heavy hearts of stone,  
shine on us now your piercing light,  
order our lives and souls aright,  
by grace and love unknown,  
until in you our hearts unite –  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.  
*Come with your love...*

3 O Holy Child, Emmanuel,  
Hope of the ages, God with us,  
visit again this broken place,  
till all the earth declare your praise  
and your great mercies own.  
Now let your love be born in us –  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.  
*Come with your love...*

*Come in your glory, take your place,  
Jesus, the Name above all names,  
we long to see you face to face:  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

[Maggi Dawn (b.1959)]

## **FINAL HYMN**

## **A&M 394**

## **WOODLANDS**

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

[Timothy Dudley-Smith (b1926)  
Music: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)]

***Organ Voluntary: Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733 - 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

**HELPERS NEEDED FOR MAKING CHRISTINGLES:** Would you be willing to help make this year's Christingles? If so, 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. *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. To discuss further, please contact Judy Dale via [judy.dale@doctors.org.uk](mailto:judy.dale@doctors.org.uk) or the office on 01386 552071.

## BENEFICE SUNG EUCCHARIST



**SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER**

**10:30**

**Pershore Abbey**

Join us as we come together for our Benefice Service

**ALL WELCOME**

*This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel:  
Pershore Abbey Community*

## POST-CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

**MONDAY 29 DECEMBER**

**1430-1630**

**ST ANDREW'S CENTRE**

*Come along and enjoy tea, cake and good company.  
All welcome.*



**PLEASE SEE OUR DECEMBER/JANUARY MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MORE NOTICES**

## ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

### **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 (*St Andrew's Main*)

17:00 Lessons & Carols (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:00 Carols and Christingle (*St James', Birlingham*)

18:00 Carols with Friends of St Mary's (*St Mary's, Wick*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 22 December**

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

15:00 Funeral Service for the Late  
Hugh Shalders (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

19:00 Compline by Zoom (*Zoom*)

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

### **Tuesday 23 December**

10:00 Burial of Ashes of the late  
David Butcher (*St Mary's, Wick*)

10:15 Foodbank staff arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

14:00 Christingle Making (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Wednesday 24 December - Christmas Eve**

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

10:00 Burial of Ashes of the late  
Tony Smith (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:00 Pershore Wellbeing Hub Christmas  
Lunch set up (*St Andrew's Main*)

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:30 Christingle Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

16:00 Christingle Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)

16:00 Christingle and Crib Service  
(*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

23:15 Midnight Mass (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Thursday 25 December - Christmas Day**

09:00 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)

10:30 All Age Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)

11:00 Pershore Wellbeing Hub Christmas  
Lunch (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Friday 26 December - St Stephen**

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### **Saturday 27 December -**

**St John the Evangelist**

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### **Sunday 28 December Holy Innocents**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

12:00 Set up for Post-Christmas Afternoon  
Tea (*St Andrew's Main*)



[www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk)

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