



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 1 February 2026**  
**CANDLEMAS**

## **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](http://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. 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 COLLECT**

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

**Malachi 3.1-5**

A reading from the Book of Malachi.

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

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

### **SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 2.14-18**

A reading from the Book of Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is

clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

### **THE GOSPEL**

**Luke 2.22-40**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## **HYMN SHEET**

### **FIRST HYMN**

**A&M 113**

**LOURDES**

- 1 When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day  
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.  
*A glory dawns in every dark place,  
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*
- 2 The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,  
the child and his parents are left on their own.
- 3 They go to the temple, obeying the law,  
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.
- 4 But Anna and Simeon recognise there  
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.
- 5 The old who have suffered and waited so long  
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.
- 6 They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,  
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.
- 7 The Candles invite us to praise and pray  
When Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.

[Elizabeth J Cosnett (b.1936)]

### **GRADUAL HYMN**

**A&M 111**

**VASEY**

1. Light of the world, true light divine,  
in glory break and splendour shine  
upon our nature's night,  
upon our nature's night!  
The darkness dies before the morn  
and God himself a child is born,  
the long-awaited Light.
2. Life of the world, a life laid down,  
who chose the cross before the crown  
and opened heaven's door,  
and opened heaven's door:  
he broke the chains of death and hell,  
our Saviour Christ, Emmanuel,  
who lives for evermore.
3. Lord of all worlds, a manger bed  
was room enough to lay your head  
when, from your throne above,  
when, from your throne above,  
you came to set a lost world right,  
immortal Life, unfading Light,  
and all-prevailing Love;  
immortal Life, unfading Light,  
and all-prevailing Love.

Timothy Dudley Smith (1926-2024)]

1 Hail to the Lord who comes,  
comes to his temple gate,  
not with his angel host,  
not in his kingly state:  
no shouts proclaim him nigh,  
no crowds his coming wait.

2 But borne upon the throne  
of Mary's gentle breast,  
watched by her duteous love,  
in her fond arms at rest;  
thus to his Father's house  
he comes, the heavenly guest.

3 There Joseph at her side  
in reverent wonder stands;  
and, filled with holy joy,  
old Simeon in his hands  
takes up the promised child,  
the glory of all lands.

4 Hail to the great First-born,  
whose ransom-price they pay,  
the Son before all worlds,  
the child of man to-day,  
that he might ransom us  
who still in bondage lay.

5 O Light of all the earth,  
thy children wait for thee:  
come to thy temples here,  
that we, from sin set free,  
before thy Father's face  
may all presented be.

[John Ellerton (1826—1893)]

**COMMUNION MOTET****Nunc Dimittis - Walmisley in d**

*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

**A&M 467**

***MOUNT EPHRAIM***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 The Son of God proclaim,<br>The Lord of time and space;<br>The God who bade the light break forth<br>Now shines in Jesus' face. | 3 The lord of life and death<br>With wond'ring praise we sing;<br>We break the bread at his command<br>And name him God and King. |
| 2 He, God's creative word,<br>The Church's Lord and Head<br>Here bids us gather as his friends<br>And share his wine and bread.   | 4 We take this cup in hope;<br>For he, who gladly bore<br>The shameful cross, is risen again<br>And reigns for evermore.          |

[Basil Bridge (b.1927)]

## **FINAL HYMN**

**A&M 396**

***PASTOR PASTORUM***

The words for this hymn can be found in the service booklet.

***Organ Voluntary: Toccata - Leon Boellmann***

*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

01 FEBRUARY 2026

**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](mailto: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  
FOR PEACE FOR ALL PEOPLES AND PLACES.**

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



**ABBAY LINK MAGAZINE REQUEST:** We urgently need help delivering the Abbey Link magazine in the following areas: Betjeman Close (14 copies), Old Market Court (13 copies), Chase Mews (7 copies), Head Street (12 copies - even Nos. up to 18b), and Victoria Terrace (10 copies). The magazine is printed, and therefore needs delivering, just 4 times a year. If anyone feels they can lend a hand please contact the Abbey and Benefice Office on 01386 552071 or Roger Piper on 01386 553110. *Many thanks, Roger Piper*

**CONFIRMATION SERVICE:** We shall be holding a Benefice Confirmation Service at 1030 on Sunday 15 February 2026 at the Abbey. We are delighted that Bishop Michael will be leading this service. Everyone is welcome to attend the service and it would be wonderful for our candidates to be supported by as many people in our Benefice as possible. *Claire*



**ABBAY FLOWER GUILD AGM:** This year's AGM will be held on Monday 16 February at 1030 in the Main Hall at St Andrew's Centre. All enquiries and apologies to the Secretary, Mary Cope on 01386 554773.

**THE PATCHWORK OF OUR LIVES - SUNDAY 22ND FEB 1700:** During February's Iona service, the leader of a local, life changing project will explain how refugee women learn sewing skills as they make patchwork quilts together. But the project is far more than this. The women grow in confidence, learn English and find community, providing sound foundations for a new start in life. Everyone is very welcome. Donations of materials suitable for patchwork or other sewing items, would be greatly appreciated. Please either bring donations along to the service or contact Helen Oldham by emailing [iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk) to make alternative arrangements.



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

PLEASE SEE OUR JANUARY/FEBRUARY 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 1 February - Candlemas**

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 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

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 2 February**

09:30 Yoga Class (*St Andrew's Upper*)

10:00 Bible Study Group (*21 Three Springs Road*)

14:00 Pershore U3A History Group

(*St Andrew's Main*)

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

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

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Tuesday 3 February**

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

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

13:00 Funeral for the late Audrey Thompson

(*St Mary's, Wick*)

14:00 Bible Study Group (*28 Conningsby Drive*)

14:00 Abbey Fabric Committee Meeting

(*St Andrew's Upper*)

19:00 Pershore Civic Society (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Wednesday 4 February**

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

10:30 WCT Dawn Project (*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

11:30 Funeral for the late Phyllis Goddard

(*Pershore Abbey*)

13:30 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:45 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)

19:15 Abbey Eco Church (*St Andrew's Upper*)

### **Thursday 5 February**

09:45 iSing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:30 WCT Dawn Project (*St Andrew's Upper*)

11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)

14:00 Private Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

15:45 Young People Confirmation Group

(*St Andrew's Upper*)

18:30 Adult Confirmation Group

(*58 Three Springs Road*)

### **Friday 6 February**

09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)

11:30 Organ Tuning (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Bible Study Group (*41 Westcott Way*)

19:30 Bells Surprise Major Practice (*St Andrew's*)

### **Saturday 7 February**

10:00 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)

15:00 Sinfonia of Birmingham Winter

Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Sunday 8 February - 2 Before Lent**

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*)

12:15 Confirmation Service Rehearsal

(*Pershore Abbey*)

14:30 RAF Air Cadets ATC Service

(*Pershore Abbey*)

17:00 Wholeness & Healing (*Pershore Abbey*)