



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 4 January 2026
EPIPHANY

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.

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

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son 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

Isaiah 60.1-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3.1-12

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have

become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2.1-12

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

<p>If you would like to receive a gluten-free host during communion please let a sidesperson know</p>
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HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 103

- 1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.
- 2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.
- 3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.
- 4 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.
- 5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

[John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 105

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

- 1 We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

- 2 Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
king for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign:

- 3 Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high:

4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
king and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia,' the earth replies:

[Edward John Hopkins (1818-19010)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 86

THE FIRST NOWELL

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

2 Then wise men from a country far
looked up and saw a guiding star;
they travelled on by night and day
to reach the place where Jesus lay:

3 At Bethlehem they entered in,
on bended knee they worshipped him;
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

4 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
for Christ has our salvation wrought
and with his blood our life has bought:

[Cornish Carol *adapted* by Michael Perry (1942-1996)]

Music: English Traditional Melody *adapted* by John Stainer (1840-1901)]

COMMUNION MOTET

The Three Kings - Cornelius

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*Three kings from Persian lands afar
to Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King:
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

*The star shines out with steadfast ray;
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee,
as Mary's child in her lap they see;
their royal gifts they show to the King:
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

*Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
the kings are trav'ling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring:
Offer thy heart to the infant King, offer thy
heart!*

1 Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manager didst surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becamest poor.

2 Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man.

3 Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, with us dwelling,
make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love, beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

[Frank Houghton (1894-1972)]

FINAL HYMN**A&M 72****ANTIOCH (COMFORT(MASON))**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

[Isaac Watts (1674-1748)]

Organ Voluntary: Toccata in b minor - Eugene Gigout

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

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

04 JANUARY 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

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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.

JULIE NEWMAN: It is with great sadness that we share the news that Julie died, surrounded by her family, on Sunday evening. Julie was one of life's beautiful people, who lit up any room she was in. She was full of love and care for all those around her - family, friends and those she hadn't got to know yet. Julie was a stalwart volunteer at the Abbey, in so many different ways. Her dedication to the PASA team and all the events they have put on was so inspiring. We are all going to miss her, but we can give thanks that we knew her. Julie is now at peace, surrounded by the angels that have accompanied her on her journey. There will be a service of thanksgiving for Julie on Monday 19 January at 12 noon at the Abbey, to which everyone is warmly welcome. Please remember Bill and all the family in your prayers. *Claire*

BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

SEEKING INSPIRATION FROM ABBEY LINK: As you will have seen (I hope!) plenty of folk have contributed articles of interest for the magazine over the years - thank you all! Now this is me inviting similar ideas for the upcoming editions. None of us knows all about everything that goes on at the Abbey! It would be great if you could pitch me a topic, or even better write a piece yourself about something you are involved with (but probably a bit of mystery to the rest of us) or something else in or around Pershore. You can catch me at the 1030 service on Sundays or email me: editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk. I look forward to hearing your ideas! *With thanks, Christopher Kimberley*



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

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE



SUNDAY 4 JANUARY
15:00
Pershore Abbey

Please join us for a celebratory service of singing and praise

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

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

ABBAY WALKING CHURCH



SATURDAY 24 JANUARY
14:00

Come and join this new way of being Church!

Meet at the West end of the Abbey. We will take a very gentle walk, stopping every now and then to think about God and explore what faith might mean.

Refreshments afterwards.

All welcome, including four legged companions.

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 04 January - Epiphany

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Fair Trade stall and
with LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 05 January

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

11:00 Christmas Tree Removal
(*Pershore Abbey*)

11:30 Burial of the late Elizabeth Nedic
(*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

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*)

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 06 January

09:00 Maintenance and Safety Inspection
(*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

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

18:45 Soundbath (*St Andrew's Main*)

Wednesday 07 January

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

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

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

Thursday 08 January

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

11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)

Friday 09 January

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

12:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:00 Hans Zimmer Candlelight Experience
(*Pershore Abbey*)

21:00 Hans Zimmer Candlelight Experience
(*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 10 January

10:00 Bells - Peal Attempt (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

Sunday 11 January - Baptism of Christ

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*)

14:00 Organ Recital TBC (*Pershore Abbey*)

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



www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

PLEASE SEE OUR DECEMBER/JANUARY MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MORE NOTICES