

**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 11 January 2026**  
**BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

## **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. 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**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 42.1-9**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

## SECOND READING

## **Acts 10.34-43**

A reading from The Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

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

## THE GOSPEL

## **Matthew 3.13-17**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

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

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; 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.*



**FIRST HYMN**

1 Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Virgin's Son,  
the God incarnate born,  
whose arm those crimson trophies won  
which now his brow adorn:  
Fruit of the mystic Rose,  
as of that Rose the Stem;  
the Root whence mercy ever flows,  
the Babe of Bethlehem.

4 Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
and all be prayer and praise:  
his reign shall know no end,  
and round his piercèd feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.

3 Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
those wounds yet visible above  
in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

5 Crown him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime:  
all hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

[Matthew Bridges 1800-1894)]

**GRADUAL HYMN****A&M 108****OFFERTORIUM**

1 When Jesus came to Jordan  
to be baptized by John,  
he did not come for pardon,  
but as his Father's Son.  
He came to share repentance  
with all who mourn their sins,  
to speak the vital sentence  
with which good news begins.

2 He came to share temptation,  
our utmost woe and loss,  
for us and our salvation  
to die upon the cross.  
So when the Dove descended  
on him, the Son of Man,  
the hidden years had ended,  
the age of grace began.

3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us  
to keep the vows we make,  
this very day invade us,  
and every bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction,  
the gift we covet most:  
to share the resurrection  
that leads to Pentecost.

[Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)]

### **THIRD HYMN**

### **A&M 327**

### **MORNING HYMN**

1 Awake, awake: fling of the night!  
For God has sent his glorious light;  
and we who live in Christ's new day  
must works of darkness put away.

2 Awake and rise, with love renewed,  
And with the Spirit's power endued.  
The light of life in us must glow,  
And fruits of truth and goodness show.

3 Let in the light: all sin expose  
To Christ, whose life no darkness knows.  
Before his cross for guidance kneel;  
His light will judge and, judging, heal.

4 Awake, and rise up from the dead,  
and Christ his light on you will shed.  
Its power will wrong desires destroy,  
and your whole nature fill with joy.

5 Then sing for joy, and use each day;  
give thanks for everything always.  
Lift up your hearts; with one accord  
praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[John Raphael Peacey (1896-1971)]

### **COMMUNION MOTET**

### **Listen Sweet Dove—Grayson Ives**

*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

*Listen sweet dove unto my song And spread thy golden wings in me;  
Hatching my tender heart so long Till it get wing and flie away with thee.*

*Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow That the earth did like a heaven appear,  
The starres were coming down to know If they might mend their wages and serve here.*

*The sunne which once did shine alone, Hung down his head and wisht for night  
When he beheld twelve sunnes for one Going about the world and giving light.*

*Lord though we change thou art the same, The same sweet God of love and light;  
Restore this day for thy great name, Unto his ancient and miraculous right.*

1 Purify my heart  
Let me be as gold and precious silver  
Purify my heart  
Let me be as gold, pure gold

*Refiner's fire,  
My heart's one desire  
Is to be holy  
Set apart for You, Lord  
I choose to be holy  
Set apart for You, my Master  
ready to do Your will*

2 Purify my heart  
Cleanse me from within and make me holy  
Purify my heart  
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

[Brian Doerksen (b.1965)]

**FINAL HYMN**

- 1 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;  
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;  
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,  
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.
- 2 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,  
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;  
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,  
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.
- 3 O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;  
each jubilant chord re-echo around;  
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,  
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.
- 4 O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured all ages along:  
for love in creation, for heaven restored,  
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!  
(Amen, amen.)

[Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)]

***Organ Voluntary: Grand Choeur in D by Alexandre Guilmant***  
***The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary***

## PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE

11 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**

**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.

**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, and invited to wear something colourful. 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](mailto:editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk). I look forward to hearing your ideas! *With thanks, Christopher Kimberley*

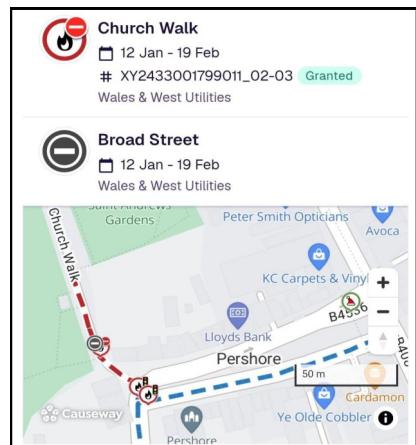
**ABBEY VOLUNTEERS' COFFEE MORNING:** SAVE THE DATE! We will be hosting a coffee morning for our many volunteers' on Saturday 28 February at St Andrew's Centre. This is a different date to the one previously advertised. Invitations and full details will be sent out soon. *Sara Speed*



**PALM CROSSES NEEDED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY:** Please leave your old palm crosses in the marked box at the back of Pershore Abbey, as we need to recreate the ash in the traditional way for this year's Ash Wednesday services on the 18 February at Pershore Abbey.

**'EXCLUDED' - IONA SERVICE - PERSHORE ABBEY - SUNDAY 25 JANUARY 17:00:** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites us to identify where we see exclusion today. Exclusion is a challenging theme that runs through society and the Christian story. Everyone is most welcome to join this time of reflection with the opportunity for discussion and sharing.

**MAJOR ROADWORKS:** We have been advised the gas company are upgrading the system around Church Walk, Broad Street and Defford Road (town end). Church Walk will be closed and traffic lights will be in place in Broad Street. This may cause some disruption to hirers of St Andrew's. Access to the rear of St Andrew's will not be affected. For more information visit: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/roads-pavements-verges-and-lighting/roadworks-and-live-updates>



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

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

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 12 January**

10:00 U3A Ukulele Group (*St Andrew's Main*)  
10:00 Bible Study Group (*21 Three Springs Road*)  
13:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:30 Birlingham PCC (*Birlingham*)  
18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)  
19:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing  
    (*St Andrew's Upper*)  
19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

### **Tuesday 13 January**

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 Bible Study Group (*28 Conningsby Drive*)  
14:30 Abbey Women's Fellowship  
    (*St Andrew's Main*)  
19:00 Abbey PCC (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Wednesday 14 January**

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion  
    (*Pershore Abbey*)  
12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)  
13:00 CTiP Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:15 Pershore U3A Bridge Group  
    (*St Andrew's Upper*)  
15:45 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)

### **Thursday 15 January**

09:45 iSing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:00 Benefice Treasurers' Meeting (*Zoom*)

15:45 Young People Confirmation Group  
    (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:30 Adult Confirmation Group  
    (*58 Three Springs Road*)

### **Friday 16 January**

09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)  
12:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)  
12:00 PAT Testing (*St Andrew's, Pershore Abbey*  
    and *Benefice Office*)  
18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:00 Bible Study Group (*41 Westcott Way*)  
19:30 Bells - Pershore Development  
    Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

### **Saturday 17 January**

10:30 Abbey Parish Coffee Morning  
    (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:00 Service of Welcome and Installation  
    for The Right Reverend Hugh Nelson  
    (*Worcester Cathedral*)  
19:30 Candlelight Concert (*St James', Birlingham*)

### **Sunday 18 January - Epiphany 2 / Mission Sunday**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)  
09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)  
10:30 Sung Eucharist with LIVESTREAM and  
    Fair Trade Stall (*Pershore Abbey*)  
10:30 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)  
14:30 Service of Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)  
17:30 Wychavon Festival of Brass AGM  
    (*St Andrew's Main*)