

**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 18 January 2026**  
**EPIPHANY 2 / MISSION SUNDAY**

## **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**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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 49.1-7**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.' And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength – he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.' Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

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

### **SECOND READING**

**1 Corinthians 1.1-9**

A reading from the first Letter of the Corinthians.

From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother

Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

### **THE GOSPEL**

**John 1.29-42**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.’ And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter).

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

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

### **FIRST HYMN**

### **A&M 223**

***MILES LANE***

- |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 All hail the power of Jesu's name;<br>let angels prostrate fall;<br>bring forth the royal diadem<br>to crown him, crown him, crown him,<br>crown him Lord of all. | 3 Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,<br>ye ransomed of the fall,<br>hail him who saves you by his grace,<br>and crown him Lord of all.<br>crown him Lord of all. |
| 2 Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,<br>who from his altar call;<br>praise him whose way of pain ye trod,<br>and crown him Lord of all.<br>crown him Lord of all.   | 4 Let every tribe and every tongue<br>to him their hearts enthrall,<br>lift high the universal song<br>and crown him Lord of all.<br>crown him Lord of all.    |

[Edward Perronet (1726-1792)]

### **GRADUAL HYMN**

### **A&M 427**

1. Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,  
Slain for us: and we remember:  
The promise made that all who come in faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
And we drink of his sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King.
2. The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
Torn for you: eat and remember  
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,  
Paid the price to make us one.  
So we share in this Bread of Life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of love  
Around the table of the King.
3. The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,  
Shed for you: drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in  
To receive the life of God.  
So we share in this Bread of Life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King.

4. And so with thankfulness and faith  
 We rise to respond: and to remember  
 Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
 As His body here on earth.  
 As we share in His suffering,  
 We proclaim: Christ will come again!  
 And we'll join in the feast of heaven  
 Around the table of the King.

[Keith Getty (b1974, Kristyn Getty (b1980)  
 Stuart Townsend (b1963)]

### **THIRD HYMN**

### **A&M 603**

### **LAUS DEO**

1 Bright the vision that delighted  
 once the sight of Judah's seer;  
 sweet the countless tongues united  
 to entrance the prophet's ear.

4 Heaven is still with glory ringing,  
 earth takes up the angels' cry,  
 'Holy, holy, holy,' singing,  
 'Lord of hosts, the Lord most high.'

2 Round the Lord in glory seated  
 cherubim and seraphim  
 filled his temple, and repeated  
 each to each the alternate hymn:

5 With his seraph train before him,  
 with his holy church below,  
 thus unite we to adore him,  
 bid we thus our anthem flow:

3 'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;  
 earth is with its fullness stored;  
 unto thee be glory given,  
 holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

6 'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;  
 earth is with its fullness stored;  
 unto thee be glory given,  
 holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

[Richard Mant (1776-1848)  
 Music: Richard Redhead (1820-1901)]

### **COMMUNION MOTET**

### ***The Lamb- John Tavener***

*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

*Little Lamb, who made thee?  
 Dost thou know who made thee?  
 Gave thee life, & bid thee feed  
 By the stream & o'er the mead;  
 Gave thee clothing of delight,  
 Softest clothing, woolly, bright;  
 Gave thee such a tender voice,  
 Making all the vales rejoice?  
 Little Lamb, who made thee?  
 Dost thou know who made thee?*

*Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,  
 Little Lamb, I'll tell thee  
 He is called by thy name,  
 For he calls himself a Lamb.  
 He is meek, & he is mild;  
 He became a little child.  
 I, a child, & Thou a lamb,  
 We are called by his name.  
 Little Lamb, God bless thee!  
 Little Lamb, God bless thee!*

## COMMUNION HYMN

## **A&M 747**

- 1 O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down you are before me:  
ever the maker and keeper of my days.
- 2 You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
and with love everlasting you besiege me:  
in every moment of life and death, you are.
- 3 Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
you have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding:  
God of my present, my past and future too.
- 4 Although your Spirit is upon me,  
still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:  
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.
- 5 For you created me and shaped me,  
gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:  
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

## FINAL HYMN

## **A&M 645**

[Bernadette Farrell (b1957)]

## ***DAMBUSTERS MARCH***

- 1 God is our strength and refuge,  
our present help in trouble;  
and we therefore will not fear,  
though the earth should change!  
Though mountains shake and tremble,  
though swirling floods are raging,  
God the Lord of hosts  
is with us evermore!
- 2 There is a flowing river,  
within God's holy city;  
God is in the midst of her —  
she shall not be moved!  
God's help is swiftly given,  
thrones vanish at his presence —  
God the Lord of hosts  
is with us evermore!
- 3 Come, see the works of our maker,  
learn of his deeds all-powerful:  
wars will cease across the world  
when he shatters the spear!  
Be still and know your creator,  
uplift him in the nations —  
God the Lord of hosts  
is with us evermore!

**Organ Voluntary: Fiat Lux- Theodore Dubois**

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

**PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE**  
**18 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*



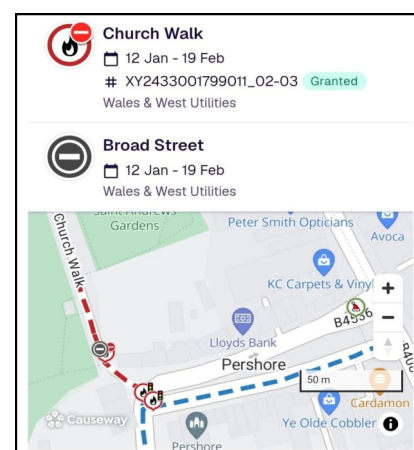
**PALM CROSSES NEEDED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY:** Please leave your old palm crosses in the marked box at the back of Pershore Abbey, as we need to recreate the ash in the traditional way for this year's Ash Wednesday services on the 18 February at Pershore Abbey.

**'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.

**ABBAY LINK MAGAZINE NEEDS A DELIVERER:** We have 14 copies that need to be delivered to Betjeman Close. Deliveries only takes place 4 times a year. If anyone feels they can lend a hand please contact the Abbey & Benefice Office on 01386 552071 or Roger Piper on 01386 55 3110. *Many thanks, Roger Piper*

**CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION:** £550 has been sent off to Christian Aid for the Christmas card collection of which gift aided donations should add further £88. A fantastic result. *Sarah Thomson*

**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>



**CONGRATULATIONS SAM!:** Sam Andrews, along with others in the diocese, has been attending a course so that she can become an Authorised Lay Minister (Children and Youth Worker). The course has nearly been completed, and to mark this Sam will be receiving her ALM certificate at a special Celebration Service at the Cathedral on Saturday 24 January at 1500, to which everyone is welcome. Well done Sam and thank you for taking the time to complete this course! *Claire*

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

## ABBEY PCC MEETING NOTES

**Our PCC met on Tuesday 13 January.**

We had our regular reports on Safeguarding, the work of Sam Andrews our Children and Family Worker, Eco Church, St Andrew's and the Deanery.

**Finance:** We heard that our Year end accounts were being finalised and we would have more detail on these at our next meeting.

**Fabric:** There were several important issues on our Fabric. Notably that our current boiler continues to be out of service and more replacement parts are on order. So the church will remain cold for some time to come. Please wrap up warm!

The new eco-friendly heating system is progressing and the information boards in the Abbey were helping people understand what is planned.

Work was progressing on the need for further underpinning of the building given the problems caused by the dry summer.

**Mission:** Several areas were discussed including our work on becoming more Dementia and Neurodiverse Friendly. An active group was working on improvements and would always welcome new members.

**Christmas:** We reviewed all that had gone on at Christmas and agreed that it had once again been successful. In particular the Wreath Festival had been a great success. All the services had been very busy with some 300 attending the Carol Service, over 600 attending the Christingle Service and nearly 300 attending Midnight Mass.

**Our next meeting will be held on 10 March.**



## ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

### **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*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 19 January**

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

12:00 Funeral of the late Julie Newman  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

13:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)

16:30 Café Church Planning Meeting  
(*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 20 January**

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

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

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

13:30 Flooring Maintenance (*St Andrew's Main*)

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

19:00 U3A Wine Appreciation Society  
(*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Wednesday 21 January**

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

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

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

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:45 V&W (*Zoom*)

### **Thursday 22 January**

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

14:00 Abbey Dementia Working Group  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

15:45 Young People Confirmation Group  
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

### **Friday 23 January**

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

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

### **Saturday 24 January**

11:00 Gill Jones Celebration of Life  
(*St Andrew's Main*)

14:00 Abbey Walking Church followed by  
refreshments (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Sunday 25 January - Conversion of Paul**

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Morning Praise with LIVESTREAM  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)

14:00 Organ Recital (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:30 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)

17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

