



# MORNING PRAISE

PERSHORE ABBEY

Sunday, 25 January 2026

CONVERSION OF PAUL

## 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.

### Welcome and Introduction

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
and also with you.

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### Hymn 29 (CAHON)

### Amazing Grace

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
    that saved a wretch like me!  
    I once was lost, but now am found,  
        was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
    and grace my fears relieved.  
    how precious did that grace appear  
        the hour I first believed.

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares  
    I have already come:  
    'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
        and grace will lead me home.

Cont'd

4 The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there a thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we first begun.

[vs. 1-4: John Newton (1725-1807)  
v 5: John Rees (1828-1900)]

*Please sit for the Prayers of Penitence*

We were once dead through the trespasses and sins in which we lived, but now we are alive together with Christ. Through him we have access in one Spirit to the Father, to whom we humbly confess our sins.

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation. God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us. Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied but ignore the cry of the hungry. Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made. Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven. Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

May almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Collect for the day**

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; 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.**

*Remain seated for the Reading*

**Reading - Acts 9.1-22**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he

found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn 800**

### **The Lord's my shepherd**

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
    He makes me lie in pastures green.  
    He leads me by the still, still waters,  
    His goodness restores my soul.  
  
*And I will trust in you alone,  
And I will trust in you alone,  
For your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

2. He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on his pure delights.
3. And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For you are with me, and your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

[ Stuart Townend (b.1963)  
Based on Psalm 23]

## **The Gospel                    Matthew 19.27-end**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Reflection**

*Please stand for our Affirmation of Faith*

We say together:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Let the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*Please sit or kneel as we offer God our Prayers and Thanks. At the end of each prayer when you hear 'God of love' please respond 'hear our prayer'.*

*We end by saying together The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

*Hymn during which the collection will be taken:*

**Hymn 510**

**Will you follow me**

**(KELVINGROVE)**

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?	3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?	5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?	

John L Bell (b1949) and Graham Maule (b 1958)

## Thanksgiving and Blessing

May Christ who called Paul to his service, and to preach the good news to the world, strengthen us to witness to his grace and love. **Amen.**

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, accompany us in this day's journey. Dawn on our darkness, open our eyes to praise you for your creation and to see the work you set before us today. Take us and use us to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Go in the joy and peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### ***Organ Voluntary: Sortie in Eb—Lefebure-Wely***

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

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## **PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 25 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](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.

## PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

**THANK YOU:** On behalf of myself and my family I would like to extend heartfelt thanks for support given for Julie's service. She would have been proud to have had the bells rung and the choir taking part in the service, but she would have been embarrassed at the extra work the attendance caused the stewards in seating, putting out chairs and of course putting them back. Once again thank you. *Bill Newman*

**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 or something else in or around Pershore. You can speak to me at Sunday's 1030 service or email me: [editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk). *With thanks, Christopher Kimberley*

**IONA SERVICE - SUNDAY 25 JANUARY 17:00:** Just before Holocaust Memorial Day, the Iona service has the theme of 'Excluded'. The impact of being excluded can be devastating at a personal level and is one of the precursors to genocide at a social level. Time for reflection and prayer, with the opportunity for discussion and sharing. Everyone is very welcome.



**ABBEY 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*

**SAVE THE DATE:** This year's Pershore Carnival will be taking place on Saturday 20 June not the last Bank Holiday in May as has been the case historically. More details about the procession and this year's theme will be shared soon!



## ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

### **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*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 26 January**

10:00 Bible Study Group (*21 Three Springs Road*)  
10:00 U3A Ukelele (*St Andrew's Main*)  
10:30 Bells—Friends of Madelaine Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)  
13:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)  
18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)  
19:00 Art & Craft (*St Andrew's Upper*)  
19:00 Pershore Community Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)  
19:00 Benefice Churchwardens' Meeting (*Zoom*)  
19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

### **Tuesday 27 January**

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 Mothers' Union AGM (*St Andrew's Main*)  
16:00 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)  
19:30 Pinvin PCC (*Pinvin*)

### **Wednesday 28 January**

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)  
12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)  
14:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:15 U3A Bridge Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)

### **Thursday 29 January**

09:45 iSing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)  
15:45 Young People Confirmation Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)  
18:30 Adult Confirmation Group (*58 Three Springs Road*)

### **Friday 30 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*)  
19:30 Bells Roy Williams' Last Friday Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

### **Saturday 31 January**

11:00 Private Party (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **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*)

