



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 1 March 2026
LENT 2

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 Update: Our heating engineer came and checked the boiler at the beginning of the week and made some minor adjustments. Although this seems to have rectified the problem, there are no guarantees how long this will remain the case, given the age of the boiler. We will of course let you know if wrapping up and use of the blankets is needed again!

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 12.1-4a

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

SECOND READING

Romans 4.1-5,13-17

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the

world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations'). Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

THE GOSPEL

John 3.1-17

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 595

SLANE

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
- 3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

[Irish, 8th Century

Translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 321

LOVE UNKNOWN

- 1 Thou art the Christ, O Lord,
the Son of God most high:
for ever be adored
that name in earth and sky,
in which, though mortal strength may fail,
the saints of God at last prevail.
- 2 O surely he was blest
with blessedness unpriced,
who, taught of God, confessed
the Godhead in the Christ;
for of thy church, Lord, thou didst own
thy saint a true foundation-stone.
- 3 Thrice fallen, thrice restored,
the bitter lesson learnt,
that heart for thee, O Lord,
with triple ardour burnt.
The cross he took he laid not down
until he grasped the martyr's crown.
- 4 O bright triumphant faith,
O courage void of fears,
O love most strong in death,
O penitential tears!
By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,
and make us go where thou shalt call.

[William Washam How (1823-1867)]

THIRD HYMN

A&M 358

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found –
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.

2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight-
our radiant King of light!
Be still for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

3. Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace.
no work too hard for him,
in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

[David Evans (b.1957)]

COMMUNION MOTET

Litany to the Holy Spirit—Peter Hurford *Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

In the hour of my distress,
When temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When I lie within my bed,
Sick in heart and sick in head,
And with doubts discomfited,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the house doth sigh and weep,
And the world is drown'd in sleep,
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

1. Drop, drop, slow tears,
and bathe those beauteous feet,
which brought from heaven
the news and Prince of Peace.

2. Cease not, wet eyes,
his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance
sin doth never cease.

3. In your deep floods
drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye
see sin, but through my tears.

[Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)]

FINAL HYMN

A&M 702

PASTOR PASTORUM

1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

3 Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

[James Edmeston (1791-1867)]

Organ Voluntary: Prelude and Fuge in c minor — Felix Mendelssohn
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

01 MARCH 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 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.

BOB GILLMOR: It was with shock and deep sadness that we learned that Bob died on 24 February, after a short time of not being very well. Bob was a much loved member of the Abbey family and the wider community. In his usual quiet, gentle and warm manner, Bob did so much at the Abbey and with so many other community groups and organisations. He was a regular behind the sound desk and was an expert in live streaming. He was also part of the team that helped get the Abbey ready for concerts. Bob was a man of profound faith and we shall miss him so much, but we can celebrate his life and give thanks that we really were all family together. There will be a service for Bob at **1400 on 23 March** at the Abbey to which everyone is warmly invited. May Bob rest in peace. *Claire*

PERSHORE BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

BISHOP HUGH'S MESSAGE FOR LENT: In this year's Lent message, Bishop Hugh encourages us to consider using the 40 days to commit to a specific discipline which will help us to live life more fully with God and for God. You can read Bishop Hugh's message or watch it on video using the following link: <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/lent-message-2026>



PERSHORE CARNIVAL 2026 PLANNING MEETING: Interested in joining the Abbey walking float in this year's carnival, to be held on Saturday 20 June? We are holding a planning meeting at 1930 on Wednesday 11 March at St Andrew's Centre. This year's theme is Country and Westerns. If you have any ideas or just fancy doing something new, come along or contact Beth/Eloise on 07824446143. *Beth Seale*

URGENT HELP NEEDED: Help is needed to deliver the Abbey Link Magazine. Our latest request is for someone to deliver to the following areas:-

Lancelott Court	19 copies	Apple Tree Road	53 copies
Pippin Close	4 copies	Furlongs Rd	55 copies
Westcott Way	33 copies		

If you are able to help deliver here, or to other areas in Pershore, please contact me on 01386 553110 before the end of the month. Thank you. *Roger Piper*

ABBEY MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIE MAKING: Posies for the Abbey's Mothering Sunday service will be put together from 1000 onwards on Saturday 14 March at St Andrew's Centre. Donations of daffodils and foliage or any monetary donations to buy flowers would be gratefully received. Please contact me on 01386 553293 if you can help in any way. *Thank you, Suzanne Clarke*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Sign up sheets will be at the back of the Abbey for those who would like to have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday and those who would like to read at the service of Tenebrae. There will also be a rota for those who would like to keep the watch until midnight. Those who would like to be involved in the dramatised reading of the Passion on Good Friday can also sign up. Thank you in advance to all who will volunteer. *Claire*

HELP NEEDED: Volunteers needed (male or female) for changing the Altar frontal during the year. Full instruction will be given. It takes about half an hour, five or six times a year. Please help us if you can. Contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071 or email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk Thank you. *Elizabeth Kearney*



www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

**PLEASE SEE MARCH'S MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MORE NOTICES AND
DETAILS OF OUR EASTER SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

Sunday 1 March - Lent 2

- 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*)
- 15:00 Pershore Civic Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

NOTICE: *St Andrew's Car park will be closed for essential drainage work from Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.*

Monday 2 March

- 09:00 Roof Inspection and Gutter Clearance (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 09:30 Yoga Class (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 10:30 Birlingham PCC (*Birlingham*)
- 14:00 Abbey Dementia Working Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 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*)
- 19:00 Compline on Zoom (*Zoom*)
- 19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 3 March

- 10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 Burial of the late Phillip Roberts (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)
- 18:45 Soundbath (*St Andrew's Main*)

Wednesday 4 March

- 10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 11:00 Dementia Awareness Training Session (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 11:00 Lunch Club (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 12:00 Lenten Lunches (*Pershore Baptist Church*)
- 12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

Thursday 5 March

- 09:45 iSing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)
- 14:00 Food Bank Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 15:45 V&W (*Vicars Vestry*)
- 19:30 CTiP Lent Talk (*Pershore Baptist Church*)

Friday 6 March

- 09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:00 Pershore Civic Society (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:30 Bells Surprise Major Practice (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 7 March

- 09:30 Marriage Preparation Course (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:00 Pershore Rotary Jazz Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:30 Friends of St Mary's - A Grand Auction of Promises (*Wick Club, Wick*)

Sunday 8 March - Lent 3

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