



PERSHORE BENEFICE
The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick
Sunday, 8 February 2026
RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY / 2 BEFORE LENT

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 Update: Thank you for bearing with us while the issues with the heating at the Abbey continue. After going through a process of elimination to establish what is wrong, our engineers have a part on order. Unfortunately, this is going to take some time to get to us. Therefore, please continue to wrap up warm and make use of the blankets when attending services and concerts and please accept our apologies.

Refreshments after this Sunday's 1030 Sung Eucharist will be in St Andrew's Centre.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 1.1-2.3

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was

morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

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

SECOND READING

Romans 8.18-25

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the

children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6.25-34

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; 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.



HYMN SHEET

FIRST HYMN

A&M 532

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;
ye lights of evening, find a voice:

3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire, so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:

4 Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

[William Henry Draper (1855-1933)
Based on St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)]

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 810

MOSCOW

1 Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

2 Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light.

4 Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light.

[John Marriott (1780-1825)]

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
 there is no shadow of turning with thee;
 thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
 as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
 great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

2 Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
 sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

[Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)]

COMMUNION MOTET**For the beauty of the earth—John Rutter**

Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise*

For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
pleasures pure and undefiled:

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n

For they church which evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love,

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise*

1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

2 There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

3 Come, see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

4 So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthroned him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

[Graham Kendrick (b.1950)]

1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

[Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)]

Organ Voluntary: Allegro-Symphonie vi—Charles-Marie Widor
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary
Pershore Abbey CCLI No. 46441

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE 08 FEBRUARY 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 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.

BENEFICE BULLETIN NOTICES

CONFIRMATION SERVICE: We shall be holding a Benefice Confirmation Service at 1030 on Sunday 15 February 2026 at the Abbey. We are delighted that Bishop Michael will be leading this service. Everyone is welcome to attend the service and it would be wonderful for our candidates to be supported by as many people in our Benefice as possible. *Claire*



ABBEY SUSTAINABLE HEATING PROJECT UPDATE: After a long wait since August, our application for permission towards developing a carbon reduced heating system has moved a step further, the details have been sent out by the Diocese to significant organisations for their consultation. Still a long way to go, but a big hurdle passed. *Judy Dale*

ABBEY FLOWER GUILD AGM: This year's AGM will be held on Monday 16 February at 1030 in the Main Hall at St Andrew's Centre. All enquiries and apologies to the Secretary, Mary Cope on 01386 554773.

NEW FOUNDATION GOVERNORS URGENTLY NEEDED: Pinvin C of E Academy needs to appoint two new Foundation Governors to support the work of the Local Academy Board as it fulfils the vision and aims of our Church School. Chris Terry and Ruth Smith have been fantastic foundation governors for several years but have recently stepped back so we need to find their replacements. If you'd like to know more about what being a foundation governor means or would like to volunteer please get in touch. *Claire*



THE PATCHWORK OF OUR LIVES - SUNDAY 22ND FEB 1700: During February's Iona service, the leader of a local, life changing project will explain how refugee women learn sewing skills as they make patchwork quilts together. The women grow in confidence, learn English and find community, providing sound foundations for a new start in life. Everyone is very welcome. Please email Helen on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk if you would like to join via zoom or for any further information. If you would like to bring along donations of cotton or poly cotton fabric, wool, thread, sharp scissors, knitting bags or even sewing machines, they would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

PLEASE SEE OUR JANUARY/FEBRUARY 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 8 February - 2 Before Lent

- 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*)
- 12:15 Confirmation Service Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:30 RAF Air Cadets ATC Service (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 17:00 Wholeness & Healing (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 9 February

- 10:00 U3A Ukelele Group (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 12:30 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)
- 19:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing
(*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 19:00 Pershore Community Choir
(*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

Tuesday 10 February

- 09:30 Bells - Vale of Evesham Peal (*St Andrew's*)
- 10:00 Private Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:15 Foodbank staff arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:00 Abbey Women's Fellowship
(*St Andrew's Main*)
- 18:45 Soundbath (*St Andrew's Main*)

Wednesday 11 February

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

Thursday 12 February

- 09:45 iSing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)

Friday 13 February

- 09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 18:00 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:30 Bells - W&DCRA Southern Branch
Surprise Major Practice (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 14 February

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Sunday 15 February - Next Before Lent

- 08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Confirmation Service with Fairtrade
Stall and with LIVESTREAM
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:30 Service of Holy Baptism
(*Pershore Abbey*)

