



# MORNING PRAISE

PERSHORE ABBEY

Sunday, 22 February 2026

LENT 1

## 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 Update:** Although the boiler was fixed last week, unfortunately we are having ongoing problems. Our heating engineers have been made aware and will be coming back out when they can. In the meantime, we are frequently having to relight it when it goes out during the day, which means the temperature is not as cosy as we would like it to be. Please make sure you continue to wrap up warm and make use of the blankets.

Many thanks for your patience and understanding.

### 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 121

### Forty Days and Forty Nights

### AUS DER TIEFE (HEINLEIN)

1 Forty days and forty nights  
thou wast fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled:

2 Sunbeams scorching all the day;  
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;  
prowling beasts about thy way;  
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Cont'd

3 Shall not we thy sorrows share,  
and from earthly joys abstain,  
fasting with unceasing prayer,  
glad with thee to suffer pain?

4 And if Satan, vexing sore,  
flesh or spirit should assail,  
thou, his vanquisher before,  
grant we may not faint nor fail.

5 So shall we have peace divine;  
holier gladness ours shall be;  
round us too shall angels shine,  
such as ministered to thee.

6 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.

[George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870)  
And Francis Pott (1832-1909)]

### *Please sit for the Prayers of Penitence*

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

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**

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Remain seated for the Reading*

## Reading - Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."'

But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn 598

### Before the Throne of God above

#### 1 Before the throne of God above

I have a strong, a perfect plea,  
a great High Priest, whose name is Love,  
who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands,  
my name is written on his heart;  
I know that while in heaven he stands  
no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

2 When Satan tempts me to despair,  
and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look, and see him there  
who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Saviour died,  
my sinful soul is counted free;  
for God, the Just, is satisfied  
to look on him and pardon me,  
to look on him and pardon me.

#### 3 Behold him there! the risen Lamb!

my perfect, spotless Righteousness,  
the great unchangeable I AM,  
the King of glory and of grace!  
One with my Lord, I cannot die;  
my soul is purchased by his blood;  
my life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ, my Saviour and my God,  
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.

## The Gospel

## Matthew 4.1-11

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’

Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

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 128**

1 Jesu, lover of my soul,  
let me to thy bosom fly,  
while the nearer waters roll,  
while the tempest still is high:  
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
till the storm of life is past;  
safe into the haven guide,  
O receive my soul at last.

2 Other refuge have I none,  
hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
leave, ah, leave me not alone,  
still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed,  
all my help from thee I bring;  
cover my defenceless head  
with the shadow of thy wing.

### **Jesu lover of my soul**

**(ABERYSTWYTH)**

3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want;  
more than all in thee I find;  
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,  
heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Just and holy is thy name,  
I am all unrighteousness;  
false and full of sin I am,  
thou art full of truth and grace.

4 Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
grace to cover all my sin;  
let the healing streams abound,  
make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art:  
freely let me take of thee,  
spring thou up within my heart,  
rise to all eternity.

[Charles Wesley (1707-1788)]

### **Thanksgiving and Blessing**

God of compassion through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. As we follow his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through 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: Sonata iii in a—Felix Mendelssohn**  
*The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary*

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## **PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY**

### **22 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](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

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**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.

*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 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>



**ORGAN RECITAL SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 1400:** We would be delighted if you would join our Director of Music, James MacDowall-Scott for an enjoyable recital as he plays the organ at Pershore Abbey. Admission free with a retiring collection.

**PERSHORE CARNIVAL 2026 PLANNING MEETING:** Interested in joining the Pershore 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 we could use 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*

**THE PATCHWORK OF OUR LIVES - SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 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](mailto: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.*

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



**PLEASE SEE OUR JANUARY/FEBRUARY MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MORE NOTICES  
AND WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LENT**

## ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

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

### **Sunday 22 February - Lent 1**

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*)  
15:00 Bulb Sunday Service (*St James', Birlingham*)  
17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

### **Monday 23 February**

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*)  
15:30 Pershore United Charities AGM (*St Andrew's Main*)  
18:00 Wick PCC (*Wick*)  
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 Compline by Zoom  
19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

### **Tuesday 24 February**

10:00 Bells in celebration of Peter Moreton (*Pershore Abbey*)  
10:15 Foodbank staff arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)  
11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)  
11:00 Funeral Service for the late Peter Moreton (*Pershore Abbey*)  
14:30 Mothers' Union (*St Andrew's Main*)  
19:30 Pinvin PCC (*Pinvin*)

### **Wednesday 25 February**

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

15:45 V&W (*Vicars Vestry*)

### **Thursday 26 February**

09:45 iSing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:00 SAEC Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:15 Severn and Wye John Betjeman Society (*St Andrew's Upper*)  
19:00 Breathworks Nervous System Reset (*St Andrew's Upper*)  
19:30 CTiP Lent Talk (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Friday 27 February**

09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)  
13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)  
14:00 World Day of Prayer Service (*Pershore Baptist Church*)  
15:00 Funeral Service for the late Kathleen Ford (*Pershore Abbey*)  
18:00 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's Main & Upper*)  
19:30 Bells Roy Williams' Last Friday Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

### **Saturday 28 February**

10:00 Volunteers' Coffee Morning (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **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*)