



**PERSHORE BENEFICE**  
**The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with**  
**St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick**  
**Sunday, 8 March 2026**  
**LENT 3**

## **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](http://www.youtube.com) and search for [Persore 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 has visited 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, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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**

**Exodus 17.1-7**

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?' For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING**

**Romans 5.1-11**

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast

in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

### **THE GOSPEL**

### **John 4.5-42**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the

Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

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

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; 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 761**

**AUSTRIA**

1 Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore him;  
praise him, angels, in the height;  
sun and moon, rejoice before him,  
praise him, all ye stars and light.  
Praise the Lord! for he hath spoken;  
worlds his mighty voice obeyed:  
laws, which never shall be broken,  
for their guidance he hath made.

2 Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;  
never shall his promise fail:  
God hath made his saints victorious;  
sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation;  
hosts on high, his power proclaim;  
heaven and earth and all creation,  
laud and magnify his name!

[Based on Psalm 148  
Music: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)]

### GRADUAL HYMN

**A&M 634**

**HALTON HOLGATE**

1 Firmly I believe and truly  
God is Three and God is One;  
and I next acknowledge duly  
manhood taken by the Son.

2 And I trust and hope most fully  
in that manhood crucified;  
and each thought and deed unruly  
do to death, as he has died.

4 And I hold in veneration,  
for the love of him alone,  
Holy Church as his creation,  
and her teachings as his own.

3 Simply to his grace and wholly  
light and life and strength belong,  
and I love supremely, solely,  
him the holy, him the strong.

5 Adoration ay be given,  
with and through the angelic host,  
to the God of earth and heaven,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

[John Henry Newman (1801-1890)]

### THIRD HYMN

**A&M 238**

**DOWN AMPNEY**

1 Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

*Cont'd*

2 O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3 Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till he become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

[Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)]

**COMMUNION MOTET**

**Wash me thoroughly - SS Wesley**  
*Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir*

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
And forgive me all my sin  
For I acknowledge my faults  
And my sin is ever before me

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**A&M 358**

**BE STILL**

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.

Cont'd

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)]

## **FINAL HYMN**

## **A&M 584**

1 All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power,  
hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

4 Daily doth th' Almighty giver  
bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
his desire our soul delighteth,  
pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand  
at his hand;  
joy doth wait on his command.

3 God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light, and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore  
from his store  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

5 Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call  
one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

[Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)  
Based on Meine Hoffnung stehet feste,  
By Joachim Neander (1650-1680)]

***Organ Voluntary: Master Tallis Testament - Herbert Howells***  
*The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary*

# PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE

08 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**

**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.

**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>



**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](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) Thank you. *Elizabeth Kearney*

**EASTER LILY SUNDAY AT THE ABBEY:** At services on 22 March it will be possible for people to make a donation towards the Easter lilies that will be used to decorate the Abbey from Easter Day. Mary Cope, a member of the Abbey Flower Guild, will be on hand to write down any names of loved ones that you may wish to be remembered as you give your donation. Donating Easter lilies in memory of a loved one is a beautiful tradition and reflects our hope and joy in the resurrection for us all. *Claire*



**CALLING ALL MUSICIANS - JOIN DAWN CHORUS:** We are seeking musicians to play for the Easter Morning Eucharist at 0600 on 5 April. There are three hymns to offer joyfully at this service and we'd love for you to join us if you are able. Please contact Jayne Parker for more details on [curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**SAVE THE DATE:** ESO Wind Quartet will be visiting Pershore Abbey at 1430 on 21 May for a Relaxed Concert as part of the Elgar Festival. Admission is free, though advanced booking is recommended: [https://elgarfestival.org/events\\_2026/relaxed-concert-2/](https://elgarfestival.org/events_2026/relaxed-concert-2/)

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



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

## **ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY**

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

### **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*)

### **PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES**

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

**NOTICE:** *St Andrew's Car park will continue to be closed for essential drainage work until Monday 9th March. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.*

### **Monday 9 March**

10:00 PASA Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)

10:00 U3A Ukulele Group (*St Andrew's Main*)

12:00 Abbey Park Y4 Monks' Day (*Pershore Abbey*)

13:15 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)

16:00 Burial of Ashes of the late Sally Kidman  
(*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

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 (*St Andrew's*)

### **Tuesday 10 March**

09:30 Bells - Vale of Evesham Peals  
(*St Andrew's*)

10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:30 Magdeburg Partnership Group  
(*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

14:30 Abbey Women's Fellowship (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:00 Abbey PCC Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Wednesday 11 March**

09:15 Ground PR Survey (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

12:00 Lenten Lunches (*Pershore Baptist Church*)

14:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)

14:00 U3A Bridge Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)

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

19:30 Carnival Planning Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

### **Thursday 12 March**

09:45 i-Sing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:00 Herefordshire Fire Protection

Fire Extinguisher Checks (*Pershore Abbey, Benefice Office, St Andrew's Main*)

11:00 Eucharist (*Roland Rutter Court*)

12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

14:30 Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

19:30 CTiP Lent Talk (*Holy Redeemer Church*)

### **Friday 13 March**

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

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

18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:30 Bells W&DCRA Southern Branch  
Surprise Major Practice (*St Andrew's*)

### **Saturday 14 March**

10:00 Abbey Posie Making (*St Andrew's Main*)

12:30 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)

14:30 Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra  
Spring Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

### **Sunday 15 March - Mothering Sunday**

*Pershore Abbey to be lit teal for International Long Covid Awareness Day*

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 All Age Eucharist with Fairtrade Stall  
and with LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

10:30 Morning Praise (*St Mary's, Wick*)