



Welcome to Pershore Abbey

Sunday 15 March 2026 - Mothering Sunday

This is your Service Sheet, Bulletin and Diary. Please use this sheet in conjunction with the service booklet provided. Large print copies are available from the welcomers.

The 1030 Service from the Abbey will be livestreamed and available to view on our YouTube channel: [Pershore Abbey Community](#)

If you have any queries or concerns please do speak to a sidesperson or churchwarden.

— Service Sheet —



First Hymn

Our Father God in heaven
on whom our world depends,
to you let praise be given
for families and friends;
for parents, sisters, brothers,
a home where love belongs,
but on this day for mothers
we bring our thankful songs.

What wealth of God's bestowing
for all the world to share!
what strength of heart outgoing
to children everywhere!
Our deepest joys and sorrows
a mother's path must trace,
and earth's unknown tomorrows
are held in her embrace.

How well we know the story
that tells of Jesus' birth,
the Lord of heaven's glory
become a child of earth;
a helpless infant sleeping,
yet King of realms above,
to find in Mary's keeping
the warmth of human love.

Our Father God in heaven,
to you we lift our prayer,
that every child be given
such tenderness and care,
where life is all for others,
where love your love displays:
for God's good gift of mothers
let earth unite in praise!

Ancient & Modern 138
Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
Tune: Ellacombe



The Collect

Loving God, you sent your Son to be part of a human family. Strengthen us as we share family life together, in our homes and in our church, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



First Reading

Exodus 2.1-10

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

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



Gradual Hymn

For those who mother us, dear Lord,
And show us love and caring,
Who bring to life your holy Word
In daily work and sharing.

We thank you, and we pray that we
May learn unselfish giving,
A brother or a sister see
In every person living.

We all, like Eve, have disobeyed
And yielded to temptation,
But God in Mary's Son has made
The way to our salvation;

So let us all, we humbly pray,
Obedient as your Mother,
Embody Jesus every day
In love for one another.

Throughout our life, in joy or pain,
A mother may support us,
But yet more faithful will remain
The love our Saviour taught us.

As children at the entrance gate
We look for one to meet us,
So may we trust our God to wait
With open arms to greet us.

Words: Sue Sabbagh
Tune: Dominus Regit Me



The Gospel

John 19.25b-27

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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



Prayers

We pray for those who live in the midst of conflict today, praying for peace for all peoples and places. We also pray for the following members of our church family. 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.



Third Hymn

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 each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:

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

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

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

For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

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

For thy 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.*

Ancient & Modern 537

Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Tune: Englands Lane



Communion Motet

A Clare Benediction - Sir John Rutter. Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*May the Lord show his mercy upon you;
may the light of his presence be your guide:
May he guard you and uphold you;
may his spirit be ever by your side.*

*When you sleep may his angels watch over you;
when you wake may he fill you with his grace:
May you love him and serve him all your days,
then in heaven may you see his face.*



Communion Hymn

Fathers and mothers,
sisters and brothers,
all those who love us,
for whom we care:
help and befriend them,
keep and defend them,
Jesus our Saviour,
this is our prayer.

And for those others,
fathers and mothers,
children who hunger,
they must be fed:
we would be caring,
readily sharing,
one with another
our daily bread.

Sisters and brothers,
fathers and mothers,
we who together
offer our praise:
hear our thanksgiving,
God ever living,
may we walk with you
all of our days.

Ancient & Modern 136
Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
Tune: Bunessan



Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Final Hymn

He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

Ancient & Modern 656
Music: Arr. Paul Leddington Wright, b. 1951



Organ Voluntary

Carillon Sortie - Henri Mulet

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

— Bulletin —

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*

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>

Piano Recital 1400, Sunday 15 March: We would be delighted if you would join our Director of Music, James MacDowall-Scott for an enjoyable recital as he plays our new 1983 Steinway Model A Grand Piano at Pershore Abbey. Admission free with a retiring collection.

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*

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

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/

Benefice Sung Eucharist for Palm Sunday: Starting with a procession at 1000 from Abbey Park to the Abbey, meeting at St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road crossroads, join us for this special service at 1030 on Sunday 29 March when we gather as a Benefice.

'Peace' Iona Worship 1700, Sunday 22 March: The Iona service reflects on the powerful poem 'Peace is a verb' written by Nigerian poet and UN Global Advocate for Peace. Everyone is very welcome to bring concerns for and thoughts about peace. For further details please email Helen on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk

WaterAid's Walk for Water: This month I am taking part in WaterAid's Walk for Water. I will be walking 155km at an average of 5km per day in solidarity with thousands of women and girls who walk a similar distance every day to fetch water. I can walk 5km in under an hour, but I have good shoes and walk on (mostly) well-made paths, and I'm not carrying 10kg of water in a jerrycan. You can support me (and them) by donating on my Just Giving page: [walkforwater.wateraid.org/fundraising/nigels-fundraising-page414](https://www.justgiving.com/walkforwater/wateraid.org/fundraising/nigels-fundraising-page414) Together we can change lives, one step at a time. Thank you. *Nigel Hawkes*

What do you think? You may have noticed, we have made a few changes to the layout of this publication. With guidance from various dementia and neurodiverse support groups, we have made changes that we hope will make it easier for everyone to follow and participate in our services. We would appreciate your feedback. Please either email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or speak to me in person. Thank you. *Claire*

Please see our Monthly Bulletin for further notices and information regarding Easter services and activities.

— Notes from Abbey PCC Meeting —

Our Parochial Church Council met on 10 March.

We had our regular reports on Safeguarding, the work of Sam Andrews our Children and Family worker, Mission Group, Eco-church and the Deanery.

Dementia Working Group: This small group is working towards us becoming a Dementia Friendly Church. Following their work to date some 19 members of the congregation and the welcoming team have been trained as Dementia Friends. We are planning to improve the signage at both the Abbey and St Andrew's Centre. A simplified, easy to follow version of the service booklet is being produced and resources, such as picture books, memory boxes and information leaflets are available. Overall, our aim is to offer a warm, inclusive welcome to all.

Policies: We formally adopted two new policies for our staff and volunteers following advice from the Diocese. The Dignity at Work and Sexual Harassment policies were adopted and a poster about these is on display. Information about them will also be on our website shortly.

Finance: We heard that our Year-end accounts for 2025 are now with the independent examiner and will be available for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Our finances are in a good position at present.

Fabric: As always, we are very busy maintaining and updating our buildings, including the following. The new eco-friendly heating system is progressing, and the Diocese are now consulting on it. We will be carrying out some work towards the underpinning of the NE of the Abbey following the problems caused by the dry summer. The roof of the vestry block is to be replaced as it is leaking badly.

Eucharistic assistants: Edward Denley, Sue Sabbagh and Janet Stansbie were approved to assist at Communion.

St Andrew's Centre: Work has been carried out through the Diocese to stop the Car Park flooding in heavy rainfall. They are also making repairs to the garage.

Elections: We are preparing for our APCM on 5 May and are looking new members to join our PCC. This is an important body that is responsible for managing the Parish. We are a lively and friendly group with formal meetings every 2 months. If you feel called to join us, please let us know before the APCM. We are also keen to have more representatives on Deanery Synod and again please let us know if you would be interested in this.

Forms and further details for PCC/Deanery Synod membership will be available in the Abbey, and should be returned to Sara Speed.

— Keeping In Touch —

Vicar

The Revd Canon Claire Lording - vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Assistant Curate

The Revd Jayne Parker - curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Abbey Wardens

Mrs Sam Andrews - 07443904635

Mr Martin Fowler - 01386 552243

Pershore Abbey and Benefice Office

11, Broad Street, Pershore, WR10 1BB

01386 552071

office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Open to the public 1100-1200 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

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If you have any concerns please do speak to a sidesperson or churchwarden.

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 this
publication, please do not hesitate to contact the office for support.

As part of our commitment to the care of the environment,
this publication is printed on recycled paper. Please take it home and
once you have finished with it, please recycle.



www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

Pershore Benefice Easter 2026

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday 29 March

0800 BCP Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

1000 Palm Sunday Procession on Abbey Park to Abbey Meet at St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road crossroads. Come and join us singing and drumming to the Abbey.

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*) *with LIVESTREAM*

1700 Stainer's Crucifixion with the Pershore Abbey Choir (*Pershore Abbey*)

Monday in Holy Week 30 March

1900 Compline (*Zoom*) Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a Zoom link

Tuesday In Holy Week 31 March

1900 Compline (*Zoom*) Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a Zoom link

Wednesday in Holy Week 1 April

1900 Compline (*Zoom*) Please contact vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for a Zoom link

Maundy Thursday 2 April

2000 Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars

and the Office of Tenebrae (*Pershore Abbey*) *with LIVESTREAM*

This service will be approximately one and three-quarter hours and will be followed by the Watch until Midnight. You are welcome to leave after the Office of Tenebrae.

Good Friday 3 April

1000-1415 Children's Activities (5-10 years) (*St Andrew's Centre*)

No fee - donations welcome. Booking essential via Suzanne Clarke 01386 553293.

1000 Good Friday Way of the Cross Walk Meeting outside Pershore Baptist Church, walking to Holy Redeemer and then to the Preaching Cross at Pershore Abbey. There will be a pause for the reflection and a simple act of worship at each point.

1400 Service of the Last Hour (*Pershore Abbey*) *with LIVESTREAM*

1445 Bredon Hill Service at the Folly please contact the Bredon Group for details of this service on acbhteam@gmail.com

Holy Saturday 4 April

1700 Evening Prayer with Short Easter Vigil (*Pershore Abbey*)

This service will last approximately one hour.

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Daily Offices will also continue to be observed as usual

01386 552071

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk



— Diary —

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*)
- 14:00 Piano Recital (*Pershore Abbey*)

Monday 16 March

- 11:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 13:15 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 16:00 Private Meeting (*Vicar's Vestry*)
- 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 17 March

- 10:00 Private Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 12:15 Funeral for the late Colin Tallis (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:00 Abbey Mission Group (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:00 U3A Wine Appreciation Society (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:00 Benefice Churchwardens' Meeting (*Zoom*)

Wednesday 18 March

- 10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 11:00 Lunch Club (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 12:00 Lenten Lunches (*Pershore Baptist Church*)
- 12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 15:45 V&W (*Vicars Vestry*)

Thursday 19 March

- 09:00 Maintenance (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:00 Welcomers' Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:30 CTiP Lent Talk (*Pershore Community Church at The Banking Hall*)

Friday 20 March

- 09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:00 Concert Rehearsal (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 18:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:30 Bells Pershore Development Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 21 March

- 10:00 St Andrew's Trust Meeting (*Zoom*)
- 10:30 Abbey Parish Coffee Morning (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 12:00 Funeral for the late Brenda Cross (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 14:00 Abbey Walking Church (*West Door, Pershore Abbey*)
- 15:00 Abbey Walking Church Refreshments (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 15:00 The Jenny Lind Singers Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 22 March - Passion Sunday

- 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*)
- 12:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:00 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:00 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

Pershore Abbey Daily Offices

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

All are welcome to share in these services.

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