



The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross with  
St Nicholas' Pinvin, St James' Birlingham & St Mary's Wick

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## Welcome to Pershore Abbey

Sunday 22 March 2026 - Passion 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 —



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.**



### First Hymn

How deep the Father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that he should give his only Son  
to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss;  
the Father turns his face away,  
as wounds which mar the chosen One  
bring many souls to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon his shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there,  
until it was accomplished;  
his dying breath has brought me life-  
I know that 'it is finished.'

I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from his reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
but this I know with all my heart  
his wounds have paid my ransom.

Ancient & Modern 144  
Words: Stuart Townsend (b.1963)



*Please sit or kneel for the Prayers of Penitence.*

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.  
Let us come to him, in sorrow for our sins, seeking healing and salvation.

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.**



## **The Collect**

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## **First Reading**

Romans 8.6 -11

A reading from the Book of the Romans

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Second Hymn

Jesus, the name high over all,  
in hell, or earth, or sky;  
angels and mortals prostrate fall,  
and devils fear and fly,  
Jesus, the name to sinners dear,  
the name to sinners giv'n;  
it scatters all their guilty fear,  
it turns their hell to heaven.

Jesus, the pris'ner's fetters breaks,  
and bruises Satan's head;  
pow'r into strengthless souls he speaks,  
and life into the dead.  
O, that the world might taste and see  
the riches of his grace!  
The arms of love that compass me,  
hold all the human race.

His only righteousness I show,  
his saving grace proclaim;  
'tis all my business here below  
to cry, 'Behold the Lamb!'  
Happy, if with my latest breath  
I may but gasp his name;  
preach him to all, and cry in death:  
'Behold, behold the Lamb!'

CAHON 364

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune: Kingsfold



## The Gospel

John 11. 1-45

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

### Glory to you, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory

of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**



## **Reflection**

*Please stand for our Affirmation of Faith*



## **Affirmation of Faith**

We say together:

**We believe in God the Father,  
who created everything in heaven and on earth.**

**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**

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ’s blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**



## 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.

*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.**



**Third Hymn** *During which the collection will be taken:*

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of Glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ, my God:  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingling down:  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an off'ring far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

CAHON 738

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Tune: O Waly Waly



## Thanksgiving and Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven. **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

Concerto in A minor - JS Bach/ Antonio Vivaldi

*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*

**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*

**'Peace' Iona Worship 1700, Sunday 22 March: Peace is not a silence you force into people's mouths,"** is a line from Maryam Bukar Hassan's challenging poem, which will be read in the Iona Service. Everyone is very welcome. For further information please email Helen on [iona@persshoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:iona@persshoreabbey.org.uk) Watch Maryam performing her poem 'Peace is a verb' on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXqFYa6OR74>

**Earth Hour:** On Saturday 28 March the Abbey tower lights will be switched off between 2030-2130 in support of Earth Hour, a global environmental movement that encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential lights for one hour to raise awareness about climate change and environmental degradation.

**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.

**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@persshoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@persshoreabbey.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.**

## — 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.

Following Church of England guidance, we do not allow the dipping of the host  
or wafer in the chalice.

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.



# 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](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for a Zoom link

### Tuesday In Holy Week 31 March

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk) for a Zoom link

### Wednesday in Holy Week 1 April

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk)



# — Diary —

## 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*)
- 14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

## Monday 23 March

- 09:00 Organ Tuning (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:00 U3A Ukelele Group (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 10:30 Bells - Friends of Madeline Quarter  
Peal (*St Andrew's*)
- 13:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:00 Funeral for the late Bob Gillmor  
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 18:00 Wick APCM (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)
- 19:00 Pershore Community Choir  
(*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:00 Compline on Zoom (*Zoom*)
- 19:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing  
(*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

## Tuesday 24 March

- 09:20 Steering Group Meeting  
(*St Andrew's Main*)
- 10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 Funeral for the late Susan Payne  
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 13:30 Private Organ Lesson (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:30 Mothers' Union (*St Andrew's Main*)

## Wednesday 25 March

- 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*)
- 19:15 Play Rehearsal (*St Andrew's Main*)

## Thursday 26 March

- 10:00 iSing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 15:30 V & W's (*Vicars Vestry*)
- 18:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 18:45 Breathworks (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 19:30 Pinvin APCM (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)
- 19:30 CTiP Lent Talk - Together with God  
(*St Andrew's Main*)

## Friday 27 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 - Roy Williams' Last Friday  
Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

## Saturday 28 March

- 09:00 Valuation Day (*St Andrew's Main*)

## Sunday 29 March - Palm Sunday

- 08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:00 Palm Sunday Procession (*St Andrew's  
Road and Abbey Road Crossroads*)
- 10:30 Benefice Sung Eucharist with  
LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:00 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 17:00 Stainer's Crucifixion (*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.