



Welcome to Pershore Abbey

Sunday 05 April 2026 - Easter 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

Jesus Christ is risen today, *Alleluia*,
our triumphant holy day, *Alleluia*,
who did once, upon the cross, *Alleluia*,
suffer to redeem our loss. *Alleluia*.

Hymns of praise then let us sing *Alleluia*,
unto Christ, our heavenly King, *Alleluia*,
who endured the cross and grave, *Alleluia*,
sinners to redeem and save. *Alleluia*.

But the pains that he endured *Alleluia*,
our salvation have procured; *Alleluia*,
now above the sky he's King, *Alleluia*,
where the angels ever sing *Alleluia*.

Ancient & Modern 205
Words: Lyra Davidica, 1708 and others
Tune: Easter Hymn



The Collect

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

Amen.



First Reading

Acts 10.34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

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



Second Reading

Colossians 3.1-4

A reading from the Letter to the Colossians.

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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



Gradual Hymn

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.

This is the day, this is the day
When he rose again, when he rose again;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when he rose again;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
when he rose again.

This is the day, this is the day
When the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
When the Spirit came.

CAHON 676
Words: Les Garrett b,1944
Arr. Christopher Tambling



The Gospel

John 20.1-18

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing

there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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



Prayers

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

See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
borne in pain paid in sacrifice,
fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for he lives:
Christ is risen from the dead.

See Mary weeping, 'Where is he laid?'
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound till he appears,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty;
honour and blessing, glory and praise
to the King crowned with power and authority!
And we are raised with him,
death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;
and we shall reign with him,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

Ancient & Modern 215
Words: Stuart Townend (b.1963) and
Keith Getty (b. 1974)



Communion Motet

Blessed be the God and Father - Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which according to His abundant mercy,
hath begotten us again unto a lively hope
by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled,
that fadeth not away,
reserved in heav'n for you,
who are kept by the power of God,
through faith unto salvation
ready to be revealed in the last time.
But as He which hath calleth you is Holy
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.
Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.
Love one another with a pure heart fervently.
See that ye love one another.*

*Being born again,
not of corruptible seed,
but of incorruptible,
by the word of God.
For all flesh is as grass
and all the glory of man
as the flower of grass.
The grass withereth
and the flower thereof falleth away.
But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.
Amen.*



Communion Hymn

Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that he never would awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for the three days in the grave had lain;
back from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
field of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green.

Ancient & Modern 212

Words: John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)

Music: French Carol, 15th Century

Tune: Noel Nouvelet



Post Communion Prayer

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Final Hymn

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hast lost its sting:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Ancient & Modern 218

[*A Toi la gloire, O Ressuscite*, Edmund Budry (1854-1932)

Translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)]

Tune: Maccabaeus



Organ Voluntary

Final - Symphonie 1 - Louis Vierne

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

— Bulletin —

Abbey APCM Meeting - Call for New PCC Members: The Abbey's APCM is on Tuesday 5 May. Everyone is welcome to attend. The meeting is when we elect and appoint officers - new volunteers who would like to serve as PCC members are always welcome. For more details, please contact the office via office@persshoreabbey.org.uk.

Revision of the Abbey's Electoral Roll: The revision of the Annual Electoral Roll must be completed before the APCM. If you would like to be added, please contact the office via office@persshoreabbey.org.uk for an application form or speak to our Electoral Roll Officer, Bill Newman for more details. Deadline for applications is 21 April. Thank you.

Abbey APCM Report: The Abbey APCM report is now available on our website: www.persshoreabbey.org.uk If you would like a hardcopy, please order one via the Abbey Office.

Lent Lunches: This year we raised £580.81 of which £302 was gift aided. Sue Oliver, Trustee of the Friends of the Holy Land, would like to thank everyone for their generosity. And thank you to everyone who made soup and all those who ate it!

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

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



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.



www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

Bishop Hugh's Easter Message

Let's be clear; people who have been crucified do not come back to life. The first followers of Jesus in the first century knew it and we know it now. When someone is crucified, that is definitely the end. But the heart of the Christian faith; the living, beating heart of what Christians believe, is that Jesus Christ - a human being like you and me, was crucified, died and then rose again. And that impossible truth, that Jesus rose from the dead, marks the moment when the usual pattern of things – life followed by death – was turned upside down. And from that reversal of what's normal, flow other truths that turn the world upside down. For instance, it looks 'normal' that powerful people who are in charge get to have the final word – but all the power of the Roman Empire didn't manage to keep Jesus dead.

Or it's normal to think that punishment is the right response to injustice and wrongdoing – but the risen Jesus didn't seek out those who had failed him and nailed him to a cross. Instead, when he meets people, he forgives them and gives them back their dignity. Or it seems normal that suffering, sin and evil always have the loudest voice in our world – but Jesus' resurrection promises that their power has been defeated and that there are more important voices at work. The voices of hope, generosity and courage, for instance. In a world in which violence, injustice and suffering seem so normal, the resurrection opens the door to a new normal and to an alternative pattern of life. Easter tells us that the horrors of war in Ukraine, unimaginable suffering in the Middle East and poverty in our own communities, are not normal and never will be. Easter cries out that homelessness and mental illness are not inevitable and never will be. Easter promises us that hope, forgiveness and mercy are available – that they are the normal that God longs to see. The risen Jesus says – 'I have turned what you thought 'normal' upside down and started a revolution of hope. Join me and let's build a new 'normal'.' I pray that you will know the new 'upside down normal' in your own lives and in your communities and that, seeing the revolution of hope at work, you'll join in.

Happy Easter and God bless. *Bishop Hugh*



Pershore Abbey

ORGAN RECITALS

Sunday 12 April

14:00 - 15:00

Featuring James MacDowall-Scott

Admission: Free with retiring collection

ALL WELCOME



CAFÉ CHURCH

Every Second Sunday at 0930
St Andrew's Centre

Join us for this family friendly and informal café-style worship with music and refreshments.

Next Services:
Sunday 12 April &
Sunday 10 May



WHOLENESS & HEALING

Every Second Sunday at 1700
Pershore Abbey

This quiet and reflective service offers prayer and the laying-on of hands for God's healing of body, mind and spirit.

Next Services:
Sunday 12 April &
Sunday 10 May



IONA WORSHIP

Every Fourth Sunday at 1700
Pershore Abbey and Zoom

An ecumenical service inspired by worship as experienced on early pilgrimages to Iona.

Next Services:
Sunday 26 April &
Sunday 24 May

01386 552071
www.pershoreabbey.org.uk



St James' Church, Birlingham

SPRING WALK AROUND BIRLINGHAM



SUNDAY 17 MAY
3.00PM

Meet at the War Memorial for a walk around Birlingham,
led by Canon Claire

Bring a dog, a friend, or both!

REFRESHMENTS AND A DOG BLESSING IN THE
CHURCH AFTER THE WALK

— Diary —

Easter Day 05 April

- 06:00 Dawn Service and First Eucharist of Easter (*Pershore Abbey*) followed by breakfast (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 09:00 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 09:15 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Sung Eucharist with Fairtrade Stall and with LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 10:30 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)
- 10:30 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

Monday 06 April - Bank Holiday

- The Abbey Benefice Office will be closed
- 18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)
- 19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 07 April

- 10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:00 Funeral for the late Barry Hewlett (*Pershore Abbey*)

Wednesday 08 April

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

Thursday 09 April

- 11:00 Eucharist (*Rolland Rutter Court*)
- 14:00 Foodbank Talk for Volunteers (*St Andrew's Main*)

Friday 10 April

- 13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:00 Candlelight Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 19:30 Bells W&DCRA Southern Branch Surprise Major Practice (*St Andrew's*)
- 21:00 Candlelight Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 11 April

- 13:30 Worcestershire Organist Association Private Recital (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 12 April

- 08:00 Eucharist (*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 (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 17:00 Wholeness & Healing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Pershore Abbey Daily Offices

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

All are welcome to share in these services.

Canon Claire will be on Holiday from Monday 6 April to Friday 17 April.