



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 26 April 2026 - Easter 4 and Vocations 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.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**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

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me:  
the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly  
is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

Ancient & Modern 748  
Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)



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

God has called us to follow Christ, and has formed us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his

marvellous light. Let us confess the times when we have failed to heed this call.

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**

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen.**



## First Reading

Acts 2.42-end

A reading from The Acts of the Apostles

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds<sup>[1]</sup> to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home<sup>[2]</sup> and ate their food with glad and generous<sup>[3]</sup> hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Second Hymn

Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side

Ancient & Modern: 629  
Words: Love Maria Willis (1824-1908)



## **The Gospel**

John 10.1-10

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

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:*

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,  
Teach me to move in the power of your spirit,  
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence,  
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

You wrote the rhythm of life,  
Created heaven and earth,  
In you is joy without measure.  
So, like a child in your sight  
I dance to see your delight,  
For I was made for your pleasure, pleasure.

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,  
Teach me to move in the power of your spirit,  
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence,  
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

Let all my movements express  
A heart that loves to say 'Yes',  
A will that leaps to obey you.  
Let all my energy blaze  
To see the joy in your face,  
Let my whole being praise you, praise you.

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,  
Teach me to move in the power of your spirit,  
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence,  
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

*Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,  
Teach me to trust the word of your promise,  
Teach me to hope in the day of your coming,  
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

Ancient & Modern: 789

Words: Graham Kendrick (b.1950) & Steve Thompson

Arranged by: John Barnard (b.1948)



**Thanksgiving and Blessing**

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection,

and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Christ, you call us to be your people in the world. We will follow your call to be your people: our hands will do your work, our feet will walk your way. Christ, you call us. Help us respond to your call.

**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 peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**



## **Organ Voluntary**

Grand Choeur Dialogue—Eugene Gigout

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

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## **— 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@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk).

**Abbey APCM Report:** The Abbey APCM report is now available on our website: [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk) If you would like a hardcopy, please order one via the Abbey Office.

**Urban farmers in Kenya grow hope:** Micro-farming in the overcrowded city Nairobi is the focus of Christian Aid Week and the Pershore Abbey Iona Worship at 1700 on Sunday 26 April. There's a short video about this life changing project on the Christian Aid website <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/> Whether you're familiar with Iona Worship or exploring for the first time, you are very welcome to this one hour service of worship,

prayer, reflection and response. For more information or to join by zoom, please email Helen on [iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**Mothers' Union meeting:** Please feel free to come along and join us for our next meeting, taking place at 1430 on Tuesday 28 April at St Andrew's Centre. Our speaker will be the Revd. Nigel Hawkes who will be talking to us about his ministry. *Susan Denley*

**Beryl Osborne:** It was a great sadness to us all to hear that Beryl had died on 7 April. She was a faithful and cheerful attender at the Abbey and did everything she could to join the worship. There will be a service of thanksgiving for Beryl on 11 May at 1330 at the Abbey. Her family would be delighted for as many people to attend as possible as they know how much the Abbey meant to Beryl. Please remember Beryl's family and all those who mourn in your prayers. And may Beryl rest in peace. *Claire*

## — 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

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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.



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

# ELGAR FESTIVAL 2026

## RELAXED CONCERT WITH ESO WINDS

THURSDAY 21 MAY, 1430  
PERSHORE ABBEY

An hour-long concert full of beautiful music as part of Dementia Action Week. These relaxed performances are particularly suited to those living with dementia and other similar health conditions, adults and children with additional learning needs, their carers and anybody who wishes to experience classical music in a relaxed and informal environment.

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# — Diary —

## Sunday 26 April

- 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*)
- 15:00 Scouts St George's Day Parade  
Service (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

## Monday 27 April

- 09:30 Yoga Class (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 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*)
- 15:30 PUC Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 18:00 Wick PCC (*Wick*)
- 18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)
- 19:00 Pershore Community Choir  
(*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing  
(*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

## Tuesday 28 April

- 10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:30 Mothers' Union (*St Andrew's Main*)

## Wednesday 29 April

- 10:00 Midweek Holy Communion  
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 12:00 Hereford and Worcester Fire Service  
Familiarisation Visit (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 15:45 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)

- 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice Session  
(*St Andrew's*)
- 19:30 Pershore Town Choir Rehearsal  
(*Pershore Abbey*)

## Thursday 30 April

- 14:00 SAEC Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 18:45 Breathworks (*St Andrew's Main*)

## Friday 01 May

- 09:30 Babies & Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 10:00 Visiting Bell Ringers (*St Andrew's*)
- 13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 15:30 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 18:00 Choir Practice (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:30 Bells - Surprise Major Practice  
(*St Andrew's*)
- 19:30 Pershore Town Choir & Welsh Choir  
Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

## Saturday 02 May

- 09:30 Wedding Preparation Course  
(*St Andrew's Main*)
- 14:00 Visiting Bell Ringers (*Abbey*)
- 15:30 Visiting Bell Ringers (*St Andrew's*)

## Sunday 03 May - Easter 5

- 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*)
- 16:00 Evensong Choir Practice  
(*Pershore Abbey*)
- 17:00 Evensong with Tapestry  
Chamber Choir (*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.