



Welcome to Pershore Abbey

Sunday 03 May 2026 - Easter 5

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

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Sion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

Laud and honour to the Father
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.



The Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



First Reading

Acts 7.55-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Standing before the high priest and the council, Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

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



Second Reading

1 Peter 2.2-10

A reading from the First Letter to Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his

marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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



Gradual Hymn

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.

Dear name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury filled
with boundless stores of grace.

Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.

Ancient & Modern 664
Words: John Newton (1725-1807)
Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle (1799-1877)
Tune: St Peter



The Gospel

John 14.1-14

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

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

There is a higher throne
Than all this world has known
Where faithful ones from every tongue
Will one day come
Before our God we'll stand
Made faultless through the Lamb
Believing hearts find promised grace
Salvation comes

*Hear heaven's voices sing
Their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'erald courts and sapphire skies
Their praises rise
All glory, wisdom, pow'r
Strength, thanks, and honour are
To God our King, who reigns on high
For evermore*

And there we'll find our home
Our life before the throne
We'll honor Him in perfect song
Where we belong
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
As thirst and hunger die
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King
We'll reign with him.

*Hear heaven's voices sing
Their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'erald courts and sapphire skies
Their praises rise
All glory, wisdom, pow'r
Strength, thanks, and honour are
To God our King, who reigns on high
For evermore*

Ancient & Modern 802
Words: Keith Getty (b.1974) and Kristyn Getty (b.1980)
Music arranged by: Paul Leddington Wright (b.1951)



Communion Motet

O taste and see by Ralph Vaughan Williams - Sung by the Pershore Abbey Choir

*O taste and see how gracious the Lord is.
Blest is the man that trusteth in him.*



Communion Hymn

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy one.

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
til the work on earth is done.*

Jesus my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for Sinners slain:

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
til the work on earth is done.*

When I stand in glory
I will see his face,
and there I'll serve my King for ever
In that holy place.

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
til the work on earth is done.*

Ancient & Modern 805
Words: Keith Green (1953-1982) and Melody Green (b.1946)
Music: arranged by Peter Moger (b.1964)



Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Final Hymn

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Ancient & Modern 584
Words: Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)
Music: Herbert Norman Howells (1892-1983)
Descant by Stephen Farr



Organ Voluntary

Toccata in b minor—Gigout

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 at 1900 on Tuesday 5 May at St Andrew's Centre. 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. 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.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning - 0930-1130 Saturday 16 May St Andrew's Centre: Any donations of books for the 'Good Read Bookstall' and plants for the 'Plant Stall' along with any home produce, would be gratefully appreciated for the annual Christian Aid Coffee Morning. There will be a raffle on the day along with delicious refreshments. Please do come along and join us. Donations for the bookstall can be left at back of the Abbey. For other donations, or for more information about the event, please contact Sarah Thomson on 01386 561057. Thank you.

Evacuation exercise in the Abbey: A big thank you to all of those involved in the unannounced evacuation that we carried out last week during our 1030 service. This was essential to be sure that we could cope with any emergency. Everybody did very well and we cleared the building in just under 3 and a half minutes. Lots of useful lessons were learnt that we will now be able to action. Thanks and well done. *Sam Andrews, Martin Fowler and Peter Stansbie*

Please see our Monthly Bulletin for further notices and information.

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

Pershore Abbey

ABBEY WALKING CHURCH



SATURDAY 23 MAY
14:00

Come and join this new way of being Church!

Meet at the West end of the Abbey. We will take a very gentle walk,
stopping every now and then to think about God and explore what
faith might mean.

Refreshments afterwards.

All welcome, including four legged companions.

01386 552071
www.pershoreabbey.org.uk



FUN AT THE ABBEY

Sunday 24 May

Outside the Abbey by the Wild Flower Meadow

Everyone is welcome to come along,
to the service, the games, or the picnic -
hopefully all three!

1030 Morning Praise Service in the Park

1130 Games - for all ages!

1200 Bring a picnic and enjoy being in the Park

**A chance to meet other families
and make new friends**

Organised by the
Pershore Abbey Community

The event will be held in the Abbey if the weather is not suitable for outdoor play!

St Mary's, Wick SERVICE OF EVENING PRAISE



TUESDAY 16 JUNE
1900

WICK CONFETTI FIELDS

By kind permission of Charles Hudson

A relaxed service suitable for families and followed by refreshments.

Entrance via Yock Lane only. Please follow Confetti Fields Service signs.

A large marquee and some seating will be available.

Please bring chairs if possible.

01386 552071
nicholasgranger.stmarys@gmail.com



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.

FREE



WITH
REFRESHMENTS
PROVIDED
BY PERSHORE
ROTARY



DEMENTIA
FRIENDLY
SERVICE

*Elgar for
Everyone*



TICKET HOTLINE  
WWW.ELGARFESTIVAL.ORG
WORCESTER THEATRES 01905 611427



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— 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.



www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

— Diary —

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*)

Monday 04 May - Bank Holiday

- The Benefice Office will be Closed
- 09:30 Yoga Class (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)
- 19:00 Pershore Community Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 05 May

- 10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:00 Abbey APCM Meeting (*St Andrew's Main*)

Wednesday 06 May

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

Thursday 07 May

- 09:45 iSing Choir Practice (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 11:00 Eucharist (*Ganderton Court*)
- 12:00 Funeral Service for the late Elsa Scott (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 14:30 Funeral Service for the late Jean Chambers (*The Vale Crematorium*)
- 16:00 Funeral Wake for the late Jean Chambers (*St Andrew's Main*)

Friday 08 May

- 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 Practices (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 09 May

- 16:30 Concert Use (*St Andrew's Upper*)
- 17:30 Set up for Café Church (*St Andrew's Main*)
- 19:30 Pershore Choral Spring Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 10 May - Easter 6

Rogation Sunday / Christian Aid Focus

- 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*)
- 14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 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.

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