



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

Welcome to Pershore Abbey

Sunday 26 July - Trinity 8

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

Happy are they, they that love God,
whose hearts have Christ confest,
who by his cross have found their life,
and 'neath his yoke their rest.

Glad is the praise, sweet are the songs,
when they together sing;
and strong the prayers that bow the ear
of heaven's eternal King.

Christ to their homes giveth his peace,
and makes their loves his own:
but ah, what tares the evil one
hath in his garden sown!

Sad were our lot, evil this earth,
did not its sorrows prove
the path whereby the sheep may find
the fold of Jesus' love.

Then shall they know, they that love him,
how all their pain is good;
and death itself cannot unbind
their happy brotherhood.

Ancient & Modern 653

Words: Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)
and Charles Coffin (1676-1749)



Please sit or kneel for the Prayers of Penitence.

St Paul says 'Be imitators of God;
love as Christ loved; do not grieve the Holy Spirit;
put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice.'
So let us confess our sins to God, who forgives us in Christ.

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

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



First Reading

1 Kings 3.5-12

A reading from The First Book of Kings.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Second Hymn

The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
 For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
 God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
 And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
 The captives are freed, the sinners find place,
 The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;
 And hope is awakened instead of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
 Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
 His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:
 Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
 In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
 The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;
 And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

Ancient & Modern: 569
 Words: Bryn Rees (1911-1983)



The Gospel

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come

out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

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,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.**

**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

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

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.

We have the facility to take contactless card payments at the back of the Abbey.

The Lord is King! He set the stars in space,
And fashioned all our varied human race.
Creator God whose hand sustains us still,
Your kingdom stands, and all things serve your will.

The Lord is King! He sent his Son to earth,
His glory laid aside in human birth.
O Saviour Christ, who died and rose again,
Your kingdom comes where in our lives you reign.

The Lord is King! He sent his Spirit here
To heal and save, to banish doubt and fear.
Spirit of truth, exalt the Living Word,
Whose Kingdom grows till all shall own him Lord.

The Lord is King! From all in earth and heaven
Be blessing, honour, praise and glory given.
While earthly kingdoms fade and cease to be,
God's kingdom lasts for all eternity.

Ancient & Modern: 797
Words: Brian Hoare (b.1935)



Thanksgiving and Blessing

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
bring us to the dwelling
which your Son is preparing for all who love you.
Give us the will each day
to live in life eternal.
Let our citizenship be in heaven
with the whole company of the redeemed
and with countless angels,
praising, worshipping and adoring him
who sits upon the throne for ever and ever. **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

Final (Sonata 1) - Alexandre Guilmant

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

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— Bulletin —

Pershore Abbey provides a Cool Space for all: Pershore Abbey is now part of Pershore's Cool Space scheme. We welcome visitors from 1000 to 1700 daily and will have fresh water available whilst providing a cool space in which to sit during the hot weather.

Suzanne Clarke: We are delighted to share that the Abbey PCC unanimously affirmed Suzanne's ministry as an Authorised Lay Minister (Children's and Youth Worker), so that she is now reauthorised for another 5 years as an ALM. Thank you Suzanne for all you do! *Claire*

Iona Service: Creativity is the theme of the Iona Service on Sunday 26 July at 1700. You are invited to bring along to this service something that you have created. It can be anything you like - an image, something written, something grown, anything that has a bit of you in it. At the service you will have the chance to say something about your creation if you would like to do so. All this is entirely voluntary! If you would like a zoom link for the service, please email Helen on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Request for help: Plum Fayre cake makers, donations and volunteers are required please for the amazing and legendary refreshments served in St Andrew's Centre on Bank Holiday Monday 31 August between 1000 and 1600. Please speak to either Sara Speed (01386 710776), Hilary Fowler (01386 552243) or Jane Knox (01386 556981). Thank you from the Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's (PASA) Team.

Sustainable floral art event: You are warmly invited to come along to St James, Bishampton on Wednesday 26 August at 1930 for a talk and demonstration on how to arrange flowers sustainably, particularly in church, avoiding using oasis, or similar. Renata, an award-winning Master Florist, will be giving advice and tips on how to produce pedestal and free standing arrangements. If you have a tricky location, bring along a photo and she will advise on that too. Renata will also give details of local growers where to purchase flowers to further assist in our drive for sustainability. £5 a ticket to include a drink and nibbles. Please email bishamptonstjames@outlook.com if you are likely to attend. *Revd Canon Sarah Dangerfield*

Abbey Link Magazine urgently needs deliverers for these areas of Pershore: Redlands (12 copies), 1-6 Redlands House (6 copies), 101-159 Worcester Rd (30 copies), 127a-161 Farleigh Rd (22 copies), 65-87, 92-126 & 150-228 Farleigh Rd (73 copies), 17-27 & 22-36 Fulbert Rd (15 copies), Shaw Close (8 copies), 1-29 odds & to the end evens Three Springs Rd (32 copies). Delivery only takes place 4 times a year, and if anyone feels they can lend a hand please contact the Abbey Office on 01386 552071 or Roger Piper on 01386 553110. Thank you.

Please see our Monthly Bulletin for further notices and information.

— Diary —

Sunday 26 July - Trinity 8

08:00 Eucharist with LIVESTREAM (*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 Organ Recital Featuring Michael Jones (*Pershore Abbey*)
14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*St James', Birlingham*)
17:00 Iona Worship (*Pershore Abbey*)

Monday 27 July

All Day - External Building Works (*St Andrew's - Back Door Restrictions Apply*)
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*)
18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)
19:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St Andrew's Upper*)
19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

Tuesday 28 July

All Day - External Building Works (*St Andrew's - Back Door Restrictions Apply*)
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*)
15:30 Private Piano Lesson (*Pershore Abbey*)

Wednesday 29 July

All Day - External Building Works (*St Andrew's - Back Door Restrictions Apply*)
10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)
12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
15:45 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)

Thursday 30 July

All Day - External Building Works (*St Andrew's - Back Door Restrictions Apply*)
10:00 Private Organ Lesson (*Pershore Abbey*)
11:00 Private Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)

Friday 31 July

All Day - External Building Works (*St Andrew's - Back Door Restrictions Apply*)
09:30 Little Seeds (*St Andrew's Main*)
13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:00 A Vivaldi and Mozart Candlelight Experience Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

19:30 Bells - Roy Williams' Last Friday Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

21:00 A Vivaldi and Mozart Candlelight Experience Concert (*Pershore Abbey*)

Saturday 01 August

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Sunday 02 August Trinity 9

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Fairtrade stall and with LIVESTREAM (*Pershore abbey*)

10:30 Holy Communion (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

Pershore Abbey Daily Offices

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Morning Prayer

1700 Evening Prayer

All are welcome to share in these services.

Canon Claire is on annual leave from Sunday 26 July to Monday 17 August

Summer's Little Seeds @ St. Andrew's Centre



Little Seeds



Come and hear a story,
listen to a message
and prayer, sing a
song, make a craft,
take part in a free
play activity and
have a snack.



Friday 31st July,
7th, 14th & 21st August 2026
9.30am to 11.30am

For pre-school aged children and siblings up
to 6 years old, with an accompanying adult

If you want to find out more contact:
Sam Andrews: 07879 310312

Summer Activity Morning @ Pershore Abbey



Tuesday 4th August 2026
Drop in between 9:30am to 12pm

for
Games • Crafts • Trail • & More

Children up to 11 years old
with an accompanying adult

If you want to find out more contact:
Sam Andrews: 07879 310312

— Keeping In Touch —

Vicar

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

Associate Priest

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

Abbey Wardens

Mrs Sam Andrews - 07443904635

Mr Martin Fowler - 01386 552243

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



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www.pershoreabbey.org.uk