



Welcome to Pershore Abbey

Sunday 20 September - Trinity 16

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 —

We welcome Revd Julius Ndeni to the 1030 Sung Eucharist. Revd Julius ministers in the Area Fire Parish, in the Railways Area of Morogoro Town in the Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania. He is visiting the Diocese of Worcester with Bishop Godfrey as they are attending the Diocesan Clergy Conference this week.



First 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.



The Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



First Reading

Jonah 3.10-4.11

A reading from the book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

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



Second Reading

Philippians 1.21-30

A reading from the Letter to Philippians.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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



Gradual Hymn

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied —
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Ancient & Modern: 678
Words: Stuart Townsend (b.1963)
And Keith Getty (b.1974)



The Gospel

Matthew 20.1-16

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I

choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

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



Prayers

We pray for those who live in the midst of conflict today, praying for peace for all peoples and places. We pray for all those who suffer because of natural disaster. We also pray for the following members of our church family:

We pray for Penny Gordon as she prepares for ordination as a deacon on 27 September 2026 at St Mary's, Wick.

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

During which the collection will be taken.

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

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;

And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

Ancient & Modern: 763

Words: John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Tune: Gerontius



Communion Motet

Lead Me Lord - SS Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.



Communion

If you would like to receive a gluten-free host during communion please let a sidesperson know. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of communion, please bring your service sheet with you when you come up to the front. Following Church of England guidance, we do not allow the dipping of the host or wafer in the chalice.



Communion Hymn

You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

Ancient & Modern: 389
Words: Margaret V. Old (1932-2001)



Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Final 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)
Tune: Paderborn



Organ Voluntary

Marche Pontificale - Charles-Marie Widor

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

— Bulletin —

Stuart Sandys: We were all saddened to hear the news of the death of our dear friend Stuart. Stuart was someone whose presence and faith filled any room he was in. Stuart was an integral part of Churches Together in Pershore and looked after the Workplace Chaplaincy in Pershore. He was also very involved in other community groups and was always encouraging to those around him. His funeral will be at the Baptist Church on 25 September at 1400 followed by a service of committal at The Vale. There will be a reception at St Andrew's Centre from 1630, to which everyone is invited. Stuart would approve of colourful clothing. Please remember Carol and all the family in your prayers. *Claire*

Billing for Abbey Link magazine. We are in need of someone to take over the invoicing role for the magazine from the end of 2026. If you are interested and feel able to take up this role I look forward to hearing from you. Tasks involved are keeping records of the organisations currently advertising in the magazine, preparing invoices and recording payments made. Also, delivering or posting out a complimentary copy of each quarterly edition to each of our advertisers. The materials are provided. Previously, records have been kept using an old version of Quick Books, but simple spreadsheets should suffice. You can speak to me after the Sunday 1030 service (I'm the person who carries the cross) or email me at editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk. I'm also delighted to receive articles or ideas for the magazine! *With thanks, Christopher Kimberley, editor, Abbey Link.*

Christian Aid Nepal Appeal has raised a staggering £683.30. Such a wonderful response to contribute to the disaster before it is moved out of the limelight. *Sarah Thomson*

Iona Service: 'Walking with God' is the theme of the Iona service at 1700 on Sunday 27 of September. Everyone is welcome to join in this service with times for reflection about times we've felt God's presence on our journey and times when we didn't feel God was with us even when we knew he was. If you'd like a zoom link for the service, please email Helen on iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Abbey All Age Harvest Eucharist: Our Harvest services enable us to give thanks for what we receive from God and give thanks for all who work in the farming community. Please bring non-perishable food donations for Pershore Foodbank along to the Abbey All Age Harvest service at 1030 on Sunday 4 October.

Harvest Lunch: Pershore Abbey's wonderful Harvest Lunch will be on Sunday 4 October at 12.30 in St Andrew's Centre. Tickets are available from Jane Knox after Sunday's 10.30 service in the Abbey or please ring Jane on 01386 556981. Tickets will be £12 with a drink on arrival, a splendid Shepherd's pie containing minced lamb, carrots, peas, sweetcorn and thick gravy topped with mash from Fantastically Fresh followed by homemade apple crumble by Abbey members. Dietary requests can be accommodated, please ask in advance. Everyone is welcome to be part of Pershore Abbey's Harvest Fellowship; family, friends and neighbours. *Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's (PASA) Team*

Health and Safety: We are sorry but for your safety the north east corner of the Abbey is closed just now due to some movement and cracks in these ancient walls caused by prolonged drought. As a temporary measure we are arranging a support for the flying buttress outside, and are seeking to underpin these walls and buttress. *Judy Dale*

Please see our Monthly Bulletin for further notices and information.

— Notes from Abbey PCC Meeting —

Our Parochial Church Council met on 15 September. We had our regular reports on Safeguarding, the work of Sam Andrews our Children and Family worker, Mission Group, Finance, and Eco-church.

Fabric: There continues to be much happening on the fabric of the Abbey at the moment. The Sustainable Heating project remains held up as we try to obtain the permissions needed from the District Council. The delay in obtaining these means that we will not now have time to install the new arrangements before the coming winter. However, we continue to plan for the work when permissions are finally granted. The effects of the drought this summer continue to have an impact on the Abbey. Many cracks in the walls and ceilings have been filled but the building and buttresses continue to move. While there is no imminent danger of collapse, we will need to complete further underpinning in the Northeast area and in the meantime strengthen the buttresses here with a temporary support. All of this, with other continuing issues,

is very challenging and time consuming, as you can imagine.

Health and Safety: A small group has reviewed our policies and processes in this important area and the new documents were reviewed and approved by the PCC.

Friends of Pershore Abbey: Following the AGM of the Friends we noted that Michael Hodges had now resigned as Chair of the organisation. A new Chair would be appointed shortly.

St Andrew's: Following a recent inspection by our architect and a roofing expert we were pleased to hear that the roof on St Andrew's did not require replacement as had been feared but requires cleaning and repair. This is excellent news and allows us to move forward with several other schemes more quickly.

Deanery Synod: The Synod met on 21 July and our new Area Dean, Rev. Glenn Reading, Rector of Church Lench with Rous Lench, Abbots Morton, and Harvington gave an opening address. A lively and interesting meeting followed.

If you would like further information on any of these or other issues, please contact one of our PCC members. Our next meeting will be on 10 November.

— Diary —

Sunday 20 September - Trinity 16

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 Sunday Praise (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

12:00 Visiting Bell Ringers (*St Andrews*)

14:00 Pianoscapes (*St Andrew's Main*)

14:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)

Monday 21 September

10:30 Bell Ringing - Friends of Madeline Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

10:30 Autumn House Group (*'Laburnums', 21 Three Springs Road*)

11:30 WCT Dawn Project (*St Andrew's Upper*)

13:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)

14:00 Autumn House Group (*28 Conningsby Drive*)

18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

19:00 Pershore Community Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:30 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

Tuesday 22 September

10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)

10:30 Private Meeting (*Pershore Abbey*)

11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
15:30 Private Piano Lesson (*Pershore Abbey*)
18:30 Pershore Civic Society (*St Andrew's Main*)
19:00 Autumn House Group (*2 School Cottages, Wick*)

Wednesday 23 September

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)
12:00 Organ Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
14:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)
14:00 Pershore U3A Bridge Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)
15:00 Chetams School of Music Manchester Organ Demonstration with Paul Carr
(*Pershore Abbey*)
17:15 Visiting Bell Ringers (*St Andrew's*)

Thursday 24 September

09:45 iSing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)
17:00 Set Up for Babies and Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)
19:00 Confirmation Group (*58 Three Springs Road, Pershore*)

Friday 25 September

09:30 Babies and Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)
13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
16:30 Funeral Wake for the late Stuart Sandys (*St Andrew's Main*)
18:30 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
19:30 Autumn House Group (*St Andrew's Main*)
19:30 Bell Ringing - Roy Williams' last Friday Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 26 September

10:00 Abbey PCC Away Day (*St Andrew's Main*)
10:00 Visiting Bell Ringers (*St Andrew's*)
11:00 Visiting Bell Ringers (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 27 September - Trinity 17

08:00 Eucharist with LIVESTREAM (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Ordination of Penny Gordon as Deacon (*St Mary's, Wick*)

There will be no 1030 service at Pershore Abbey, St Nicholas' Church, Pinvin, or St James' Church, Birlingham. The only morning service this Sunday at the Abbey will be the 0800 Eucharist, which will be livestreamed and available to view [here](#).

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

— Keeping In Touch —

Vicar

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Associate Priest

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Abbey Wardens

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



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www.pershoreabbey.org.uk