



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

Welcome to Pershore Abbey

Sunday 11 October - Trinity 19 / Prisons 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.

**We welcome Lesley Redhead, the Free Church (Salvation Army) Chaplain from
HMP Long Lartin, to our 1030 service.**

— Service Sheet —



First Hymn

God of freedom, God of justice,
you whose love is strong as death,
you who saw the dark of prison,
you who knew the price of faith -
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.

Rid the earth of torture's terror,
you whose hands were nailed to wood,
hear the cries of pain and protest,
you who shed the tears and blood -
move in us the power of pity
restless for the common good.

Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed -
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.



The Collect

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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

Isaiah 25.1-9

A reading from the book of the Prophet of Isaiah.

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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



Second Reading

Philippians 4.1-9

A reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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



Gradual Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast':

I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live':
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright':
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Ancient & Modern: 669
Words: Horatius N. Bonar (1808-1889)



The Gospel

Matthew 22.1-14

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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 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.



Third Hymn

During which the collection will be taken.

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

Father, Lord of all creation,
ground of being, life and love;
height and depth beyond description
only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence:
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
yours is every hour's existence,
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for others,
we, your people, make our prayer:
help us love - as sisters, brothers -
all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there your love the world may see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and flame of Pentecost,
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
never more to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction,
God, through us your love make known.

Ancient & Modern: 630
Words: Stewart Cross (1928-1989)



Communion Motet

Ubi Caritas - Maurice Durufle

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi

English Translation

*Where charity and love are, there God is.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in him,
let us fear and love the living God,
and love one other with a sincere heart.*



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

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase!

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
Give us compassion we pray,
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned: our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Ancient & Modern: 557
Words: Graham Kendrick (b.1950)



Post Communion Prayer

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Final Hymn

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory! Great things he has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God!
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory! Great things he has done!*

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory! Great things he has done!*



Organ Voluntary

Fugue on a theme of Soissons Cathedral - Maurice Durufle

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

— Bulletin —

Update from Claire: Thank you for all your continued prayers, care and concern. I am doing well and the treatment I continue to receive is helping to keep everything stable, which is good news. I have been reminded though that my immune system is not quite as robust as I sometimes think it is. To avoid catching any infections this winter I think it is sensible if I return to my 'no hugging policy' I had when I was on chemotherapy. This will be hard because I am definitely a tactile person, but it will hopefully enable me to get through the winter months in one piece. Thank you so much for understanding. Please continue to pray for all those who live with cancer and all those who care for them. *Claire*

Dementia Friendly Church: We need items for memory boxes! The Abbey Dementia Friendly Church Group has been busy putting together 5 memory boxes that will be available in the Abbey, or to borrow for home use. Each box is roughly the size of a shoebox and contains small items on a particular topic, plus prompt cards to encourage conversation. We've tried to include items for sensory stimulation – different textures, smells, sounds, etc. But we could really do with a few more items and hope you can help. The topics (and some suggestions) are:

Holidays – postcards, small souvenirs, seashells, fridge magnet souvenir, travel tickets

Sport – event programmes, tickets, referee's whistle, shuttlecock, mini football

Church – photos of flower arrangements or stained-glass windows, sheet music, small book of daily prayers

Hobbies/Pastimes – small jigsaw, walking map, paintbrush and art materials, card games, stamps, wine appreciation book

These are a few ideas but please talk to Claire, Sam Andrews, Jenny Wood or Sara Speed for further information. Please donate your items by 12 October. Thank you.

Abbey's Harvest Festival: Thank you to members of Pershore Flower Club for their help in arranging flowers for the Harvest Festival and to members of the congregation who very generously donated flowers and foliage to decorate the Abbey. *Abbey Flower Guild*

The Abbey's Shoe Box Appeal: We are looking for helpers to come to St Andrew's Centre at 1000 on Saturday 7 November to help pack this year's shoe boxes. We would be very grateful for donations of the following items: Girl's and boy's toys, small soft teddies, tennis balls, soaps, flannels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, rubbers, pencil sharpeners, felt tip pens and pads, and sweets with a long sell by date (March 2027). Please place items in the box at the back of the Abbey during service times. It costs a minimum of £3.50 to send each shoe box; if you would prefer to contribute to this any funds would be greatly appreciated. Please give any monetary gifts in an envelope to

Suzanne Clarke. We are hoping to pack and send 100 boxes, which will be blessed on Sunday 15 November during the 1030 service. *Thank you, Suzanne.*

Prisons Week and The Welcome Directory: The Abbey is a proud member of The Welcome Directory, a charity seeking to help faith communities become even better at welcoming people who leave prison. As such, please remember to help support those who leave prison and their families. This is particular pertinent during Prisons Week, but of course we must remember this kindness always. Please see October's Monthly Bulletin for more information. *Claire*

Shirley Lynch and Richard Williams: We were all saddened to learn that these two members of the Abbey family have died.

Shirley was a woman of profound faith and supported the Abbey, with her late husbands John and John, in so many different ways. In more recent years you would always find Shirley at Iona Worship and the Wholeness and Healing Service, where she took an active part in the services and encouraging others. Shirley's funeral service will be at 1230 on 29 October in the Abbey, to which everyone is warmly invited.

Richard always supported the life of the Abbey and was a faithful trustee, for many years, of the St Andrew's Centre Trust, which helps raise and distribute funds for St Andrew's Centre. He was always interested in what was going on and made a point of attending the Abbey's APCM every year. Richard's service will be at 1330 on 26 October at the Abbey, and everyone is warmly invited.

Please pray for Shirley's and Richard's families as they prepare for these services. May they both rest in peace. *Claire*

Abbey Altar Frontal Team: For over twenty years Elizabeth Kearney has organised the rota for the altar frontal team, so that we always have the right colour on the altar Sunday by Sunday, for weddings and other special occasions. We are hugely thankful to her for this work. Elizabeth would now like to retire from this responsibility so we are looking for a new organiser of the rota. If you think that might be you can you please let either Elizabeth or me know. There's also room for more volunteers on the team, so please get in touch if you'd like to join! *Claire*

Autumn has arrived: As the days are beginning to get cooler, please remember to wrap up warm when coming to our church services.

Please see our Monthly Bulletin for further notices and information.

— Diary —

Sunday 11 October - Trinty 19 / Prisons Sunday

08:00 Eucharist with LIVESTREAM (*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 Harvest Festival (*St Mary's, Wick*)

10:30 Outdoor Tree Service (*Birlingham Cricket Ground*)
14:30 Organ Recital featuring Shaun Ward (*Pershore Abbey*)
17:00 Wholeness and Healing Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

Monday 12 October

10:00 U3A Ukelele Group (*St Andrew's Main*)
10:30 Autumn House Group (*'Laburnums', 21 Three Springs Road*)
13:00 Craft & Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)
15:30 Abbey Dementia Working Group (*Pershore Abbey*)
18:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)
19:00 Art & Craft for Wellbeing (*St Andrew's Upper*)
19:00 Pershore Community Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)
19:00 Wick PCC (*Wick*)
19:30 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

Tuesday 13 October

09:30 Bells - Vale of Evesham Peals (*St Andrew's*)
10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive (*St Andrew's Main*)
11:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
14:30 Abbey Women's Fellowship (*St Andrew's Main*)
19:00 Autumn House Group (*2 School Cottages, Wick*)

Wednesday 14 October

Abbey lit up in Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

10:00 Midweek Holy Communion (*Pershore Abbey*)
14:00 Wedding Rehearsal for Teddy Jones and Carley Smith (*Pershore Abbey*)
14:00 Craft and Chat (*St Andrew's Main*)
14:15 U3A Bridge Group (*St Andrew's Upper*)
15:45 V&W (*Vicar's Vestry*)
18:00 Private Service (*Pershore Abbey*)
18:30 Abbotswood Medical Centre Mindfulness Course (*St Andrew's Main*)

Thursday 15 October

Abbey lit up in Blue for Pregnancy & Infant loss Remembrance Day

09:45 iSing Choir (*St Andrew's Main*)
11:00 Internment of the ashes of the late Di Jefferies (*Pershore Abbey*)
13:00 Wedding Service for Teddy Jones and Carley Smith (*Pershore Abbey*)
17:00 Setting Up - Babies and Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)
19:00 Confirmation Group (*58 Three Springs Road*)

Friday 16 October

09:30 Babies and Toddlers (*St Andrew's Main*)
13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)
18:30 Choir Practice (*Pershore Abbey*)
19:00 People's Emergency Briefing Film (*Town Hall*)
19:30 Bells - Pershore Development Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 17 October

10:30 PASA Coffee Morning (*St Andrew's Main*)

15:00 Private Party (*St Andrew's Main*)

Sunday 18 October - Luke the Evangelist

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 Harvest Festival (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

12:30 Service of Holy Baptism (*Pershore Abbey*)

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

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

Pershore Abbey Daily Services

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.

— 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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As part of our commitment to the care of the environment,



www.pershoreabbey.org.uk