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

Welcome to Pershore Abbey

Sunday 15 November - 2nd Before Advent / Safeguarding 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 —

First Hymn

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
ye soldiers of the cross!
Lift high his royal banner,
it must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory
his army he shall lead,
till every foe is vanquished,
and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
the solemn watchword hear;
if while ye sleep he suffers,
away with shame and fear.
Where'er ye meet with evil,
within you or without,
charge for the God of battles,
and put the foe to rout.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you,
ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armour,
each piece put on with prayer;
when duty calls or danger
be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
the strife will not be long;
this day the noise of battle,
the next the victor's song.
To him that overcometh
a crown of life shall be;
he with the King of glory
shall reign eternally.

Ancient & Modern: 784
Words: George Duffield (1818-1888)



The Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



First Reading

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18

A reading from the book of the Prophet of Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

A reading from the First Letter to Thessalonians.

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

Name of all majesty,
fathomless mystery,
King of the ages
by angels adored;
power and authority,
splendour and dignity,
bow to his mastery,
Jesus is Lord!

Child of our destiny,
God from eternity,
love of the Father
on sinners outpoured;
see now what God has done
sending his only Son,
Christ the belovèd One,
Jesus is Lord!

Saviour of Calvary,
costliest victory,
darkness defeated
and Eden restored;
born as a man to die,
nailed to a cross on high,
cold in the grave to lie,
Jesus is Lord!

Source of all sovereignty,
light, immortality,
life everlasting
and heaven assured;
so with the ransomed, we
praise him eternally,
Christ in his majesty,
Jesus is Lord!

Ancient & Modern: 736
Words: Timothy Dydley-Smith (1926-2024)

The Gospel

Matthew 25.14-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man,

reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."'

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.

Loved with everlasting love,
led by grace that love to know;
Spirit, breathing from above,
you have taught me it is so.
O what full and perfect peace,
joy and wonder all divine!
In a love which cannot cease
I am his, and he is mine.

Heaven above is softer blue,
earth around is richer green;
something lives in every hue,
Christless eyes have never seen:
songs of birds in sweetness grow,
flowers with deeper beauties shine,
since I know, as now I know,
I am his and he is mine.

His for ever, his alone!
Who the Lord from me shall part?
With what joy and peace unknown
Christ can fill the loving heart!
Heaven and earth may pass away,
sun and stars in gloom decline,
but of Christ I still shall say:
I am his and he is mine.

Ancient & Modern: 723
Words: George Wade Robinson (1838-1877)



Communion Motet

God so loved the world, so loved the world.
God so loved the world, so loved the world.
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth, believeth in Him
should not perish, but have everlasting life
everlasting, everlasting life.

God so loved, God so loved,
So loved the world,
God so loved, God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth, believeth in Him
should not perish, but have everlasting life,
everlasting life, everlasting, everlasting life.
God so loved the world.
God so loved the world.
God so loved the world.



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

Safe in the shadow of the Lord
beneath his hand and power,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
my fortress and my tower.

My hope is set on God alone
though Satan spreads his snare;
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
to keep me in his care.

From fears and phantoms of the night,
from foes about my way,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
by darkness as by day.

His holy angels keep my feet
secure from every stone;
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
and unafraid go on.

Strong in the everlasting Name,
and in my Father's care,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
who hears and answers prayer.

Safe in the shadow of the Lord,
possessed by love divine,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
and meet his love with mine.

Ancient & Modern: 774
Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
Based on Psalm 91



Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**



Final Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the high eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.

Ancient & Modern: 766
Words: Henry Francis (1793-1847)
Based on Psalm 103



Organ Voluntary

Prelude in D - BWV532 - JS Bach
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary.

— Bulletin —

Light Party: A lovely time was had by those who came—hopefully you have seen either the Facebook posts or the display table at the back of the Abbey. A huge thank you to those of you who came and helped, I couldn't do it without you. *Sam Andrews*

Hello to everyone from Pershore Foodbank! Christmas is fast approaching and while this can be a wonderful and celebratory time of year, some families and households can find this a time of anxiety and pressure to spend far more than can be afforded. All donations to our Foodbank are most gratefully received. Alongside all the wonderful items you normally donate, could we please ask you to consider: snack items such as crisps, Pringles, cheese biscuits, etc. and chocolate and sweet treats. These will be added to our regular food parcels in the run up to Christmas. Thank you. *Pershore Foodbank*

Pershore Abbey Choir has vacancies!! We are looking for sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Advent and Christmas give the opportunity to sing some fabulous music in the best surroundings - the Abbey is beautiful! Please come to a rehearsal on Friday 1830-1930 and get a feel for the group - they are friendly and welcoming. All the tools you need to learn the music, scores, recorded tracks and individual support is available. For more information please email the Director of Music, James MacDowall-Scott on directorofmusic.pershoreabbey@gmail.com or contact him by phone, 07968 307916.

Abbey Link needs you! We are looking for someone to take over the task of invoicing the folk who kindly advertise with us. Could you take on this role? We would really appreciate it! Please speak to me after the Sunday 1030 service (I'm the person who carries the cross) or email me editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk. The role also involves keeping in touch with advertisers as needed and keeping records - and delivering or

posting out copies of the magazine to each advertiser as it's published (stamps provided!). I look forward to hearing from you. *Christopher Kimberley*

Dementia Friendly Action Alliance: November's Newsletter is full of Christmas news, helpful tips, help and guidance. It is a very informative read and is available here to read: November Newsletter.

Please see our Monthly Bulletin for further notices and information.

— Diary —

Sunday 15 November - 2nd Before Advent / Safeguarding Sunday
08:00 Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)*
09:15 Choir Practice *(Pershore Abbey)*
09:30 Café Church *(St Andrew's Main)*
10:30 Sung Eucharist with Fairtrade Stall and with LIVESTREAM *(Pershore Abbey)*

Monday 16 November
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
09:00 Organ Tuning *(Pershore Abbey)*
10:30 Bells - Friends of Madeline Quarter Peal *(St Andrew's)*
13:00 Craft & Chat *(St Andrew's Main)*
14:30 National Emergency Briefing Meeting *(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 17 November
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
10:15 Foodbank Staff Arrive *(St Andrew's Main)*
11:00 CTiP Foodbank *(St Andrew's Main)*
19:00 U3A Wine Appreciation Society *(St Andrew's Main)*

Wednesday 18 November
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
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 *(Vicar's Vestry)*
18:00 Friends of Avon Meadows AGM *(St Andrew's Main)*
18:30 Abbotswood Medical Centre Mindfulness Course *(St Andrew's Upper)*
19:00 Abbey Fabric Committee Meeting *(Pershore Abbey)*

Thursday 19 November
Abbey lit up Purple for World Pancreatic Cancer Day
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
09:45 iSing Choir *(St Andrew's Main)*

Friday 20 November
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
09:30 Babies and Toddlers *(St Andrew's Main)*
13:00 CTiP Foodbank *(St Andrew's Main)*
17:00 A Fleetwood Mac Candlelight Experience (*Pershore Abbey)*
18:30 Choir Practice *(St Andrew's Main)*
19:00 A Fleetwood Mac Candlelight Experience (*Pershore Abbey)*
19:00 National Emergency Briefing Film - 2nd Showing *(Pershore Town Hall)*
19:30 Bells - Pershore Development Quarter Peal *(St Andrew's)*
21:00 A Fleetwood Mac Candlelight Experience (*Pershore Abbey)*

Saturday 21 November
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
10:30 Abbey Parish Coffee Morning *(St Andrew's Main)*
13:00 Wedding of Liam Cafferkey and Rebecca Attwell *(St Mary's, Wick)*
14:30 Concert Use *(St Andrew's Main)*
19:30 Pershore Choral Concert - Lest We Forget *(Pershore Abbey)*

Sunday 22 November - Christ the King
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
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)*
10:30 Sunday Praise *(St Nicholas, Pinvin)*
14:00 Pianoscapes *(St Andrew's Main)*
17:00 Iona Worship *(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.

— Notes from Abbey PCC Meeting —

The PCC met on Tuesday evening and worked through a full and varied agenda. We were reassured to hear that there were no safeguarding issues to cause concern, and that the Treasurer was content with the financial situation.

Fabric: Judy Dale gave a full update on the state of the NE Corner and other fabric matters. We expressed heartfelt thanks to Judy for the time and effort she had given to these difficult projects. On Monday 16 November scaffolding will start to be erected on the north east area of the Abbey Churchyard in advance of making safe one of the flying buttresses. There has been movement of the ground due to the long drought.

Children and Youth: We heard about the many children's activities that have taken place since our last meeting in September. These included:

- The Babies & Toddlers' Harvest Thanksgiving held in the Abbey and led by Revd. Alma
- The Light Party held on 31 October in the Abbey
- A Monks' Day on 10 November with 17 pupils from Orchard Primary School taking part.

Further events for schools being planned include another "God and the BIG Bang" session and a "Cheeky Pandas" event.

Music: The PCC was delighted to learn that the ESO had requested a return visit to the Abbey to hold a "relaxed" Christmas Concert on 7 December at 1430.

Community: Many activities have, or will have, involved the local community:

- 25 helpers packed 100 Shoeboxes for Teams4Us
- The Christmas Wreath Festival already has 19 groups wishing to take part
- Opportunities to help decorate the Christmas trees on 28 November or to prepare the Christingles on 23 December (see November Bulletin for details)
- The Eco-church Group collaborated with the Town Council to put on 2 National Emergency Briefings, both fully subscribed and with enough demand for a further event.

St Andrew's Centre: Good news from St Andrew's – the unreliable dishwasher had been replaced, much to the relief of all involved with catering!

Agreement had been reached on the schedule and scope of work to be carried out to the paved area around the old font outside St Andrew's. Work would commence in February, subject to weather conditions.

Our next meeting will be on 12 January.

— Keeping In Touch —

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www.pershoreabbey.org.uk