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

Welcome to Pershore Abbey

Sunday 29 November - Advent 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.

Today is Christmas Tree Sunday. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Abbey Christmas trees, there will be a box at the back of the Abbey today labelled 'Christmas Trees'. Any donations would be gratefully received.

— Service Sheet —

First Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Ancient & Modern: 45
Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866)



The Advent Wreath

We have this Advent Wreath to remind us of the Coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.

The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring,
round the berry bright candles,
and the white and shining King.

We light this candle to remind us of God's people who in every age watch for his coming.

And one for God's people,
In every age and day,
We are watching for his coming.
We believe and we obey.



The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious

majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



First Reading

Isaiah 64.1-9

A reading from the book of the Prophet of Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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



Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

A reading from the First Letter to Corinthians.

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

Come and see the shining hope that Christ's apostle saw;
on the earth confusion, but in heaven an open door,
where the living creatures praise the Lamb for evermore:
Love has the victory for ever!

Amen, he comes! to bring his own reward!
Amen, praise God! for justice now restored;
kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of the Lord:
Love has the victory for ever!

All the gifts you send us, Lord, are faithful, good, and true;
holiness and righteousness are shown in all you do:
who can see your greatest Gift and fail to worship you?
Love has the victory for ever!

Amen, he comes! to bring his own reward!
Amen, praise God! for justice now restored;
kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of the Lord:
Love has the victory for ever!

Power and salvation all belong to God on high!
So the mighty multitudes of heaven make their cry,
singing Alleluia! where the echoes never die:
Love has the victory for ever!

Amen, he comes! to bring his own reward!
Amen, praise God! for justice now restored;
kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of the Lord:
Love has the victory for ever!

Ancient & Modern: 28
Words: Christopher Idle (b.1938)

The Gospel

Mark 13.24-37

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man

coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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.

Into the darkness of this world,
into the shadows of the night,
into this loveless place you came,
lightened our burden, eased our pain,
and made these hearts your home.
Into the darkness once again,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love to make us whole.
Come with your light to lead us on,
driving the darkness far from our souls:
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Into the longing of our souls,
into these heavy hearts of stone,
shine on us now your piercing light,
order our lives and souls aright,
by grace and love unknown,
until in you our hearts unite -
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love to make us whole.
Come with your light to lead us on,
driving the darkness far from our souls:
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

O Holy Child, Emmanuel,
Hope of the ages, God with us,
visit again this broken place,
till all the earth declare your praise
and your great mercies own.
Now let your love be born in us -
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come in your glory, take your place,
Jesus, the Name above all names,
we long to see you face to face:
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Ancient & Modern: 40
Words: Maggi Dawn (b.1959)



Communion Motet

Veiled in darkness Judah lay,
Waiting for the promised day,
While across the shadowy night
Streamed a flood of glorious light,
Heavenly voices chanting then,
"Peace on earth, goodwill, goodwill to men."

Still the earth in darkness lies.
Up from death's dark vale arise
Voices of a world in grief,
Prayers of men who seek relief:
Now our darkness pierce again,
"Peace on earth, goodwill, goodwill to men."

Light of light, we humbly pray,
Shine upon Thy world today;
Break the gloom of our dark night,
Fill our souls with love and light,
Send Thy blessed word again,
"Peace on earth, goodwill, goodwill to men."



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

Like a candle flame,
flickering small in our darkness,
uncreated light shines through infant eyes.

God is with us, alleluia,
come to save us, alleluia.

Stars and angels sing,
yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
can this tiny spark set a world on fire?

God is with us, alleluia,
come to save us, alleluia.

Yet his light shall shine
from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame of his holy fire.

God is with us, alleluia,
come to save us, alleluia.

Ancient & Modern: 74
Words: Graham Kendrick (b.1950)



Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Final Hymn

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
with what rapture
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Ancient & Modern: 41
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and
John Cennick (1718-1755)



Organ Voluntary

Nun Komm der heiden Heiland—J S Bach
The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary.

— Bulletin —

Venue Events Coordinator vacancy: We are looking for an active and energetic person (job share considered) to help us run our events. The position would offer the Real Living Wage and would involve 19 hours work a month, with events generally taking place on Friday and Saturday evenings. For a full job description and application form, please contact the Abbey Office by emailing office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Bredon Hill Group Administrator vacancy: The vacancy is for 20 hours per week, worked flexibly by agreement and working both from home and the Bredon Hill Parish Office. The Bredon Hill Group of 14 churches in 5 parishes are seeking a friendly, organised and proactive individual to provide administrative support to clergy and parish leadership across our churches. For more information about the role or to request an application form please contact the Priest-in-Charge, Rev Katryn Leclézio by emailing: revkatryn.leclezio@bredonhillchurches.org.uk

Wear It Pink for Breast Cancer Coffee Morning: Please come along to St Andrew's Centre on Saturday 19 December between 1000 and 1200 to support this fundraiser. There will be lovely cakes and a raffle table. Please put the date in your diaries and come and support this wonderful charity. Many thanks. *Sam Andrews*

Please see our Monthly Bulletin for further notices and information.

— Diary —

Sunday 29 November - Advent Sunday
08:00 Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)*
09:15 Choir Practice *(Pershore Abbey)*
10:30 Benefice Sung Eucharist with LIVESTREAM *(Pershore Abbey)*
15:30 Advent Carol Service with LIVESTREAM *(Pershore Abbey)*

Monday 30 November
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
09:00 Wreath Making *(St Andrew's Upper)*
13:00 Craft & Chat *(St Andrew's Main)*
18:30 Bell Ringing *(St Andrew's)*
19:00 Pershore Community Choir *(St Andrew's Main)*
19:00 Advent Compline *(Zoom)*
19:30 Bell Ringing *(St Andrew's Main)*

Tuesday 1 December
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)*
13:30 Private Meeting *(St Andrew's Main)*
14:30 Mothers' Union *(St Andrew's Main)*

Wednesday 2 December
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
10:00 Midweek Holy Communion *(Pershore Abbey)*
11:00 Lunch Club *(St Andrew's Main)*
11:30 V&W *(Vicar's Vestry)*
12:00 Organ Practice *(Pershore Abbey)*
14:15 Staging Being Erected *(Pershore Abbey)*
19:00 Abbotswood Medical Centre Mindfulness Course *(St Andrew's Upper)*
18:30 Choir Practice *(Pershore Abbey)*
19:15 Abbey Misson Group *(Pershore Abbey)*

Thursday 3 December
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
09:00 Bowbrook School Performance Rehearsal *Pershore Abbey)*
09:45 iSing Choir *(St Andrew's Main)*
11:00 Eucharist *(Ganderton Court)*
18:00 Bowbrook School Christmas Performance *(Pershore Abbey)*
18:45 Breathworks *(St Andrew's Upper)*

Friday 4 December
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 Wreath Making (*St Andrew's Main)*
16:30 Concert Use *(St Andrew's Main)*
19:00 Worcester Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert (*Pershore Abbey)*
19:30 Bells - Surprise Major Practice *(St Andrew's)*

Saturday 5 December
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
10:00 Craft Fayre *(St Andrew's Main)*
16:30 Concert Use *(St Andrew's Main)*
19:00 Worcester Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert *(Pershore Abbey)*

Sunday 6 December - Advent 2
All Day - Scaffolding Erection to Flying Buttress *(Pershore Abbey)*
08:00 Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)*
09:15 Choir Practice *(Pershore Abbey)*
09:30 Edible Nativity *(St Andrew's Main)*
10:30 Sung Eucharist with Fairtrade stall and with LIVESTREAM *(Pershore Abbey)*
10:30 Patronal Holy Communion *(St Nicholas', Pinvin)*
16:00 Evensong Choir Practice *(Pershore Abbey)*
17:00 Evensong *(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

Assistant Curate
The Revd Penny Gordon - pennygordon.stmarys@gmail.com

Abbey Wardens
Mrs Sam Andrews - 07443904635
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Open to the public 1100-1200 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

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