

# GRABBIST HILL BENEFICE BULLETIN

Alcombe Dunster December Timberscombe Wootton Courtenay



## Dunster Winter Festival 5-7 December



### St Michael the Archangel Alcombe

#### Chance Encounter

**No souper Thursday** in Dec but a Festive lunch on Dec 18 after the 11 am Eucharist  
**Seeds of hope** for anyone struggling with Grief Weds Dec 3rd, 2-3.30pm and then the 1st Weds of the month

### St Petrock's Timberscombe

**Warm welcome** Every Thursday in December until 18 Dec 10 -12 Hot drinks & refreshment.  
 Mon Dec 1st **Advent Event** 4.30 for 5pm, mulled wine, poetry music, readings  
 Sat Dec 6 **Christmas Coffee and Craft** Stalls, raffle, guess the weight of the cake, and children's activities from 10.30 to 12.00

### Wootton Courtenay

#### Advent discussion of the Nicæan Creed

led by Bishop Brian Castle  
 Thurs 11 & Weds 17 Dec 7pm in Skyes Bar (part of the Villagers' Stores)

### St George's Dunster

Sat December 14 **Christmas Tree Festival** 10-4pm  
 Sat Dec 20 **Carol Service** 6 pm

**Carols and Readings round the Piano** - Wednesday 31st December in The Lion Inn, Timberscombe at 5pm

### GRABBIST HILL BENEFICE SERVICE ROTA: DECEMBER 2025

Service Leaders	Date/Sunday	7th SECOND OF ADVENT	14th THIRD OF ADVENT	21st FOURTH OF ADVENT	28th FIRST OF CHRISTMAS	NOTES
	Liturgical Colour	PURPLE	PURPLE	PURPLE	WHITE	
<b>KC</b> =Rector Rev'd Kenneth Cross <b>NB</b> =Rev'd Nicola Butcher <b>NMB</b> =Rev'd Nicola Butt <b>RP</b> =Rev'd Rik Peckham  <b>Local</b> =locally organised	<b>0930</b>	WOOTTON COURTENAY HC (BCP) said <b>KC</b>				
	<b>1000</b>	ALCOMBE All-age HC (CW) <b>NB</b>	ALCOMBE HC (CW) <b>KC</b>	ALCOMBE HC (CW) <b>KC/NB</b>	ALCOMBE BeneficeHC (CW) <b>RP</b>	
	<b>1100</b>	DUNSTER HC (CW) <b>KC</b> TIMBERSCOMBE Messy Church Nativity <b>NMB</b>	DUNSTER HC (CW) (Christmas Tree Fest) <b>NB</b> WOOTTON COURTENAY Songs of Praise <b>Local</b>	TIMBERSCOMBE HC (CW) <b>NMB</b>	TIMBERSCOMBE MP (CW) <b>NMB</b>	
	<b>1600</b>		TIMBERSCOMBE Carol Service <b>NMB</b>			
Code: HC=Holy Communion BCP=Book of Common Prayer	<b>1700</b>	ALCOMBE Evensong <b>Local</b>	ALCOMBE Evensong <b>Local</b>			
Readings: Please check readings with the service leader.	<b>1730</b>					
	<b>1800</b>			ALCOMBE Carols by Candlelight <b>NB</b>		
				WOOTTON COURTENAY Carol Service <b>NMB</b>		

### OTHER EVENTS

<b>Saturday 20th</b>	1800	DUNSTER	Carols by Candlelight	<b>KC</b>		
★ <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> ★	1700	TIMBERSCOMBE	Christingle	<b>NMB</b>	Every Wednesday 0900 at ALCOMBE	Every Thursday 1000 at Alcombe
★ <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> ★	1700	ALCOMBE	Crib Service	<b>Local</b>	Eucharist	Eucharist
★ <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> ★	2315	ALCOMBE	Midnight Mass	<b>NB</b>	Please note that these services will not take place on Wednesday 24th or Thursday 25th Wednesday 31st December.	
★ <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> ★	2330	DUNSTER	Midnight Mass	<b>KC</b>		
★ <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> ★	2330	WOOTTON COURTENAY	Midnight Mass	<b>NMB</b>		
★ <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> ★	1000	TIMBERSCOMBE	Christmas HC	<b>NMB</b>		
★ <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> ★	1000	ALCOMBE	Christmas HC	<b>KC/NB</b>		

## View from Grabbist December 25 -January 2026

### December- January

Say 'Christmas' and a flood of associations stream into our minds: presents, nativity, Santa, turkey etc.... Also, anticipation or dread, joy or loneliness because of our unique personal experiences. These various associations are so dominant that Christmas is incredibly difficult to speak to.

Nonetheless, I invite you to suspend these associations, step back and consider it as if for the first time.

Humans like us have been around for a mere 300,000 yrs. If earth began at 00.00hrs, life began around 5am and we arrive at 21seconds to midnight! The earliest cave paintings are 38,000 yrs old. Empires from China to Egypt and elsewhere and religions/cultures such as Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and indigenous spiritual wisdom all emerged variously over the last 6000 years.

Only 2000 years ago was Jesus born - a relative newcomer! Yet, in a flash, Jesus is now known by most of the 8 billion humans, and the religion that claims to follow him (massively diverse as it is) is the world's biggest.

Whatever your angle, it's hard to ignore!

The unimaginably vast universe began in one infinitely small singularity 13.5billion years ago. Beyond comprehension but beyond serious scientific doubt! There is something utterly inexplicable inherent in everything. The more we learn, the greater the enigma! Reality has Mystery woven in, connective energy which envelopes the 13.5 billion year old cosmos and aeons of evolutionary life on earth.

Virtually all humans throughout our very brief history have had a sense of the Sacred (only in recent decades in the west have many rejected this – a tiny minority of humans!). Even if Divinity has been routinely codified, distorted and wielded by the powerful, this primal, inherent and ubiquitous intuition is hard to ignore.

The ridiculously unlikely Christian claim is that this Mystery is astonishingly revealed in the life of an ordinary human being who lived a life of searing compassion in ancient Palestine. This Jesus was born a refugee and grew up in chaotic times. He was murdered for his fierce compassion, unsettling teachings and love of those pilloried and judged by his society. But *after* this, unbelievably – fleetingly, in enigmatic form, but unmistakably him – the story tells us Jesus appeared and continues to live on in the lives of human beings by his Spirit.

That this Person reveals the great Mystery of Everything in an embodied human life is called incarnation.

On the grand scale, it has only just happened – a mere 0.14 seconds ago on that cosmic day scale!! Like most new things, humans have so often misunderstood it, not least when Christians claim to be exclusive owners of this story, put themselves above other religions, use it to dominate others and act very unlike Jesus.

But Christmas/Epiphany is perhaps saying to us: it's far too soon to dismiss this story because of abuses or misunderstandings, *because it's only just happened!*

Yes, it's astonishing and incomprehensible. But, as we've seen, so is *everything!*

In our chaotic times, shall we give Jesus another chance?

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



## WHO'S WHO

**Incumbent:** Rev'd Kenneth Cross 07708 925800, [kennethjcross@gmail.com](mailto:kennethjcross@gmail.com),  
usual days off: Monday & Tuesday

**Associate Priests:** Rev'd Nicola Butcher 07740 081070, [rev.nicolabutcher@gmail.com](mailto:rev.nicolabutcher@gmail.com), usual day off: Monday (*Alcombe*)  
Rev'd Nicola Butt 01643 84171 3 (*Timberscombe & Wootton Courtenay*)

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