

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 Nicenean 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	
KC=Rector Revd Kenneth Cross NB=Revd Nicola Butcher NMB=Revd Nicola Butt RP=Revd Rik Peckham Local=locally organised	0930	WOOTTON COURtenay HC (BCP) said KC				
	1000	ALCOMBE All-age HC (CW) NB	ALCOMBE HC (CW) KC	ALCOMBE HC (CW) KC/NB	ALCOMBE Benefice HC (CW) RP	
	1100	DUNSTER HC (CW) KC	DUNSTER HC (CW) (Christmas Tree Fest) NB	TIMBERSCOMBE HC (CW) NMB	TIMBERSCOMBE MP (CW) NMB	
		TIMBERSCOMBE Messy Church Nativity NMB	WOOTTON COURtenay Songs of Praise Local			
	1600		TIMBERSCOMBE Carol Service NMB			
	1700	ALCOMBE Evensong Local	ALCOMBE Evensong Local			
	1730					
	1800			ALCOMBE Carols by Candlelight NB		
				WOOTTON COURtenay Carol Service NMB		

OTHER EVENTS

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

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,
usual days off: Monday & Tuesday

Associate Priests: Rev'd Nicola Butcher 07740 081070, rev.nicolabutcher@gmail.com, usual day off: Monday (*Alcombe*)
Rev'd Nicola Butt 01643 841713 (*Timberscombe & Wootton Courtenay*)

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