

# GRABBIST HILL BENEFICE BULLETIN

Alcombe

Dunster

July Timberscombe Wootton Courtenay

St Petrock's church, Timberscombe: History Group 13 July 7 pm

**St Michael the Archangel Alcombe**

No Chance Encounter in July

**Souper Thursday** July 9th and 23rd -  
soup following the Thursday 11 am  
Eucharist

St Petrock's Timberscombe

**Warm Welcome** Every Thursday until July  
16th then a break until September  
10am - 12 noon  
Hot drinks & refreshments

**St Michael the Archangel Alcombe**

'Dad and Dort' (Keith and Ruth) concert with  
cream tea 3pm on July 12th

Kenneth's final Benefice service will be in St  
Michael's church at 10 am on September 20th

**Coffee Morning St George's Dunster**

Friday July 17th

St George's Dunster

Tea, coffee, sweet & savoury treats & raffle  
July 12 Evensong at 4.30 with the choir

**Sing4Fun** concert on 16 July Avenue Methodist Church (Sarah Jane's last concert)

## GRABBIST HILL BENEFICE SERVICE ROTA: JULY 2026

Service Leaders	Date:	5th	12th	19th	26th	NOTES
<b>KC=Rector</b> Revd Kenneth Cross	<b>Sunday:</b>	TRINITY 5	TRINITY 6	TRINITY 7	TRINITY 8	
<b>NB=Revd Nicola</b> Butcher	<b>Liturgical</b> <b>Colour:</b>	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	
	<b>Readings:</b>	<i>Please check readings with the service leader</i>				
<b>NMB=Revd Nicola Butt</b>	<b>0930</b>	WOOTTON COURTENAY HC (BCP) said <b>NMB</b>				
<b>LC=Revd Lore</b> Chumbley	<b>1000</b>	ALCOMBE All-Age HC (CW) <b>KC</b>	ALCOMBE HC (CW) <b>NB</b>	ALCOMBE HC (CW) <b>KC</b>	ALCOMBE HC (CW) <b>NB</b>	
<b>EC=The Venerable</b> Elwin Cockett	<b>1100</b>	DUNSTER HC (CW) <b>NB</b>	TIMBERSCOMBE Baptism <b>NMB</b>	DUNSTER HC (CW) <b>LC</b>	DUNSTER MP (CW) <b>KC</b>	
		TIMBERSCOMBE Iona Communion <b>NMB</b>	WOOTTON COURTENAY HC (BCP) <b>KC</b>	TIMBERSCOMBE Messy Church <b>NMB</b>	TIMBERSCOMBE MP (CW) <b>EC</b>	
	<b>1530</b>			ALCOMBE Chance Encounters <b>Local</b>		
<b>Local= arranged locally</b>	<b>1630</b>		DUNSTER Evensong <b>Local</b>			
<b>Local= arranged locally</b>	<b>1700</b>	ALCOMBE Evensong <b>Local</b>			ALCOMBE Evensong <b>Local</b>	
	<b>1800</b>			WOOTTON COURTENAY Evensong <b>KC</b>		
<b>OTHER EVENTS</b>						
<b>Every Wednesday</b>	9am	ALCOMBE	Eucharist			
<b>Every Thursday</b>	10am	TIMBERSCOMBE	Warm Welcome			
<b>Every Thursday</b>	11am	ALCOMBE	Eucharist			

## View from Grabbist, July 2026

Head out anywhere in Exmoor and you will encounter butterflies right now. Stunning, intriguing, fascinating flashes of fleeting beauty. Together, their numbers are an indication of the health, or otherwise, of the whole local ecosystem. In her wonderful book 'Ordinary Mysticism', Mirabai Starr describes the metamorphosis of caterpillar to butterfly:

*The most enchanting, disconcerting, and inevitable stage of the process is when the caterpillar becomes a chrysalis. Once the caterpillar (or the silkworm!) is fully grown, it stops eating and suspends itself from a branch. It spins a silken cocoon and nestles itself inside. This is where the magic unfolds. Everything the caterpillar was begins to dissolve. It turns into a puddle of organic goop. Special cells that were present in the larva begin to rapidly multiply, providing energy for the emergence of an entirely new being. At first, these "imaginal" cells - the seeds of a future flying creature - operate independently. What remains of the caterpillar will perceive them as a threat and try to attack them. But they gather and connect with each other and begin to resonate at the same frequency, passing information back and forth between them, until they reach a tipping point.*

She goes on to describe how the imaginal cells finally come together to form the entirely new organs and limbs of the butterfly, which starchily breaks out of its chrysalis and begins to clumsily flutter around until it can properly fly and mate. Drawing upon the inspiration of the Spanish mystic, Theresa of Avila, Starr sees in this astonishing transformation a pattern for the spiritual life. Who of us has not battled within between who we have been and who we are becoming? Who of us has not despaired while in that most constrained place, wondering if this present darkness will ever end? Who of us has not, at some point, discovered we have become someone new - and learned to fly?! Maybe you have been through often before - rarely dramatic, but, for you, very real! If today you are in that dark, constrained place, do not despair. The Sacred Spirit is at work, reimagining your becoming...!

But don't think this is just an individual thing. Our world is going through just such processes today. The present chaos in the world and our communities is not the end of the story - it is part of a much deeper story. As the Abbé de Tourville put it, over a century ago, *'the world is growing itself a new skin'*.

Each one of us is in some small way part of something global that is so beyond our imagining that we initially resist it. That's normal! But we need to *let go* and give ourselves over to what is truly happening: we are a part of our world being re-created by the hovering Creator Spirit.

Beyond all that we could ask or imagine....



## 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*)

**Admin:** Tracey Staples 01643 709491, [dunsterbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:dunsterbenefice@gmail.com) or [alcombeangeloffice@gmail.com](mailto:alcombeangeloffice@gmail.com)