

GRABBIST HILL BENEFICE BULLETIN

Alcombe

Dunster

Sept 2026

Timberscombe

Wootton Courtenay

St Michael the Archangel, Alcombe

Souper Thursday Sept 3 and 17

Soup following the Thursday Eucharist
September 20 at 10 am Harvest Festival &
Kenneth and Sarah Jane's farewell service

St Petrock's Timberscombe

Warm Welcome will start again on
September 10th

Every Thursday in term time 10am - 12 noon
Hot drinks & refreshment.

All Saints Wootton Courtenay

27 September 6 pm Harvest Festival

St George's Dunster

4.30 pm Sunday 20 Sept Harvest Festival
Evensong followed by harvest supper
This will be Kenneth's farewell service in
Dunster

GRABBIST HILL BENEFICE SERVICE ROTA: SEPTEMBER 2026

Service Leaders	Date:	6th	13th	20th	27th	NOTES
KC=Rector Revd Kenneth Cross	Sunday:	TRINITY 14	TRINITY 15	TRINITY 16	TRINITY 17	
NB=Revd Nicola Butcher	Liturgical	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	
	Colour:			<i>Kenneth & Sarah-Jane's last Sunday</i>		
	Readings:	<i>Please check readings with the service leader</i>				
NMB=Revd Nicola Butt	0930					
+BC=Rt Revd Dr Brian Castle	1000	ALCOMBE All-Age HC (CW) NB	ALCOMBE HC (CW) RP	ALCOMBE HC (CW) Harvest Festival KC	ALCOMBE HC (CW) NB	
LC=Revd Lore Chumbley	1100	DUNSTER HC (CW) KC	TIMBERSCOMBE HC (BCP) NMB		DUNSTER MP (CW) LC	
		TIMBERSCOMBE HC (CW) EC	WOOTTON COURTENAY HC (BCP) BP	TIMBERSCOMBE HC (CW) EC	TIMBERSCOMBE MP (CW) NMB	
EC=The Venerable Elwin Cockett		WOOTTON COURTENAY HC (BCP)said +BC		WOOTTON COURTENAY Songs of Praise Local		
RP=Revd Rik Peckham	1630			DUNSTER Harvest Evensong LC/KC		
RP=Revd Barry Priory	1700	ALCOMBE Evensong Local	ALCOMBE Evensong Local			
	1800				WOOTTON COURTENAY Harvest Festival NMB	
					ST MICHAEL'S MINEHEAD Joint Michaelmas Evensong	
Local= arranged locally						

OTHER EVENTS

Every Wednesday	9am	ALCOMBE	Eucharist		
Every Thursday (term time only)	8.30am	TIMBERSCOMBE	Morning Prayer		
Every Thursday	10am	TIMBERSCOMBE	Warm Welcome		
Every Thursday	11am	ALCOMBE	Eucharist		

HC=Holy Communion **MP**=Morning Prayer **BCP**=Book of Common Prayer **CW**=Common Worship

View from Grabbist, September 26

This will be my last 'View from Grabbist' letter and I can't believe how quickly recent months have flown in!

Flying gets me thinking about bird life. Birds have given me some of the most profound encounters in Mother Nature - whom we are neither separate from, nor living in, but *inseparably, irreducibly* and *symbiotically a part of*. A brief encounter with a friendly garden robin or blackbird. The fleeting blue flash of a passing kingfisher near the murky moat round Butlins. The distant call of the buzzard mobbed by noisy crows. The daily display of the herring gull which grew to maturity on my garage roof this year, and endless wood pigeon shenanigans with much flapping and cooing... Beyond the obviously fascinating ecology of these diverse species, every encounter is also uniquely mysterious, comedic and sacred.



As I prepare to leave this area which has been home for 22 years and ponder with enormous gratitude the many wonderful friends we have made, I also find myself reflecting on my feathered friends. It seems to me that, for all we humans are big, clumsy and complicated creatures compared to them, our encounters with one another over the years are

not unlike our encounters with birds. The magic of momentary connection is the essence of true friendship. Enduring friendship is a tapestry of special times given and presence received (being present to one another is the greatest gift we can give). If held on to overly much, friendships fracture just as trapping a bird kills it, but if held with lightness and joy, like dancing pigeons, friendships flourish.

I am reminded that even Jesus and his best friend, Mary, encountered one another in the resurrection garden, even amid profound grief and confusion, with lightness and joy: 'let's not cling on to each other' says Jesus (my paraphrase!), 'we *all* belong to the Sacred Mystery and *all* return to our Beloved Father, so we mustn't forget the boys: tell them I'll meet them all by the lakeside...'. Previously, he said he had 'other sheep' to tend - Jesus belonged to nobody, nor was he to be owned or turned into a talisman.

So too with us, we who are Christ to one another: in the letting go of each other, there's a bigger picture as the bursting life in you and in me ever expands to others. The world is a profoundly challenging and unsettling place today as it was then, but something, Someone, greater is at work. In Somerset. In Scotland. Wherever you and I are or will be. We have, however fleetingly, shared delightful moments together, sometimes comedic, sometimes tragic, always imperfect yet sacred. In this we share deep gratitude. And as we prepare to part, we do indeed grieve, but also, like Mary, we also rejoice as the deeper story unfolds and surprises us.

It's a story that's still being written, in you and in me!

So, may God bless us all as we journey onwards.

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 84171 3 (*Timberscombe & Wootton Courtenay*)

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Usual hours: Mondays (1.30pm-5pm) and Wednesdays (11.30am-1.30pm)