

GRABBIST HILL BENEFICE BULLETIN

Alcombe

Dunster

August Timberscombe Wootton Courtenay

St Michael the Archangel Alcombe

No 'Chance Encounter' in August

Souper Thursday.

7th & 21 August join us for soup following the Thursday 11 am Eucharist

St Petrock's Timberscombe

Sunday 10 August 5 pm 'Pimms and Praise' evening service. Readings poetry and songs followed by Pimms and nibbles. Everyone welcome!

St Petrock's Timberscombe

Violin Performance

After the morning service on 17th August, young violinist Anthony Knight will give a 15 minute recital in aid of UNICEF

St George's Dunster

Coffee morning

Friday 22 August 10-12.30
Tea, coffee, sweet & savoury treats & a chance to win the raffle

GRABBIST HILL BENEFICE SERVICE ROTA: AUGUST 2025

Service Leaders	Date:	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
KC=Revd Kenneth Cross	Sunday:	SEVENTH AFTER TRINITY	EIGHTH AFTER TRINITY	NINTH AFTER TRINITY	TENTH AFTER TRINITY/	ELEVENTH AFTER TRINITY
Revd Kenneth Cross					BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE	
NB=Revd Nicola Butcher	Liturgical Colour:	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN (T10) RED (St B)	GREEN
	Readings:	Please check readings with the service leader				
NMB=Revd Nicola Butt	0930	WOOTTON COURtenay Iona Communion NMB				
BC=Rt Revd Dr Brian Castle	1000	ALCOMBE HC (CW) NB	ALCOMBE HC (CW) KC	ALCOMBE HC (CW) NB	ALCOMBE HC (CW) NB	ALCOMBE HC (CW) KC
EC=The Venerable Elwin Cockett	1100	DUNSTER HC (CW) KC	DUNSTER HC (CW) NB	TIMBERSCOMBE HC (CW) KC	DUNSTER MP (CW) KC	DUNSTER HC (CW) NB
		TIMBERSCOMBE Iona Communion NMB		WOOTTON COURtenay HC (BCP) said NMB	TIMBERSCOMBE MP (CW) NMB	TIMBERSCOMBE HC (CW) NMB
					WOOTTON COURtenay HC (CW) EC	WOOTTON COURtenay HC (CW) +BC
Local= arranged locally	1530			NO CHANCE ENCOUNTERS IN AUGUST		
	1700	ALCOMBE Evensong Local	ALCOMBE Evensong Local		ALCOMBE Evensong Local	
				TIMBERSCOMBE Pimms & Praise NMB		
	1800			WOOTTON COURtenay Evensong KC		

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 30th	2pm	TIMBERSCOMBE	Baptism	NMB		
Every Wednesday	9am	ALCOMBE	Eucharist			
Every Thursday	11am	ALCOMBE	Eucharist			

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

Midweek Eucharists:

In Alcombe each Wednesday (9am) and Thursday (11am with refreshments, and on the XX & XX SOUP)

KEY **NB** = Rev Nicola Butcher, **NMB** = Rev Nicola Butt, **LC** = Rev Lore Chumbley, **KC** = Rev Kenneth Cross, **MJ** = Rev Margaret Jackson, **JM** = Rev Juliet Montague, **RP** = Rev Rik Peckham, **BP** = Rev Barry Priory, **TW** = Rev Tim Woods

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

View from Grabbist August 25



We have a family of herring gulls on our roof - mummy, daddy + three kiddies, with loud squeaks and screeches at all hours! I've never given them too much thought (except when once a gull pinched my ice cream!). Now I have researched them a little... Herring Gulls seem ubiquitous to us only because they have migrated into towns due to habitat erosion and other human factors (such as over-fishing). While not endangered, overall numbers are nonetheless reducing

and there are efforts to conserve them. Herring Gulls often mate for life. Chicks hatch in June and will have fledged by August (the leaving do is in my diary!). Parents feed them by regurgitating the wide variety of food they catch. Juveniles don't lose their brown feathers for a couple of years and then go on to live to around 20.

And (oh dear 😱), the parents often return to the same nesting sites.....!

Pondering these fascinating creatures has got me thinking.....

It is so easy to not give common creatures a second thought. Yet when we do, we discover wondrous beings all around us, as I have with these feisty feathered friends. In fact, we are surrounded by wonder in every moment of every day, from the breath we breathe to the water we drink to our fellow-creatures and fellow-humans.

Secondly, our future or fate is tied up with the gulls - if *these* resilient birds are being reduced in number by humans, how much more other endangered species!? What does this mean for *all* our futures? Our rampaging over the rest of nature is *self*-destruction. We need to reckon properly with how we have considered 'the environment' and 'nature' objects 'out there' to master rather than relating to them gently, with awe, subject to subject. Nothing is 'out there': all of us, humans and non-humans, are inextricably entangled together. In this, we glimpse the Sacred!

Thirdly, if we take this seriously, we must accept the inconvenience. The sleepless night. The imposition. The brazenness of gulls nesting on *my* roof (how rude!). Or the gall of those whose trauma impinges on our comforts, be they other creatures, local folk or refugees. If we take seriously that we all belong to one another, we will learn to find the grace to accept the imposition, or rather, our essential entanglement - and to share in one another's sufferings.

'Look at the birds of the air' said Jesus (who, by the way, said much more about nature than he did about abstract religious beliefs!). Well, I've been listening to the birds every night recently. And despite the inconvenience, they have strangely warmed my heart.

All this got me thinking: what else, in our times, are we reckoning with?

And how are we invited to respond, to resonate, to reconcile?

However inconvenient, if we listen deeply, this may just involve wonders we have never before considered.

It may just be the kingdom of heaven - right before us!

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*)

Admin: Tracey Staples 01643 709491, dunsterbenefice@gmail.com or alcombeangeloffice@gmail.com

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

