

GRABBIST HILL BENEFICE BULLETIN

Alcombe

Dunster

October Timberscombe Wootton Courtenay

Benefice Service at St Michael the Archangel 10 am on Oct 12th with Bishop Michael

St Michael the Archangel, Alcombe

Chance Encounter Oct 19

Souper Thursday Oct 9th and 23rd

We share soup & fellowship after the 11 am Eucharist

St Petrock's Timberscombe

Warm Welcome

Every Thursday in term time 10am - 12 noon

Hot drinks & refreshment.

Oct 12 Messy Church with the Bishop 11.30 -12

Village Hall Wootton Courtenay Oct 9

'Gaza - what's it all about?' A talk by Sir Andrew Burns, former British ambassador to Israel 7 for 7.30pm. Licensed bar & retiring collection Oct 13 Meet the Bishop. Village Hall 5.30 pm All welcome!

St George's Dunster: No Friday Coffee Morning in October

instead, Monday Oct 13: Tea with Bishop Michael 3.30 in St George's Sunday Oct 19 Evening Harvest Festival Light harvest supper 5 pm. Service 6 pm

Meet the Bishop in St Michael the Archangel 9.30 before the morning service on 12 Oct.

GRABBIST HILL BENEFICE SERVICE ROTA: OCTOBER 2025

Service Leaders	Date:	5th	12th	19th	26th	NOTES
KC=Rector Revd Kenneth Cross	Sunday:	SIXTEENTH AFTER TRINITY	SEVENTEENTH AFTER TRINITY	EIGHTEENTH AFTER TRINITY	LAST AFTER TRINITY	
			Bishop's Benefice Visit			
NB=Revd Nicola Butcher	Liturgical Colour:	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	
	Readings:	Please check readings with the service leader				
NMB=Revd Nicola Butt	0930					
EC=The Venerable Elwin Cockett	1000	ALCOMBE All-age HC (CW) KC	ALCOMBE with +Michael Benefice HC (CW) KC/NB	ALCOMBE HC (CW) NB	ALCOMBE HC (CW) NB	
JM=Revd Juliet Montague	1100	DUNSTER HC (CW) JM		TIMBERSCOMBE Iona Communion NMB	DUNSTER MP (CW) KC	
		TIMBERSCOMBE HC (CW) NMB	TIMBERSCOMBE Messy Church NMB	WOOTTON COURtenay HC (BCP) said KC	TIMBERSCOMBE MP (CW) EC	
Local= arranged locally					WOOTTON COURtenay Iona Communion NMB	
	1530			ALCOMBE Chance Encounters Local		
	1700	ALCOMBE Evensong Local	ALCOMBE Evensong Local		ALCOMBE Evensong Local	
	1800	WOOTTON COURtenay Harvest Festival NMB		DUNSTER Harvest Evensong KC/LC		

OTHER EVENTS

Every Wednesday	9am	ALCOMBE	Eucharist			
Every Thursday	10am	TIMBERSCOMBE	Warm Welcome			
Every Thursday	11am	ALCOMBE	Eucharist			

View from Grabbist October 25



Today, as I type, it's raining!

We so need rain after this parched summer, yet a residue of subliminal sadness lingers in me when it comes to rain, perhaps vestiges of gloom from wet waits for late buses on dreich and drumly afternoons in 1970s Ayrshire. The blame for the bad memories lies more with the buses than the weather, but the association sticks!

That aside, I've come to love the rain and the sound of it. And, ah, the smell! Petrichor is the word for this, caused by geosmin from algae and bacteria, ozone from lightening and oils released by plants all in the rainwater. We humans are particularly sensitive to it, possibly an evolutionary development to help us find water. All we need is the equivalent of 1 teaspoonful of these components in 200 Olympic sized swimming pools worth of water for us to be able to smell it.*

The late Thich Nhat Hanh, Zen master and peace activist, said '*In Plum Village ... there used to be a veranda called the Listening to the Rain Veranda. We made it ... so we could sit there and listen to the rain and not need to think about anything. Listening to the rain can help the mind come to stillness.*' (The Art of Living p.8).

Our times are very noisy, and every day loud, demanding voices clamour for our attention. It is all the more important that we find ways to come to stillness, and - given that we are now well into autumn - we could do worse than having our own *Listening to the Rain Veranda*, if not a veranda, a simple space to be and listen to the rain! Just 5 minutes could make such a huge difference.

'Be still and know that I am God' sang the ancient poet (Psalm 46). You may well have heard this line, but it is set in a perplexing poem of crashing waves, uproarious nations and much conflict. Here, 'The Lord' breaks in to overthrow not people, but war itself.

If we are to be part of the healing of this fractured world, roiling again with much noise and hatred, we need to learn how to find stillness. We cannot make peace unless we become peace. And the deep divine peace which is present in every single one of us can be rediscovered quite simply by listening to rain.

We also can contemplate how rain comes when the ground is parched and when we fear the recklessness of folk playing with fire while the grass is like straw. Today, we so need the rain of kindness, of peace, of relationship and listening and understanding while people play with the fires of hate and division.

The rain will come. In fact, it is here if you and I still our restless hearts and minds. And as we find it, we can become the bringers of rain on parched ground in our world. It begins by being still.....

*For details about Petrichor: <https://sciencenotes.org/petrichor-and-geosmin-the-smell-of-rain/> and <https://www.popsci.com/science/smell-of-rain-petrichor-science/>

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)