

Notices:

- ❖ Every service is a “Family Service”. Children of all ages are welcome and will have something to help us out with if they want to. Carrying the cross, the offering plate round, even giving us lovely sounds of baby chatter (it’s not crying to us). There is a children’s corner too.
- ❖ Baptism does not have to wait, kindly contact us to fix a date.

In Our Community: News & Events.

Bike 'n Hike 14 September 2024

Bike 'n Hike is a fun day out where you get sponsored to visit beautiful historic churches by cycling, walking, or any mode of transport on a route of your choice.

For more information and sponsorship forms, visit

<https://bedshertshct.org.uk/Bike-n-Hike>

Afternoon tea on the first Sunday every month, 3 - 5 pm at Albury Village Hall.

Much Hadham Baby and Toddler Group will be meeting on **Tuesdays** (changed from Thursdays) in term time 9.30- 11.30 in Much Hadham Village Hall. Our first session after the summer break is on 10 September.

Benefice Contact Details

For St. Mary’s Albury

Warden: Vanessa Ripsher
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For St Cecilia’s Little Hadham

Warden: Karin Green
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For St Andrew’s Much Hadham

Warden: Nick Brent
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Our Interim Minister:

Revd. Ibitayo O. Wale-Falope (Tayo)
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Sunday 1 September 2024 **14th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 17)** **The Benefice of Albury, Little Hadham** **& Much Hadham.**

We Are Living God’s Love.

Tayo will be leading us in worship. Please stay for tea / coffee & catching up after the service.

From Tayo.

The Pharisees hunt Jesus: this was a constant thing all through Jesus’ ministry and we see it come to play in the gospel of today, but Jesus takes a swipe at them. They come hunting for faults and boom, they find one, so they thought until Jesus spoke!

It amazes me, how they do not complement His works, healings and the phenomenal stuff He did like walking on water etc. They just sought faults – there were none. In this case, His disciples were eating without washing their hands, so they pounced. This is not a hygiene or covid matter, but a “religious” one. The tradition of the Jews was to do a ceremonial washing, which was symbolic. They had changed this symbolic requirement and made it a law on its own. It was not just to wash hands but in a stipulated way.

It brings me to a thought; do we place symbols and symbolics above the content? For example, we reverence the cross, but the cross is just a cross, just wood, which if anyone started to worship, would make it sinful. The cross is a reminder of the “visit” of Jesus to it and it is not a god or idol to be worshipped. Which is bigger, the spouse or the wedding ring? The wedding ring is a symbol of the union, but the spouse is the focus of the marriage.

Human doctrines, rules etc. should not supersede God’s word. God reads the heart and knows and sees what we hold in our hearts. Show of piety cannot deceive God, even if humans are. What thoughts do we hold towards God and His creation? Are they of good and of love, like God? May the thoughts of our hearts be acceptable to Him. Amen.

Looking Ahead This Month:

15th Sunday after Trinity, Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday, 8 September 2024. 9:15 am
@ St Mary’s Albury.

16th Sunday after Trinity, Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday, 15 September 2024. 9:15 am
@ St Andrew’s Much Hadham.

Messy Church: Saturday, 21 September 2024. 4:30 pm
@ St Andrew’s Church, Much Hadham.

Our Hymns for this service are:

Opening CP 474 Immortal Invisible God Only

Gradual Hymn CP 386 Be Thou My Vision

Offertory CP 87 Hail To The Lord's Anointed

Closing CP 581 Take My Life And Let It Be

We Pray The Collect Together:

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast will to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We Listen To God's Word

James 1.17–end [Bible p 333 large print]

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.¹⁸ In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

This is the word of word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15 [Bible p 721 large print]

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may rest upon your holy hill?

² Whoever leads an uncorrupt life and does the thing that is right;

³ Who speaks the truth from the heart and bears no deceit on the tongue;

⁴ Who does no evil to a friend and pours no scorn on a neighbour;

⁵ In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed, but who honours those who fear the Lord.

⁶ Whoever has sworn to a neighbour and never goes back on that word;

⁷ Who does not lend money in hope of gain, nor takes a bribe against the innocent;

⁸ Whoever does these things shall never fall.

The Holy Gospel Mark 7.1–8, 14–15, 21–23

[Bible p 61 large print]

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him,

² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them.

³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders;⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?

⁶ He said to them, Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines. ⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer:

Father of light, in whom is no change or shadow of turning, you give us every good and perfect gift and have brought us to birth by your word of truth: may we be a living sign of that kingdom where your whole creation will be made perfect in Jesus Christ our Lord

Please Keep In Our Prayers:

Stuart Siggers

Margaret Radley

Peter Radley

David Stroud

Malcolm Rosburgh

Joanne Luxford

And the bereaved families of:

Keith Mullender

Laura Wollard