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| **PLEASE NOTE**  **CONSENT- Please sign a form at the back of the church to consent to a) live-streaming or recording of services [in which you/your children could be shown] &/or b) receiving communications about church activities etc. Consent may be withdrawn at any time. For further details, please see the form. MOBILE ‘PHONES** should be switched to **silent** during Services, please.  **HEARING AIDS** should be switched to the ‘T’ setting to pick up from the ‘loop’.  **EMERGENCY EVACUATION** – In the unlikely event that this becomes necessary listen for instructions. There are 3 exits – the main door (through which you came in); the Powerhouse exit door (at the rear of the building, accessible through the door near the kitchen serving hatch then through the double doors on the left) and the Vicar’s Vestry (in front and to the left of the pipe organ – there are some steps on this route). The assembly point is outside on the grass in front of the Hall.  **MINISTRY TEAM** - If you would like a visit from one of the team, please contact **vicar.staidans@gmail.com** or telephone 352500.  **SAFEGUARDING-** The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is very important to us. Any safeguarding matters may be shared with the Vicar or with the Parish Safeguarding Officer,  Mrs Janet Trevor 01474 352230 janet.trevor@blueyonder.co.uk. Further contact details are on the blue poster in the entrance vestibule.  **OUR PRAYERS** are asked this week for the people and parish of **St George, Gravesend.**  **DONATIONS-**you can donate to us in church in cash, by using the card reader, or online at <https://www.staidangravesend.org.uk/donate-to-us>.  **GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS** are available – please speak to one of the Welcomers.  **BIRTHDAYS / CELEBRATIONS** – To the usual tune, we sing -   ‘Happy Birthday/Celebration to you; to Jesus be true. May God’s richest blessings, be showered on you.’ | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **CURRENT INFECTION PRECAUTIONS**  **1. You may exchange the Peace with those in your immediate vicinity by saying ‘Peace be with you’ and also, if you wish, by a handshake.**  **2. If you do not wish to receive from the chalice during the distribution of Holy Communion, simply leave the altar rail after receiving the consecrated wafer. (Please do not dip your wafer into the chalice).** | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **WHO’s WHO AT ST AIDAN’S**  [Area code (if required) for Gravesend is **01474**]  **Vicar -** The Revd Michael Payne SCP352500 or e-mail: **vicar.staidans@gmail.com**  **Churchwarden** - Robert Hollands 07970 208403 or e-mail: **rholljan@aol.com**  **Anna Chaplain (ministry with the elderly, also community links) -** Sylvia Munns 356941  **Reader** **Emeritus** – Mavis Prater 812330  **Sunday School** - Ann Ashurst 567300; Amy Payne - [**amychaili@hotmail.com**](mailto:amychaili@hotmail.com)  **Parish Safeguarding** **Officer** – Janet Trevor 352230 – **Janet.trevor@blueyonder.co.uk**  **PCC Secretary &** **Powerhouse Manager** – Mike Welch 567722  **Church Hall Lettings** – Barbara Potter 746702 (for regular bookings **only**)  **Nursery School Manager** –  mobile 077 1533 7816 or e-mail: **gayle\_st\_aidans@yahoo.com** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Space for notes on the sermon or any questions you may wish to ask afterwards**  **↓ (Pencils are available at the back of the church) ↓** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **C:\Users\Michael Welch\Downloads\At Aidan's Church logo (2).jpg**  **OUR CORE VALUES** - We are a **Committed**, **Compassionate**, **Respectful**, **Confident** Church.  **Find us online:** [www.staidangravesend.org.uk](http://www.staidangravesend.org.uk)  **Find us Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/StAidansChurchGravesend](http://www.facebook.com/StAidansChurchGravesend)  **Follow us on Twitter:** @AidansGravesend **Charity No. 1130169** | | | | | | | | | | |
| See the source image | | | | **Welcome To Our Worship Today** | | | | See the source image | | |
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| **SUNDAY 16th MARCH 2025 – 2nd SUNDAY of LENT** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Parish Eucharist with Sunday School**  *O.T.**Reading:* **Genesis 15** : 1-12,17,18 (OT page 11)  *Psalm:* **27**  *N.T Reading:* **Philippians 3**:17 – **4**:1(NT page 188) *Gospel:* **Luke 13**: 31-end (NT page 73) | | | | | | | |
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| **THIS WEEK’S EVENTS** | | | | | | | | |  | |
| **Wed 19th** | **JOSEPH OF NAZARETH** | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **9.30am** | | | | | | **Eucharist (said)**  *Reading:* **2 Samuel 7**: 4-16 (OT page 267)  *Gospel:* **Matthew 1**: 18-end(NT page 1) | | | |
| **1.00pm** | | | | | | (to 3.00pm) **Little Rainbows** - Hall (for pre-schoolers and parents/carers) | | | |
|  | **2.00pm** | | | | | | **Craft & Chat** – West Room | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 23rd MARCH 2025 – 3rd SUNDAY of LENT** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Parish Eucharist**  *O.T.**Reading:* **Isaiah 55**: 1-9 (OT page 628)  *Psalm:* **63, verses 1 to 9**  *N.T Reading:* **1 Corinthians 10**: 1-13(NT page 163) *Gospel:* **Luke 13**: 1-9 (NT page 72 ) | | | | | | | |
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| **A Prayer as Children leave for Sunday School**  **May God guide each of us, whatever our age or experience, in the way of Christ.  The love of God be with us all. Amen.** | | | | | | | | | **MC900128551[1]** | |
| **CURRENT PATTERN OF SERVICES**  **(for any variations to this, please see the front page or refer to ‘What’s On’, below)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sunday** | | **10.00 am Sung Parish Eucharist -** Live-streamed on Facebook   ([www.facebook.com/StAidansChurchGravesend](http://www.facebook.com/StAidansChurchGravesend)) (1st Sunday in the month – All Age format)  (2nd & 3rd Sundays in the month - with Sunday School)  (5th Sunday in the month – Healing & Wholeness (with laying on of hands & anointing) | | | | | | | | |
| **Wednesday** | | | | | ***8.30 am Morning Prayer (said) – temporarily suspended***  **9.30 am Eucharist (said)** (from BCP on last Wednesday in the month) | | | | | |
| **Friday** | | | | | **9.00 am Holy Rosary** (on the First Friday in the month) | | | | | |
| **Sunday, Monday, Wednesday (on line)**  **8.00 pm** **Night Prayer** - on Facebook (address above) | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Please complete a Consent Form (at the back of the church, or on-line) to indicate that you consent to the Service being filmed / live-streamed where you could be identified** | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **WHAT’S ON IN APRIL 2025 other than regular events for which please see above & on page 1** | | | | | | | | | | MCj04242160000[1] |
| **Wed 2nd** | **10.15am** | | | | | (approx) **Coffee Morning** – Lounge (after the 9.30am Service) | | | | |
| **Fri 4th** | **9.00am** | | | | | **The Holy Rosary** - :Ladychapel | | | | |
| **Sun 6th** | **11.15am** | | | | | **(after the 10.00am service)** **Annual Parochial Church Meeting in church** | | | | |
| **Wed 9th** | **3.00pm** | | | | | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** – West Room | | | | |
| **Sun 13th** | **9.50am** | | | | | **PALM SUNDAY – Meet in the Hall before the 10.00am Service** | | | | |
| **Wed 16th** | **7.00pm** | | | | | **Agapé Meal – West Room (advance booking essential)** | | | | |
| **Thu 17th** | **8.00pm** | | | | | **MAUNDY THURSDAY – Liturgy of the Last Supper & Passion** | | | | |
| **Fri 18th** | **3.00pm** | | | | | **GOOD FRIDAY – Liturgy for Good Friday** | | | | |
| **Sun 20th** | **5.30am** | | | | | **EASTER DAY – Mass of the Dawn (also, 10.00am Eucharist)** | | | | |
| **Sun 27th** | **10.00am** | | | | | **Open collection at the 10.00am Service for *Friends of the Holy Land*** | | | | |
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| **LAST CHANCE! - RENEWAL OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL**  Thanks to all who have already completed and returned their forms.  **This Sunday, 16th March is the LAST DAY for returning your form.** | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **WANTED FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY (30th MARCH) -** small posies for children (and older people!) to give to their mothers. Please bring them to the table at the front before the start of the 10.00am Parish Eucharist service on 30th March.(which will also include Anointing for Healing & Wholeness). | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **LENT SMARTIE TUBE APPEAL FOR DEMELZA HOUSE CHILDREN’S HOSPICE**  Please return your (filled!) Smartie Tube on or befiore Easter Sunday, | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **SUNDAYS IN LENT**  Instead of the Taizé Gloria, we sing ‘Lord Have Mercy, Christ Have Mercy,  Lord Have Mercy’ but in Greek, as follows:  **Kyrie Eleison (x3), Christe Eleison (x3), Kyrie Eleison (x3)** | | | | | | | | | | |

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| **From the Vicar**  autifully, but also the drama of the scene: hair flying in the gale, mouths  forming desperate words which are snatched away by the wind- you really feel that  you are plunged into the scene. And it is an amazing story, for we see Jesus as not  only the carpenter’s son, not only a healer and a teacher, but now as a sort of storm-  god, a god of the wind and the waves. It is like something out of Greek mythology! I  particularly love the astonished words of his boat-fellows: ‘Who then is this, who  commands even the winds and the water and they obey him?’ We see, in a brief  moment, the power of Christ over the elements of this world.  In the Baptism service of the Book of Common Prayer, we begin with a prayer  comparing the Christian life to a journey on dangerous waters: ‘We beseech thee  that [he or she] , being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope and rooted in charity,  may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally they may come to the  land of everlasting life.’ I like to use this form of service at baptism because the  language is vivid but also very clear: in Christ we are saved from drowning in the  ways of this world. If we work to strengthen our faith, nurture hope and live for others  we will be brought to a place of safety. It sounds good, but, as Jesus’ friends  discover in the boat, it can be scary when the stormy waters rise and whirl, and it can  cause our faith to be scattered by the world’s winds. We should hear in our hearts  the words Jesus demands of them, when all is calm once more:  ‘Where is your faith?’  Blessings,  Fr Mich  autifully, but also the drama of the scene: hair flying in the gale, mouths  forming desperate words which are snatched away by the wind- you really feel that  you are plunged into the scene. And it is an amazing story, for we see Jesus as not  only the carpenter’s son, not only a healer and a teacher, but now as a sort of storm-  god, a god of the wind and the waves. It is like something out of Greek mythology! I  particularly love the astonished words of his boat-fellows: ‘Who then is this, who  commands even the winds and the water and they obey him?’ We see, in a brief  moment, the power of Christ over the elements of this world.  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We should hear in our hearts  the words Jesus demands of them, when all is calm once more:  ‘Where is your faith?’  Blessings,  Fr Mich  Welcome to our worship today, which includes Sunday School.  ***The Hill of Peace***  How much of the ‘real world’ should we let into our church worship? Some people want to engage with the world’s issues with prayer and solidarity as a community of hope and compassion, whilst others seek sanctuary and refuge away from the world in the calm and prayerful atmosphere of church. Similarly, some preachers like to apply the bible and other aspects of our faith to the world as it is today, yet others will prefer to look at the wisdom of the bible as something which rises above our earthbound concerns.  Here at St Aidan’s I try to find a balance. A church which meets all the current issues head on can be an exhausting place to be, but one which looks only to the heavenly realm leaves us rootless and alone amidst real issues. Most visitors to St Aidan’s are struck by the calm but friendly atmosphere-this is a great place to start and I am very grateful for that!  In today’s reading from Luke, Jesus laments over a city that was very close to his heart: Jerusalem. He would have made his way there many times as a pilgrim and he knew so well its importance in the Jewish tradition of which he was a part. It was then, and still is now, a place of contrasts, of deep spirituality and ugly division. In Jerusalem we have a symbol of the world of the eternal and the world of the everyday. Its name means *hill of peace* and it is from ‘salem’ that we get the modern Hebrew word for peace, *Shalom* and its Arabic counterpart *Salaam*.  We are seeing continued strivings between the State of Israel and Hamas; whilst we continue to pray for a resolution to this mess let’s also look to the Hill of Peace, a place which unites two warring peoples through language- a shared word for peace. In this way, we engage with both the world now, and our longings for God’s kingdom to come.  *Blessings,*  *Fr Michael* |