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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 John, Higham.**  **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 26th JANUARY 2025 – EPIPHANY 3** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Parish Eucharist**  *O.T.**Reading:* **Nehemiah 8**: 1-3, 5,6, 8-10 (OT page 414)  *Psalm:* **19, verses 1 to 6**  *N.T Reading:* **1 Corinthians 12**: 12-31 (NT page 165) *Gospel:* **Luke 4**: 14-21 (NT page 58) | | | | | | | |
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| **THIS WEEK’S EVENTS** | | | | | | | | |  | |
| **Wed 29th** | **9.30am** | | | | | **Eucharist (said) (Book of Common Prayer)**  *Reading:* **Hebrews 10**: 11-18 (NT page 213)  *Gospel:* **Mark 4**: 1-20(NT page 36) | | | | |
|  | **1.00pm** | | | | | (to 3.00pm) **Little Rainbows** - Hall   (for pre-schoolers and parents/carers) | | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2025 – CANDLEMAS** | | | | | | | | *MCj04351210000[1]* | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **All Age Parish Eucharist**  *Gospel:* **Luke 2**: 22-40 (NT page 56) | | | | |
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| **FOOD BANK**  There is a collecting box at the back of the church for any donations of food/toiletries which will be passed to a local Food Bank. A list of what is accepted by the Food Bank is posted nearby. | | | | | | | |  | | |
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| **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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| **FEBRUARY 2025 other than regular events for which please see above & on page 1** | | | | | | | | | | MCj04404360000[1] |
| **Wed 5th** | **10.15am** | | | | | (approx) **Coffee Morning -** Lounge(after the 9.30am Eucharist) | | | | |
| **Thu 6th** | **11.00am** | | | | | **Funeral of the Late Ernie Lane** | | | | |
| **Fri 7th** | **9.00am** | | | | | **The Holy Rosary** - Ladychapel | | | | |
| **Thu 20th** | **7.30pm** | | | | | **P C C Meeting** | | | | |
|   **IMPORTANT ADVANCE NOTICE**  Every 6 years the church’s Electoral Roll has to be completely revised. The old roll ceases to exist and a new one compiled from scratch.  2025 is one of those years! Starting shortly you will be asked to complete a new form even if you are on the existing Roll. And if you are not already, why not? It costs nothing. Full details of who may be on the Roll are on the forms themselves but briefly you may apply to be on the Roll if you a) are baptised and aged 16 by 6th April 2025; and b) live within the parish or live outside the parish but habitually worship at St Aidan’s.  If you have any queries, please speak to the Electoral Roll Officer, Doreen McIntosh or the PCC Secretary, Mike Welch.   | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Tea, coffee (or squash) and a biscuit are available after Sunday morning’s service.*** | | | | | | | | MCj02508040000[1] | | |
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| **From the Vicar**  Welcome to our worship today.  Today is the final Sunday of the Epiphany season-next week we will have reached Candlemas, or as it is also known ‘The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple’. This recalls the time when Joseph and Mary ‘presented’ their child for special prayers at the temple in Jerusalem according to the custom of those days. But the new parents receive strange messages from two aging folk, Simeon and Anna; in short, Candlemas begins the turning from Christ’s birth and all that means, towards his death and the greater meaning found there, at Easter.  For now, though, we are still in the Epiphany season, thinking about Christ’s appearance in our world, not just in those days in ancient history, but now. Questions for us to ponder as Christians include *how can we make Christ present in our own day and age? How have I, like the Three Kings, shown what Christ means to me?* *What is the message of the Gospels that our world most needs to know?* I say ‘ponder’ because these sorts of questions do not often have a simple or fast answer! They take time and prayer, but as the world adapts to a new US president with a massive mandate to govern according to his objectives, surrounded by internet and business billionaires we are called not necessarily to contest or resist this, because this was voted for in fair elections in that nation, but to respond with prayer that those in whom much power in vested use that power wisely, and according to God’s will. It’s a big ask, and some may say a naive one, but there it is. Our example is the Magi, who travelled far from their sheltered palaces to find the Christ. May our current kings and overlords do likewise, and may we each in our own way lay down our crowns before him.  ***A New Floor****!*  I am delighted to announce that our grant bid for a new floor for the church hall has been granted; this means that the tired and damaged floor can now be made fit for purpose. The hall is used as a place of worship, a nursery school and a community centre, and it’s great to know that soon there will be a big improvement in what we can offer our groups.  *Blessings,*  *Fr Michael* |