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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 **Christ Church.**  **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 2nd MARCH 2025 – LAST SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Quinquagesima)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **All Age Parish Eucharist**  *Gospel:* **Luke 9:** 28-36(NT page 66 ) | | | | | | | |
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| **THIS WEEK’S EVENTS** | | | | | | | | |  | |
| **MARCH Wed 5th Image result for clip art ash wednesday** | **9.30am**  **10.15am** | | | | | **Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes**  *Reading:* **Joel 2**; 1,2, 12-17(OT page 776)  *Gospel:* **John 8**: 1-11(NT page 96)  (approx) **Coffee Morning** - West Room & Lounge | | | | |
| **12.15pm** | | | | | **Christian Aid Bread and Cheese Lunch (until 1.45pm)** £3 at the door. Homemade stall and a selection of Easter cards available. All welcome | | | |  |
|  | **1.00pm** | | | | | (to 3.00pm) **Little Rainbows** - Hall (for pre-schoolers and parents/carers) | | | | |
| **Fri 7th** | **9.00am** | | | | | **The Holy Rosary** - Ladychapel | | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 9th MARCH 2025 – 1st SUNDAY of LENT** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Parish Eucharist with Sunday School (Book of Common Prayer)**  *O.T.**Reading:* **Deuteronomy 26** : 1-11 (OT page 173)  *Psalm:* **91, verses 1 to 11**  *N.T Reading:* **Romans 10**: 8-13(NT page 151) *Gospel:* **Luke 4**: 1-13 (NT page 58) | | | | | | | |
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| **RENEWAL OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL**  Thanks to all who have already completed and returned your forms.  **The last date for returning forms is Sunday 16th March.** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 MARCH 2025 other than regular events for which please see above & on page 1** | | | | | | | | | | MCj04325910000[1] |
| **Sun 9th** | **10.00am** | | | | | | **Parish Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)** | | | |
| **Wed 12th** | **2.00pm** | | | | | | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** – West Room | | | |
| **Wed 19th** | **2.00pm** | | | | | | **Craft & Chat** – West Room | | | |
| **Sun 30th** | **10.00am** | | | | | | **MOTHERING SUNDAY Parish Eucharist  with Anointing for Healing & Wholeness** | | | **Image result for clip art mothering sunday** |
|   **DATA PROTECTION  & LIVE-STREAMING OF SERVICES**  Main services are ‘live-streamed’. The camera is static and focused on the altar but can capture images of people leaving the altar rail. If you have not already done so, please complete a consent form (on the table at the back of the church, or on line). Please place completed forms in the lidded box. These forms are important because by law we need your consent to photograph or film services and events. The form also allows you to give consent to receive information from St Aidan's. Many thanks. | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **LENT SMARTIE TUBE APPEAL FOR DEMELZA HOUSE CHILDREN’S HOSPICE**  Coming soon – look out for Smartie Tubes in church! Take one – eat the Smarties (before Lent if you can!) – then during Lent fill the tube with 20p or £1 coins, or even paper money – and return the filled tubes on or before Easter Day. | | | | | | | | | | |
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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. 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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.  ***The Transfiguration***  Today’s gospel reading plunges us, like last week, into the middle of a dramatic situation. Last week, Jesus calmed a sudden and dangerous storm on the Sea of Galilee. This week we find him on a mountain in Palestine, where he is ‘transfigured’ in the sight of his followers: transfiguration is not the same as transformation; Jesus does not change *into* something else but rather his ‘figure’ his truest self is momentarily revealed in a shining white light. It’s another one of those moments in the Bible when we get a glimpse of the power and grandeur of Jesus, but only a glimpse because we could not cope with all the holiness Jesus embodies.  Sometimes in the Western church we have tended to focus on Jesus the carpenter; we have felt more at home with Jesus-the-man and rather avoided the divine aspect of who Jesus is. This does make sense because that is why Jesus came,to be an ordinary person among us, but his deeds and words enable us to see God in the person of the Son. However, if we are not careful we can drift into the ‘Jesus is my mate’ kind of attitude which fails to recognise God. By the same token, if we focus on his divinity we risk a ‘head in the clouds’ faith, far removed from the realities of this life.  This is why we get this glimpse of divinity-enough to enable us to see and know, but not too much; just enough to prevent us mis-seeing Jesus as a sort of ‘holy man’, a travelling healer. May you come to know Jesus as the Christ, the anointed one in majesty, whilst enjoying the love of Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth.  ***Lent begins***  This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Our 9.30am service on Wednesday is our Ash Wednesday service at which we begin Lent and can have the sign of the cross marked on our hands or foreheads as a sign of our commitment to Christ crucified. If you cannot get to church in the morning but would like to receive the ashes, please contact me (details in ‘who’s who in this leaflet) and I will visit you at home if you live in the parish.  *Blessings,*  *Fr Michael* |