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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 9th MARCH 2025 – 1st SUNDAY of LENT** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Parish Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer) with Sunday School**  *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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| **THIS WEEK’S EVENTS** | | | | | | | | |  | |
| **Wed 12th** | **EMBER DAY** | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **9.30am** | | | | | **Eucharist (said)**  *Reading:* **Jeremiah 1**: 4-10 (OT page 639)  *Gospel:* **John 4**: 31-38(NT page 91) | | | | |
| **1.00pm** | | | | | (to 3.00pm) **Little Rainbows** - Hall (for pre-schoolers and parents/carers) | | | | |
|  | **2.00pm** | | | | | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** – West Room | | | | |
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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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| **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 MARCH 2025 other than regular events for which please see above & on page 1** | | | | | | | | | | MCj04325910000[1] |
| **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** |
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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 NEXT SUNDAY 16th March.** | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **RECYCLING**  A reminder that we are collecting stamps & milk bottle caps for charity and are now recycling batteries, ink cartridges, bread wrappers, crisp packets and there are receptacles for these at the back of the church. | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **LENT SMARTIE TUBE APPEAL FOR DEMELZA HOUSE CHILDREN’S HOSPICE**  Look out for Smartie Tubes in church! Take one – eat the Smarties! – then fill the tube with 20p or £1 coins, or even paper money – and return the filled tubes on or before Easter Day. Many thanks. | | | | | | | | | | |
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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.  We have now entered the season of Lent and for the next few weeks the spiritual themes are reflective as we contemplate the final stages of Jesus’ earthly life-although this should not be sentimental; we are invited instead to meditate upon the betrayal of Jesus by his friends, the depth of destructive desire in the hearts of those who wanted rid of him and our own part in these desires today- we seem to have forgotten how to forgive or to look at situations in a balanced way; the headline events in world politics and here at home seem to be very binary-there has to be a winner and a loser. This is simplistic, unrealistic and dangerous because it cultivates an atmosphere of constant conflict between groups and individuals where there is no attempt to find common ground. Instead, battle lines are drawn and a mindset of ‘If you win, I lose’ takes hold which forces people to want to win at any cost.  We are called as Christians to remember Peter, who denied knowing Jesus at his trial, then was swept into terrible shame at his act: Jesus reaches out to him following the Resurrection; there is a new beginning, a chance to start again.  Can we imagine Ukrainians ready to forgive Russians, or Gazans Israelis? At the moment it seems impossible after all that has happened, but Lent demands that we *try* to believe and hope that reconciliation will come after these dreadful conflicts finally cease, and others in Sudan and the DR Congo. The Christian path is rocky and narrow at times and seems to take us higher and higher from safety: how easy it would be slip and fall into cynicism! But we must journey on, putting one foot carefully in front of the other as we move through Lent. This is not naivety or false hope but a response to the reality of the Cross: death and earthly power scattered for ever by God’s action in raising Jesus to life. War, totalitarian regimes, false power all vanish before the Cross like a wisp of smoke-we just need to take this to heart and live it in our lives.  May you be blessed by the shadow of the Cross this Lent,  *Fr Michael*  *Following the funeral of Ernie Lane, the family wish to pass on the following:*  Daphne, Beverley, Ian, Teresa and Tim wish to express our thanks for all the cards, messages and texts we have received following dad’s death. Thank you to everyone who attended the celebration of dad’s life. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces. Thank you to everyone who contributed in so many different ways towards dad’s service and to the wake. As Ian said during his memories of dad, Ernie will be missed more than we can say. However, the kindness of St Aidan’s, our home church, has helped during this difficult time.    We send you our love and best wishes. |