|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 Mary The Virgin, Chalk**  **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.’ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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).** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 ) | | | | | | | | |  |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **THIS WEEK’S EVENTS** | | | | | | | | |  | | | |
| **Wed 26th** | **THE ANNUNCIATION** (transferred from 25th March) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **9.30am** | | | | | | **Eucharist (said) (Book of Common Prayer)**  *Reading:*  **Isaiah 10**: 7-14 (OT page 547)  *Gospel:* **Luke 1**: 26-38 (NT page 54) | | | | | |
| **1.00pm** | | | | | | (to 3.00pm) **Little Rainbows** - Hall (for pre-schoolers and parents/carers) | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **SUNDAY 30th MARCH 2025 – MOTHERING SUNDAY** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Parish Eucharist with Anointing for Healing & Wholeness**  *O.T Reading:* **Exodus 2**: 1-10(OT page 47) *N.T. Reading:* **Colossians 2**: 12-17(NT page 191) *Gospel:* **John 19**: 25-27 (NT page 109) | | | | | | | Image result for clip art mothering sunday | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **START OF BRITISH SUMMER TIME Don’t forget to set clocks & watches FORWARD one hour before going to bed next Saturday** | | | | | | | | |  | | | |
| **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** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 **(Guest Speaker from the Amen Trust (Romanian Shoeboxes) – all welcome)** | | | | | | |
| **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   – suggested donation £4)** | | | | | | |
| **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 this Service is for for *Friends of the Holy* Land** | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 next Sunday** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **LENT SMARTIE TUBE APPEAL FOR DEMELZA HOUSE CHILDREN’S HOSPICE**  Please return your (filled!) Smartie Tube on or befiore Easter Sunday. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  If your report is still outstanding may I have it by Tuesday at the latest, please. Thanks - Mike | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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)** | | | | | | | | | | | | |

|  |
| --- |
| **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.  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.  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.  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.  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  Welcome to our worship today.  ***Repentance and Grace***  We are moving through parts of Luke’s gospel at the moment, and we have arrived at a section where Jesus is doing a lot of teaching about repentance. This is obviously a good theme for Lent.  Repentance is all about reflecting on our actions, our motivations, our thoughts with the aim of moving forward from a period in life when we have gone a bit astray. This applies to all of us, and even though some modern day people are uncomfortable with the idea of ‘confessing sins’ most people would probably agree that we can always do better! The two things are really the same; when we confess together in our Eucharist service we are ‘owning up’ to the fact that ‘we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed…and repent of all our sins’.  When you think about it, we are saying big things here about who and what we are: a wayward and wilful people who often tarnish our relationship with God and one another. However, we then turn to God in repentance and ask that God may grant us ‘newness of life’. This is a lovely phrase and speaks of our trust that God does indeed long to set us on the right path.  ***Confirmation 2025***  Each year, one of our bishops takes a Deanery confirmation service for all those in our local churches who wish to be confirmed. The service will be here at St Aidan’s on Sunday 14th September at 4pm.  Confirmation is a way for baptised people to renew a commitment to God. In the service those being confirmed are anointed by the bishop who ‘confirms’ the person in the grace of the Holy Spirit. It is a lovely service which some folk find particularly powerful and moving. Please speak to me if you would like to explore confirmation. There is a short series of ‘classes’ in the run up to the day, in which we explore aspects of Christian faith in more depth and prepare you for the service.  It’s possible to be baptised and confirmed in the same service, so do make that clear if that is what you are seeking. Currently there are already some people from St Aidan’s looking to be confirmed so you will not be on your own!  Finally, it’s also possible in that service to be ‘received into the Church of England’. This is for people who have been worshipping in a CofE church but who come from another spiritual or denominational background. It is not conversion from one denomination to another, but rather an invitation to enter more fully into the life of the Church of England. Again, please speak to me if you are interested in exploring this.  *Blessings,*  *Fr Michael* |