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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 **The Holy Family.**  **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 4th MAY 2025 – 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER** | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **All Age Parish Eucharist**  *OT Reading:* **Zephaniah 3**: 14-end (OT page 803)   *NT Reading*: **Acts 9**: 1-20 (NT page 121)*Gospel:* **John 21**: 1-19 (NT page 111) | | | | | | |
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| **THIS WEEK’S EVENTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 7th** | **9.30am** | | | | | **Eucharist (said)**  *NT Reading:* **Acts 8:** 1*b*-8 (NT page 119)  Gospel: **John 6**: 35-40 (NT page 94) | | | |
| **10.15am** | | | | | | (approx) **Coffee Morning** - Lounge | | | |
|  | **1.00pm** | | | | | (to 3.00pm) **Little Rainbows – Hall (for toddlers & their carers)** | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 11th MAY 2025 – 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER** | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **All Age Parish Eucharist with Sunday School**  *Psalm* **23** *OT Reading:* **Genesis 7:** 1-5, 11-18 (OT page 5)   *NT Reading*: **Acts 9**: 36-end (NT page 122)*Gospel:* **John 10**: 22-30 (NT page 99) | | | | | | |
| clipart flowers | | | | | | | | | |
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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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| **WHAT’S ON IN MAY 2025 other than regular events for which please see above & on page 1** | | | | | | | | | MCj01510850000[1] |
| ***ECO CHURCH – THEMES FOR THIS MONTH***  ***Creating compost; protecting endangered species (World Bee day 20th May)*** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 14th** | | | **2.00pm** | | | | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** – West Room | | |
| **Thu 15th** | | | **7.30pm** | | | | **P C C Meeting** | | |
| **Sun 18th** | | | **10.00am** | | | | **This Service will be from the Book of Common Prayer** | | |
| **Wed 21st** | | | **2.00pm** | | | | **Craft & Chat** – West Room | | |
| **Sat 24th** | | | **10.00am** | | | | **Christian Aid Coffee Cake & Plant Sale (see below)** | | |
| **Sun 25th** | | | **10.00am** | | | | **The Open Collection at this Service will be donated to *The Gravesend Daytime Hub*** | | |
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| **ADDITIONAL EVENTS - MAY**  8th 9th, 10th - Christian Aid Bucket Collection at Morrisons **between 9am and 4pm**  11th -17th:  Christian Aid Week  24th:  Christian Aid Cake and Coffee Morning and Plant Sale; Church and Garden, 10am -12pm  **CAN YOU HELP?**  Please add your name as appropriate to the list at the back of the church if you are able to help with the Cake and Coffee morning on 24th May.  Many thanks, Mavis  **LOOKING AHEAD**  14th June:  Games Event - Church Hall, 4pm - 6pm  5th July:  Quiz Evening, Church Hall, 7pm | | | | | | | | | |

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| **From the Vicar**  Welcome to our worship today as the Easter season continues: do you have any Easter eggs left?!  ***Peter the Superhero?***  If you visit any toyshop you will probably find ‘action figures’ of superheroes such as Spiderman, Wonder Woman, The Incredible Hulk and so on. These are remarkably durable toys in the sense that they last forever and also in their enduring appeal. Whilst the designs (and the heroes) have changed somewhat over the years (although some are still the same old heroes!) one thing is always the same: they are very muscley- often looking more like body builders than ordinary people. I suppose the idea is that they look very strong, athletic and ready for action. We should keep in mind that pretty much all the superheroes were invented in America’s huge comic book and animated film industry from the 1950s onwards. These ‘superheroes’ were a way to project a vision of ‘strong America’ onto the world as it emerged as a superpower on the world stage. These super-fit, strong men and women with remarkable powers took a ‘can-do’ attitude to any problem and sent the bad guys packing every time. It is an approach that has not been lost on world leaders in the past: Mussolini ensured that he was photographed in swimwear looking very fit and strong during his heyday; back in the early 2000s Vladimir Putin did a photoshoot, stripped to the waist on horseback looking every inch the Russian warrior. Similarly, if you watched the recent version of ‘Gladiators’ on TV, you will have seen the elite athletes dressed in tight-fitting lycra outfits, muscles rippling. Again, this is to underline their prowess, their superiority.  Yet all this is also a sign of weakness and vulnerability: Peter is bereft following the execution of Jesus. He thinks the adventure is over. All he can think of to do is to go back to his old life and go fishing. We are told that Peter was ‘naked’ in the boat. He was working hard rowing against the current, then pulling in heavy nets and so on. His nakedness is a show of strength designed to defy the grief he feels. By using physical power he attempts to ignore the pain but this is doomed to fail. All the muscles in the world won’t save us in a world without Jesus. Thanks be to God Peter sees Jesus on the shore and leaps into the water to swim over to him-but not before putting on clothes! This seems rather silly because most of us would take clothes *off* if we are jumping into water. The point is that Peter instantly realises his reliance on his own strength-symbolised by nakedness has no further use-putting on clothes is Peter’s way of demonstrating that.  Let’s reflect on this during this Easter season, in a world so often polarised by strength and power.  *Blessings,*  *Fr Michael* |