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| **PLEASE NOTE** **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 Peter & St Paul, Shorne.****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>.**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. There are no restrictions on where to sit – but you may maintain some social distancing if you feel happier doing this.****2. You may exchange the Peace with those in your immediate vicinity by saying ‘Peace be with you’ but not by handshake or touch.****3. 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). Return to your seat via the one way system using the side aisle.**  |
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| **WHO’s WHO AT ST AIDAN’S** [Area code (if required) for Gravesend is **01474**]**Vicar -** The Revd Michael Payne352500 or e-mail: **vicar.staidans@gmail.com****Churchwardens** – Dennis Ashurst 567300 - Robert Hollands 07970 208403 or e-mail: **rholljan@aol.com****Anna Chaplain (ministry with the elderly, also community links)**  **-** Sylvia Munns 356941**Lay Reader (Preaching, Study and Faith)** - Dr Peter Harris  **pjharris7869@hotmail.com****Reader** **Emeritus** – Mavis Prater 812330**Sunday School** - Ann Ashurst 567300; Amy Payne - **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**  |
| **StAidansLogo-slogan** |
| **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 |
| See the source image | WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY | See the source image |
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| **SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2023 – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** **10.00am Sung Parish Communion with Sunday School and**   **an Act of Remembrance  (Preacher: Dr Peter Harris)** | **MCj03705100000[1]** |
| *NT Reading**Gospel* | **1 Thessalonians 4**: 13-end (NT page 194)**Matthew 25:** 1-13 (NT page 27) |
| **4.00pm Short Service at RAF Gravesend Memorial -  Cascades Leisure Centre**  |
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| **ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK** |
| **Wed 15th**  | **8.30am** | **Morning Prayer** |
|  | **9.30am** | **Eucharist (said)** *Reading****:* Titus 3**: 1-7 (NT page 205)*Gospel:***Luke 17**: 11-19(NT page 77) |
|  | **1.00pm** | **Little Rainbows** – Hall (for pre-schoolers & carers) |
| **Thur 16th**  | **7.30pm** | **P C C Meeting** |
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| **SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2023 – 2nd SUNDAY before ADVENT** **10.00am Sung Parish Communion with Sunday School**  |
| *OT Reading**Psalm**NT Reading**Gospel* | **Zephaniah 1**: 7, 12-end (OT page 801)**90, verses 1-8****1 Thessalonians 5**: 1-11 (NT page 195)**Matthew 25:** 14-30 (NT page 27) |
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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)**  **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 NOVEMBER 2023(other than the usual services for which please see above)**  | **Clipart of a Sketched Doodle of a Black and White Rocket Firework - Royalty Free Vector Illustration by Prawny** |
| **Sat 25th** | **10.00am** | **Image result for clipart christmas fairin the Church Hall** | **Homemade cakes, Christmas Cards,****crafts, gifts & jewellery;****Chocolate Tombola;****Chuck-it-in-a-Bucket; Raffles;****Father Christmas!** |
| **Sun 26th**  | **10.00am** | **The open collection will be for the benefit of Hope Gardens** |
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| **Space for notes on the sermon or any questions you may wish to ask afterwards****↓ (Pencils are available at the back of the church) ↓** |
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| **From the Vicar**From the VicarWelcome to our worship today.Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s… In our recent gospel readings we have been travelling through a few parables in which Jesus speaks out against the religious authorities of his own day and indeed anyone from inside his own religious group who ‘should know better’, to coin a phrase. Jesus is rather fed up with the chief priests, temple elders and such like because he keeps seeing time and again a kind of religious arrogance mixed with apathy. It’s as if they think they don’t need to do anything outside of what tradition dictates because they are God’s ‘chosen ones’. Jesus is very clear that the scriptures he knew (what we call the Old Testament) record clearly the ways in which God’s chosen people Israel had repeatedly failed to make good on their side of the covenant God made with them in the desert. Jesus is astounded and angry that in his own day, centuries after the events of the time of Moses, the heirs of this covenant still ‘don’t get it’. His parables are a way to teach his hearers about how to live by giving examples of what not to do-once the elders realise that he is using them as an example of wrongness they respond not with humility but with plots and plans to have Jesus destroyed; it is a profoundly depressing response by these men and alas we see this kind of response still alive and well in our own time: the desire of the powerful to hang on to that power and privilege at almost any cost.The elders try to trick Jesus into worshipping the Roman Emperor, which would be blasphemy (only God should be worshipped). They do this by trying to get him to encourage people to pay their taxes (thus helping the hated Roman occupiers) but Jesus as ever is ahead of the game. ‘Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s’ is his reply. In other words, do what you have to do in this world to get by and obey the worldly laws, but remember where your duty really lies; i.e with God. His enemies have no reply to this, but a steady determination to finish Jesus burns brighter within them.For us, we too must do what we have to do in our own society, but be sure to give the best of our efforts over to the worship of God, and the living out of that worship in the things we know we should do.Blessings,Fr MFrom the VicarWelcome to our worship today.Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s… In our recent gospel readings we have been travelling through a few parables in which Jesus speaks out against the religious authorities of his own day and indeed anyone from inside his own religious group who ‘should know better’, to coin a phrase. Jesus is rather fed up with the chief priests, temple elders and such like because he keeps seeing time and again a kind of religious arrogance mixed with apathy. 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His enemies have no reply to this, but a steady determination to finish Jesus burns brighter within them.For us, we too must do what we have to do in our own society, but be sure to give the best of our efforts over to the worship of God, and the living out of that worship in the things we know we should do.Blessings,Welcome to our worship today.***Remembrance***Today we remember those who have died in wars past and more recently. We pray for those on active service in the armed forces today and for their families.Poppies are available at the back of church and proceeds will go to the Poppy Appeal as usual. It is a very long time since the guns fell silent on the Somme and other battlefields of the First World War, and it will be just a decade and a bit before we approach the centenary of the outbreak of WWII, yet these two conflicts continue, understandably, to exert a strong hold on our thoughts and feelings at this time of year. We continue to remember the courage and sacrifice made by men and women on what was then on an unprecedented scale. When I was growing up, the world was more peaceful than it is currently; the two world wars were historical events to look back on from a different way of life (the Falklands conflict was a major national event in some ways but didn’t ‘compete’ with the earlier wars on any scale). Nowadays, things seem very different: even though the events in Gaza and Ukraine are not related directly, it feels somehow that the world is gradually sliding down into a situation in which conflict is the norm-this is to be resisted by Christians with all the strength we can muster. The debate about whether war is ever justified from a Christian perspective is just that, a debate, and I doubt there will be a definite outcome from that any time soon, but all Christians should oppose war in and of itself as a matter of course.It is true that Jesus said ‘I have come not to bring peace but a sword’, but the war Christ was talking about was spiritual; our human tendency to descend to shoddy and sordid obsessions over territory and the pursuit of a legacy by deluded leaders has cost the lives of millions of people over the years-something Christians must refuse to accept. And yet we are engaged in a war, the war Jesus was talking about, a conflict against the forces of evil that still seek to separate us from God.Let us remain vigilant then, against the ways of evil in all its forms, let’s continue to remember the fallen in all sides of military conflict, and to pursue the cause of peace.*Blessings,* *Fr Michael* |
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