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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 **Holy Family 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>.  **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’ but not by handshake or touch.**  **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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  **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) ↓** | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **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 14th APRIL 2024 – EASTER 3** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Sung Parish Eucharist with Sunday School** | | | | | | | |
|  | | | *OT Reading:* **Zephaniah 3**: 14-end (OT page 803) *Psalm***: 4**  *NT Reading:***Acts** 3: 12-19 (NT page 114) *Gospel:***Luke 24**: 36-48(NT page 86) | | | | | | | |
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| **THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 17th** | **8.30am** | | | | | **Morning Prayer** | | | | |
|  | **9.30am   10.15am** | | | | | **Eucharist (said)**  *NT Lesson:* **Acts 8**: 1*b*-18 (NT page 119) *Gospel:* **John 6**: 35-40 (NT page 94)(approx) **Coffee** Morning – Lounge & West Room | | | | |
|  | **1.00pm** | | | | | **Little Rainbows** – Hall (for pre-schoolers & carers) | | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2024 – EASTER 4** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Sung All Age Parish Eucharist with Sunday School** | | | | | | | |
|  | | | *OT Reading:* **Genesis 7**:1-5,11-18 **8**:6-18 **9**:8-13 (OT pages 5,6,7) *Psalm***: 23**  *NT Reading:***Acts** 4: 5-12 (NT page 115) *Gospel:***John 10**: 11-18 (NT page 99) | | | | | | | |
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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]** |
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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)**  **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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| *Tea, coffee (or squash) and a biscuit are available after Sunday morning’s service.* | | | | | | | | MCj02508040000[1] | |
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| **WAYS TO DONATE** There is an almsdish for donations as you leave plus a card reader for those who carry little cash. Regular payments may also be made through the Freewill Offering Envelope scheme (cash or cheques) or through a bank standing order. Gift Aid forms may be completed by those who pay income tax to enable St Aidan’s to reclaim tax on donations, costing you, yes, nothing! And there’s always the gift of a Legacy . . . . . . Please see our Treasurer, Barbara Potter for details. Many thanks. | | | | | | | | | |
| **CHRISTIAN AID**  Morrisons Supermarket have kindly given the Christian Aid committee approval to have a bucket collection on their premises on 9th, 10th and 11th May between 9am and 4pm.  Please look at the list at the back of the church and add your name and contact detail as appropriate if you are able to help.  Many thanks, Mavis  **MCSY00027_0000[1]** | | | | | | | | | |
| **From the Vicar**  From the Vicar  Welcome 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 M  From the Vicar  Welcome 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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Blessings,  Welcome to our worship today, which includes Sunday School.  *‘...he will renew you in his love.’*  Today’s Old Testament reading comes from Zephaniah, one of the smaller books towards the end of the Old Testament section of the Bible (sometimes rather unfairly called the ‘minor prophets’!); it’s easy to overlook these shorter books, some of them just a few chapters at most and it is true that they do not regularly appear in the Sunday readings through the year, but to do so is to miss out on some really good writing about God, what he has done and (true to the nature of prophecy!) what he *will* do.  Zephaniah was writing around 621 BC which means he was active between the two invasions which caused the Israelites and then the Judeans to go into exile. In other words, the book of Zephaniah sits between one disaster and awaits the next-rich ground for prophecy! However, for the purpose of these brief notes, let’s get to the heart of what Zephaniah has to say: the rulers of the people, particularly those responsible for the people’s religious life, have failed. God will place the spiritual life of his people into the hands of the humble and the lowly.  You may recognise some of the ‘feel’ of this in the New Testament narrative and particularly the Nativity story, in which an ‘ordinary’ woman is chosen to be the Mother of Our Lord, and in much of Jesus’ ministry, in which those in religious authority have their arrogance and hypocrisy exposed for all to see, and Jesus makes a point of consorting with ‘the lowly’. It’s another good example of how the all-important New Testament message is rooted in the teachings of the Old Testament.  Despite the disaster of invasion and exile, God will not forget his people, and he will ‘renew’ them in his love- isn’t this the heart of the Easter story? From endings and death comes new life, renewed by the love of God.  May we play our part in spreading this news.  *Blessings,*  *Fr Michael* | | | | | | | | | |