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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 **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.’ |
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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****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 15th DECEMBER 2024 – 3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT** | **religious%20advent%20clipart** |
| **10.00am**  | **Sung Parish Eucharist with Sunday School** |
|  |  *OT Reading:* **Zephaniah 3:** 14-end (OT page 803)  *Psalm:* **146, verse 4 to the end** *NT Reading:***Philippians 4**: 4-7 (NT page 188)  *Gospel:***Luke 3**: 7-18 (NT page 57)  |
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| **THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES** |
| **Wed 18th**  | **8.30am** | **Morning Prayer** |
|  | **9.30am** | **Eucharist** Readings:*OT Lesson:* **Jeremiah 23**: 5-8 (OT page 663) *Gospel:* **Matthew** 1: 18-24 (NT page 1)  |
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| **SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2024 – 4th SUNDAY of ADVENT** | **religious%20advent%20clipart** |
| **10.00am**  | **Nine Lessons with Carols and The Eucharist (BCP)** |
|  | *(For details, please refer to the Service booklet)*  |
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| **SUNDAYS IN ADVENT**Instead of the 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)** |
| **religious%20advent%20clipart** |
| **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 AT CHRISTMAS 2024(other than the usual services for which please see above)**  |  |
| **Tue 24th**  | **CHRSTMAS EVE** |
|  | **2.00pm** | **Carol Singing outside Tesco, Valley Drive**In support of The Ellenor Hospice | **MCj00961130000[1]** |
|  | **4.00pm** | **Crib & Christingle Service –**Everybody welcome - Donations received will support The Children’s Society. |  |
|  | **11.30pm** | **Midnight Mass** |  | **MCj04126980000[1]** |
| **Wed 25th** | **10.00am** | **Eucharist for Christmas Day** |
| **Sun 29th**  | **10.00am** | **Parish Eucharist** |
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| **CHRISTMAS CARDS** Cards for others may be left on the table at the back of the church, laid out alphabetically by **SURNAME** for collection by those to whom they are addressed.  | **MCj02901380000[1]** |
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| **FOOD BANK** There is a collecting box at the back of the church for any donations of food/toiletries which will be passed to a local Food Bank. A list of what is accepted by the Food Bank is posted nearby. |  |
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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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| **From the Vicar**Welcome to our worship today which includes Sunday School.***John the Baptist Part Two***Today we have our second dose of John the Baptist! Last week we were introduced to him in that well-known gospel depiction of a ‘wild man’ dressed in camel fur, living on desert grubs and honey. This week we go a bit further in, and even light our third Advent candle in honour of John, trying in our own way to live out just some of his faith and ministry.In Mavis’ sermon last week she drew out a point that is very rarely discussed: why does John seem to doubt-later on- that Jesus is the Messiah, after such a strong, confident beginning? Mavis’ contemplation that John may be experiencing a form of depression at this point is interesting. There is a school of thought that St Paul suffered from terrible eyesight and may have been epileptic. What these show, if they are true, is that John and Paul were human, they were real people living in real bodies. As we approach the Incarnation of God in Jesus, when God makes himself known to us in the Person of Jesus, we see this truly embodied: God understands our physical selves, our aches and pains, our scars and illnesses as much as our moods and mental struggles. None of this is new, but we still seem a bit shocked to think that ‘holy’ people, or even Christ himself, may have sometimes felt sad, or fed up, or had a raging toothache, or whatever! One of the many joys of Christmas is that we are confronted with a God who is like us, so as we journey through Advent, let’s be ready to bring our doubts, pains and messy humanity with us.*Blessings,* *Fr Michael* |
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| **There is no Morning Prayer or Eucharist on Wednesday 1st January 2025** |