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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, Swanscombe**  **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**](mailto:pjharris7869@hotmail.com)  **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** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 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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| **ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 22nd** | | | **ST CECELIA, MARTYR** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | **8.30am** | | | | | | **Morning Prayer** | | | | | | |
|  | | | **9.30am** | | | | | | **Eucharist (said)**  *Reading****:* Revelation 4** (NT page 236)  *Gospel:***Luke 19**: 11-2**8** (NT page 78) | | | | | | |
|  | | | **1.00pm** | | | | | | **Little Rainbows** – Hall (for pre-schoolers & carers) | | | | | | |
| **Sat 25th** | | | **10.00am** | | | | | | **CHRISTMAS FAIR** (see back page) | | | | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2023 – CHRIST THE KING**  ***The open collection will be for the benefit of Hope Gardens***  **10.00am Sung Parish Communion** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *OT Reading*  *Psalm*  *NT Reading*  *Gospel* | | | | | | **Ezekiel 34**: 11-16, 20-24 (OT page 736 )  **95, verses 1-7**  **Ephesians** 1: 15-end (NT page 182)  **Matthew 25:** 31-end (NT page 28) | | | | | | | | | |
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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 DECEMBER 2023 (other than the usual services for which please see above)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | **See the source image** | |
| **Fri 1st** | | **9.00am** | | | | | | **Holy Rosary –** Lady Chapel | | | | | | |
| **Sun 3rd** | | **10.00am** | | | | | | **Carols for Advent Sunday with Eucharist** | | | | | | |
| **Tue 5th** | |  | | | | | | **Aidan Ladies Lunch – Advance booking essential (No meeting on 13th)** | | | | | | |
| **Wed 6th** | | **10.15am** | | | | | | **(approx) Coffee Morning** – Lounge & West Room | | | | | | |
| **Sat 16th** | | **11.00am** | | | | | | (to 11.30am) **Carols at the St George’s Centre – all welcome to join in** | | | | | | |
| **Sun 24th** | | **10.00am** | | | | | | **Nine Lessons & Carols with Eucharist** | | |  | | | |
|  | | **4.00pm** | | | | | | **Christingle & Crib Service** | | |
|  | | **11.30pm** | | | | | | **Midnight Mass** | | |
| **Mon 25th** | | **10.00am** | | | | | | **Christmas Day Eucharist** | | | | | | |
| **Wed 27th** | |  | | | | | | **No Morning Prayer or Eucharist** | | | | | | |
| **Sun 31st** | | **10.00am** | | | | | | **Eucharist with Anointing for Healing & Wholeness** | | | | | | |
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| **SATURDAY**  **25th**  **NOVEMBER**  **10.00am**  **to 12.00 noon** | | | | | | | | **Image result for clipart christmas fair**  **in the Church Hall** | | **Homemade cakes, Christmas Cards,**  **crafts, gifts & jewellery;**  **Chocolate Tombola;**  **Chuck-it-in-a-Bucket; Raffles;**  **Father Christmas!** | | | | |
|   **CAROL SINGING FOR CHARITY**  **16th December:  Ten local churches are singing carols  for half an hour each in the St George's Shopping Centre between 10am and 3pm for the benefit of Christian Aid..  St Aidan's slot is 11.00-11.30am.  Please do come along and give your support.**  **23rd December:  St Aidan's is singing outside the Tesco Store in Valley Drive between 2 and 3pm for the benefit of the Ellenor Hospices.  Again, do come along if you possibly can.** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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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My thanks to everyone for making Remembrance a very good occasion last Sunday.  ***‘...Like a thief in the night’***  In Peter’s sermon last week he mentioned that Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians is one of the earliest existing Christian writings, having been written just over twenty years after events of the Resurrection-most scholars agree that this letter was definitely written by Paul, whilst the second Thessalonian letter was in all likelihood written by a follower of Paul who imitated his style-not to ‘copy’ him, but rather to show reverence to Paul.  The extract from the first letter which is our New Testament reading today is rich in imagery about the end times, when God will act in a final way to bring all things to himself. Paul adds a note of electric drama with the vivid words ‘the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night’; it is a very example of God being compared with a criminal! However, it is the silence, the unexpectedness that Paul focuses on here rather than criminal activity-God will come when nobody is expecting it. Is this meant to put his readers on high alert? Yes! Does Paul think they will be ready? Yes! His tactics now change as he writes about people of the daytime and people of the night. Those who are spiritually unprepared are like those who sleep all through the night, or those who are drunk; the ones who are ready for God are spiritually alert and belong to the light, not the darkness.  These letters were written to be read aloud to an assembled congregation and so we hear Paul’s message as if it was written for our ears, too. I don’t expect you will thank me very much if I comment on your drinking habits (although I hope you are generally sober!!), but I do commend to you the discipline of spiritual alertness: keep your prayer life fresh by praying each day and try to read at least some of the Bible readings set for each day (found further down these pages); using the bible regularly and prayerfully enables you to build your prayers on holy scripture-sometimes you will feel inspired and emboldened by what you read, sometimes you will be appalled or angered, sometimes you will feel far from what the bible is saying and to even pick the book up may feel like picking up a brick, but pick it up anyway and read the words you will find there. In this way, through daily discipline we keep spiritually awake and commit ourselves to living in the light.  In Bishop Jonathan’s recent sermon here at St Aidan’s he told us that the bible gives us life-let’s remember that every day.  Blessings,  *Fr Michael* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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