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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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, Wrotham Road.**  **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 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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| **CHRISTMAS 2024** | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
| **Tue 24th** | **CHRISTMAS EVE** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **MCj00961130000[1]** | **2.00pm** | | | | | | | **Carol Singing outside Tesco, Valley Drive**  In support of The Ellenor Hospice | | | | | | |
|  | **4.00pm** | | | | | | | **Crib & Christingle Service –** Everybody welcome - Donations received will support The Children’s Society. | | | | | | |
| **MCj04126980000[1]** | **11.30pm** | | | | | | | **Midnight Mass**  *OT Reading:* **Isaiah 9**: 2-7 (OT page 585)   *Psalm:* **96**  *NT Reading:***Titus 2**: 11-14 (NT page 205)   *Gospel:***Luke 2**: 1-20(NT page 55) | | | | | | |
| **Wed 25th**  **CHRISTMAS DAY** | **10.00am** | | | | | | | **Eucharist for Christmas Day**  *OT Reading:* **Isaiah 52**: 7-10(OT page 626)   *NT Reading:***John 1**: 1-14(NT page 87) | | | | | | |
| **Sun 29th**  **CHRISTMAS 1** | **10.00am** | | | | | | | **Parish Eucharist**  *OT Reading:* **1 Samuel 2**: 18-20,26 (OT page 234)   *Psalm:* **148, verses 1-6**  *NT Reading:***Colossians** 3: 12-17 (NT page 191)   *Gospel:***Luke** 2: 41-end (NT page 56) | | | | | | |
| **Wed 1st JAN 2025** | | | | | | | | **BANK HOLIDAY - No Morning Prayer or Eucharist** | | | | | | |
| **Fri 3rd** | **9.00am** | | | | | | | **The Holy Rosary** - Ladychapel | | | | | | |
| **SUNDAY 5th JANUARY 2025 – EPIPHANY** | | | | | | | | | **MCj04323650000[1]** | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **All Age Eucharist** *Gospel:***Matthew 2**: 2-12 (NT page 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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| **JANUARY 2025 Only the usual services for which please see above** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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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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| **WANTED** | | | | | | | **more helpers for the Sunday morning refreshment rota – no experience needed – no washing up involved – we have a dish-washer! Interested? Please see Jenny Rawlinson for details.** | | | | | | | |
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|  | | | | | | **CHRISTINGLES** – what are they? – want to know more? – why not come and help make them? We need volunteers to assemble them in the West Room on Monday 23rd December at 2.00pm – no prior experience necessary – all materials provided! Please see Jenny Rawlinson for more information. | | | | | | | | |

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| **From the Vicar**  Welcome to our worship as Advent draws to its close and we celebrate Christmas-may you know the joy of the birth of the Christ Child now and always.  ***Light in the Darkness***  On the 22nd December we would have passed the shortest day-from now on, day by day there will be a little bit more light. We won’t notice it for a few weeks and everything will still feel like the depths of winter, but we will *know* that the light is coming in, that darkness has lost its grip.  This is, in a nutshell, the heart of the Christian message distilled at Christmas- with the birth of Christ, darkness lost its grip and the Light started to come in. Just like the season of winter, though, Jesus’ light took time to be felt. He was born as a human child and lived a life largely hidden from us, presumably within the bosom of his family in palestine. It was not until he was an adult of some maturity that he really began to get going on the work he had been set to do. This in itself is a valuable piece of teaching-sometimes the light takes time to reach us.  There is no doubt that we are living in darkened times. There is much to be concerned about globally and within the world of the Church of England 2024 has been a bruising year, with the particular darkness of safeguarding breaches being a genuine concern-it can feel as if we are living under a cloud.  However, perhaps it is time to rehabilitate winter!  I enjoy popping out into the garden every morning, just for a few minutes, before the day gets going. I used to do this in fair weather only, but I now particularly enjoy looking at the garden in winter; there is on the one hand a sense of desolation: fallen leaves, bare branches, mud. Yet there are signs of life at work: fungi and insects doing their thing, bulbs gestating underground, getting ready to break the surface in the coming weeks; the garden is far from dead! This shows us that appearances can be deceptive. What can seem to be a dark time is always a time of life and light. It is a time to rest, to let the rhythm of the season guide us to slow down, to let life work on our own hidden levels; it is a time of reflection and preparation for growth.  In the midst of all this is the wonder of Christmas.  I pray that each of us can feel and know the light and life of Christ working on us, giving us hope and confidence as we move ever forward.  *Thank you!*  On behalf of the family, my thanks for the Christmas cards we kindly received: Happy Christmas!  *Christmas blessings to you all,*  *Fr Michael.* |
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