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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 John, Higham.****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’ 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****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 28th JULY 2024 – TRINITY 9** |
| **10.00am**  | **Sung Parish Eucharist**  |  |
|  |  *OT Reading:* **2 Samuel 11**: 1-15 (OT page 270) *Psalm***: 14** *NT Reading:***Ephesians 3**: 14-end (NT page 183) *Gospel:* **John 6**: 1-21 (NT page 93) |
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| **THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES** |
| **Wed 31st**  | **IGNATIUS LOYOLA (Founder of the Society of Jesus)** |
|  | **8.30am** | **Morning Prayer** |
|  | **9.30am** | **Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)**Readings:*NT Lesson:* **Jeremiah 15**:10, 16-end (OT page 658 ) *Gospel:* **Matthew 13**: 44=46 (NT page 14 ) |
| **Aug Fri 2nd**  |  | **The Holy Rosary** – ***CANCELLED*** (resumes 6th September) |
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| **SUNDAY 4th AUGUST 2024 – TRINITY 10** |
| **10.00am**  | **Sung All Age Parish Eucharist**  |  |
|  |  *Gospel:* **John 6**: 24-35 (NT page 93) |  |
| **MC900290669[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 AUGUST****other than regular events for which please see above** | MCj04347360000[1] |
| **No Sunday School during August** |
| **Fri 2nd** |  | **The Holy Rosary** – ***CANCELLED IN AUGUST*** (resumes 6th Sept) |
| **Wed 7th**  | **10.15am** | (approx) **Coffee Morning** – Lounge (after the 9.30am Service) |
| **Wed 14th**  | **2.00pm** | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** – West Room |
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| *Tea, coffee (or squash) and a biscuit are available after Sunday morning’s service.* | MC900112314[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. |  |
| **MCSY01261_0000[1]** |
| **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.Having ‘skipped’ the feeding of the Five Thousand in last week’s reading from Mark’s gospel, today the gears shift and we move across to John and meet this story head on.John’s gospel stands apart from Matthew, Mark and Luke - those first three gospels share quite a lot of similar material whilst John contains quite a lot that is unique (some seismic events such as this miraculous feeding story do make it into John, though).John is different in tone and scope: to put things perhaps too simply, Mark’s gospel asks *What did Jesus Do?* Matthew asks *What did Jesus Say?* And Luke asks *Who did Jesus care about?*John asks *Who is Jesus Christ?*The whole of John’s gospel is about trying to respond to this question. It was written a few decades after the others and obviously there were a lot of questions being asked and arguments going on by this time, about ‘who’ and ‘what’ Jesus was, and how Christians should think of him. John includes quite a lot of ‘miracles’ and indeed the gospel starts with the mysterious and cosmic ‘prologue’ in which Jesus is cast as the *Logos -* the Word who dwelt with God before creation. John wants us to see Jesus on this big scale, to see him as lord of the universe who is in command of nature and science.The ways in which we think about Jesus - his authority, mission and purpose is called *Christology* which basically means ‘talking about Jesus’ (notice the *log* in Christo*log*y, this comes from that *Logos* word again, to do with words and speech).This is all quite theological and I make no apology for that because all of us should have access to theological ideas but it is equally important to keep in mind and heart the reality that God is a person and that Jesus, for all his cosmic ‘power’ is the human face of the God who feeds and heals. Come to him with your hunger and need for healing and pray for the needs of others.***Thank You***On behalf of Jenny Rawlinson and her family, a ‘thank you’ to everyone who supported them at Dave’s funeral last week. *May he rest in peace and rise with the saints in glory. Amen.**Blessings,**Fr Michael* |

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