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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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>.**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**Lay Reader (Preaching, Study and Faith)** - Dr Peter Harris  **pjharris7869@hotmail.com****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) ↓** |
| **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 **Charity No. 1130169** |
| See the source image | WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY | See the source image |
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| **SUNDAY 31st MARCH 2024 – EASTER SUNDAY**  | **MCj01553680000[1]** |
| **10.00am**  | **Sung Parish Eucharist** |
|  | *Psalm:* **118, verses 1,2.14-24** *NT Reading:* **Acts 10**: 34-43 (NT page 123) *Gospel:***Mark 16:** 1-8 (NT page 52) |
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| **Wed 3rd**  |  | **No Morning Prayer, Eucharist or Coffee Morning** |
| **Fri 5th**  |  | **No Holy Rosary** |
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| **SUNDAY 7th APRIL 2024 – EASTER 2 (LOW SUNDAY)**  |
| **10.00am**  | **Sung All Age Parish Eucharist** |
|  | *Gospel:***John 20**: 19-end (NT page 110) |
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| **Wed 10th**  | **8.30am** | **Morning Prayer** |
|  | **9.30am** | **Eucharist (said)***NT Lesson:* **Acts 5**: 17-26 (NT page 116)*Gospel:* **John 3**: 16-21 (NT page 90) |
|  | **10.15am** | (approx) **Coffee Morning** (after the 9.30am Service)  – Lounge & West Room |
|  |  | **No Little Rainbows** – Hall (for pre-schoolers & carers) |
|  | **2.00pm** | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** – West Room |  |
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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 800)*Psalm***: 4***NT Reading:***Acts** 3: 12-19 (NT page 114)*Gospel:***Luke 24**: 36-48(NT page 86) |
| **MCj04351210000[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 (see note **#)** ([www.facebook.com/StAidansChurchGravesend](http://www.facebook.com/StAidansChurchGravesend)) ***(Note # - Apologies - live-streaming has been temporarily halted pending acquisition of equipment which will provide a better quality of streaming)***(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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| **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, and a very happy and blessed Easter to you!Because the date of Easter is not fixed in the same way as Christmas, it tends to ‘lose’ something of its hold on the public imagination: it’s hard to look forward to something when you don’t know exactly when it’s happening! Instead, there is a sort of vague, but pleasant expectation as Easter approaches each year, and much of this is tied up with the time of year-we have passed the Spring equinox meaning that the days are now longer than the nights, and all of nature seems to be fully awake at last. This gives a general sense of joy that light and life have come again.Whilst some Christians bemoan the shop displays of flowers, bunnies and so on, we cannot escape the reality that Easter grew from earlier celebrations of the coming of Spring (‘Easter’ comes from a pre-Christian festival called Oestra, which was celebrated in Northern Europe), and the Church wasted no time in weaving the Christian message of new life and the coming of the Light of the World into the imagery that was already in the culture-the two exist peacefully side by side in our culture and it is perhaps a reminder of the roots of the season’s celebrations in our part of the world. In countries with a Roman Catholic or Orthodox culture, the word Pascha is usually used, which comes from ‘Passion’ and is based less on new life and more on the fruits of Christ’s suffering, which we enjoy since the Resurrection.As always, both outlooks are valid, and as always, it’s healthy to hold both in mind and heart together.Ultimately though, as we instinctively know, Easter reverberates with God’s love. It was that love which spoke creation into existence before the beginning of all things, and it was love which gave Jesus to the world, and which caused his rise to new life.St Catherine of Siena wrote:*Nails were not enough to hold God-and man nailed and fastened to the Cross, had not love held him there*I pray that you may feel the newness of life and light which comes from Christ, and the love which brought him to us.*Blessings,**Fr Michael* |