|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 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.’ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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.** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2023 – ADVENT SUNDAY 10.00am Sung Parish Communion with Carols for Advent** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | |
| **For details of carols, hymns & readings, please see separate leaflet.** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Tue 5th** | | | **→** | | | | | | **Aidan Ladies Lunch** (advance booking essential) | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 6th** | | | **ST NICHOLAS Bishop of Smyrna c326 AD** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | **8.30am** | | | | | | **Morning Prayer** | | | | | | | |
|  | | | **9.30am** | | | | | | **Eucharist (said)**  *Reading****:* Isaiah 61**: 1-3 (OT page 633)  *Gospel:***Mark 10**: 13-16(NT page 44) | | | | | | | |
|  | | | **10.15am** | | | | | | (approx) **Coffee Morning** – Lounge & West Room | | | | | | | |
|  | | | **1.00pm** | | | | | | **Little Rainbows** – Hall (for pre-schoolers & carers) | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER 2023 – 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10.00am Sung Parish Communion with Sunday School** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
| *OT Reading*  *Psalm*  *NT Reading*  *Gospel* | | | | | | **Micah** **4**: 1-4, 6, 7 (OT page 792)  **25, verses 1-9**  **Romans12**: 8-14 (NT page 153)  **Matthew 21**: 1-13 (NT page 22) | | | | | | | |
|   MCj04126680000[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** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **WHAT’S ON IN DECEMBER 2023 (other than the usual services for which please see above)** | | | | | | | | | | | **See the source image** | | | | |
| **Sat 16th** | | **11.00am** | | | | | | (to 11.30am) **Carols at the St George’s Centre *for Christian Aid* – all welcome to join in** | | | | | | | |
| **Thu 21st** | | **2.00pm** | | | | | | **Funeral in Church of the late Ron Whitnell** | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 23rd** | | **2.00pm** | | | | | | (to 3.00pm) **Carol Singing outside Tesco, Valley Drive for *Ellenor Hospice* – all welcome to join in** | | | | | | | |
| **Sunday 24th** | | **CHRISTMAS EVE** | | | | | | | | | | | **MCj00981130000[1]** | | |
| **10.00am** | | | | | | **Nine Lessons & Carols with Eucharist** | | | | |
| **4.00pm** | | | | | | **Christingle & Crib Service** | |  | | |
| **11.30pm** | | | | | | **Midnight Mass** | | | | |
| **Monday 25th** | | **CHRISTMAS DAY** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | | | | **Christmas Day Eucharist** | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 27th** | |  | | | | | | **No Morning Prayer or Eucharist** | | | | | | | |
| **Sun 31st** | | **10.00am** | | | | | | **Eucharist with Anointing for Healing & Wholeness** | | | | | | | |
|   MCj04362990000[1] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|   **Space for notes on the sermon or any questions you may wish to ask afterwards**  **↓ (Pencils are available at the back of the church) ↓** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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. 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,  Welcome to our worship for Advent Sunday.  This is a special service of carols and Bible readings followed by Holy Communion. We hope that you will enjoy the carols of course, but also that you will be able to reflect on the meaning of Advent and its roots in Old Testament scripture: in those old prophecies (particularly Isaiah) Christians have often seen Jesus as the fulfilment of what is spoken of: that a servant will come who will bind up the wounds of God’s people and set them free.  When we read the Bible in this way, we see the Old and New Testaments not as two separate books but as a continuation of an unfolding narrative culminating with what God does through Jesus.  ‘Advent’ comes from a Latin word (Adventuum) which is to do with waiting ‘expectantly’-waiting for something to happen. There is also something in the word about that waiting being done eagerly-this is certainly true of the ‘character’ of the Advent season: we wait eagerly for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas, and beyond to his final coming.  During the next few weeks we will journey together in this spirit of waiting. Each week of Advent has a theme which shapes our thinking, drawn from the Bible-these themes are embodied in biblical figures: the Patriarchs (Abraham, Noah, Moses and others), The prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah), John the Baptist, the Virgin Mary and finally (on Christmas Day from midnight Mass onwards), Christ.  A good overall prayer to accompany us in Advent is the following, which I encourage you to use in your own prayers:  *People of God: Awake!*  *The day is coming soon when you will see God face to face.*  *Remember the ways and the works of God.*  *God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming.*  *You are God’s children.*  ***Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and forever. Amen.***  Blessings,  *Fr Michael* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |