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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 **The Holy Family, King’s Farm****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 4th AUGUST 2024 – TRINITY 10** |
| **10.00am**  | **Sung All Age Parish Eucharist**  |  |
|  |  *Gospel:* **John 6**: 24-35 (NT page 93) |  |
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| **Wed 7th**  | **TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (transferred from 6th August)** |
|  | **8.30am** | **Morning Prayer** |
|  | **9.30am** | **Eucharist** Readings:*OT Lesson:* **Daniel 7**: 9-10,13-14 (OT page 759 ) *Gospel:* **Luke 9**: 28-36 (NT page 66) |
|  | **10.15am** | (approx) **Coffee Morning –** Lounge (after the 9/30am service) |
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| **SUNDAY 11th AUGUST 2024 – TRINITY 11** |
| **10.00am**  | **Sung Parish Eucharist (Preacher & Celebrant: The Rev’d Chris Stone)** |
|  |  *OT Reading:* **2 Samuel 18**: 5-9, 15, 31-33 (OT page 278) *Psalm***: 130** *NT Reading:***Ephesians 4**:24 – **5**:2 (NT page 184) *Gospel:* **John 6**: 35, 41-51 (NT page 94) |
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| **Wed 14th**  | **MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, Martyr** |
|  | **8.30am** | **Morning Prayer** |
|  | **9.30am** | **Eucharist** Readings:*OT Lesson:* **Ezekiel 9**: 1-7.10,18-22 (OT page 710) *Gospel:* **Matthew 18**: 15-20 (NT page 19) |
|  | **2.00pm** | **Aidan Ladies** Meetimg – Lounge  |
| ***For Sunday 18th August, please see over*** |
| **SUNDAY 18th AUGUST 2024 – TRINITY 12** |
| **10.00am**  | **Sung Parish Eucharist (Preacher & Celebrant: The Archdeacon of Rochester, The Ven. Andy Wooding-Jones)** |
|  |  *OT Reading:* **1 Kings 2**: 10-12 (OT page 289) *Psalm***: 111** *NT Reading:***Ephesians 5**: 15-20 (NT page 185) *Gospel:* **John 6**: 51-58 (NT page 94) |
|  **Simple Black Vector Floral** |
| **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) – *NO NIGHT PRAYER IN AUGUST*****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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| *Tea, coffee (or squash) and a biscuit are available after Sunday morning’s service.* | MC900112314[1] |
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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 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.Due to holiday commitments amongst the parish staff, this letter covers the 4th and 11th of August.I am most grateful to the Rev’d Chris Stone who will be taking the service on the 11th.***The ‘Heavenly Manna’***Both gospel readings across these two Sundays look at food imagery, particularly in regard to bread. A staple food in the Mediterranean world now as then, and also of course in our own part of the world (the further East one goes, bread is replaced by rice as the staple starchy food).As so often happens, the hearers of Jesus think he is talking about food and cry ‘Rabbi, give us this bread always!’ perhaps thinking that there is a kind of magic bread that will always stave off hunger (rather like the fairy tale *The Magic Porridge Pot*!), but of course Jesus speaks of spiritual hunger and of how he and he alone can meet that hunger if we believe in him and who he is; the Son of God.This is all very well, but what does this ‘feeding’ by Jesus look like for us nowadays? The crowd with Jesus point out the ‘manna’ which God provided for the Israelites as they wandered in the desert (you can read about this in the Bible, Exodus chapter 16). Jesus is to be thought of as a new manna that has been sent by God to feed us. Again, what do we make of this?I once shadowed a hospital chaplain in a busy city hospital. She spoke of the importance of, to coin her own phrase, a ‘bedside manna’ (as opposed to ‘manner!’; she pointed out that the things she says to people who are prone, frightened and vulnerable can make a real difference - it is a kind of ‘feeding’ ministry which gives strength and comfort. Sometimes, of course, words are unnecessary and any good chaplain knows that just being with a person is often what is most needed-this is part of the ‘bedside manna’.What ‘manna’ can you offer in your situation? How can you work with Jesus to feed and heal those in need of mercy, those who are spiritually starving? These are ‘big’ questions but don’t be daunted - trust the Holy Spirit and your faith and the words, the manna will come.As we say in the Eucharistic prayer ‘*we are all one body because we all share in one bread’*; let’s share that ‘bread’ with those most in need.Blessings, *Fr Michael* |

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