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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 The Virgin, Chalk**  **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) ↓** | | | | | | | |
| **St Aidan’s Church**  **Gravesend**  **Compassion, Community, Confidence**  **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** | | | | | | | |
| **Welcome To Our Worship Today** | | | | | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER 2025 – HARVEST** | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **All Age Parish Eucharist & Harvest Thanksgiving** *Gospel:* **John 7**: 37-39 (NT page 96) | | | | |
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| ***THIS WEEK’TH*THIS WEEK’S EVENTS** | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 8th** | **9.30am** | | | | **Eucharist (said)**  *OT Reading:* **Jonah, chapter 4**  (OT page 789)  *Gospel:* **Luke 11**: 1-4 (NT page 69) | | |
|  | **1.00pm** | | | | **Little Rainbows** – Church Hall | | |
|  | **2.00pm** | | | | **Aidan Ladies Meeting – A talk by Fr Michael on  ‘Women in Ancient Rome’** - Lounge | | |
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| **SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER 2025 – 17th SUNDAY after TRINITY** | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Parish Eucharist with Sunday School** *OT Reading:* **Jeremiah 29**: 1, 4-7 (OT page 669)  *Psalm* **66 verses 1-11**  *NT Reading:* **2 Timothy 2***:* 8-15 (NT page 202)  *Gospel:* **Luke 17**: 11-19 (NT page 77) | | | | |
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| **CHRISTIAN AID SOUPA MEAL – WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER**  from 12.15-1.45pm in St George’s Church Hall  *Home-made soup, French bread, Tea/Coffee – Admission £3*  *Home-baked stall. Religious Christmas cards* | | | | | | | |
| **† 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** | | | | **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) – Also on Facebook** | | | |
| **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 OCTOBER 2025 other than regular events for which please see above & on page 1** | | | | | | |  |
| ***SILVER ECO CHURCH – THEME FOR THIS MONTH:******Recycling*** | | | | | | | |
| **SUNDAY SCHOOL is on SUNDAYS 12th & 19th at 10.00am** | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 15th** | | | **12.15am** | | | **Christian Aid Soupa Meal**  (see over for details) | |
|  | | | **2.00pm** | | | **Craft & Chat Meeting -** Lounge | |
| **Sat 25th** | | | **4.00pm** | | | (to 6.30pm) **Board Games Afternoon** – Church Hall | |
| **Sun 26th** | | | **10.00am** | | | **At this Service the open collection will be donated to the Diocese of Bo, Sierra Leone** | |
| **Fri 31st** | | | **5.00pm** | | | (to 7.00pm) **Light Party** – West Room & Lounge | |
|   **SHOEBOXES FOR ROMANIA** –There is a box at the back of the church for your gifts, - Many thanks, Jenny Rawlinson. | | | | | | | |
|   **CHRISTMAS FAIR**  – There is also abox at the back of the church for donations of chocolate items for the Chocolate Tombola at the Christmas Fair (on 29th November). | | | | | | | |
|   **HARVEST**  – There are envelopes available for donations today towards the ‘Diocesan Poverty & Hope’ Appeal. | | | | | | | |
|   **QUIZ EVENING**  – being held at Gravesend Methodist Church on Saturday 11th October – for details, please see Jenny Rawlinson  | | | | | | | |
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| **From The Vicar**  From the Vicar  Welcome to our worship today.  Luke’s Warning  In our Gospel reading today, we are given a strong warning against living only for  ourselves. In a vivid depiction of an underworld prison, the rich man is suffering  punishment after his life has ended. Pleading with Abraham for relief, he is told that  he had everything to hand whilst he was alive to live in the right way-he had the  scriptures and the traditions of compassion and care for the poor yet he ignored  them in life-there will be no relief in death.  This passage comes from a section in Luke in which Jesus is telling lots of parables  (stories about situations in life which say something deeper about God)- it is a  section of teaching on how to live. Should we take the scene of torment literally?  Jesus very good at weaving pictures with words and some of his imagery can be  quite powerful indeed, but we should keep in mind that, as our worship book says,  God’s ‘nature is always to have mercy’ so we need to strike a balance between the  judgement of God and his mercy: mercifulness does not equal ‘getting away with it’  and Christian tradition has long held that after death each of us will be called to  account for our lives and how we lived them, so perhaps these warnings are helpful!  After all, Abraham is right: for two thousand years we have had all the guidance we  could possibly need on how to live as people of God and it is a thin excuse to plead  ignorance!  But the balance to this is that nature of mercy which flows from God, bringing  blessing and freedom from sin, and ultimately, salvation  Welcome to our worship today, for Harvest.  Each week in any Eucharist service, there is a special pray for the week, called the Collect (because the function of the prayer is to collect our thoughts on the theme for the time of year). The Collect for today unsurprisingly focuses on a harvest theme:  *Creator God,*  *you made the goodness of the land,*  *the riches of the sea*  *and the rhythm of the seasons;*  *as we thank you for the harvest*  *may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples,*  *through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*  It is a nice prayer which touches on familiar themes. Biblically, God is shown again and again as the Lord of the Harvest- both the Old and New Testaments abound with references to vineyards, sowing and reaping crops, baking bread, pouring olive oil, fishing and cooking. Psalm 126 gives us a good image of reaping what we sow; from the tears of sorrow are grown songs of joy, those who weep, 'will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them'. These images use harvest as a theme to describe how God transforms sorrow into Joy- ultimately this comes to pass in the resurrection, of course.  In Psalm 65 we encounter the God of irrigation: 'you visit the earth and water it...the river of God is full of water, you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth. You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges, you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.'  However, our gospel reading today from John, gives us different food for thought: taken from John's gospel, we hear Jesus say 'let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water shall flow within them'. (John 7:37-39).  So now we are in the presence of a different kind of water-rather than providing the means of growth and the potential to bring forth food for living, the very water itself-Jesus-is life. To try to make this point in another way, you may remember that one of God's punishments to Adam is that he will now have to work the land in order for food to grow (Genesis 3:17-19); this is still part of the imagery from those psalms- yes, God generously sends the water to make it easier, but the work still has to be done to gain the means to live. But in Jesus, that has passed and we skip straight to receiving life from Christ himself: it is an astonishing image of generosity and the end of the chasm between God and humanity. So this harvest time, yes let us pray our Collect and thank God for what we receive from the earth, but more than that, let's praise God for Christ, the living water.  *Blessings,* *Fr Michael* | | | | | | | |