

**SPECIAL EASTER EDITION**

**COVER STORY:**  
A MISSIONARY IN  
OUR COMMUNITY  
MEET MRS C.!



**Issue 07** February-March-April 2015

£1.00

## **ALSO INSIDE:**

**NEWS &  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

**NEW:  
J.A.M. (JESUS AND  
ME) ZONE!**

**ASK THE VICAR:  
WHY DID JESUS  
HAVE TO DIE?**

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## MAGAZINE CONTACT

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## HOLY WEEK AT ST AIDAN'S

We would like to extend to you a special invitation to experience Holy Week with the St Aidan's Community:

SUN 29/03/2015	9:20	<b>PALM SUNDAY SERVICE</b> Gather in St Aidan's Community Hall
	16:00	<b>PASSIONTIDE SERVICE</b> At Christ Church
MON 30/03/2015	19:30	<b>HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL</b> At St Mary's Church, Wrotham Road
TUE 31/03/2015	19:30	<b>HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL</b> At Holy Family Church
WED 01/04/2015	19:30	<b>AGAPE MEAL</b> In the Powerhouse, St Aidan's Church
THU 02/04/2015	14:30 20:00	<b>"EASTER" AT ST GREGORY'S COURT</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY EUCHARIST</b> With symbolic 'washing of the hands'
FRI 03/04/2015	9:30	<b>GOOD FRIDAY MEDIATION</b> At St Aidan's Church, followed by Churches Together Easter Celebration in town.
SAT 04/04/2015	10:00	<b>EASTER ARTS &amp; CRAFTS + EGG HUNT</b> In St Aidan's Community Hall.
SUN 05/04/2015	10:30	<b>EASTER FAMILY COMMUNION</b> At St Aidan's Church

# EDITORIAL



## CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS



Our Mayor and Mayoress were special guests at the St Aidan's Community Day

Lauren performing!



Getting ready for the arrival of Father Christmas and our Christingle Service!



### DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Please be aware, the deadline for contributions to the next issue of the magazine is 6th April and should include all dates for May, June & July 2015!

## ON OUR WAY TO EASTER



**Good bye Christmas, Easter, here we come! In this issue of the magazine we look back at a blessed Christmas period at St Aidan's and we look forward to all the special events and services happening this Easter time.**

A special welcome to our new subscribers! We hope you will enjoy being informed about lots of things happening in your local community!

This is a special issue, as from now on the magazine will have 16 pages instead of 12. One of the things we have added is a special page for children! If you have any ideas of what to include next time, please do get in touch.

Last but not least, this issue also comes with a challenge. Or actually, with 40 challenges! On page eight, we have included a calendar with a challenge for each day of Lent. Instead of giving up something, it focusses on doing some good and positive for people around you.

Will you and your family join us in spreading some love this Lent and Easter?

Mirjam Ngoy - Editor

# A MISSIONARY IN OUR COMMUNITY

## MRS C. (84) SHARES HER STORY



**Her name is Evelyn Ann Jessie Cartwright, but most of us simply know her as “Mrs C.” I am meeting with her in her flat at St Gregory’s Court, a stone’s throw away from St Aidan’s Church. From her flat on the hill, she can see all the way to the river, but also keep an eye on everything that’s happening in the court. Even though she doesn’t often come to St Aidan’s Church, she is known by a lot of people in the community.**

She was born in 1930 in Guy’s Hospital, London. Her older brother died when he was only six weeks old, so Evelyn grew up together with her younger sister. As far as she can remember, her dad was always ill. He eventually died when she was 11-years-old: “Of lung cancer, but they only found out it was cancer the weekend he died. It was an awful time.” Evelyn shares how she was encouraged to give her dad a goodbye kiss after he died, but was shocked by how cold he was. She had to grow up overnight.

The war years are still vivid in her memory. Especially the meagre rations: two ounces of cheese, four ounces of margarine... Sometimes, Evelyn and her sister got a Saturday morning treat: a roll with butter on it. Evelyn tells me it is during the war that she learnt to pray. Even in school they used to pray for the war to end: “I was counting the days for when I would be old

enough to join the forces so I could help out myself. But the war ended when I was 15. We were so happy, we danced in the streets!”

When she was 17, Evelyn met her husband Maurice, a Gravesend based painter & decorator. After courting for six years they got married in 1954. Her husband came from Gravesend and lived in the area where she once thought she never wanted to live: Hampton Crescent: “I always said I wouldn’t go there. It was a rough area and I came from the country. There used to be a bit of a barrier. But I believe God put me right in the middle of where I didn’t want to go.”

Beneath her modest appearance is the soul of a pioneer. Evelyn is one of the original members of one of the most vibrant churches in town: “We first started going to Chalk Pentecostal Church [now City Praise Centre] in 1956. In the beginning, we met at

**“I BELIEVE GOD PUT ME RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF WHERE I DIDN’T WANT TO GO...”**

Chalk Village Hall. There were only about a dozen of us. I was one of the youngest. We were really searching for God. During one of our meetings, when I was still smoking, a lady gave me a word from God. She told me I had to stop smoking, it was very clear. So I stopped straight away. When you have really committed yourself to the Lord, He never leaves you and you never leave Him.”

“I have always stayed loyal to my church, because I believe sometimes we are called to stop in a certain place and really commit ourselves. Over the years a lot has changed. Of course, change is difficult. But my response is always to pray. And read the Bible. I think anyone who struggles with change needs to seek the face of the Lord. God will speak to you if you are willing to listen.”

## “ANYONE WHO STRUGGLES WITH CHANGE NEEDS TO SEEK THE FACE OF THE LORD...”

“Because of my health, I can’t always get involved with everything that happens in church. But I just go there and talk to people. The Bible says we should not despise the days of the small things. It is the small things that grow into big things. I have always prayed that God would give me a loving heart. I often think: what can I do today. I know I can’t go far, but sometimes it might just be a knock on someone’s door.”

Mrs C. is quite candid when talking about her serious health issues: “Yes,” she says, “I do have the big C, cancer. I try not to think about it. When it is my time



to go to the Lord, He will be there for me. I am not scared, because I know where I am going. There is no pain, praise God! I just don’t sleep very well. Maybe I should read the Bible more when I lie awake at night. I also keep a notebook with people I pray for. Even though I am ill, I still have a busy schedule. I don’t rest enough, is what the consultant tells me!”

I ask Mrs C. if there is anything she would like to say to the people of St Aidan’s Church. Without hesitation she answers: “To pray, to read God’s word and to give! Giving is one of the most important things in life. It is important to tithe your money [give 10% away]. We as older people should be an example to the younger ones, even in giving. It doesn’t matter what you give to God, He will give you back more than you can imagine. God has looked after me in tremendous ways. Most of the things I have got in this room have been given to me by the people around me.”

Even though Mrs C. never wanted to move to this part of Gravesend, she has been very happy here: “I have received so much love. My daughter told me: ‘you wanted to be a missionary, and this community is the place where you have been a missionary.’ I don’t want to bump myself up or be big headed, that is something I have never wanted. But if God has been able to use me in this community, I am very grateful.”

It is time to take some pictures, as Mrs C. will be the ‘cover girl’ of this issue of the magazine. “I better put a bit of lipstick on,” is what Evelyn says. “I haven’t got a clue what my hair looks like, but I did spend a couple of minutes on it this morning!”

As we say goodbye, I cannot help but feel inspired by this little woman with a big heart and faith!

By Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage

# NEWS FROM THE PARISH

## NEW: ST AIDAN'S ART CENTRE!

**Ben Okri once wrote: "Stories can conquer fear, you know. They can make the heart bigger." St Aidan's is joining forces with 2b Scene Theatre Company to help make hearts even bigger in our community.**

Young and old will have the opportunity to try their hand at new classes in drama and singing. Classes will be held at St Aidan's Community Hall.

All classes are taught by an experienced West End professional and are fun and challenging while at the same time giving each student confidence and basic experience in the performing arts.



Details of all classes can be found on the Upcoming Events page (page 12). For more information, please contact Gary on 079 8145 7667 or email: [gary@2bscenetheatre.com](mailto:gary@2bscenetheatre.com).

## LOOKING BACK AT OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

**What better way to start our Christmas celebrations than gathering in a church filled with voices of young and old for our annual Christingle service?**

We managed to raise close to £200 for the Children's Society. It was a lovely sight to see the candles lit in the oranges in the darkened church. More so, it was wonderful to see the many radiant faces, some stuffed with Christingle sweets.

A week later, we were delighted to welcome our Mayor, the Mayoress and local Councillors to our community carol service. It was also attended by members of the Riverview Baptist Fellowship. Mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine were served afterwards – it was good to enjoy fellowship together.

On Christmas Eve, the Christmas story was brought to life as the children brought up the figures and animals and laid them on a bed of straw underneath the altar.

Despite the chill of the late evening, a good number of both church members and visitors came to the

Midnight Mass. As always, there was a very special atmosphere – especially when we were able to sing the last verse of "O come all ye faithful"! ("Yea Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning").

Our Christmas season came to a close when we gathered on Epiphany Sunday for a special service marking the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. The service was followed by a wonderful spread of food.



*Starting the year with sparks!*

## FATHER CHRISTMAS ARRIVES AT ST AIDAN'S!

St Aidan's annual Christmas fair on 6th December opened at 10am with Father Christmas dramatically arriving in his sleigh by crane which also aroused curiosity amongst our neighbours.

A steady stream of people came through the doors throughout the morning to browse around the stalls and stop for a cup of tea or coffee. As usual the cake stall proved to be very popular and soon sold out. As well as stalls selling toiletries, toys, books, bric-a-brac and cards, there was a lucky dip, name the teddy, a hamper raffle and a general raffle.

One of the highlights of the fair this year was a raffle to win a ride in the crane which brought Father Christmas. The winner passed their prize to Lusa who was one of the few people brave enough to go to such a height! The use of the crane was kindly donated by Daniel Brignail. The fair raised a total of £465 for church funds.



## RE-OPENING OF CAFE!

**The Friday Community Café that closed in the autumn will soon be reopening its doors.**

Chris M'Boge, former chair of the Westcourt Residents Association (WRA), believes that the café is a vital institution for a number of members of the community who are isolated: "I have been involved with the café for the past two years and have seen how important those three hours every Friday morning were for many folks in the community. We



have even welcomed visitors from Germany. The café really deserves a new lease of life."

The café was originally run by volunteers from the WRA. However, since the committee became defunct at the end of October 2014, the café was unable to continue. St Aidan's PCC felt compelled to keep this vital service to the community going. A dedicated team has been busy planning the revamped version of the Community Café.

In reopening the café, the PCC is hoping that it will be a place for all in the community to come and meet others and build new relationships. The Reverend Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, Vicar of St Aidan's, says "It's a community café so we want to see everyone involved, especially young people. We are willing to offer volunteering experience and training. We want to make it into a safe place for all to come and find a nice atmosphere."

The official launch will be held after Easter in presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Gravesham and our local councillors. (date to be confirmed)

# J.A.M. (Jesus & Me) Zone!

H	T	I	A	F	G	O	D	L	L
O	L	S	L	O	L	O	O	V	A
P	I	E	I	D	J	V	T	H	M
E	G	E	V	W	E	G	G	S	B
O	H	R	E	R	S	L	D	U	T
C	T	G	H	I	U	A	N	N	T
R	C	R	O	S	S	N	H	D	E
O	G	A	A	E	Y	V	E	A	H
W	I	V	S	N	O	N	L	Y	Y
N	N	E	D	R	A	G	S	O	N

## WORDSEARCH

Find the following words:

ALIVE	JESUS
BUNNY	LAMB
CROSS	LIGHT
CROWN	LOVE
EGGS	RISEN
FAITH	SUNDAY
GARDEN	
GRAVE	
HOPE	

You should be left with 38 letters that together form a very famous sentence.

Ask your parents to email your answer, together with your first name, surname and age to [mirjamngoy@gmail.com](mailto:mirjamngoy@gmail.com) and your name might be mentioned in the next issue of this magazine!



## BIBLE VERSE

### A New Life

What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole.

1 Peter 1:3-5, The Message

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Given the success of last year's event, we've decided to bring back the Easter Craft Club followed by a massive egg hunt around St Aidan's Church and our Community Hall. Join us on **Saturday 4th April 2015, 10:00**. Tell your parents and all your friends. And by the way, the whole thing is totally free.



## COLOURING



# 40 ACTS FOR LENT











































**Lent is usually about 'giving stuff up', isn't it? What if you could add something transformational to the traditional?**

What if you could give up chocolate and give the money to your favourite charity? What if you could turn the TV off and spend more time helping your neighbour? What if Lent was a preparation for a lifetime of big-heartedness that reflected God's amazing generosity?

Well, that's where 40acts – the generosity challenge from Christian charity Stewardship - comes in.

We have included their 40 challenges for children and the whole family to use during the 40 days of Lent, starting on Wednesday 18th February to Saturday 4th April.

Visit [www.40acts.org.uk](http://www.40acts.org.uk) for more information on this initiative.

<p><b>1</b></p>  <p>Make a Generosity Kit. Add spare pencils, rubber, tissues, packet of sweets. What other useful things can you put in yours?</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>  <p>Create a Giving Jar. Feed it with loose change, money you might have spent, and fundraising money.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p>Make your bed and, if you are feeling really generous, make someone else's as well!</p>	<p><b>4 S</b></p>  <p>Be neighbourly, go with a grown up and say hello to your neighbours and maybe take some treats.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>  <p>Write down 5 things you are thankful for from today and chat about it at a mealtime.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>  <p>Say something nice about someone behind their back.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>  <p>Recycle any paper, plastic, tins or glass that you use today.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>  <p>Learn hello and thank you in some different languages.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>  <p>Say sorry first, even if it wasn't your fault.</p>	<p><b>10 S</b></p>  <p>Try to avoid using the car today, walk, cycle and scoot everywhere.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>  <p>Ask an adult if you can do any jobs/tasks at home, school, sports club.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>  <p>Thank someone you don't know e.g. bus driver or local shopkeeper.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>  <p>When you buy yourself a treat, buy two and give one away.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>  <p>Phone a grandparent or relative to say hello.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>  <p>Have a screen-free day today and use the time for other things.</p>
<p><b>16 S</b></p>  <p>Check through your games and toys and give ones you don't use to a charity shop (not broken ones!)</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>  <p>Offer to clean everyone's shoes and if you are really generous, the muddy ones as well.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>  <p>Try and go through the whole day without arguing - and that includes your family!</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>  <p>Tidy up your bedroom without being asked to.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>  <p>Leave someone an Easter egg in their bag or on their door step as a surprise.</p>
<p><b>21</b></p>  <p>Organise some fundraising activities at school, ask your teacher and get organised.</p>	<p><b>22 S</b></p>  <p>Pick up litter outside your home, church or school (with gloves on!)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>  <p>Pay a compliment to a family member, friend, or your teacher.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>  <p>Send emails, texts or cards today to 5 people you haven't spoken to in a while to find out how they are.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>  <p>Help make the dinner for your family this evening.</p>
<p><b>26</b></p>  <p>Invite someone outside your usual crowd home for tea.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>  <p>Try to learn the names of all your neighbours and say hello to them when you see them.</p>	<p><b>28 S</b></p>  <p>Switch off all electricity for 1 hour and play some family games by torch/candle light.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>  <p>Hide a surprise treat for someone (maybe even your teacher).</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>  <p>Be positive all day and try only to say encouraging things to other people.</p>
<p><b>31</b></p>  <p>Don't interrupt. Try to really listen and let family members and friends have their say.</p>	<p><b>32</b></p>  <p>Offer to set the table or do the washing up.</p>	<p><b>33</b></p>  <p>Be a good team player, don't hog the ball and don't sulk if you lose - especially to a family member!</p>	<p><b>34 S</b></p>  <p>Take someone breakfast in bed this morning.</p>	<p><b>35</b></p>  <p>Make an Easter Garden. Look at instructions in our resources for ideas (40acts.org.uk)</p>
<p><b>36</b></p>  <p>Give someone a Fairtrade Easter egg.</p>	<p><b>37</b></p>  <p>Share your favourite joke today and make someone laugh.</p>	<p><b>38</b></p>  <p>Make some Easter cards and send or deliver them.</p>	<p><b>39 S</b></p>  <p>Go online and find out about other young people's lives in different countries across the world.</p>	<p><b>40</b></p>  <p>Add up the money in your giving jar and get an adult to help donate it to your chosen charity.</p>

# OUR COMMUNITY

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### MEET STEVE BAMBERGER (55)

Steve is one of eight kids and was born and bred in Camberwell. For many years he has worked in the print trade and graphic art supplies. He is a faithful volunteer in the computer room of the Power House, where many of you might have met him.



parties and take us all away on holidays. He was the gester of the family, always joking with people."

**What would you change if you were Prime Minister for one day?**

"Only work one day a week. More seriously, I'd make sure that people have a healthier working pattern. No twelve hour shifts for instance."

**Why do you volunteer?**

"It gives me somewhere to go to and I get to meet new people."

**Eating in or out?**

"If I had the money, I would prefer eating out."

**What's your favourite season of the year?**

"The Summer, because it is warm and there are flowers. I love going to garden centres and visiting National Trust houses."

**What's your favourite day of the week?**

"If I was working it would be Sunday, but as I am not I have not got a favourite day."

**What do you do when you cannot sleep?**

"Have a cup of tea and play cards. But I normally sleep pretty well. When I was working, I often spent a few sleepless nights thinking about the next day."

**If you could invite anyone for dinner dead or alive who would you take?**

"My family. Because I miss my brother Les. He kept us together as a family. He used to organise meals and

**Who do you talk to on the phone most often?**

"My sister Janice and my son."

**If you could create anything what would it be?**

"A decent planet to live on. A better society, where life is valued more than progress and technology."

**What inspires you in life and why?**

"What inspires me is to see people who despite their own problems, go out to help others. People who use their challenges to improve the world."

**If you could do anything you wanted what would you do?**

"Sit on a nice warm beach and relax. I've never been abroad. If I had the money, I'd love to go and see what goes on in other countries. My own family comes from either Austria or Germany and I would love to know a little more about my roots."

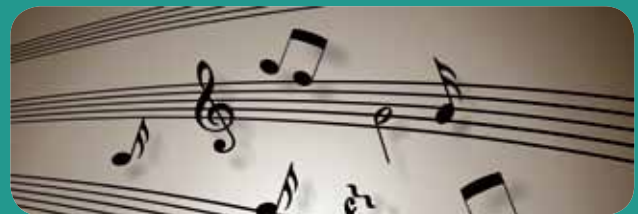
**If you could create anything what would it be?**

"My dream home."

By Valerie Weekes

## MY MUSIC

Music plays a very important part in the life of our organist and choir director, David Sisterson. Not only is he heavily involved in our services at St Aidan's week by week, but also at several other churches in the area. He is also a long term member of the Gravesham Choral Society. When asked if he had a particular favourite piece of music he had no hesitation in naming Bruckner's 4th Symphony. He



finds it to be very descriptive – and reminds him strongly of the Lake District – one of his favourite parts of the country.

# LIFE EVENTS

## BAPTISMS, FUNERALS & WEDDINGS

### Baptisms:

16/11/2014 Tyler Garland

### Funerals:

03/10/2014 Arthur Ernest Atherton (99)  
07/10/2014 Lydia Rose Webster (90)  
09/10/2014 Audrey Lily Joan Woolnough (76)  
21/10/2014 Eileen Mavis Rowswell (89)  
22/10/2014 Ronald Frederick Liddell (83)  
24/10/2014 Barry Charles Hawes (76)

28/10/2014 Jack Robin Mitchell (89)  
20/11/2014 Edward Graham Vaughan (69)  
03/12/2014 Albert Edward Payne (89)  
29/12/2014 Norma Elsie Cestaro (75)  
30/12/2014 Shirley King (79)  
08/01/2015 Olive Eggins (87)  
26/01/2015 Barbara Luck (72)

### Weddings:

22/11/2014 Luke Gary Harding & Dawn Theresa Everitt

## IN MEMORIAM

St Aidan's family was saddened by the death of two of its faithful parishioners. They both leave a huge gap in our hearts and we give thanks to God for all that they have contributed in the life and work of our church and community.

### THE LATE JACK ROBIN MITCHELL

30/11/1924 - 11/10/2014



Jack was a much loved and highly respected member of St Aidan's. He regularly attended worship, being part of the rota for Bible readings and leading the intercessions.

He had been a member of the PCC where he brought his vast experience of working in business and finance. He also thoroughly enjoyed the social side of church life. Jack was a member of our lunch club, befriending others, who like himself, were feeling the devastating effects of bereavement.

Many will remember the articles he wrote for "The Pilot" - some which brought a laugh, some which brought a tear.

Sadly Jack's health slowly deteriorated, and he passed

away at Darent Valley Hospital on 11th October. A large congregation of family, friends and church members said goodbye to him at his funeral service - a service which he had carefully planned himself.

### THE LATE BARBARA LUCK

16/10/1942 - 05/01/2015



Many of us have known Barbara as a faithful member of St Aidan's church. Her communicative joie de vivre and generosity meant that all loved her. Barbara sang for many years in our church choir and was always keen to support the church.

Her previous experience as a nursery nurse for Dr Bernardos in Folkestone, caring for babies and young children, was a valuable asset when she joined the staff of St Aidan's Nursery School. She also served on its committee as secretary until her health could not allow it.

In true fashion with her character, Barbara also worked as a fruit machine collector and as a private investigator together with Barry, her husband.

She will be missed by all at St Aidan's and the many friends she gathered along the way. Our thoughts and prayers go for James and Vicki, her children and her four grandchildren and one greatgrandchild.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## EVENTS AT ST AIDAN'S

### FEBRUARY 2015

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TUE 17/02/2015, 19:00

#### **PANCAKE PARTY**

Join us in the Powerhouse as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday with delicious pancakes setting us all off on the journey of Lent.

### MARCH 2015

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FRI 06/03/2015, 10.00

#### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

St Aidan's will again be hosting the service on Fri 6/03. Ladies from many different churches in the town will be taking part - all are welcome to join us - including gentlemen. There will be light refreshments afterwards.

SAT 21/03/2015, 10:00-13:00

#### **SPRING BOOT FAIR**

This will be held in the Church & Community Hall. You can donate good quality items for sale in support of church fundraising. For further information and to book a table, please contact Jenny (01474 352253).

SUN 22/03/2014, 9.30

#### **APCM**

We invite you all to join us for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This is when we review the past year; look ahead to the next; approve the accounts; elect Churchwardens and PCC members and appoint people to various roles. The APCM will follow after a short worship service.

### APRIL 2015

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SAT 04/04/2014, 10:00-12:00

#### **EASTER ARTS & CRAFT CLUB + EGG HUNT**

Join us at the Community Hall for a craft club and Easter egg hunt. This is a free event for children and their parents.

## EVENTS IN GRAVESEND

### FEBRUARY 2015

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WED 18/02/2015, 12:15-13:45

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY BREAD & CHEESE LUNCH**

The annual Ash Wednesday Bread and Cheese Lunch will be at St George's Church Hall, Church Street. Admission £2.50 at the door. As well as the lunch, there will be a bring & buy stall and homemade cakes and preserves for sale. Do please come along and enjoy fellowship with members of other churches.

### LENT COURSE

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Wondering what to give up for Lent? Well, how about taking something up instead? The East Gravesend Group of churches will be running a truly inspiring and stimulating course on the theme of Challenging Poverty. This Lent course, devised by Rochester diocese, will be an opportunity to explore myths and facts about poverty. It will also be a chance to discover what the Bible has to say about the topic. Ultimately, it could help you decide how best to respond to the issue of poverty.

#### **Session 1 - Defining Poverty**

TUE 24/02/2015, 19:30 - Holy Family Church

WED 25/02/2015, 11:00 - St Georges Church\*

#### **Session 2 - Challenging Poverty**

TUE 03/03/2015, 19:30 - St Aidan's Church

WED 04/03/2015, 11:00 - St Georges Church\*

#### **Session 3 - Friends of the Poor**

TUE 10/03/2015, 19:30 - Christ Church

WED 11/03/2015, 11:00 - St Georges Church\*

#### **Session 4 - Poverty and Justice**

TUE 17/03/2015, 19:30 - St Mary's, Wrotham Road

WED 18/03/2015, 11:00 - St Georges Church\*

#### **Session 5 - What's Next**

TUE 24/03/2015, 19:30 - St Paul's URC

WED 25/03/2015, 11:00 - St Georges Church\*

\*followed by soup lunch

# WEEKLY GROUPS AND MEETINGS AT ST AIDAN'S

## TUESDAYS

### **SINGING CLASSES**

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St Aidan's Arts Centre offers singing lessons on Tuesdays between 17:00-19:00 (from Tue 24/02/15). Contact Gary Cordice on 079 8145 7667 for more info.

## WEDNESDAYS

### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUB (INCLUDING DRAMA)**

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A club for children to learn drama, play games, do crafts, and meet old & new friends. Every Wednesday during term-time at St Aidan's Community Hall, 15:30-17:00 (with 45 minutes of drama). Subs 50p.

## FRIDAYS

### **COMMUNITY CAFE**

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The Community Cafe will re-open in April 2015. Come and have some Breakfast or a cuppa at the Powerhouse, every Friday from 9:00-12:00.

### **CHURCH CHOIR**

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if you're interested in singing, why not join our church choir. We rehearse every Friday in church from 19:45.

### **DRAMA CLASSES**

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Teen and adult drama classes are held on Fridays between 19:00-21:30. (From Fri 20/02/15). Contact Gary Cordice on 079 8145 7667 for more info.

# MONTHLY GROUPS AND MEETINGS AT ST AIDAN'S

## 1ST WEDNESDAY

### **COFFEE MORNING**

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Join us at the Powerhouse for coffee and tea right after our Wednesday communion service. There is a cake stall with delicious cakes for sale:

WED 04/02/2015, 10:15  
WED 04/03/2015, 10:15  
WED 01/04/2015, 10:15

## 2ND WEDNESDAY

### **AIDAN LADIES**

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A group of ladies meets at the Powerhouse to chat, play games, do crafts or listen to stories. Please feel free to join us, all women are welcome:

WED 11/02/2015, 14:00  
WED 11/03/2015, 14:00  
WED 08/04/2015, 14:00

## 3RD WEDNESDAY

### **CRAFT CLUB**

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A group of us meets at the Powerhouse to do crafts activities. Please feel free to join us:

WED 18/02/2015, 14:00  
WED 18/03/2015, 14:00  
WED 15/04/2015, 14:00

## LAST THURSDAY

### **CAMEO**

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Are you at a "loose end" on the last Thursday afternoon of the month? If so, why not COME AND MEET OTHERS for a cup of tea, a piece of cake and a chat at our Church & Community Hall. Suggested donation of 50p.

THU 26/02/2015, 14:00-16:00  
THU 26/03/2015, 14:00-16:00  
THU 30/04/2015, 14:00-16:00

# ASK THE VICAR

## WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

Email your question to [info@staidangravesend.org](mailto:info@staidangravesend.org)



Dear Lusa,

Dear Lusa, my name is Ola. I've been pondering for a long time about the Easter story, especially the cross. Could you tell me: why did Jesus have to die?

Olu

Dear Olu,

Why did Jesus have to die? All theology students, in the course of their studies, come across this question. As a matter of fact, hundreds of books have been written on the topic. Even today, Christian theologians wrestle with how best to answer this question. Many of our attempts to solve it will naturally reflect the diversity and complexity of the question.

The starting point is the Christian understanding that our world, created perfect, became imperfect through sin. The Bible is a retelling of that story with an emphasis on God's effort to redeem the whole of creation. For Christians it is through Jesus's death that the world's broken relationship with God is restored. This is known as the Atonement, from at-one-ment, being 'at one', reconciled, in harmony with someone. There are various theories of atonement, each attempting to give a specific angle to the story of salvation.

At the heart of that story of reconciliation, Christians have set the cross as a key symbol of the atonement. Christian's fascination with the cross is not an indication of their taste for gore and blood, nor is it their endorsement of violence. Instead, the cross, a Roman instrument of torture and execution, says something about humanity, its penchant for violence and brutality, and its ability to strip others of all dignity and purpose. The cross is a symptom of everything that is wrong with a broken world. In dying on that cross, Jesus aims to take on once and for all the forces of evil and decay.

By choosing the cross, God protests against the worst of humanity, and at the same time, stands in solidarity with the brokenness of that same humanity; an echo

of the nativity story, Emmanuel, God with us. In the end though, Jesus triumphs over those forces and exposes their limits. To me, the cross can only be fully understood in light of the resurrection. It is a way of saying that the forces of destruction and division should not and do not have the final word.

As we reflect on Jesus' death, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that the story of Jesus is as much about his death and resurrection as it is about his life. If Jesus' death is important, so too is his life. It is through the living Jesus that we're given an insight of a different way of being human.

The atonement is a key concept in Christianity. Sadly, Christians have often opposed each other according to where they stood on the debate. That is a contradiction because atonement theories are about reconciliation, being at one, in harmony. Ultimately, what matters, is perhaps not so much how watertight the argument is, but how it helps us to be reconciled with self, the other, and God.

My prayer is that as we each face aspects of our broken world, unemployment, poverty, broken relationships, illness, etc., we may also experience something of that spirit of reconciliation and find ways to fully reconnect with the world as it should be.

Peace and love, Lusa

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**peace.**

It does not mean to be in a place  
where there is no noise, trouble, or  
hard work. It means to be in the  
midst of all those things and  
still be calm in your heart.

(unknown)



# St Aidan's Church Gravesend

St Aidan's Way  
Gravesend  
Kent, DA12 4AG

Registered Charity No 1130169

[www.staidangravesend.org.uk](http://www.staidangravesend.org.uk)  
[info@staidangravesend.org.uk](mailto:info@staidangravesend.org.uk)



## OUR MISSION

To share God's love  
in the community.

As a church we want to develop relationships  
that demonstrate the love of God.

We aim to be a multi-ethnic, multi-generational,  
mission-shaped church that loves God completely,  
ourselves correctly and the neighbour compassionately.

## OUR REGULAR SERVICES

1st Sunday	10.30	All Age Communion Service
2nd Sunday	9.30	Communion Service & Sunday School
3rd Sunday	9.30	Communion Service & Sunday School
	18.30	Joint Service with Riverview Baptists at the Christopher Centre
4th Sunday	9.30	Communion Service & Sunday School
5th Sunday	9.30	Communion Service with Prayer for Healing & Sunday School
Wednesdays	9.30	Communion Service

God's Love Ignites - God's Love Unites