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| **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 Mary the Virgin, Wrotham Road.****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 |
| See the source image | WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY | See the source image |
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| **SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2024 – 1st SUNDAY OF LENT** **10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist (B C P) with Sunday School** |
| *OT Reading**Psalm**NT Reading**Gospel* | **Genesis 9**: 8-17 (OT page 7)**25, verses 1-9****1 Peter 3**: 18-end(NT page 223) **Mark 9**: 1-15 (NT page 42) |
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| **ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK** |
| **Tue 20th**  | **11.00am** | (to 1.00pm) **Warm Space** – Lounge (hot drinks, soup, rolls) |
| **Wed 21st**  | **EMBER DAY** |  |
|  | **8.30am** | **Morning Prayer** |  |
|  | **9.30am** | **Eucharist (said)** *Reading****:* Numbers 27**: 15-end (OT page 141) *Gospel:***Luke 12**: 35-43 (NT page 47) |
|  | **1.00pm** | **Little Rainbows** – Hall (for pre-schoolers & carers) |
| **Thu 22nd**  | **11.00am** | **Funeral of The Late Anne Welch** |
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| **SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2024 – 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT**  |
| **10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist** | ***This is the last day for adding names to the Electoral Roll*** |
| *OT Reading**Psalm**NT Reading**Gospel* | **Genesis 17**: 1-7, 15, 16 (OT page 12)**22, verses 23-end** **Romans 4**: 17-end(NT page 146)**Mark 8**: 31-end (NT page 41) |
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| **SUNDAYS IN LENT**Instead of the Gloria, we sing Lord Have Mercy, Christ Have Mercy, Lord Have Mercy but in Greek, as follows: **Kyrie Eleison (x3), Christe Eleison (x3), Kyrie Eleison (x3)** |
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| **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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| **WHAT’S ON IN MARCH 2024(other than the usual services for which please see above)**  | **MCj04404060000[1]** |
| **Every Tuesday 11am-1pm** | **Warm Space** - Lounge |
| **Wed 6th**  | **10.15am** | (approx) **Coffee Morning** - Lounge |
| **Sun 10th**  | **10.00am** | **Mothering Sunday Eucharist with Sunday School** |
| **Wed 13th**  | **2.00pm** | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** |
| **Sun 17th**  | **11.15am** | **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** – Church **(after the 10.00am Eucharist)** |
| **Thu 21st**  | **7.30pm** | **P C C Meeting** – West Room |
| **Sun 24th**  | **9.50am** | **Meet in the Church Hall for Palm Sunday procession to Church** |
| **Wed 27th**  | **7.00pm**  | **Agapé Meal – Lounge [This will be a 'help yourself' cold buffet .  To assist with catering, please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you are hoping to come - a donation of £4 per head would be appreciated]**  |
| **Thu 28th**  | **8.00pm** | **Maundy Thursday - Liturgy of Last Supper & Vigil** |
| **Fri 29th**  | **3.00pm** | **Good Friday Liturgy** |
| **Sun 31st** | **10.00am** | **Easter Day Eucharist with Anointing** |
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| **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL****If you are not already on the Church’s Electoral Roll you have only until next Sunday (25th February) to join. To qualify you must be at least 16 years old on 17th March AND be baptised AND either resident within the parish OR be an habitual worshipper here. Forms are available in the vestibule and, when completed, should be handed to Doreen McIntosh or Mike Welch both of whom will gladly answer any queries you may have.** |
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| **A Prayer as Children leave for Sunday School May God guide each of us, whatever our age or experience, in the way of Christ. The love of God be with us all. Amen.** | **MC900128551[1]** |
| **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, which includes Sunday School.***The Temptation***As Lent now gets underway, we encounter the Temptation of Jesus in our gospel reading this week. The version we have this year is from Mark’s gospel - in this reading, the story of the temptation is glossed over in a few lines; in Matthew and Luke we have much more detail, including the various tests which the Devil places in Jesus’ way. If the temptation only appeared in Mark we would have very little to go on, and would probably think it was a rather straightforward, brief event. Yet even those more detailed accounts in Matthew and Luke fail to truly capture what the testing in the desert must have actually been like.Jesus was from Galilee, a landscape known for its greenery, cool breezes and of course the great sweeping lake. What a contrast to the Judean desert! A place of little or no water, a place of dust and scorpions with scorching heat in the day and bitter cold at night. We can only wonder what the Galilean Jesus made of such a place! Yet for Jesus it was the place of his formation. At its most essential level, the temptation is less about what the devil was doing and saying, and more about Jesus getting right back to basics, spending long hours in solitude and silence, giving his body no attention.This is all very well for Jesus, but what do we do with this? At Ash Wednesday last week, as the ash is applied to the body in the sign of the Cross, the priest says *“remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.”* This is, in the end, all we need to know about what to do: face up to what we are, resolve to leave the ways that leave to death, and turn to life, only found in Jesus.*May your Lenten journey be a time of reflection and blessing,**Fr Michael* |
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| **LENTEN APPEAL FOR DEMELZA CHILDREN’S HOSPICE**It’s not too late to take a Smartie Tube (eating the contents after Lent, if you can wait!) and fill it with coins. 20p & £1 coins fit well as does paper money if rolled up. Filled tubes should be returned by Easter Sunday, at the latest please, so that we may make a prompt donation to Demelza. Many thanks. |