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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 Margaret, Ifield.**  **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) ↓** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 11th MAY 2025 – 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER**  ***Start of Christian Aid Week*** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **All Age Parish Eucharist with Sunday School**  *OT Reading:* **Genesis 7:** 1-5, 11-18 (OT page 5)  *Psalm* **23** *NT Reading*: **Acts 9**: 36-end (NT page 122)*Gospel:* **John 10**: 22-30 (NT page 99) | | | | | | | |
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| **THIS WEEK’S EVENTS** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed14th** | **ST MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE** | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **9.30am** | | | | | **Eucharist (said)**  *OT Reading****:* Isaiah 22**:15**-***-end* (OT page 596)  *NT Reading:* **Acts 1**: 15-end (NT page 112)  Gospel: **John 15**: 9-17 (NT page 105) | | | | |
| **1.00pm** | | | | | | (to 3.00pm) **Little Rainbows – Hall (for toddlers & their carers)** | | | | |
|  | **2.00pm** | | | | | **Aidan Ladies Meeting –** Lounge & West Room | | | | |
| **Thu 15th** | **7.30pm** | | | | | **PCC Meeting** | | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 18th MAY 2025 – 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Parish Eucharist with Sunday School** (Book of Common Prayer)  *Psalm:*  **148, verses 1-6** *OT Reading* **Genesis 22**: 1-18 (OT page 16)   *NT Reading*: **Acts 11**: 1-18 (NT page 123)*Gospel:* **John 13**: 31-35 (NT page 103) | | | | | | | |
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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   ([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) – temporarily suspended***  **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 MAY 2025 other than regular events for which please see above & on page 1** | | | | | | | | | | MCj01510850000[1] |
| ***ECO CHURCH – THEMES FOR THIS MONTH***  ***Creating compost; protecting endangered species (World Bee day 20th May)*** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 21st** | | | **2.00pm** | | | | **Craft & Chat** – West Room | | | |
| **Sat 24th** | | | **10.00am** | | | | **Christian Aid Coffee Cake & Plant Sale (see below)** | | | |
| **Sun 25th** | | | **10.00am** | | | | **The Open Collection at this Service will be donated to *The Gravesend Daytime Hub*** | | | |
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| **CAN YOU HELP?** - Please add your name as appropriate to the list at the back of the church if you are able to help with the Cake and Coffee morning on 24th May. Many thanks, Mavis    **LOOKING AHEAD**  14th June:  **Games Event** - Church Hall, 4.00pm – 6.00pm  5th July:  **Quiz Evening**, Church Hall, 7.00pm    **RECYCLING**  A reminder that we are still collecting stamps for charity and are now recycling batteries, ink cartridges, bread wrappers, crisp packets and there are receptacles for these at the back of the church. **PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE NO LONGER SAVING MILK BOTTLE TOPS AS WE NO LONGER HAVE A CONTACT TO PROCESS THEM.** | | | | | | | | | | |
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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]** | |

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| **From The Vicar**  Welcome to our worship today, which includes Sunday School.  ***‘I and the Father are one.’***  Did Jesus know that he was divine? The gospels do not give us a definite answer to this question. We have powerful suggestions that he did, but also that he did not. For example, from the cross in agony, Jesus cries out to God ‘Why have you forsaken me?’ This sounds as if Jesus is unaware that he will overcome this terrible situation yet elsewhere , before his execution, he speaks openly about his coming death and that he will rise again, so it is a puzzle. John’s gospel does the most work towards showing us the divinity of Jesus. He begins in chapter one with the dizzying assertion that Jesus was with God before creation, using the Greek philosophical idea of the Word, the expressive dynamic of God. It’s all quite complex! In today’s reading from chapter 10, Jesus gives it to us straight, ‘I and the Father are one’. This sounds like he is saying they are the same but we might use the language of being ‘one’ with someone with whom we have a very close relationship; the wedding service speaks powerfully of two people becoming ‘one’ so how should we think of Jesus’ statement here?  The group who have been speaking with him are trying to get him to say something blasphemous, and they ask him to tell them ‘plainly’ if he is the Messiah. Jesus uses the shepherding imagery so often employed in the Old Testament to signify the relationship between God and his people, and is careful point out that that what he has received from the Father is ‘greater’ than anything else, in other words, he places the Father above all things. This is not blasphemy. His following statement though, does send them into a fury because he says he is ‘one’ with the father. However, it is most likely that Jesus is talking about unity with God because he is indeed the messiah-it does not answer the question of whether Jesus knew he was divine. This was a matter for later people to discuss, who, at important church councils came to the view of Jesus the Son as part of the Trinity-God in Three. In the end, what matters here is that Jesus is the Messiah and that he is of ‘one being’ with the Father, as we say in the Creed each week, and that pondering Jesus is always time well spent!  ***Christian Aid***  Thank you very much to those who took part in the bucket collection of donations for Christian Aid last week at Morrison’s. This week is the official Christian Aid week and don’t forget our popular plant sale on Saturday 24th.  *Blessings,*  *Fr Michael* |

**LENT APPEAL** – The Smartie Tube appeal for Demelza House Children’s Hospice raised **£378.12** – well done.