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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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****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 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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| ***THIS WEEK’TH*THIS WEEK’S EVENTS**  |
| **Wed 15th**  | **TERESA of AVILA** |
|  | **9.30am** | **Eucharist (said)**  *NT Reading:* **Romans 8**: 22-27(NT page 149) Gospel: **Matthew 13**: 52- end (NT page 15) |
|  | **12.15pm** | **Christian Aid Soupa Meal** – St George’s Church Hall **(see below)** |
|  | **1.00pm** | **Little Rainbows** – Church Hall |
|  | **2.00pm** | **Craft & Chat Meeting** - Lounge |
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| **SUNDAY 19th OCTOBER 2025 – 18th SUNDAY after TRINITY** |
| **10.00am** | **Parish Eucharist with Sunday School***OT Reading:* **Jeremiah 31**: 27-34(OT page 672)*Psalm* **119, verses 97-104***NT Reading:* **2 Timothy** 3:14 – **4**: 5 (NT page 203)*Gospel:* **Luke 18**: 1-8 (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.****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** |
| **† 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 2025other 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** |
| **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 |
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| **WHAT’S ON IN NOVEMBER 2025other than regular events for which please see above & on page 1** |
| ***SILVER ECO CHURCH – THEME FOR THIS MONTH:******Trees, Buying nothing*** |
| **SUNDAY SCHOOL is on SUNDAY 16th at 10.00am** |
| **Sun 2nd**  | **4.00pm** | **All Souls Service of Thanksgiving** |
| **Wed 5th**  | **10.15am** | (approx) **Coffee Morning** (after the 9.30am Service) |
| **Sun 9th**  | **10.00am** | **Service includes an Act of Remembrance** (no Sunday School) |
| **Wed 12th**  | **2.00pm** | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** - Lounge |
| **Wed 19th**  | **2.00pm** | **Craft & Chat Meeting** - Lounge |
| **Thu 20th**  | **7.30pm** | **P C C Meeting** |
| **Sat 29th** | **10.00am** | **Christmas Fair** - Hall |
| **Sun 30th**  | **10.00am** | **Eucharist with Advent Carols & Anointing** |
| **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). |
| **From The Vicar**From the VicarWelcome to our worship today.Luke’s WarningIn 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, salvationWelcome to our worship today, which includes Sunday School.***Another Samaritan***Today's gospel reading features the 'ten lepers' story in which ten people suffering from a serious disease approach Jesus, begging for healing. In the New Testament, leprosy was a 'catch all' term for any number of infectious diseases that meant a person was ritually unclean and thus somewhat shunned by society.Jesus sends them to the priest and whilst there, their malady disappears.To Jesus' consternation, only one of the ten rushes back to Jesus to thank him-to top it off, this man is a Samaritan, who Jesus refers to as a 'foreigner'.Jesus' main point here is that most of these people have received healing and immediately gone back to their lives-he is staggered by their self-centredness; the body may have been healed but their spiritual lives are distorted.Yet before him kneels this Samaritan man.The gospel writers refer to Samaritans quite a few times; they were obviously a hot topic in those days and seemed to represent a kind of 'otherness' which marked them out as different from other 'foreigners' such as non Jewish gentile groups, or officials from the Roman administration.The Samaritans were a Hebrew sect and you may be surprised to learn that there are still Samaritans today, living in the modern State of Israel.For the Samaritans, the most holy place was not the Temple in Jerusalem, but Mount Gerizim in the North. Samaritans believed that they alone maintained the original 'Mosaic' faith, that is, the faith in God received and shaped by Moses.It seems that in this story, similar to the 'Good Samaritan' story, Jesus points out the faith of the 'other', and the lack of faith in those who belong to his faith community and should know better.In these moments, the gospel writers begin to prise open the closed, insular world of religious observance and make way for faith.Key to all this is the heart of the individual person-when it is moved by longing for Christ the Holy Spirit infuses that heart and causes the person to seek him, even if they cannot articulate what they seek due to culture, religion or a person's regrets about the past or fears for the future, the Spirit does its work.For those who call themselves Christians and regularly worship in church and hold certain beliefs, such readings serve as a hand on the tiller of our own hearts to steer us ever towards Christ and not inwards to our institution. The Church itself has much to teach us about the Christian life and we would be in serious spiritual trouble without the sacraments so of course we 'need' the religious dimension to our faith, but it is our *faith* that moves the heart and soul.*Blessings,**Fr Michael* |