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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 **Christ Church.**  **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 25th MAY 2025 – 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER**  **The Open Collection at this Service will be donated to *The Gravesend Daytime Hub*** | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **Parish Eucharist with Sunday School** (Book of Common Prayer)  *OT Reading* **Ezekiel 37**: 1-14 (OT page 738)  *Psalm:*  **67**   *NT Reading*: **Acts 16**: 9-15 (NT page 129)*Gospel:* **John 14**: 23-29 (NT page 104) | | | | | | |
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| **THIS WEEK’S EVENTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 28th** | **ASCENSION DAY (transferred from Thursday 29th May)** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **9.30am** | | | | | **Eucharist (said) (Book of Common Prayer)**  *NT Reading:* **Acts** 1: 1-11 (NT page 112)  Gospel: **Luke 24**: 44-end (NT page 87) | | | |
| **1.00pm** | | | | | | (to 3.00pm) **Little Rainbows – Hall (for toddlers & their carers)** | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 1st JUNE 2025 – 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER** | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | **All Age Parish Eucharist**  *Gospel:* **John 17**: 20-end (NT page 107) | | | | | | |
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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 JUNE 2025 other than regular events for which please see above & on page 1** | | | | | | | | | MCj04124640000[1] |
| ***ECO CHURCH – THEMES FOR THIS MONTH***  ***Clean air; protecting endangered rain forests*** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 4th** | | | **10.15am** | | | | (approx) **Coffee Morning** - Lounge | | |
| **Fri 6th** | | | **9.30am** | | | | **Holy Rosary at Aylesford Priory (meet at Aylesford car park)** | | |
| **Wed 11th** | | | **2.00pm** | | | | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** – Lounge & West Room | | |
| **Sat 14th** | | | **4.00pm** | | | | **(to 6.30pm)** **Family Games Event** – Church Hall | | |
| **Sun 15th** | | | **10.00am** | | | | **The open collection at this Service will be donated to the RNLI** | | |
| **Wed 18th** | | | **2.00pm** | | | | **Craft & Chat** – West Room | | |
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| **. . . & on 5th July there ia a** **Quiz Evening** in the Church Hall at 7.00pm | | | | | | | | | |
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| **WAYS TO DONATE** There is an almsdish for donations as you leave plus a card reader for those who carry little cash. Regular payments may also be made through the Freewill Offering Envelope scheme (cash or cheques) or through a bank standing order. Gift Aid forms may be completed by those who pay income tax to enable St Aidan’s to reclaim tax on donations, costing you, yes, nothing! And there’s always the gift of a Legacy . . . . . . Please contact our Treasurer, Barbara Potter, for details. Many thanks. | | | | | | | | | |
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| **From The Vicar**  Welcome to our worship today.  ***‘I will send the Advocate to you…’***  We continue to move through the section of John’s gospel in which he prepares his disciples for life after him, that is, following his upcoming death. Last week and this, Jesus speaks of the importance of love and we continue to see that love is the hallmark of the Christian life. Not just the love of our ‘loved ones’ though, but more challenging things like love for our enemies. This is hard, but it has always been the Christian way.  Jesus seems to know the challenge, and that on our own we would soon fail in our task; so he speaks of sending help, the ‘Advocate’ as it is translated in the NRSV Bible, but a note tells me that ‘helper’ is also a word that has been used here. This is I think a better word. An advocate represents you, but in the challenge of living out the socially cohesive love Jesus demands needs less representation but help.  This ‘helper’ has been understood as the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity and the one which proceeds from Jesus at Pentecost.  What kind of help will the Spirit provide?  This is hard to pin down because the Holy Spirit cannot be summed up or hemmed in, but usually it is through inspiration, challenge, guidance. These are the things which prompt people to do crazy things like be a military chaplain in a war zone or visit dangerous inmates in prison, set up a night shelter in church for the homeless, take flasks of coffee to prostitutes on the cold city streets at night, and so many other things. It prompts people to become nurses, teachers, social workers, or to be workplace chaplains in offices, bus depots, sports clubs.  There will be innumerable ways in which God helps us to love and some of these will be small, everyday things.  Here at St Aidan’s we have been at work for Christian Aid, and I am grateful for the plant sale yesterday which was a good event once again. In any case, let’s pray for the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into love.  *Blessings,*  *Fr Michael* |