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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 Botolph, Northfleet.**  **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 31st AUGUST 2025 – ST AIDAN of LINDISFARNE PATRONAL FESTIVAL** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | | **Parish Eucharist** *OT Reading:* **Isaiah 45**: 22-end: (OT page 619)  *Psalm:* **47**  *NT Reading:*  **1 Corinthians 9:** 16-19 (NT page 162 )  *Gospel:* **John 13**: 16-20 (NT page 103) | | | | | | |
|  | | | | This service will be followed at about **11.30am** by a Picnic in the field next to St Gregory's Court. Bring a picnic and enjoy games for all ages & we are hoping that children who usually come to our Sunday School, and their families, will join us. | | | | | | |
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| ***THIS WEEK’TH*THIS WEEK’S EVENTS** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **SEPT,** | | **GREGORY the GREAT** | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 3rd** | | **9.30am** | | | | | **Eucharist (said)**  *OT Reading:* **1 Kings 3**: 11-14 (OT page 290)  *Gospel:* **Matthew 5**: 13-19 (NT page 4) | | | |
|  | **10.15am** | | | | | | (approx) **Coffee Morning** – Lounge (after the 9.30am Service) | | | |
| **Fri 5th** | | **9.00am** | | | | | **The Holy Rosary** - Ladychapel | | | |
| **Sat 6th** | | **10.30am** | | | | | **Parish Walk -** starting from Higham   (see information at the back of the church) | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2025 – TRINITY 12** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | | ***[The open collection will be donated to Hope Gardens, S.India]*  All Age Parish Eucharist** *Gospel:* **Luke 14**: 25-33 (NT page 74) | | | | | | |
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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** | | | | | | **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 SEPTEMBER 2025 other than regular events for which please see above & on page 1** | | | | | | | | | | Image result for Free Clip Art Black and White Flowers |
| ***SILVER ECO CHURCH – THEME FOR THIS MONTH:***  ***Creation; Zero Waste Week (1-5 September); Cleanup Month*** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **SUNDAY SCHOOL is on SUNDAYS 14th & 21st SEPTEMBER at 10.00am** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 10th** | | | | **2.00pm** | | | | **Aidan Ladies Meeting -** Lounge | | |
| **Sun 14th** | | | | **10.00am**  **4.00pm** | | | | **Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)**  **Confirmation Service** | | |
| **Wed 17th** | | | | **2.00pm** | | | | **Craft & Chat Meeting -** Lounge | | |
|   **BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON**  As our recent board games afternoon proved so popular we are planning another for Saturday 25th October in the Church Hall between 4.00 - 6.30pm. As previously, there will be games for all ages - more details to follow. | | | | | | | | | | |
|   **CONFIRMATION SERVICE – 4.00pm ON 14th SEPTEMBER**  If you are able to provide sandwiches, quiches and other savoury & sweet treats or after this event, please sign your name on the list at the back of the church. Thank you.  MC900048037[1] | | | | | | | | | | |

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| **From The Vicar**  Welcome to our worship today, which is our Patronal Festival of St Aidan.  ***Our Church and the ‘Little Flame’***  Aidan was an Irish monk living during the ‘dark ages’- he died in 651.  At some point he left Ireland for the Celtic outpost of Iona, a small island in the Hebrides off the Scottish coast. He probably lived there for many years until he set off again, this time for Northumberland, to set up a school and a church in that kingdom. He established these on the tiny, windswept island of Lindisfarne, which in time became a great powerhouse of learning on northern Europe.  The name Aidan means ‘little flame’-perhaps he was a younger brother in a large family? Who knows, but many of us have sung the the hymn *‘this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine’*- Aidan certainly made good use of his light; he was no silent monk retired from the world, he seems to have been active in diplomacy, education and statecraft as he journeyed onto the mainland to advise the king and to spread the mission of the Church before returning to his little island haven.  Despite living in turbulent times, Aidan was not martyred but died peacefully in the church at Bamburgh, a spot on the mainland close to Holy Island. The remains of a priory which still stand today on the island are from a much later, medieval church. The spot where Aidan’s original church probably was, is marked out in simple flat stones. It was small, but faced out to sea, a different kind of flame, guiding travellers to Christ.  Our own church was consecrated in 1963 and dedicated to Aidan-in truth nobody knows why! However, it has been a blessing to have a church here in this part of Gravesend, so near the sea but also the tumults of London, and which somehow mirrors Aidan’s life of calm isolation with active engagement with the world.  Recently, thanks to the National Lottery Awards for All scheme, we have been able to refurbish our church hall with a repaired floor, new chairs and fresh paintwork. I hope this will make our hall more fit for purpose as a nursery, place of worship and community centre.  Inside the church itself, we have gratefully received a grant from the Diocese to improve our sound system-works should begin soon. We have also been able to remove the porches outside which gives the front of the church a brighter, open and more welcoming feel.  I hope that these improvements will help our efforts to be a flame in our community as we journey on in Christ’s name, inspired by St Aidan. May he pray for us. Amen.  *Blessings, Fr Michael* |