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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, 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>.**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 11th FEBRUARY 2024 – SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT** **10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist (with Sunday School)** |
| *OT Reading**Psalm**NT Reading**Gospel* |  **2 Kings 2**: 1-12 (OT page 316) **50, verses 1-6** **2 Corinthians** 4: 3-6(NT page 171)  **Mark 8**: 2-9 (NT page 41) |  |
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| **ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK** |
| **Tue 13th**  | **11.00am** | (to 1.00pm) **Warm Space** – Lounge (hot drinks, soup, rolls) |
| **Wed 14th**  | **ASH WEDNESDAY** | **Image result for clip art ash wednesday** |
|  | **8.30am** | **Morning Prayer** |
|  | **9.30am** | **Eucharist (said) with Imposition of Ashes***Reading****:* Isaiah 58**: 1-12 (OT page 630) *Gospel:***Matthew 6**: 1-6, 16-21 (NT page 5) |
|  |  | There will be a short seminar on **Desert Spirituality for Lent,** following the Eucharist, and also via Zoom at 7pm on Sunday 18th. Please let the Vicar know if you would like to attend either session. |
|  | **12.15pm** | **Christian Aid Bread & Cheese Lunch -** St George’s Church. Cost £3 includes tea/coffee; also a home-made stall (ends at 1.45pm) |
|  | **1.00pm** | **Little Rainbows** – Hall (for pre-schoolers & carers) |
|  | **2.00pm** | **Aidan Ladies** – Lounge & West Room |
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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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| **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 FEBRUARY 2024(other than the usual services for which please see above)**  | **See the source image** |
| **Thu 22nd**  | **11.00am** | **Funeral of the late Anne Welch in Church** |
| **Sun 25th**  |  | **Last day for adding names to the Electoral Roll** |
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| **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**If you are not already on the Electoral Roll now is the time to join. The cost? Nothing! Then why wouldn’t you? Membership entitles you to attend & vote at the APCM on 17th March. But you have only until 25th February to do this. 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 and let you know whether you are already on the Roll if you are unsure,  |
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| **LEGACIES** It has been suggested by the PCC that those making a will could consider whether they wished to leave a legacy to St Aidan’s. Such bequests would help to keep St Aidan’s flourishing in the future. |
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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 Transfiguration of Jesus***In today’s Gospel we revisit the dramatic scene on Mount Tabor in Palestine, in which Jesus was ‘transfigured’ before his disciples: the appearance of Jesus changes and he shimmers with a holy light.The feast of the Transfiguration is actually later in the church year but the reading appears here this week as we approach the season of Lent- we are meant to pause and reflect on who jesus is as we prepare to journey with Christ to the Cross.In the Eastern churches of the Orthodox faith, Transfiguration is one of the principal feasts of the year; in their thinking, we get a small glimpse of the heavenly countenance of the divine Christ, a precious moment with our Lord revealed to us no longer as a babe in a stable, but as the majestic One he truly is.So as we enter Lent, let’s pray that we will hold our own lives to God, for blessing and sanctifying, that will journey to the Cross with Christ eagerly, intent on claiming our own share in Christ’s risen life-there is nothing selfish in this, it is our inheritance which Christ’s sacrifice secures for us.***Short Lent Preparation session***A reminder that I shall be running an hour-long session in church on Ash Wednesday after the morning service which seeks to give us something to reflect on as we begin Lent. For those who are unable to make that, the same session will be offered online via Zoom-if you wish to attend the online session I will need your email address. The online session takes place on the 18th at 7pm.*Blessings,**Fr Michael* |
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