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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 Mark, Rosherville.**  **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**  **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 12th MAY 2024 – SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **This is the start of Christian Aid Week** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | | **Sung Parish Eucharist with Sunday School** | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | *OT Reading:* **Ezekiel** 36: 24-28(OT page 738) *Psalm***: 1**  *NT Reading:***Acts 1**: 15-17, 21-end (NT page 112) *Gospel:* **John 17**: 6-19 (NT page 106) | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 15th** | | **ST MATTHIAS (transferred from 14th May)** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | **8.30am** | | | | | | **Morning Prayer** | | | | | | |
|  | | **9.30am** | | | | | | **Eucharist (said)** | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | *NT Lesson:* **Acts 1**: 15-end (NT page 112) *Gospel:* **John 15**: 9-17 (NT page 105) | | | | | | |
|  | | **1.00pm** | | | | | | **Little Rainbows** – Hall (for pre-schoolers & carers) | | | | | | |
| **Sat 18th** | | **7.00pm** | | | | | | **Christian Aid Quiz at Christ Church (see page 2)** | | | | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 19th MAY 2024 – PENTECOST** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am** | | | | **Sung Parish Eucharist (from Book of Common Prayer) with Sunday School** | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | *OT Reading:* **Ezekiel 37**: 1-14 (OT page 738) *Psalm***: 104, verses 26-36** *NT Reading:***Acts 2**: 1-21 (NT page 113) *Gospel:* **John 15**: 26,27 **16**: 4-15 (NT page 105) | | | | | | | | | | |
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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]** | |
| **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)**  **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**  **other than regular events for which please see above** | | | | | | | | | | | MCj04347360000[1] | | |
| **Wed 5th** | **10.15am** | | | | | | (approx) **Coffee Morning** (after the 9.30am Eucharist) | | | | | | |
| **Fri 7th** | **9.00am** | | | | | | **The Holy Rosary** - Ladychapel | | | | | | |
| **Wed 12th** | **2.00pm** | | | | | | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** – West Room | | | | | | |
| **Sun 23rd** | **10.00am** | | | | | | **The open collection at this service will be   donated to The Samaritans** | | | | | | |
| **Sun 30th** | **10.00am** | | | | | | **This service will include Anointing for Healing & Wholeness** | | | | | | |
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| **CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ**  Christ Church are holding a Quiz Night for Christian Aid on Saturday 18th May at 7.00pm: £5  per person:  bring your own snacks/refreshments.  Please speak to Jenny if you would like to join a team from St Aidan's. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **CHRISTIAN AID**  On 25th May between 10.00am & 12.00 noon there is a Coffee, Cake & Plant Sale with Bring and Buy inside and outside the church in support of Christian Aid. | | | | | | | | | **MC900112314[1]** | | | |
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| MPj04383300000[1] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **From the Vicar**  From the Vicar  Welcome 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 M  From the Vicar  Welcome 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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Blessings,  Welcome to our worship today, which includes Sunday School.  ***‘ I shall give you a new heart…’***  Last week was the feast of the Ascension, in which we remember Jesus being taken up from earthly sight to heaven. This follows the Resurrection, and the ‘post-Resurrection appearances’ and is therefore the last time Jesus is seen in the Bible. Following this, we will come in due course to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was sent to enliven Jesus’ closest followers with gifts of prophecy and healing from that Spirit and so inaugurated the Church.  But we are not quite there yet! We are in the space between Ascension and Pentecost.  The Old Testament reading today comes from the startling Book of the Prophet Ezekiel. This prophet lived during the last days of the kingdom of Judah, and saw the exile to Babylon. This means that Ezekiel lived through the disaster and trauma of a religion of temple cult being cut off from that cult and forced to live as exiles. However, God is God and there is always new life. In time, the people of God became just that- a people. Their religion was now less about the Temple and more about *them* and how they lived (a foretaste of the Christian faith which in many ways is based on people rather than a single focus such as a Temple). In today’s reading, God tells Ezekiel that he will give the people a ‘new heart’. This heart will be able to receive the love of God and give love, too. The old hardness of the stony heart will be replaced with a heart of flesh.  This is a powerful image of our own journey of faith: to follow the ascended Christ is to trust these things implicitly because we will not be given ‘proof’ through visual ‘evidence’ until Christ comes again. It is a risk, to be Christian in our evidence-based age and, very much feels like our hearts are fleshy-which means they can be wounded, yet they are hearts which are open to feel God’s love and pay that love forward to others. A stone heart is strong, yes, but can feel nothing and will in the end drag us down. This is no use to us at all. To be faithful we must ask for our hearts to be ever changed from stone to flesh, risking wounding by this world, but knowing we are loved and can love.  *Blessings,*  *Fr Michael* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |