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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 Consent may be withdrawn at any time.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 Peter & St Paul, Swanscombe.**  **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**](mailto:pjharris7869@hotmail.com)  **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) ↓** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 17th MARCH 2024 – LENT 5, PASSION SUNDAY** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist with Sunday School** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *OT Reading*  *Psalm*  *NT Reading*  *Gospel* | | | | | | **Jeremiah 31**: 13-34 (OT page 672)  **51, verses 1-13**  **Hebrews 5**: 5-10 (NT page 209)  **John 12**: 20-33 (NT page 102) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **11.15am** | | | | | | **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** - in Church | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 20th** | | | **JOSEPH OF NAZARETH (transferred from 19th March)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
|  | | | **8.30am** | | | | | | | **Morning Prayer** | | | | | | | | |  |
|  | | | **9.30am** | | | | | | | **Eucharist (said)**  *Reading****:* 2 Samuel 7**: 4-16(OT page 267)  *Gospel:***Matthew 1**: 18-end (NT page 1) | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | **1.00pm** | | | | | | | **Little Rainbows** – Hall (for pre-schoolers & carers) | | | | | | | | |
| **Thu 21st** | | | **7.30pm** | | | | | | | **P C C Meeting** | | | | | | | | |
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| **SUNDAY 24th MARCH 2024 – PALM SUNDAY** | | | | | | | | | | | | | **African american palm sunday clipart kid** | | | | | |
| **9.50am Meet in Church Hall for Procession to Church** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Palm Sunday***  ***Passion*** | | | | | | } | | **Mark 11**: 1-11 (NT Page 45) **Mark 14 & Mark 15** (NT page 49) | | | | |
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| **SUNDAYS IN LENT**  Instead of the Gloria, we sing Lord Have Mercy, Christ Have Mercy, Lord Have Mercy but in Greek, as follows:  **Kyrie Eleison (x3), Christe Eleison (x3), Kyrie Eleison (x3)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 THE REST OF MARCH 2024 (other than the usual services for which please see above)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | **See the source image** | |
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| **Wed 27th** | | **7.00pm** | | | | | | | **Agapé Meal** – Lounge[This will be a 'help yourself' cold buffet .  To assist with catering, please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you are hoping to come - a donation of £4 per head would be appreciated] | | | | | | | | MC900391118[1] |
| **Thu 28th** | | **8.00pm** | | | | | | | **Maundy Thursday Clipart #1** | | **Liturgy of Last Supper & Vigil** | | | | | | |
| **Fri 29th** | | **3.00pm** | | | | | | | **Good Friday Liturgy** | | | **MPj04074850000[1]** | | | | | |
| **Sun 31st** | | **10.00am** | | | | | | | **Easter Day Eucharist with Anointing**  (also start of British Summer Time) | | | | | | | | |
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| **WHAT’S ON IN APRIL 2024 (other than the usual services for which please see above)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | **MCj04242160000[1]** | |
| **Wed 3rd** | | **10.15am** | | | | | | | (approx) **Coffee Morning** (after the 9.30am Eucharist) | | | | | | | | |
| **Fri 5th** | | **9.00am** | | | | | | | **The Holy Rosary** - Ladychapel | | | | | | | | |
| **Wed 10th** | | **2.00pm** | | | | | | | **Aidan Ladies** – West Room | | | | | | | | |
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| **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.  ***Passion Sunday***  We have reached that part of Lent in which we turn more fully towards the suffering , or ‘passion’, of Christ. Our Old Testament reading from Jeremiah gives us various scenes of Lamentation and sorrow whilst the Gospel reading from John continues Jesus’ teaching that his glorification can only come through death. This all seems rather doom-laden, but wait! The image Jesus chooses is of a seed that must ‘fall’ to the ground, be buried and only then can it give life, so there is at the heart of all this a hope and a definite journey not towards death, but *through* death and on to life. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday in which we begin our Journey with Jesus through Holy Week itself. Please see elsewhere in this sheet for details of services.  ***Ramadan***  Part of any worthwhile Lenten discipline is care for others. Earlier last week the Muslim month of Ramadan began; it is a holy month in Islam, and rather like Lent, is a time set aside for fasting, charity and prayer. Obviously there is much tension in the Middle East at present due to the conflict in Gaza, and this has spread to other parts of the world in the form of demonstrations, protests and a generally anxious and angry atmosphere amongst aspects of civic and political life. Whilst we continue to pray for peace to come, seasons such as Lent and Ramadan teach us that religious devotion goes on regardless of the heat and smoke of current affairs; it is a time to pause, reflect and pray. For Christians, we think at this time of the sacrificial love of God shown in Jesus’ Passion, for many Muslims, the phrase *Alluha Akbar* will be on their lips: ‘God is great’. I think we can all agree on this; God is indeed very great!  Beyond prayers for peace, I hope also for reconciliation between those at war. Despite some seemingly impossible differences, Christianity, Islam and Judaism are drawn from the same scriptural roots: all trace the figure of Abraham as central to God’s relationship with humanity and I think it is our responsibility to continue to reach out in neighbourliness. ‘Islam’ comes from the Arabic word *Salaam*, which, like the Hebrew word *Shalom*, means ‘peace’. Let’s hope that peace will move from words to experience.  Blessings, *Fr Michael* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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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] | | |
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