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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 Peter & St Paul, Milton.****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 3rd MARCH 2024 – 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT**  |
| **10.00am All Age Parish Eucharist** |
| *Gospel* | **John 2**: 13-22 (NT page 89) |
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| **ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK** |
| **Tue 5th**  | **11.00am** | (to 1.00pm) **Warm Space** – Lounge (hot drinks, soup, rolls) |
| **Wed 6th**  | **8.30am** | **Morning Prayer** |  |
|  | **9.30am** | **Eucharist (said)** *Reading****:* Deuteronomy 4**: 1, 5-9 (OT page 153)*Gospel:***Matthew 5**: 17-19(NT page 4) |
|  | **10.15am** | (approx) **Coffee Morning** - Lounge |  |
|  | **1.00pm** | **Little Rainbows** – Hall (for pre-schoolers & carers) |
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| **SUNDAY 10th MARCH 2024 – LENT 4, MOTHERING SUNDAY**  |
| **10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist** | **Image result for clip art mothering sunday** |
| *OT Reading**Psalm**NT Reading**Gospel* | **Exodus 2**: 1-10 (OT page 47)**34, verses 11-20** **2 Corinthians 1**: 3-7(NT page 169)**Luke 2**: 33-35 (NT page 58) |
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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)** |
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| **REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**If you have been asked for a report, may I please have it in the next 2 days at the latest. Many thanks - *Mike* |
| **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 MARCH 2024(other than the usual services for which please see above)**  | **MCj04404060000[1]** |
| **Every Tuesday 11am-1pm** | **Warm Space** - Lounge |
| **Wed 13th**  | **2.00pm** | **Aidan Ladies Meeting** |
| **Sun 17th**  | **11.15am** | **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** – Church  **(after the 10.00am Eucharist)** |
| **Thu 21st**  | **7.30pm** | **P C C Meeting** – West Room |
| **Sun 24th**  | **9.50am** | **Meet in the Church Hall for the** **10.00am Palm Sunday procession to Church** |
| **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] |
| **Thu 28th**  | **8.00pm** | **Maundy Thursday - Liturgy of Last Supper & Vigil** |
| **Fri 29th**  | **3.00pm** | **Good Friday Liturgy** |
| **Sun 31st** | **10.00am** | **Easter Day Eucharist with Anointing** |
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| **LENTEN APPEAL FOR DEMELZA CHILDREN’S HOSPICE**It’s not too late to take a Smartie Tube (eating the contents after Lent, if you can wait!) and fill it with coins. 20p & £1 coins fit well as does paper money if rolled up. Filled tubes should be returned by Easter Sunday, at the latest please, so that we may make a prompt donation to Demelza. Many thanks. |
| Image result for Black Floral Vector |
| **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,***An Angry Messiah***Today we face Jesus as he is rarely seen- angry! This section of the gospel is sometimes called the ‘cleansing of the Temple’ and it features Jesus turning over the tables of the money-lenders and driving the sellers out, even having made a whip!‘Stop making my Father’s house a market place!’ Jesus cries, in what seems to be a deep-seated loathing of the practice of using the outer courts of the Temple precinct as a place to change up money for pilgrims travelling from hither and thither so they could buy the sacrificial offering (doves and other appropriate animals). Remember that Jesus had been visiting the Temple at Jerusalem since he was a child. Perhaps he had always felt that this was wrong-now, as his ministry gets going, he feels the time is right to end this practice. For Jesus, it is a ritual ‘cleansing’ not only of the Temple but of himself. A few lines down it says that the Temple he is referring to is his body-in other words, the cleansing of the Temple is part of Jesus’ preparation to become the Messiah he was born to be. He has mortified his body in the desert, now it is time to be cleansed and readied for action.What are the ‘moneylenders’ in our own soul? How has your inner self, your ‘temple’, been polluted by worldly ways? Lent is an opportunity to open ourselves up for cleansing by the Holy Spirit. We may, like Jesus, become angry at the way we have become defiled by the world, but like Jesus, we can drive these things out. How?Try to see yourself as a creation made for holiness by God-you are a vessel, a container for the Holy Spirit and whilst we continue to live *in* the world we should try not be become *of* the world-each day this Lent, I invite you to pray that you will be cleansed of all that interferes with your love of God. This doesn’t mean you should become a sort of monk or nun living in a different dimension to those at home, at work and so on, but it is about cultivating an inner awareness of what we are here for: to praise God, to love him and serve him through the way in which we live our lives, most notably in building up our faith and serving one another. Pray that this may magnify within you, and worldliness may diminish.*Blessings**Fr Michael* |
| **MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES**As in previous years, it would be lovely if some folk are able to bring a few small posies of flowers on Mothering Sunday (10th March) to give to members of our congregation as appropriate - thank you. | Simple Black Vector Floral |
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