

# St. Luke's Church, Matfield

**Our Mission: To give Glory to God, to Proclaim the Gospel and to Serve all with Compassion and Understanding**

## What happening at St. Luke's in 2017?

2017 is going to be an exciting year for us at St Luke's Church. Now that Rev'd. Andrew has arrived the focus is very much on the future and planning is underway for a full range of Services and events throughout the year.

It seems as though Christmas has only just passed but very soon we will be preparing for Lent and Easter. Our usual "Lent Lunches" will be taking place on Saturdays throughout March and the 1st April. All lunches will be held in the Village Hall except for the 18th March which will be in the Pavilion on the Green. On one of the days, "Love Matfield" will be running one of their infamous walks finishing with a heartwarming soup and roll. Full details will be advertised soon.

We will also be holding a Lent Course which gives an opportunity to explore the Easter message more deeply and more details of this will be advertised soon. The times of our Services throughout Easter will be advertised throughout the village and on FaceBook.

Many of us will be familiar with the "Come Together" Services which St Luke's shares with St Mary's Church, Lamberhurst. From now there will additionally be "Cluster Services" which will be held on the fifth Sunday of the month. The Cluster Services will also include the two Churches in Benchley and Horsmonden. On the fifth Sunday the Service will be held in one of the villages giving an opportunity to experience different styles of Worship in other communities and meet new congregations. Matfield will host the Cluster Service on Sunday 30th July. We hope the weather will be kind to us as the plan is to hold the event on the Village Green. For clarification of "Come Together" and "Cluster Services" see page four.

A reminder that from now on the Love Matfield Coffee Morning will be held on the first Tuesday of the Month at The Star starting at 9.30am All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you

For details of our monthly "Away Giving" please see the notice at the back of the Church. We are collecting for The Bridge Trust in March. Please place your donations in the envelopes in the pews

Please see the article overleaf from Georgia Sarjeant following her trip last year to Costa Rica.

Georgia would like to thank everyone who helped her raise money for the trip



**Our prayer focus for the coming weeks.....**

We pray for the sick and all those who care for them.

We pray for the recently bereaved and all who mourn

We pray for world leaders and all those of influence on the world stage. We pray that they will lead with discernment, wisdom, compassion and integrity

And finally for our new Vicar, Andrew, as he starts his Ministry at St Luke's, Matfield and St Mary's, Lamberhurst. May his Ministry be happy, fruitful and rewarding for all

## Hands of Compassion

Last year, we celebrated fifteen years since the school began, and now twelve months on, our pupils continue to achieve excellent marks in their Government examinations. Our two former pupils are doing well, Paul at University and Abbishy at Teachers Training college.

Bishop Brian Castle recently retired as our Patron, but he is now an Ambassador for Hands of Compassion. We are looking for a new Trustee to join our Board in the UK. If you feel that you are looking for a personal way to help these children, please do contact me.

Since I started the school sixteen years ago, I have seen its growth, experienced many challenges but also the rewards and numerous blessings by God. We have 527 children this year and support another 60 pupils at Government secondary school. I continue in my role as Honorary Director and Trustee, with a passion to help bring hope to these orphaned or vulnerable children.

Thank you so much for your support, both financially and in prayer. Do contact me if you would like more information.

*Wendy Ray*

Email: [info@wendyzambia.plus.com](mailto:info@wendyzambia.plus.com)  
Tel: 01892 890023

## Social Group & Fundraising

The following Social and Fundraising events are currently in the planning stage but please do make a note of provisional dates which will be confirmed in due course. It would be good to see you there.

Of course, not only are the events enjoyable in themselves, they also help raise much needed funds for the Church. All money raised is used for either outreach work or to fund building repairs or running costs.

## Open Gardens

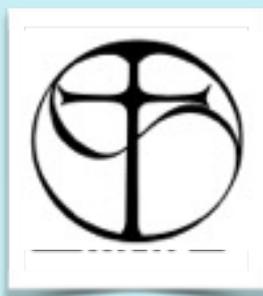
Provisionally this years Open Gardens event will be held on 11th June. Tickets will be available after Easter at which point we will advertise the addresses. This is always an enjoyable village event so if you have not been before, please come along this year. And if you have been - we look forward to seeing you again.

## Summer Fair

This years fair will be on 15th July on the Village Green.

Whether you come along on the day, run a stall, help organise the event, buy raffle tickets, donate to the raffle or cake stall - all is welcome and helps make this a wonderful village event

## CONTACT DETAILS



Please call the Parish Office on 01892 890256 for details of Church services, to arrange a wedding or funeral or to contact the Clergy

Find us on Facebook

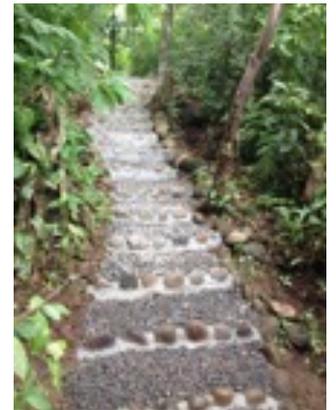
Please note that our Website is currently being redesigned but will be available shortly



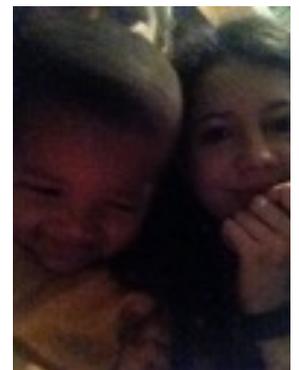
Thank you for supporting my expedition to Costa Rica, this is a little of what I did:



At the Asis Project, we helped animals that had been abused, trafficked, injured and orphaned. We made a ladder that can be refilled with vegetation for the spider monkeys, helped maintain and clean the enclosures and undertook a stair building project. Staying with the local Tico families in homestays was fantastic although we did eat a LOT of rice and beans



We trekked through the Cloud Forest sleeping in forest huts and were lucky enough to see plenty of wildlife including poison dart frogs, tarantulas, sloths, monkeys, parrots and snakes



We travelled on to the remote village of Ostional where we worked with the BIOMA turtle project and stayed with another family. The project included beach cleaning and data collection of the nesting turtles, patrolling the beach each night over 4 days, gathering information and protecting against egg poaching. We collected the turtle's newly laid eggs for incubation and at night released the newly hatched turtles into the ocean.....Thank you, Georgia

This years Christian Aid week will be 7th to 14th May. Roland Niblett will soon be looking for volunteers for delivering envelopes and collecting donations. If you feel you can help please speak to Roland

Recently we have lost a few people from the cleaning, readers and intercessions rota.  
  
Can you help with any of these jobs? Please give it some thought and if so, get in touch

A reminder that after the All Age Service on the first Sunday of the month, donated food is taken from Church to the Community Storehouse in Paddock Wood. Please continue to donate to help local families in need

## Schedule of “Come Together” & “Cluster Services” for 2017

26th March - Mothering Sunday - 11am at St Luke’s Church

23rd April - Come Together Service at 10am at St Luke’s Church

30th April - Cluster Service at 10am at St Mary’s Church, Lamberhurst

28th May - Come Together Service at 10am at St Mary’s Church, Lamberhurst

25th June - Come Together Service at 10am at St Luke’s Church

23rd July - Come Together Service at 10am at St Mary’s Church, Lamberhurst

30h July - Cluster Service at 10am in Matfield

27th August - Come Together Service at 10am at St Mary’s Church, Lamberhurst

24th September - Come Together Service at 10am at St Luke’s Church

22nd October - Come Together Service at 10am at St Mary’s Church, Lamberhurst

29th October - Cluster Service at 10am at St Margaret’s Church, Horsmonden

26th November - Come Together Service at 10am at St Luke’s Church

## From The Vicar.....

I am delighted to add a final thought to this newsletter. On January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 I arrived at St. Luke’s for the morning service with a real sense of godly joy and optimism for the year to come. I am incredibly proud to be the Vicar of Matfield and I sense that as we journey together that God will take us on a very enriching journey.

In addition to the usual garden parties, Lent lunches, Christmas festivities and Summer Fete, July will see us host the other local churches for an outdoor service on the Village Green. I am so excited for this service and hope that our church family will seize the opportunity to invite friends, family and neighbours to come and join us.

During 2017 we are going to spend some time discerning what God is calling from us and establishing a parish vision for the next few years. I wonder what treats await us? What could our church life look like in the next decade?

Please pray for our mission and ministry and for all those who offer their time, talents and treasures in our fellowship.

Revd. Andrew Axon