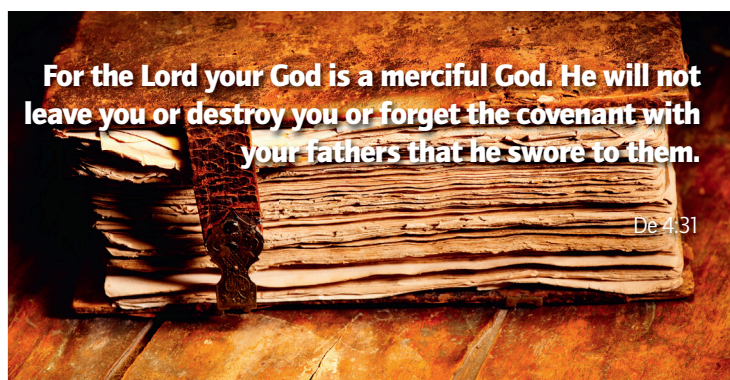


**Blessed is the man who walks  
not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the  
Lord, and on his law he meditates  
day and night. He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water that  
yields its fruit in its season, and  
its leaf does not wither. In all that  
he does, he prospers. The wicked  
are not so, but are like chaff that  
the wind drives away. Therefore  
the wicked will not stand in the  
judgment, nor sinners in the  
congregation of the righteous;  
for the Lord knows the way of  
the righteous, but the way of the  
wicked will perish.**

**Psalm 1 (ESV)**

Photo: www.sxc.hu



**For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not  
leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with  
your fathers that he swore to them.**

De 4:31

**WEST LEIGH:** Pupils from St Alban's C of E Primary School have been working hard to turn their grounds into a haven for pollinating insects.

The school was one of 260 schools in the UK chosen to be part of the Polli:Nation project.

Staff and pupils worked with former pupil and landscape architect Emily James to design a new border for the front entrance to attract pollinating insects. It will provide nectar and pollen throughout the year.

They have also provided shelter and a nesting habitat for bees. The completed structure covers a wall of their outdoor classroom

As well as improving their own grounds, pupils also planted an area of the Hermitage Stream in Havant with



**The Mayor of Havant at St Alban's School to see the new bee habitat**

## the school report

pollinator-friendly flowers and seeds, to attract butterflies, beetles and bees to the

stream.

As part of the three-year Polli:Nation project, the school is

also observing and recording the number of pollinator species that visit the grounds.

The findings will help scientists to develop an understanding of the current state of the habitats for Britain's pollinating insects.

**RYDE:** Friends and colleagues gave thanks for the ministry of a long-serving priest at a celebration at St John's Church, Ryde.

They gathered to mark more than 55 years of priestly ministry by the Rev Noel Toogood.

Noel was ordained as a priest in 1961 and served in five parishes, as far apart as Durham and Cornwall, before he 'retired' to the Isle of Wight in 1996.

He spent the next 20 years with the bishop's Permission to Officiate, based at St John's, which was the church in which he worshipped as a child. He also helped out in parishes all across the Isle of Wight.

He was also an active member of the ecumenical Churches Together in Ryde group, serving as treasurer and as part of the team which set up the Open Arms project, providing a hot meal and companionship in a church in the centre of Ryde on a Sunday evening.

The Rev Sue Theobald, vicar of St John's Church, Ryde, said: "Noel has now decided that it is time for him to stand back from



**The new bells for Brighstone are cast**

## news from the pews

from public ministry and serve God in new ways.

"So we took the opportunity to say thank you and ask God's blessing on whatever the future holds and of course have a party!"

**HAWKLEY:** A parish will launch its bid to make its church more welcoming with a music

recital.

Churchgoers at St Peter and St Paul, Hawkley, want to extend the role of the church in the local community, to make the building more welcoming for all.

That includes installing glass inner doors, a disabled toilet and a redesigned kitchen. They hope to improve and develop

their children's area, re-site and replace the organ, and install more comfortable chairs in the side aisles.

The launch of this project will be on May 7, when Kevin Jacot and Lorraine Marshall present 'From Mozart to Modern'. It starts at 7pm, and includes drinks and canapes.

Tickets are £10 and proceeds will be split between this project and the Christian charity Compassion.

**BRIGHSTONE:** St Mary's Church in Brighstone now has a full complement of eight bells after two extra bells were cast.

The bells were created by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London, to match the church's existing six Whitechapel bells. They arrived last month and will be rung for the first time in May.

The funding for the new bells has come from the Society for the Preservation of Isle of Wight Church Bells, personal donations and gift aid, and a grant from the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers.