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**NITON:** Parishioners will be sent on a mystery tour around their village as part of a church's patronal festival.

Worshippers at St John the Baptist, Niton, will mark the special day on June 25 with a coffee morning in the village hall at 10am.

As well as the cake stall, raffle, coffee and biscuits, there will also be a treasure hunt, which will send participants scouring the village for clues until 3pm. There will then be a cream tea, with entertainment in church from the choir. The next day there will be a special Choral Evensong at 6pm.

**HART PLAIN:** So many worshippers and community groups have used the community hall at Hart Plain Church that the hall floor has finally worn out!

The church needs to replace the floor after 38 years of constant use, and plans to start raising funds with a summer fayre on June 18 from 12noon.

There will be a bouncy castle, puppet shows, stalls and fun with water.

The priest-in-charge, the Rev Tim Jessiman, said: "We



**Canon Terry Loudon blesses Fossil, a golden retriever owned by churchwarden Jane Sprinks, during the pet service at All Saints', East Meon, with horses Blackjack and Storm in the background.**

## news from the pews

don't usually like going outside the congregation with our appeals, but this really is a case of the community helping itself.

"A new roof and floor will enable all the various organisations to continue using this excellent facility, and hopefully attract even more use by local people."

**EAST MEON:** There were around 70 humans, 15 dogs, two horses, two guinea pigs and a rabbit in the congregation at All Saints' Church, East Meon, for a special

service.

The pets and gardens of the village were blessed as part of the annual celebrations for Rogation Sunday.

**EMSWORTH:** Parishioners from the churches in Emsworth will experience a week of accompanied prayer for seven days in June.

The idea is to link worshippers with spiritual guides who help them try methods of prayer and reflection to bring them closer to God. It is ideal for those with busy lives who may feel unable

to take a week off completely to spend time in a retreat centre.

Anyone who is interested can contact Dennis Chandler on 01243-430708 or Patricia Claxton on 01243-373981.

**BOTLEY:** Golfers helped raise more than £1,000 towards the new extension at All Saints' Church, Botley.

The golf day was held in April at Botley Park Hotel, and was organised by the Friends of All Saints' Church.

The Mayor of Eastleigh, Councillor June Hughes, awarded the winner's trophy - which was made by congregation member Chris Ralls - to David Compton.

**RYDE:** A new memorial garden has been opened at Mayfield C of E Middle School, in memory of former pupil Levi Goundry.

The 11-year-old, who was killed in a road accident in 2003, was a popular pupil and the only one in a decade to manage 100 per cent in his maths SATs test.

The garden was designed by the school's Year 8 citizenship group who enlisted the help of Ryde street wardens Gill Mulcahy and Harry Dea.

It is a circular reflection area where pupils can relax and spend time in quiet.

The centrepiece is a stone bench, and the edge of the garden floor is laid with hand-

made clay tiles, personalised by each of the pupils involved.

**HOOK-with-WARSASH:** The boys' swimming squad from Hook-with-Warsash C of E Primary School has qualified for a national swimming finals.

The team, consisting of Joshua Stevens, Christopher Gill, Jack Vaas and Adam Kay, achieved two silver medals in the Hampshire swimming finals in Southampton.

That meant they qualified for the southern England finals in

which they competed against teams from across Hampshire, Dorset and Sussex.

Their second place in the mixed stroke relay and third place in the freestyle relay then meant they qualified for the national finals.

Matthew Dampier, PE co-ordinator, said: "Our school does not have its own swimming pool, so the boys were at a disadvantage, but worked really hard, and it was wonderful to see them achieve such excellent results."

They will travel to Sheffield for the event on June 18.

## the school report

**SHANKLIN:** The headteacher of Shanklin C of E Primary School, David Kitching, will attend an international conference of heads in South Africa in July.

He is one of 10 delegates from the UK, invited by the National Association of Head Teachers.

The conference will focus on the idea of 'Ubuntu' - an African concept described by Archbishop Desmond Tutu as "the essence of being human".

Pupils will design an embroidered square for a peace quilt that will be put together from contributions from across the world and displayed during the Cape Town conference.