

98

Spring 2018

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPEAKING FOR GREY
SQUIRRELS

WHAT HAS CHRISTIANITY GOT
TO DO WITH ANIMALS?

ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES

ASWA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

IN THIS ISSUE

A WARM WELCOME	3
WHAT HAS CHRISTIANITY GOT TO DO WITH ANIMALS?	5
SPEAKING FOR GREY SQUIRRELS	7
ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES	8
THE VEGGIE TRAVELLER	11
ASWA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS	13
CHACHI'S HAVEN IN 2018	13



DORIS' DIARY

Hello! My name is Doris, and I am a Border Leicester ewe with very large ears! I was rescued by ASWA secretary Sam Chandler, as I had outlived my usefulness as a breeding ewe.

Below are some great events we may enjoy!

Wednesday 9 May

ASWA AGM, St Michael's Church, Chester Square, London, SW1W 9HH, 6pm.

Sunday 3 June

Animal Blessing Service, Craigiebuckler Church Hall, Springfield Road, Aberdeen, 3pm. The service will be conducted by the Revd Kenneth Petrie. All animals with their human companions welcome.

Saturday 6 October

ASWA Day Conference on Marine Animal Welfare, St Mary's Church, Portsea, Portsmouth, 9am to 12.30pm.

Sunday 7 October

Animal Welfare Sunday

ASWA Annual Service, St Mary's Church, Portsea, Portsmouth, 10am. The preacher will be ASWA Chair, the Revd Dr Helen Hall.

Sunday 11 November

ASWA Remembrance Service at the Animals' War Memorial, Park Lane, London, 3pm.

For further details of events, please visit the website: www.aswa.org.uk



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. In this issue, we focus on activities raising awareness of animal issues. We share reports of animal blessing services that took place on and around Animal Welfare Sunday, the annual Animal Aid Christmas Fayre, and a talk given at the Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in Westminster.

We hope that you enjoy keeping up-to-date with news and information on our website. Do check regularly for resources and information about upcoming events. Please do make a note of the dates in Doris' Diary – especially the AGM in May. We hope to see you there.

Please send any items for consideration for *Animalwatch* to Revd Jennifer Brown, Editor, PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT. Email is even better – animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk. Please note that, owing to space restrictions, it may not be possible to print all contributions, and that letters and other contributions may be edited for length.

Jennifer Brown, Editor

The deadline for the Summer magazine is **Monday 21st May 2018**.

ASWA MERCHANDISE

Available from the ASWA web site

ASWA literature: a range of literature on a variety of animal welfare subjects available.

PAWS for Prayer cards: paw shaped cards with a prayer for companion animals printed on one side. £0.35 each (minimum purchase 10)

Egg Cards: egg shaped cards with a prayer printed on one side. £0.35 each (minimum purchase 10).

ASWA bags: handy cotton shopping bag with the ASWA logo. £4 each.

ASWA badges: show your support for ASWA by wearing a lapel badge with the ASWA logo. £1.50 each.

Our Wild World, an ASWA resource for children is now available to purchase from the ASWA web site for just £3. This sticker book is a fun way to help children learn about the creatures that populate our world and God's love and care for them.



ASWA SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

If you have a group or service that would welcome an ASWA speaker, we would love to hear from you! We often travel a fair distance so please call to discuss it. We usually bring a stall and literature and always liaise with our hosts to ensure the talk is appropriate for their particular audience. Keep the invitations rolling in!

ASWA NEWS

New-Look Web site

If you visit the ASWA web site (www.aswa.org.uk) from the 1st of February, you'll see that we've got a new look. Over the past couple of months, we have instructed some web designers to create a new, updated website for us. Do take a look.

A Warm Welcome to our new members.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Holly Adams, Bolts Hill, Chartham, Kent

Andrew Avery, Greenhithe, Kent

Pat Bacchus, Hatfield, Hertfordshire

Elizabeth Baxter, Maroubra, New South Wales, Australia

Tracey Brown, Midsomer Norton, Radstock

Revd John Challis, Felpham, Bognor Regis, Sussex

Naira Charles, Lewes, East Sussex

Sophie Clark, Norwich, Norfolk

William Dennler, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

Natalia Doran, London

Charlotte Edgington, Watford, Hertfordshire

Tanya Garrett, Bell Buckle, Tennessee, USA

Nigel Gray, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Jenny James, Bradley Stoke, Bristol

Hazel MacKenzie, Kirkhill, Inverness-shire

Kathleen Matthews, Dorchester, Dorset

Rosemary Grace Neal, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Laura Tregent, Little Glemham, Suffolk

Rozzi Wright, St Ives, Cornwall

To all our new members we extend a warm welcome and, along with our existing members, we would ask that you encourage others who share your concern for animal welfare to join. Introductory leaflets are available from the Secretary.

GOOD NEWS

UK Prime Minister Confirms Hunting Ban to Remain

Acknowledging public feelings on the issue, British Prime Minister Theresa May in January announced that she would not introduce a free vote in Parliament to repeal the current ban on fox hunting. Britain has for many years been known as a nation of animal lovers, but it appears that animal welfare is of increasing importance to the British public, and politicians are now acknowledging that fact.



NEWS & NOTICES

Don't forget, you can follow ASWA on Twitter – [aswanews](#)



You can also keep up with what's new via our website – [www.aswa.org.uk](#).

Check the web site for the latest resources, including those for youth & children.

Animal-friendly Church awards

Is your church animal friendly? ASWA sponsors the Animal-friendly Church award to recognise those churches that take animal welfare seriously as part of their ministry and mission. Churches can apply at any time and those meeting the necessary criteria will be awarded animal-friendly church status. Information is available on the website or from the Secretary.



Animal Friendly Church 2017

Our apologies for the delay in announcing the winner of our Animal Friendly Church Award. A winner has been chosen but they have asked us to delay an announcement as the Church is currently in interregnum. Keep an eye on Twitter during the latter part of April when the new incumbent is in post and the winning church can be revealed!

ASWA AGM

ASWA's Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 9th May at 6pm at St Michael's, Chester Square, London, SW1W 9HH. This is a chance to hear about what ASWA has accomplished over the past year and what is planned for the future, and to put forward your views. Please do join us.

ASWA Annual Service and Day Conference

This year's annual service will be held at St Mary's Church, Portsea, Portsmouth on Sunday 7th October, 10.00am. The preacher will be ASWA Chair, the Revd Dr Helen Hall. In addition, this year we will be hosting a Day Conference on Saturday 6th October, focusing on care for marine wildlife. The Day Conference will also be held at St Mary's, Portsea, and will run from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Data Protection and ASWA Mailing List

New data protection legislation will come into effect in the UK and Europe this May. This legislation requires that organisations get positive permission from individuals to include them on emailing lists. If you are on ASWA's email list, we will need you to confirm in writing that you are happy to continue receiving emails from us. Please send an email to [aswamembership@btinternet.com](#) stating that you are happy to remain on our emailing list.

If you are not yet on our email list but would like to be, please send an email asking to be added.

John Austin Baker Creative Writing Prize

This competition is open to all (with categories for adults and children). Submissions should be poetry or a piece of prose not longer than 500 words on the subject of Marine Life. Submissions must be original and not previously published. Entry fee of £5 per entry. Submissions must be received by 31 May 2018. Please see the ASWA web site ([www.aswa.org.uk](#)) or contact the Secretary for terms & conditions and addresses for submission by post or email.

ASWA Local groups

Don't forget that there are ASWA local groups in different areas.

- There is an Ecumenical group, the Three Counties Animal Welfare Prayer Group, who meet for a service at Gloucester Cathedral at 12.15 on the first Saturday of each month. The contact for the ecumenical group is the Revd Helen Hall (01633-677775 or [helen.hall123@ntlworld.com](#)).
- The Revd David Austin has recently started an ASWA prayer group in the Norwich area. If anyone is interested in joining, David's contact details are 01603 469112 or [dsj.austin@hotmail.com](#).

ASWA is always keen to support the formation of new groups. If you are interested in starting a group in your area, please contact the Secretary.

WHAT HAS CHRISTIANITY GOT TO DO WITH ANIMALS?

In January, ASWA were pleased to provide a keynote speaker for the AGM of Churches Together in Westminster. The following is the text of the talk given at that event by Animalwatch editor, Jennifer Brown

I'm sure we'd all agree that, as Christians, we have an obligation to promote peace and social justice. Many would also agree that Christians have a responsibility to care for the environment. If asked to defend these beliefs on theological grounds, a Christian might well say that the command to 'love your neighbour as yourself' requires us to promote human flourishing, and that peace, a just society at both the local and global level, and a healthy environment are all necessary to achieve that goal. But what about animal welfare and animal rights? Do Christians have an obligation to promote the flourishing of non-human species? It's an uncomfortable question, because if the answer is 'yes', then, just like an obligation to work for social justice, it confers on us obligations of action and restraint. Action, in that it would require that we positively work to improve the lives of non-human animals and restraint, because we would have to refrain from using animals to our own purposes, limit how we use the natural world so as to preserve habitats, and so on.

Personally, I do believe that Christians have an obligation to care for and promote the flourishing of non-human species, and I believe that this obligation is biblically mandated. I think that this mandate is found in the creation narratives of Genesis 1 and 2, but that's not where I want to start. Rather, I want to start at 2 Corinthians, chapter 5, specifically with verses 18 to 20:

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us..."

We have been called to be ministers of reconciliation. God in Christ has already reconciled the world to himself (and if we look elsewhere in the New Testament, we can see that this is more than just individual human beings,

but all things in creation [Ephesians 1.10; Colossians 1.20]), but it is all too evident that reconciliation within the world is still needed. Reconciliation between individual human beings, between human societies, and between humans and other species. The need to be reconciled occurs whenever a relationship breaks down. I don't think it's too hard to see that there exists a broken relationship between humanity and other species. We exploit animal species – sometimes to the point of extinction – we pollute and destroy the habitats on which other species depend, we deplete their food sources, we use them for our own entertainment, and more. And yet, that's not the relationship that should exist between us and the other creatures with whom we share this world. The creation narratives of Genesis make it clear that what God intended and desires is for human beings to live in a peaceful relationship with other creatures; a relationship that enables mutual flourishing. If that relationship has broken down, and I believe it has, then there is clearly a work of reconciliation to be done, and that is a Christian calling.

I think that most Christians would also agree that they want to praise and honour God, and that they don't want to hinder the praise and worship of God. Scripture makes clear that we, human beings, are not the only creatures on this earth that praise God and make his glory known. Psalm 148, for example, calls on not just human beings but "sea monsters" (v7) and "wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds" (v10) to praise the Lord. Psalm 150 ends with a call for "everything that has breath" – every living creature – to praise the Lord. The perfect, heavenly worship glimpsed in Revelation (5.13) describes not just the heavenly host praising God but "every creature in heaven and on earth, and under the earth and in the sea" worshipping. Every time we drive a species to extinction, we diminish the praise being offered to God. Every time human beings turn a creature's songs of praise to cries of pain and torment, we take away from the worship being offered to God. Is that really what we, as Christians, want?

Some people might argue that this sort of thinking is a novel theology, departing from centuries of Christian tradition. I'm afraid I would have to disagree. If we

look at the tradition of the saints, what we will see is a long history of holiness being associated with gentleness and kindness to animals. Why? Those who we call 'saints' are those who have drawn exceptionally close to God; those in whom the light of Christ shines most clearly. In them, we see God's love not just for humanity, but for the whole of his creation. I believe that, as Christians, we too are called to reflect God's love for his creatures in our own lives.

How? First, we should show kindness to the animals in our own lives – those with whom we share our homes and our gardens. As a Christian community, we should welcome animals into our worship, as a symbol of that heavenly worship in which all creatures take part. We should work to defend the rights of animals, domestic and wild, and work to protect habitats and animals' right to exist for God and for themselves, rather than just to serve our purposes. We should think carefully about the choices that we make – try to be animal-friendly in the things that we eat, the clothes that we wear, and in our leisure pursuits. I won't pretend that it's an easy way to live. Sometimes it's not. But Jesus never promised his followers easy. What he did offer was righteousness and a place in paradise. And for paradise to be paradise it must be, by definition, cruelty-free.

What has Christianity got to do with animals? Quite a lot, really, if we acknowledge that non-human animals are made and loved by God, that they in their own way praise God and make his glory known, and if we accept and take seriously our role as ministers of reconciliation.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SOUTH AFRICA

One pig's successful bid for freedom



The movie *Babe* achieved a lot in terms of changing the public perception of pigs, and indeed the making of the film had a profound effect on those who worked on it, such as lead actor James Cromwell, who became a vegan and an animal rights activist after working with the pigs he met on set. I had my own Babe-type experience last year when a friend of mine, Rekash, called me late one very hot Spring morning. When he told me that he'd just rescued a pig, I wondered at first if he was joking, but when he showed up at my house ten minutes later, with an absolutely terrified pig in the back of a friend's truck, I realised that he was serious.

Rekash, a vegan, happened to be driving behind a truck filled with pigs headed for slaughter, when one of them made a leap for freedom off the back of the truck. While the terrified creature bounced and rolled violently across the unyielding tarmac, the truck simply drove on, oblivious. Rekash pulled over and managed to catch the panicking pig, and that was that – she was saved from a cruel and violent fate.

The first time I saw Babe, lying in the back of the truck, she was beyond terrified. Her eyes were wild with panic, and she was hyperventilating and overheating. Seeing an animal in such terror would (and did, for me) break the heart of any even vaguely empathetic person.

For Babe, at least, the butcher's blade was not her fate. We took her to the local SPCA, where it was found that, fortunately, she had not sustained any life-threatening injuries in her leap off

the truck. She was given lodgings (an outdoor pen with plenty of mud and grass and water) that were far more natural and open than the concrete and steel prison in which she had likely been raised, and she soon made fast friends with the goat, Beverly, who was her stablemate.

The story of Babe's escape from the truck went viral, and soon support began pouring in for her from all over the country, in the forms of both well-wishes and donations. Eventually, enough money was raised to sponsor and transport both her and Beverly to an expansive, beautiful farm sanctuary called Asher's Sanctuary, where the pair of them will live out the rest of their lives in peace and freedom.

You can find out more about Asher's at <https://www.ashersfarmsanctuary.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/ashersfarmsanctuary/>.

Jonathan Hemmings

SWEDEN

Changes in circus life, but culling elsewhere



An historic decision has been made! Circus Brazil, Sweden's oldest circus, has made the decision to stop using animals in their displays and shows. Circus Brazil has been around for 250 years. Thanks to the animal rights movement, the new year of 2018 marks the end of the era of animals in circuses.

Unfortunately, the news for other animals in captivity is not as good. Borås Zoo euthanizes healthy animals simply because they cannot relocate them to other zoos. Nine lions have already been killed for no other reason than to

cull. In addition, 16 healthy African wild dogs have been put to sleep in 2014, 15 and 16 just because there are too many. Bo Kjellson, in charge of the breeding programme, says that superfluous animals need to be put down even they are healthy in order to keep a variety in the genetic material.

Sandra Kinley

USA

New US Representative for ASWA



Over the past year, ASWA member Joann Brizendine has kindly been reporting from Maine on animal welfare issues and events. We now have a representative from another part of the United States, Tanya Garrett.

Tanya is a lay leader in the Episcopal Church. She lives in rural Tennessee with her husband, horses, dogs, donkey, and cat. She is passionate about supporting local animal rescues, educating on proper care and treatment of animals, and raising awareness of the need to stop factory farming. Tanya also works as an IT professional at a behavioural health company.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2018 WITH PAW A COFFEE FOR ASWA

Thank you to everyone who raised funds for ASWA in 2017.

If you'd like to help with fundraising for ASWA this year, then please sign up for our Paw a Coffee fundraising pack, which includes ASWA invitations, napkins, literature and a donation box. You could hold your own Paw a Coffee event from home, in your church or in your local community. This year Paw a Coffee will run from March to October 2018.

As a charity we rely on donations and fundraising from our supporters to continue our mission of putting animals on the agenda of the Christian Church. These funds will go towards expanding our resources for new literature, children and youth work and incentives for churches, and reaching out further afield with our Animal Welfare Sunday service.

To request a fundraising pack, contact our Secretary, Samantha Chandler. All

funds raised to be sent to ASWA by end of October 2018, please:

PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8GT, UK.

For fundraising information please contact ASWA Committee Member Janet Murphy

Tel 07793 748634 or janetjmurphy2@gmail.com

Janet Murphy



SPEAKING UP FOR GREY SQUIRRELS

The ones on four legs

Grey squirrels are charming and intelligent animals that have adapted to live in a variety of habitats. They entertain people by their play, help them to reconnect to nature, encourage them to take exercise and enhance mental health. In the urban environment, they are often the only diurnal wild mammals that people see on a regular basis.

Squirrels are also known as some of nature's greatest conservationists: they plant new trees by caching seeds, provide food for birds by encouraging fungus growth and insects through their own feeding behaviours, and create new wildlife habitats by 'felling' old trees.

The ones on two legs

Urban Squirrels was founded three years ago by me and my son Jonny, who is a young adult with autism. Jonny has always wanted to work with animals and, with the help of one-to-one behavioural therapy, studied for and received his Diploma in Animal Care. Finding actual work however, even in a voluntary capacity, proved impossible. Jonny is clever, dedicated and strong, but also profoundly handicapped, with very little understanding of danger or capacity to deal with a changing environment. The only way forward was to create a working environment for him in our home that was tailored to his needs, making it impossible for him to fail.

Thus, Urban Squirrels was born. Now the division of labour is such that Jonny does all the feeding, cleaning and heavy physical tasks, while I deal with the advocacy side of the work and do the hand-rearing – feedings every four hours round the clock, in case you think I have the easy part.

The rescue

We are licensed by Defra and take referrals from vets, tree surgeons and directly from members of the public. Our bushy-tailed clients are given medical treatment when necessary, hand-reared if they are too young to cope on their own, over-wintered in the case of late autumn babies, and then returned back to the wild using the soft release method.

The advocacy

The advocacy involves running stalls and giving presentations at vegan festivals and animal welfare events, responding to articles about squirrels in the media and giving interviews when approached by media researchers for additional information.

Some of the myths that we regularly encounter are that grey squirrels replace the native red, destroy trees and reduce the bird population. The myth-busting is carried out along the following lines:

- The problems that red squirrels face in this country are explained by habitat loss – deforestation as a result of human activity, and not by the presence of their grey cousins. Red squirrels became very rare, to the point of extinction, by the end of the 18th century, before the greys were introduced, and had to be repeatedly reintroduced from Scandinavia. Killing grey squirrels is not an effective way to conserve the reds.
- While it is true that squirrels, both reds and greys, feed on trees (leaves, twigs, buds), this does not destroy the trees, but only changes

their physical appearance. Squirrels are, in fact, essential for forest regeneration.

- As far as the birds are concerned, an extensive government-funded study has concluded that grey squirrel activities do not reduce the bird population as a whole.

Where you come in

If you are interested in finding out more about the work that we do, or checking out the references to scientific papers backing our advocacy claims, visit our website, www.urbansquirrels.co.uk, the Urban Squirrels Facebook page and the Stop the Grey Squirrel Cull Facebook page. Last, but by no means least, if your conscience leads you this way, please consider signing our petition that deals with the culling of many species, squirrels among them, in London's Royal Parks. https://www.thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/775/026/354/stop-culling-healthy-animals-in-londons-royal-parks/?taf_id=46915308

Natalia Doran, Urban Squirrels

Urban Squirrels is a non-profit organisation that specialises in grey squirrels – rescue, advice and advocacy.



ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES

ASWA's Annual Service



The setting of our 2017 annual service on Animal Welfare Sunday was St Peter's Church in Nottingham, where ASWA Chair, Helen Hall, is part of the clergy team.

ASWA joined the congregation for their 9.30am Family Service, led by ASWA's Chair with assistance from ASWA President, Bishop Dominic Walker OGS. We were also present at the 10.45am Parish Eucharist. This service was conducted by the Revd Christopher Harrison, with Bishop Dominic presiding at the Eucharist. *Animalwatch* Editor, the Revd Jennifer Brown, preached an excellent sermon. A full version of this sermon can be found on our website under 'Sermons' but if you want a paper copy, please send an A4 sized SAE to the Secretary and she will print one off for you.

The evening before, we held a reception in the Church for local clergy and animal welfare organisations. Representatives from the local branch of the PDSA joined us, as did Jon and Beth from Brinsley Animal Rescue. Brinsley Animal Rescue are a marvellous small, independent sanctuary well worth supporting. Do take a look at their website, <http://brinsleyanimalrescue.org/contact>.

The evening was also supported by Councillor Glyn Jenkins, the Sheriff of Nottingham, who assured us that his role does not include oppressing hapless peasants or imprisoning outlaws in dungeons, but who has important civic duties and made us feel genuinely welcome in the city.

Animal Welfare Sunday falls on Sunday 7th October this year, and we will be in Portsmouth for a weekend event including a half day conference on Saturday 6th October (see back page for details). If you are an ASWA member living in the Portsmouth area and would like to be involved, please do contact the Secretary.

Helen Hall

St Andrew's Church, Melton

St Andrew's Church in Melton, Suffolk held its Annual Pet Service on Sunday morning, 17th September, in the Church garden. We were slightly down in numbers due to a chilly wind and a forecast of possible showers. Despite this, about 30 people turned up, some with pets, some with photographs of pets too old to attend and others who no longer owned pets.

It was a joyous occasion and all the furry members of the congregation behaved extremely well. Due to the possibility of inclement weather there were no cats this year just photographs. One family staggered in with a very large cage of guinea pigs who were so busy munching on lettuce leaves they couldn't have cared less where they were. Dogs, as usual, accounted for most of the pets and there was much tail wagging and sniffing, to put it delicately.

Music was provided by a keyboard, a guitar and a flute. One black labrador had quite a nice voice, albeit singing in a different key than was the choir.

After each pet and/or photograph had been blessed a final hymn was sung and we all trooped into the church room for refreshments. One human member of the congregation was celebrating his 80th birthday and had generously provided all kinds of delicious cakes and biscuits to go with the coffee and tea. Unfortunately, side plates had been forgotten and a rather large number of cake and biscuit crumbs ended up on the floor much to the joy of all the canines who put Dyson and other such companies to shame by leaving the carpet spotless after the chairs and tables had been put away.

Sally Brown



St Anne's, Eastville, Bristol



On 21st October 2017, ASWA was delighted to be invited to a small Church of England church in inner city Bristol, St Anne's Eastville, at the request of Revd Tina Goede. ASWA Secretary, Samantha Chandler, gave a short address and Tina blessed the animals that came with their human carers. Amongst them was Jenny James, who came with a collection of beautiful cats, all of whom arrived in separate carrying baskets, and a gentleman with a lovely old staffie. It was a lovely occasion and we were made to feel most welcome.

Samantha Chandler

St John's, Catford, London



St John's Church, Catford, London, held a Pet Blessing service on October 7th which was attended by ten dogs, one rabbit and one cat. It was a very uplifting occasion, and everyone said how much they enjoyed it. One of the dogs sat on his owner's lap and joined in the hymns. Not a sound from him at any other time. There were refreshments for pets and humans afterwards and our speaker from SARX kindly stayed to talk to many of the congregation.

Everyone went away smiling and it was agreed that we will be doing a Pet Blessing every year, now that the first one was so successful.

Jenny Barrington

St Martin's, Kensal Green, London

The Animal Blessing and Thanksgiving Service at St Martin's church, Kensal Green, held on Saturday 14th October, was again well supported by a diverse gathering of animal lovers from all over London and the surrounding counties. Apart from those present, there were requests for animals who could not attend the service to be remembered in the prayers, with requests being received from across the country and overseas.

St Martin's is linked to an Orthodox convent in the Kaluga region of Russia where the nuns have set up a sanctuary for homeless animals, especially cats, and a photo display of the convent's animal rescue work exhibited during the service created a good deal of interest.

A young woman named Natasha, who'd first heard about the convent when she came to our 2015 animal blessing service, attended again and told us of a visit she had made to the convent a few months earlier while she was visiting Moscow.

As the convent is over 200km from Moscow, set deep in the Russian countryside and she does not speak Russian, it was something of an

achievement for her to have been able to her make way there. Although she arrived at the convent without advanced notice, she was warmly received, given a guided tour and provided with a meal. Natasha's account of her visit to the convent was much appreciated and provided a delightful addition to the service.

A retiring collection was held afterwards to support the animal rescue work of the convent and splendid amount of £282 was raised.

James Hogan

St Peter's Church, Harrogate



The Service of Animal Blessing at St Peter's Church, Harrogate attracted a hamster, four kittens, a guinea pig, a

tortoise and fifteen dogs, together with their human companions.

Some of the congregation brought photos of their pets who would not have been happy coming into church. Some brought soft toy animals, symbolic of all the animals of the world who could never come to church, but whom we want to bless; including a hobby horse, a lion, a giant stuffed king penguin and a squeaky pig.

We served dog biscuits, and a tasty vegan cake.

It was a joyful and noisy occasion. All the animal visitors greeted each other happily, and so did the humans – far more spontaneously, indeed, than at most of their ordinary services.

Helen Ball

If you are organising an Animal Welfare/Blessing Service and would like an ASWA speaker we will always try to help. Please note, however, that providing speakers on Animal Welfare Sunday itself might be difficult as most of our team are usually already involved in our annual service which is usually held on that date.

ASWA REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

On Sunday 12th November, ASWA held its sixth Remembrance Service for Animals at the Animals' War Memorial in Park Lane, London.

The service was once again led by ASWA Chair, the Revd Dr Helen Hall, and we had the biggest crowd to date, with well over 100 people present. Each year this service attracts more supporters and we receive so many kind messages telling us how moving people have found the event. Pen Farthing from Nowzad Dogs once again joined us and

gave a moving address. We thank him for his ongoing support of this service. Other Nowzad supporters were also present, including David and Ann Hill remembering their own brave spaniel, Billy who they rescued through Nowzad.

We were also joined by our friends from Catholic Concern for Animals, Quaker Concern for Animals and the Animals Interfaith Alliance. Barbara Gardner from CCA and Thom Bonneville from QCA both read for us.

This is now a firm date in the ASWA diary, so please come along and support us this year when we meet again on Sunday 11th November at 3.00pm. We hold our service in the afternoon so that clergy and those who attend their own church services in the morning can still come to remember the animals in the afternoon. We always lay a special ASWA wreath at the memorial but please feel free to bring your own wreaths or flowers if you so wish.

Samantha Chandler



THE BIBLE AND...

This Bible study is designed to help an individual or small group to explore what the Bible says about the place of animals in salvation.

“Will my pet go to heaven?” This is a question that is probably not unfamiliar to many clergy, and numerous parents. Although it is a simple enough question, it actually gets to the heart of a complex theological idea.

A related question is “do animals have souls?” The creation narratives of Genesis 1 and 2 can help in considering this question:

And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good... And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. (Genesis 1.20–21, 24)

Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. (Genesis 2.7)

The word that is translated into English as ‘living creature’ in these verses from Genesis 1, referring to animals, and as ‘living being’ or ‘living soul’ (depending on the translation) in Genesis 2, referring to Adam, is the same in both cases: nephesh chayyah. What God provides to make a creature a living, animate being – a soul – is given to both humans and non-human animals. This same term is used in Genesis 9 when talking about the animals that were in the ark with Noah.

The New Testament view of salvation is also relevant to the question of the place of animals in salvation.

He has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (Ephesians 1.9–10)

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1.19–20)

For the creation waits with eager longing

for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8.19–25).

These verses show that God is not concerned just with the salvation of individual human beings, but with the salvation, restoration and reconciliation of the whole creation, and all creatures. This idea is also supported by Isaiah’s vision of the Peaceable Kingdom (Isaiah 11.1–9), and the worship offered by all creation as described in Revelation 5.13.

The passage from Romans also suggests, if we interpret the ‘children of God’ as those who have been reborn into Christ and received the Holy Spirit, that Christians by revealing their Christ-like nature will start the process of setting creation free from its bondage. If Christians are called to help build the kingdom of God on earth, then it can be argued that each Christian’s life should be working towards that image of the Peaceable Kingdom that Isaiah describes.

Questions for Discussion

- If there is no difference between the human soul and the non-human animal soul, as Genesis seems to suggest, what does it mean for humans to be made in God’s image? Does accepting the similarity of human and non-human animal souls degrade humanity?
- If all creation, and all creatures, are included in God’s salvation plan, does this place obligations on us in terms of how we treat our fellow creatures and the earth? If so, what might those obligations be?
- Do you agree that Christians are called to help release creation from its bondage and work towards the vision of the Peaceable Kingdom? If so, in what ways can we do this?

ANIMAL AID CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2017

Animal Aid exposes and campaigns peacefully against all animal abuse, and promotes a cruelty-free lifestyle. It is doing great work.

Every year at their annual Christmas Fayre, ASWA takes a Stand near the lecture hall and during the day engages in conversation with well over a hundred people. Some buy our products, many take copies of literature and several express an interest in joining. It is always a very enjoyable experience.

This is probably the largest animal welfare gathering in the UK with over a hundred stands, a number of vegan caterers offering a surprising range of tasty food and a series of talks and demonstrations, from challenging lectures to cookery demonstrations. It’s a great place to buy unusual gifts and to learn about so many different charities engaged in our passion of animal welfare.

The low entrance fee and the location in Kensington Town Hall which is very close to the Underground means there is a constant flow of people all day, of every age and belief.

Over 1,500 visitors spend probably on average about two hours walking around and enjoying themselves in a great atmosphere. As a bonus, ASWA is the only Christian witness which means we have some great conversations. Many we talk to are amazed that the Church has any interest in animal welfare.

Please do try to come this December (date to be confirmed) and if you would like to help with our Stand contact with the Secretary.

Samantha Chandler



THE VEGGIE TRAVELLER

The vegan craze that has swept Germany (see Autumn 2017 issue) has taken hold in other parts of Europe, as well, including the Czech Republic. In fact, vegan and vegetarian restaurants were so numerous, we never had to eat in the same place twice. The one I've decided to review here is one that might easily get overlooked, but it's well worth a visit.

Prague – Vegans

Despite the somewhat unimaginative name, it's impossible to argue with the fact that it offers exactly what it claims. Be prepared for some exercise, though, if you visit. To get to Vegans requires climbing several flights of stairs (which does help to work up an appetite). If the main dining room is full, a further climb up a spiral staircase will take you to their upper floor seating area.

Vegans is worth the effort. The atmosphere is entrancing. The main room boasts a wooden ceiling painted with a vine and fruit motif. Upstairs is plain in comparison, but can still lay claim to exposed wooden beams and access to rooftop seating with a view of some of Prague's fabulous architecture.

The food is also magnificent. The menu is wide-ranging, including not only traditional Czech dishes, but globally-inspired offerings. The bruschetta was excellent, as was the vegan lasagne, made with thin strips of courgette instead of pasta, and a cashew 'cheese'. The service was friendly and helpful, if perhaps somewhat overworked on the evening I was there. Not only would I recommend Vegans, I'd happily climb all those stairs to eat there again.

Veggie restaurants are also to be found in Southern Europe, as *Animalwatch* reader Peter Sedgwick discovered.

Crete – 5 Dekalios Street, Chania

This restaurant is just off the main harbour and is lovingly run by a family. The father and his two children have a farm in the hills above Chania and the menu reflects what is growing at the time. It is a small restaurant which is open to the main road and looks across to the harbour walls. Service is very friendly and well organized. You can sit on the pavement and enjoy the view, while savouring the amazing food. There are superb veggie stews, salads, and desserts. A particular favourite was

boureki (layered potato, feta, courgette, carrot, and onion pie with a flaky crust topped with sesame seeds). Another was zucchini flowers stuffed with rice and tomato. The organic beer was also appreciated.

The staff will tell you how the food is prepared, and the prices are very reasonable. It has an excellent write up on Trip Advisor which is well deserved.

Have you found some great veggie friendly restaurants or hotels while travelling, in your home country or abroad? If so, why not write a short review to send to Animalwatch and let others know about them. If you can, send a photo to go with your review.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Perhaps readers, and cat lovers in particular, will be interested to hear about our learning curve with a cat who kept wetting our home in the wrong places! We have been cat guardians for over half a century and have never before been confronted with this challenge.

Even though we recognised Mia clearly was a nervous kitten, it took us some time to work out what was going on and who was responsible amongst our three feline friends for the damp, smelly patches we kept discovering on our carpets. As ever, looking to Google we discovered this problem is one of the most common and after our enquiry we were bombarded over the following days with recommended remedies, most of which we purchased. In terms of cost this worked out at around 30p per day. Repeatedly we tried to convince ourselves that these herbal remedies made a difference but, in reality, after a few months we concluded "not a lot" except for the Spot On calming drops which seemed effective for a few days. Matt, our superb wonder vet with incredible patience and such a calming manner, recommended a Clinical Animal Behaviourist based in

Bristol. This recommendation interested us as possibly presenting a solution. Not cheap, so we did hum and haw a bit but eventually, in a last chance saloon mode, we decided to ask her to visit.

The consultation lasted a couple of hours and was very interesting. She taught us about cat colonies, how to spot body language of feline anxiety and suggested that perhaps Mia needed to be fed separately (not an issue as she is blessed with an appetite of a baby elephant), looked at our litter trays, water bowl facilities, toys, water stream in our garden and then advised us that the only clinically approved remedy is the Feliway plug-in pheromone diffuser. Interestingly I had heard about this from friend who works at the Battersea Dogs and Cats home. We had resisted this previously because we live in quite a large house and thought such vapours would rapidly dissipate.

She also talked about planting a herb garden and gave us a list of plants which can be purchased from Garden Centres (although some are seasonal). Subsequently we looked for cat thyme, calendula, echinacea, catnip/catmint, liquorice root, dandelion root, valerian, goldenseal, chamomile, oat grass, rye

grass, wheat grass, lavender, lemon balm, creeping rosemary and cat's claws. We have purchased a number of plants which are fortunately of no interest to our dog and they have been a huge success in terms of attention not just from Mia but our other two cats as well.

We also purchased Catnip flakes and spray which we use in the newly constructed cat cabin (pre-fab but don't ask how long that took to assemble) and for refreshing various toys. We use two Feliway Classic diffusers (upstairs and downstairs) which are almost impossible for humans and our dog to smell but do seem to have had a positive impact. Cost-wise is about the same, around 30p per day, but we benefit from a reduced electricity bill (less laundry) and a welcome saving in time from not cleaning up wet patches.

Mia definitely has calmed and we have suffered only one instance over the last three months. So perhaps we are on the winning track.

Could other readers please write to the Editor with any other suggestions.

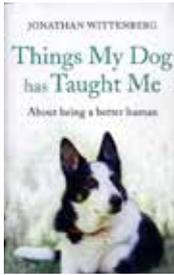
Keith Cottrell, Bristol

BOOK REVIEWS

THINGS MY DOG HAS TAUGHT ME (ABOUT BEING A BETTER HUMAN)

By Jonathan Wittenberg

Hodder & Stoughton
ISBN 978-1-473674-356
224pp Hardback
Price £16.99



This book is a pleasure to read. It is light and small, easy to hold, with comfortably sized print, and with the most delightful sketches of dogs – and their humans – at the beginning of each chapter.

Two dogs in particular have taught Jonathan Wittenberg about being a better human: his first dog, Safi, a little black mongrel who came to live with Wittenberg after having been abandoned in the London streets; and his collie dog Mitzpah, who was born on a Welsh farm. In this book, through stories about their life together, Wittenberg shares his great love of dogs, his horror of cruelty to animals, and his deep respect for the faithful, patient service that many dogs offer to humanity.

This book is engagingly anecdotal. We learn about how Safi and Mitzpah found their way into the hearts of the Wittenberg family. We read of their life together at home, the epic walks they had, the joyous times, the times of sorrow, and the sometimes hilariously and hideously embarrassing times – all of which resonated with me as a dog-owning reader. We are introduced to many other canine characters along the way: Pets as Therapy dogs, dogs trained to help disabled people in their homes, medical detection dogs, and Vie, the trainee guide dog pup.

This book celebrates the rich goodness of dog–human relationships. Moreover, it invites us, from time to time, to remember and grieve for dogs who suffer so pitifully through human carelessness and cruelty. I also read this book as a very helpful reflection on the place of animals within organised religion.

Jonathan Wittenberg is a Jewish rabbi who leads a synagogue in North London. My favourite illustration in the book is at the beginning of the chapter called Prayer: the author is shown sitting on the floor beside his dog, with his prayer shawl spread over both their

heads. Wittenberg's dogs go with him to morning prayers in the synagogue; they attend student Bible studies; they are touchingly helpful during many pastoral encounters. During their walking pilgrimage along the Rhine, Mitzpah with Wittenberg is warmly welcomed into interfaith forums, synagogues, cathedrals and a monastery. Yet not everybody understands. I think that any of us who have tried to offer the idea of Animal Friendly Church to our congregations will recognise the reaction of that new synagogue member who hears Wittenberg's sermon about talking to a sheep, and turns to ask in a loud whisper: 'Is your rabbi always mad?'

Finally, it seems to me that this is a profoundly mystical book. Safi and Mitzpah are Wittenberg's spiritual companions. In their walks together by night and by day, in various landscapes and in all sorts of weather, he experiences the created world with particular intensity. The mutual love and empathy of their shared life is a reminder that all living things belong together – human beings, dogs and all other creatures. There is a poetic intensity in Wittenberg's contemplation of the dog–human relationship that speaks movingly and urgently about the oneness of creation through which God's spirit moves.

Helen Ball

THE UGLY FIVE By Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler



Scholastic
ISBN 978-1-407174-198
pp Hardback
Price £12.99

I spotted this book in the Nottingham branch of Waterstones and the front cover attracted me, as three of the animals featured are my all-time favourites of the African plains – namely, the Wildebeest, the Hyena and the Warthog. I have had the great privilege of actually seeing all of these animals in the wild, hearing the funny grunting call of the Wildebeest, watching the ungainly lope of the Hyena and watching Warthogs half submerged, wallowing in muddy pools. True, they don't have the glamour of the lion or the majesty of the elephant but they have a certain charm – as the saying goes 'a face only a mother would love!'

This is a children's book for young children. It's the sort of book to sit and read aloud to a young child and, as it

is all written in rhyme, that makes it all the more pleasurable. The illustrations are beautiful and I love the fact that it will actually introduce children to some more unusual species. Children will most likely already be familiar with elephants but probably not wildebeest and marabou storks!

The book also has a great message about the worth of those not blessed with beauty, so it has the potential also to spark off useful and interesting conversations.

At £12.99 it is quite expensive, but I can see it could become a classic. It comes from the same stable as *The Gruffalo*, which my children loved when they were little. Although not available through ASWA, this book is available from high-street and online book sellers.

Samantha Chandler

TALKING POINT

Animals in captivity

As this issue of *Animalwatch* has been in development, stories regarding animals in captivity have been in the UK news. At the beginning of the year, it was announced that a captive polar bear in Scotland had given birth to a cub. For many this was a positive news story, especially as it featured a species at risk in the wild. Sadly, the other January animal news story was a report of the death of 13 monkeys in a fire at a UK safari park.

These two stories, each in their own way, reveal the hazards that animals face when kept in captivity. Female polar bears require intense privacy when caring for new-born cubs, but being in an enclosed space managed by humans could mean that the new mother is disturbed or becomes distressed, causing her to abandon the cub. In addition, many large animals, such as bears, do not do well in captivity, displaying signs of distress, such as stereotypies – repetitive behaviours like pacing. When animals are kept in enclosed spaces, even with access to fenced outdoor areas, they are vulnerable to incidents like fires, from which they can't escape.

Of course, we can't deny that many species, including polar bears and several primate species, are struggling to survive in the wild, as climate change, habitat loss and hunting take their toll. Is the only realistic choice a choice between life in captivity and extinction?

ASWA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

It's Election time again! There is, however, no postal voting form in this issue of *Animalwatch* because at the time of going to press the number of candidates for committee places does not exceed the number of vacancies. The three candidates looking to stand for another three-year term are Mrs Jenny White, Revd Hugh Broadbent, and Revd Jennifer Brown. There are no new candidates this year.

ASWA committee members are trustees, which means they have legal duties and responsibilities. The tasks of the committee are to manage the day-to-day running of ASWA, including the planning of ASWA services, commissioning and producing informational material, managing the budget, organising fund-raising events and the production of *Animalwatch*, to name but a few. You will find information about the candidates below:

Jenny White: Jenny served as ASWA's Treasurer from 2006 to 2017. She is married with two grown up children. Jenny is now retired and shares her home with her husband and two dogs.



Hugh Broadbent: Hugh has served as an ordained priest in the Church of England since 1979. In 2009 he became Rector of All Saints with Christ Church, Snodland. He is married to Jane, a palliative care physician, and has two grown-up children.



His interest in animal welfare and his concern for the enormous problems of cruelty and abuse that we face in this modern world arose whilst he was a curate in Chatham. He became aware of these issues through an encounter with an ASWA member living in the parish. He joined ASWA and a year or so later was invited to join the committee.

Hugh provides theological contributions to the committee and has written orders of service for our annual services over a number of years, as well as a number of discussion booklets. In particular, he was directly responsible for the preparation of our Animal Welfare Sunday Order of Service publication and the comprehensive 'Animal Welfare Patterns of Worship'.

Jennifer Brown: Originally from the USA, Jennifer moved to the UK in 1999 and joined ASWA in 2001. Jennifer was ordained in the Church of England in 2005, and is currently on the teaching staff of Ripon College Cuddesdon, work that she combines with the post of Science Missioner for the Churn Benefice in South Oxfordshire. She has been the editor of *Animalwatch* since 2011, and was responsible for drafting the animal welfare factsheets introduced by ASWA for Animal Welfare Sunday in 2014. Jennifer sees care for our fellow creatures as very much a part of the Christian calling. She lives in Oxfordshire with her husband, dog and cat.



The deadline for applications to stand for election to the ASWA committee next year (2019) is 14th January 2019, but we ask that you contact the Secretary by the end of December 2018 in order to facilitate getting profiles of candidates into *Animalwatch* on time. Candidates must be willing to attend three committee meetings a year, which are held in London, and must be proposed and seconded – preferably by existing ASWA members or a member of the clergy who knows you well.

CHACHI'S HAVEN IN 2018

I previously wrote about a non-profit cat sanctuary in Israel called Chachi's Haven, run by Gail Joss (see Autumn 2017 issue). Gail has run Chachi's Haven for 30 years, initially in her native South Africa and for the last 20 years in Tel Mond, Israel. Named in memory of Gail's first cat, Chachi's Haven is home to 140 shelter cats rescued from the streets. Many have had medical issues and Gail has vastly improved their quality of life. She also feeds at least 250 street cats in the early hours of each morning.

We hope to secure decent premises for Gail and the shelter cats as the current premises are in bad condition and unsafe. Our aim now is to focus also on adoptions as this will ease the pressure on Gail. She runs the shelter singlehandedly despite having been diagnosed with cancer and Grave's Disease. We are trying to find local volunteers to help.

Thanks to Gail's love and attention many of the cats are suitable for

adoption. So far Sweetie has been successfully rehomed in San Francisco, USA. Sweetie is in remission from nose cancer and settled in her new home a few months ago. At present Denzil is being adopted in the Isle of Man and Rory in mainland UK. All their medical tests were successful, and they travel to their new homes on 3rd April.

It is easier to adopt than you may think, as Gail makes the arrangements. The charity may be able to help with some adoption costs. Cats adopted to the UK have to travel in cargo (it is less than 5 hours from Tel Aviv to London), but cats bound for the USA and parts of Europe can travel in the cabin as long as they have a human travel companion. Chachi's is currently seeking a volunteer to transport one cat from Israel to Boston, USA.

Israel is overpopulated with cats, so adoptions there are not feasible. Gail is trying to cut down on the number of cats in the shelter as it is hard to cope alone with her workload but there are

so many cats in desperate situations she finds it impossible to walk away. As Gail says, "How do you shut your eyes to suffering? The day you do you have lost your humanity."

The shelter relies entirely on donations and I would like to thank the kind donors who responded to my previous article. We can only do this because of people like you.

To donate please visit <http://chachishaven/donations>

Please also visit <https://www.facebook.com/chachis.haven/>

Jill Philpott



The John Austin Baker Creative Writing Prize



**A poem or piece of prose
not exceeding 500 words on 'Marine Life'**

Three categories, Adult, Youth 12-17 years and Child under 11 years.

Adult cash prizes

1st - £500 | 2nd - £250 | 3rd £100

Youth and Children's categories will have Voucher prizes.

£5.00 per entry. Payable online - www.aswa.org.uk
or by cheque payable to ASWA. T&C's available online.

Entries to be received by 31st May 2018.

**Winner to be announced on Animal Welfare Sunday
- 7th October 2018.**

Email entries: AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com

Or in writing (typed please) to Revd Lynne Chitty, Mill House
Retreats, Rocknell Manor Farm, Westleigh, Devon, EX16 7ES



ARE YOU AN ANIMAL FRIENDLY CHURCH?



Christians have a sacred duty to care for God's Creation

The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals is now awarding 'Animal Friendly Church' certificates to churches which practise and promote a compassionate attitude towards God's creatures.

Applicants will also be automatically entered into our annual **'ASWA Animal Friendly Church of the Year Award'**

The Winner will receive a hamper full of ethical and useful goodies for your Church and a plaque to display on your wall.

For further details visit our website

www.aswa.org.uk

or apply in writing to: PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT

T: 01252 843093 • **E:** AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com

ANGLICAN SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS

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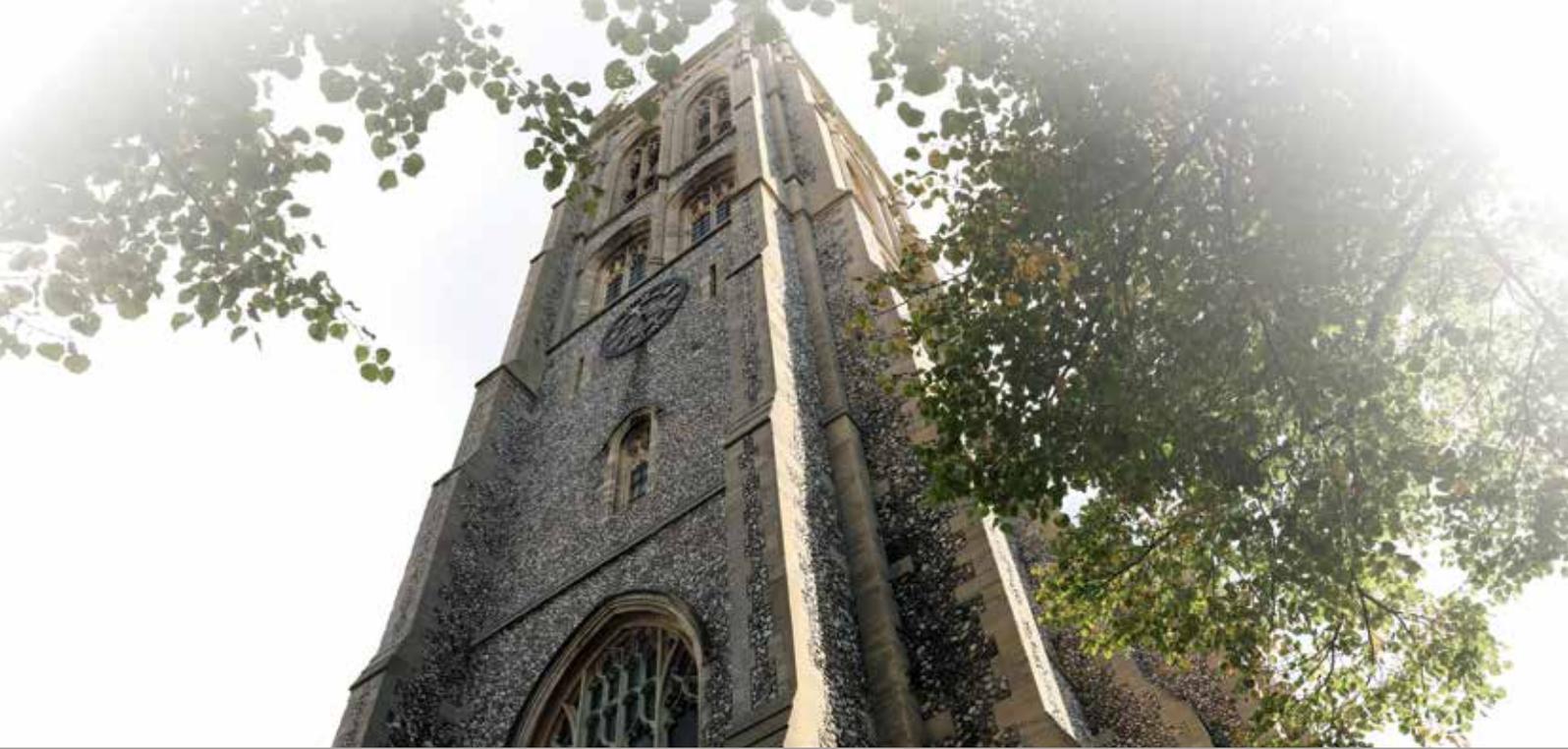
Revd Dr Helen Hall





ASWA DAY CONFERENCE & ANNUAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th October 2018



A special weekend focusing on the importance
of caring for our Marine environment.

A HALF DAY CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER WITH GUEST SPEAKERS:

Tim Ferrero - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Robert Sluka - A Rocha International

Professor Meric Srokosz - National Oceanography Centre - Southampton

9.00am - 12.30

with light refreshments and the opportunity for questions and answers.

Followed by a Celebration Service on Animal Welfare Sunday

7th October 2018 - 10.00am.

Preacher: Revd Dr Helen Hall

Venue for both events: St Mary's, Portsea, Fratton Road, Portsmouth PO1 5PA

By kind invitation of Revd Canon Bob White.