

101

Spring 2019

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BADGER PROTECTION, BADGER
CULLING AND THE LAW

CHALLENGE TO INTERNATIONAL
PROTECTION OF WHALES

ASWA DAY CONFERENCE AND
ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY

ASWA REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY SERVICE



IN THIS ISSUE

HELLO AND WELCOME	3
BADGER PROTECTION, BADGER CULLING AND THE LAW	5
CHALLENGE TO INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF WHALES	7
A SQUIRREL NAMED DEFRA	8
ASWA DAY CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL WELFARE SUNDAY	9
ASWA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS	11
ASWA REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE	14



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 22 May

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

Sunday 2 June

Animal Blessing Service, Craigiebuckler Church, Springfield Road, Aberdeen, 3pm. All animals with their human companions welcome.

Sunday 6 October

Animal Welfare Sunday.

ASWA Annual Service, St James' Piccadilly, London, 11am. Speaker: Revd Jeremy Fletcher

Sunday 8 December

Animal Aid Christmas Fayre, Kensington Town Hall, London

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 the law and its impact on animal protection. You will also find in this issue reports of animal welfare services, including ASWA's annual service that was held in October in Portsmouth.

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. Please refer to the information about contributions to *Animalwatch* for further details and restrictions on submissions.

Jennifer Brown, Editor

The deadline for the Summer magazine is **Monday 27th May 2019**.

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. £0.20 each.

Egg Cards: egg shaped cards with a prayer printed on one side. £0.20 each.

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.

Sticker sheets & books:

Activity sheet with stickers (ravens or bees), £2.00 each.

Our Wild World, an ASWA resource for children, £3.00 each.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANIMALWATCH

We very much welcome contributions to *Animalwatch* from our readers. We are interested to hear about the positive things being done for animals in your churches and communities. We also welcome informed pieces on specific areas of animal welfare, such as items relating to animal welfare law, the history of animal welfare, and theology. Articles should be submitted to the Editor as Word documents, with any accompanying photos sent as high-resolution jpg or gif files. Items submitted as pdf files cannot be accepted. Contributions must be the contributor's own original work, and (unless otherwise agreed) not published elsewhere. Items may be edited for length, readability and appropriateness of content. Publication of submitted items is at the Editor's discretion. In submitting an article, the contributor assigns copyright for the piece to ASWA. For items submitted by email, please assume your item has been received unless you get a delivery failure notice. The Editor is unable to acknowledge receipt of individual submissions.

PAW A COFFEE FOR ASWA IN 2019

Every year, we ask members and supporters to take part in Paw A Coffee to help raise money for ASWA. This year, we are asking people to do this any time before October. Paw A Coffee is a great opportunity to get together with friends and neighbours, to let people know about ASWA and our work, and to raise the profile of animal welfare.

All you have to do is invite people around for coffee and cake and share with them information about ASWA. If you provide the coffee and cake, we'll provide the information. Fundraising packs and literature can be obtained from the Secretary (see our web site: www.aswa.org.uk). To raise funds, you can either charge a small entrance fee, ask people for donations during the event, or both.

Paw A Coffee is a fun and easy way to support ASWA and our work. So go on, enjoy some coffee and cake in a good cause!

A WARM WELCOME

to our new members. We look forward to hearing from you.

We are please to welcome thirteen new members who have joined since the publication of the Autumn issue. We are also delighted to welcome St Ninian's Episcopal Church in Prestwick, South Ayrshire as a member church.

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

GOOD NEWS

Churches promoting their Animal-Friendly Status

Since its creation in 2015, more and more churches have become aware of Animal Friendly Church. In addition to those churches that have won the Animal Friendly Church Award each year, others register as Animal Friendly Churches. These churches clearly see care for God's creatures as part of their mission and witness, and they are letting people know they are animal friendly – on their web sites and at the church door, as this sign at Bridlington Priory shows.



NEWS & NOTICES

Don't forget, you can follow ASWA on Twitter – [aswanews](https://twitter.com/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.



ASWA Annual Service

This year's annual service will be held at St James' Church, Piccadilly, London on Sunday 6th October, 11am. Speaker the Revd Jeremy Fletcher.

Useful Web Site

We have discovered a web site that provides a list and map of dog-friendly churches in the UK. So, if you and your dog are travelling in Britain or Northern Ireland and want to visit a church or attend a Sunday service, this site can help you find the right church: <https://www.explorechurches.org/find-a-church>. Make sure you select 'dog friendly' in the facilities drop-down list.

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

Swimathon raises funds for ASWA

Readers will remember that in 2018 we invited people to take part in a swimathon to raise funds for ASWA. One ASWA member managed to raise over £500 by swimming for ASWA. We are delighted with her success, and grateful for the funds raised. You can read her story on page 12 in this issue.

EMAIL AND CHANGES TO DATA PROTECTION IN THE UK AND EUROPE

No doubt our UK readers will all be aware by now of the new data protection regulations, known as GDPR, that came into effect in May 2018. Members and subscribers will continue to receive their copies of *Animalwatch* as usual. If, however, you want us to continue to contact you by email about campaigns and our activities, and have not replied to GDPR emails, we need you to let us know it's ok. If you are an ASWA member, and are happy for us to keep you on our emailing list, please email aswamembership@btinternet.com. Please put "ASWA email address (and your name)" in the subject line and include in your message "I give consent for ASWA to hold my name and email address and to contact me with information relevant to ASWA and its work, and related issues."

TALKING POINT

The environment and what we eat

There has been much talk over the past few months about the need for society as a whole to move towards a more plant-based diet for the sake of the global environment. The question is, will we do it? There are some signs that it might already be happening, even if only on a small scale. Many supermarkets now stock a substantial range of vegan alternatives to meat and dairy products, and growing numbers of young people seem to be opting for a plant-based diet. Will an increasing recognition of the risk to the planet result in not just individuals but societies opting for a vegan diet? Can continued emphasis on animal suffering and animal welfare help promote the move to plant-based eating? Can we, as Christians, also promote a theological rationale for a plant-based diet to motivate our churches?

BADGER PROTECTION, BADGER CULLING AND THE LAW. WORRYING TIMES.



Photo courtesy of Toby Houlton

Badgers are social animals and watching them quietly in gardens or from a hide is a delight. Just like cats and dogs, their playful rough-and-tumble behavior as cubs and adults is just one part of their complex social organisation. Although nocturnal in habit, by day they often live in close-knit social groups underground in setts.

Badgers were protected from cruel persecution by the 1973 Badgers Act and this was strengthened in 1992. As a result of legal protection, studies suggest that badgers have steadily recovered since their local extermination in parts of the country in past centuries and may now be returning to more natural levels. However, few would have foreseen the calamity that has taken place in England in recent years, starting with government studies in 2007 using mathematical modelling of field trials. These suggest that badgers pass bovine TB back to cattle at levels that can be reduced by badger culling.

Sadly, badgers are infected with bovine tuberculosis (bTB or cattle TB) when eating earthworms infected with bTB bacteria from cow pats or spread slurry. In the near eradication of the disease in the 1960's, infected badgers did not spread bTB back to cattle in places from which it had been removed, suggesting that the badger-to-cattle pathway is relatively rare or even non-existent.

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 does allow badgers to be removed to stop disease spreading, and a government policy in 2011 to cull badgers in areas

of bTB was forced through despite the prevailing academic opinion that it could not make any meaningful contribution to bTB reduction. A small number of powerful government-employed and funded vets and intensive livestock representatives pushed the policy forwards, with major charities not strong enough to stand up to them.

Culling began in Somerset and Gloucestershire in 2013 and spread to Dorset in 2015, then to Devon, Cornwall, Wiltshire and Herefordshire. Since then, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cumbria have been added. This year, culling is threatened in Avon, Berkshire, Derbyshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Sussex and further into East England. Some think the government aim is to reduce badger numbers everywhere to delay their final recovery. Since 2013 in England, over 67,000 badgers have been shot in cage traps or at night in the open using some methods the British Veterinary Association say are inhumane.

Studies of culling since 2013 in Gloucestershire and Somerset have led to claims by Ministers that culling is working, but close inspection shows this to be doubtful. In fact, in 2018 in Gloucestershire, new incidents of bTB doubled. In truth, the situation is muddled and not set up to be reliably monitored. It is a shambles and mess that one senior government expert described as 'an epic fail'. A government review in 2018 indicated that unless farmers improve testing and biosecurity the contribution of other measures is

unlikely to be enough. In other words, the badgers killed over the last five years may have all died in vain because the main cause of disease is not being properly addressed.

Beyond the shocking and sad cruelty of the culling, with wounded badgers running off to die slowly and in pain in their setts, culling has wider effects on the ecosystems that are disrupted by upsetting predator balances. Legal challenges have resulted in acceptance of the problem and a further case will go to court this February. Further challenges to culling methods and issuing of licences are underway. At time of writing, five High Court actions aiming for Judicial Review are live, managed by a large team of volunteer ecologists, disease experts and fundraisers.

All this shows that we need to work harder to ensure that laws passed to protect our wild animals are not abused on flimsy evidence by small vested interests.

If you would like to support people who are trying to help badgers and their wild communities, please support the appeal being run by Badger Trust Sussex by visiting <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/badgertrust-sussex-NewCalltoAction>.

Tom Langton
Secretary, Eurobadger

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA



Continuing to work for animal welfare

All our issues continue, especially that of live exports. There are, however, one or two breakthroughs, the major one being that a crew member on a live export ship took footage and images to reveal to the world the reality of what exported animals endure. Much gratitude is owed to this brave person. You can find the images on the Animals Australia website.

On the domestic front, it is sad to see trees being chopped down, leaving many native animals homeless, especially koalas. What are we doing to our world? We are experiencing a serious drought in many parts of Australia which impacts on both animals and humans.

I have heard from our member in the New South Wales Parliament Upper House that he intends to bring a bill to Parliament this year requiring similar steps to be taken as have been taken in California: the banning of puppy farms. That would be a wonderful step forward.

My own organisation, Hunter Animal Watch, goes from strength to strength. We have now de-sexed over 31,000 cats and dogs.

Olga Parkes

We are grateful to Olga Parkes for the many contributions she has made to Animalwatch over the years, keeping us up-to-date on the animal welfare situation in Australia. Olga has informed us that she will be stepping down as our Australia correspondent. If any of our other readers in Australia would like to send us information on what is happening either nationally or in your area, please do contact us. – Editor.

Sweden



New year – new fear or more hope?

Many family pets dread the New Year's celebrations with fireworks and crackers going off. Wild animals in rural areas also suffer fear and panic when the loud sounds scare them and some of them become what could be called shell-shocked for the rest of their lives. The Animal Rights Movement has a list of all counties and their policies concerning fireworks and crackers. They have been working for years on information campaigns and, despite a lack of political awareness and legal statutes against fireworks, they have been very successful. Major stores like Lidl, Ica Maxi, Coop and Willys have decided not to sell these things at all.

On the Swedish Christmas dinner table we traditionally have ham not turkey. The trend towards more vegetarian Christmas food is getting stronger. More and more people are choosing veggie food and the traditional Christmas buffet table is changing. Thirty-six per cent of all Swedes find it ok to skip the ham and enjoy Christmas without it, and forty-eight per cent of women. This is an amazing breakthrough! Vegan food is also on the way up as a popular option. Meat consumption is on the decline. An increased awareness of the conditions that animals, our brothers and sisters, sentient beings, exist in and die under is becoming stronger.

That to me is a ray of hope that I pray may light up our 2019 on our way to more compassion.

Sandra Kinley

USA



Inspired by the homeless

One of our members, Fr Bill Dennler is currently serving as rector of Church of the Holy Trinity in Nashville, Tennessee. An outreach program near and dear to Fr Bill's heart provides a Eucharist service and meal to the homeless community in Nashville, sometimes bringing hundreds to the church. Inspired by this outreach programme, Fr Bill wanted to do more than just an animal blessing to celebrate the feast of St Francis; he wanted to help homeless pets.

Just six weeks before the event, parishioner Alexis Faith began planning Holy Trinity's first annual All Creatures Great & Small Blessing of the Animals and Pet Adoption Day, which included pet adoptions, animal blessing, a pet pop-up shop, and a bake sale. With so many rescue centres hard at work to help pets affected by Hurricane Michael, finding rescues available to participate was difficult, but Freedom Farms foster volunteer Gayle Zei brought kittens and bunnies, and local dog trainer Tonia Floyd brought dogs from Proverbs 12:10 Animal Rescue. Rundi Reams, manager of Crossroads Campus, provided a table of pet merchandise, and accomplished local artist Carrie Mills set up a table featuring pet portraits. Church volunteers provided baked goods for a sale in the parish hall.

With over 30 animals in attendance, Alexis described the event as beautifully moving, commenting, "It was a truly magical experience. The Holy Spirit was definitely with us. I think it felt like our hearts were glowing." Holy Trinity is already looking forward to next year's event and has several animal groups reaching out to participate.

Tanya Garrett

CHALLENGE TO INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF WHALES

On 26 December 2018, the Japanese government announced its withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission (IWC – the body that regulates whaling) in order to officially resume commercial whaling operations in Japanese waters. The intention is to stop the so-called ‘research whaling’ operations in the high seas of Antarctica and the North Pacific and instead concentrate on hunting sei, minke and Bryde’s whales in Japan’s coastal waters and offshore, but no further than the line of the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

There was huge interest internationally in Japan’s decision, proving that the world sees this move for what it is – a big deal – and a very bad one for the whales. It has the potential to jeopardise more than three decades of work to protect and conserve the great whale species. In 1982, the IWC agreed on a worldwide ban or moratorium (by putting all kill quotas to zero) for commercial whaling on all large whale species. This ban came into effect in 1986 and is one of the biggest successes for modern species conservation.

Of course, the Japanese government was never a friend of the whaling moratorium and has worked hard over the last 30 years to undermine and ultimately lift it. There is no doubt that Japan’s decision to leave the IWC was triggered by their failure to succeed with the proposal to lift the commercial whaling ban at the September meeting of the IWC. Instead, the majority of member countries emphasised their dedication to the protection of whales and ocean ecosystems by adopting the groundbreaking Florianopolis Declaration.

The Florianopolis Declaration highlights the key role of the IWC as a conservation body and the importance of whales for healthy oceans. It also recognises that there is no need for commercial whaling or to kill whales to carry out research. It is the logical move and an important step in the right direction: This new Declaration aims to transform the IWC away from being a body that regulates whaling to one that conserves and protects whale populations.

Just a few weeks later Japan’s continued trade in endangered sei whales was found to be illegal by the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Japan is not the only nation to support commercial whaling. Some commentators have remarked that, in fact, Japan is now just following the example set by Norway (which objected to the whaling ban when it was agreed and is thus not bound by the decision) and Iceland (which left the IWC only to re-join later with a much disputed reservation to the ban) who both still conduct commercial whaling in their waters in defiance of the ban.

The situation is much more complex than that, however, and Japan leaving the IWC is actually setting a dangerous precedent – a country unhappy with the decisions made by the majority of the members of an international agreement, can simply choose to go it alone and, in this case, resume commercial whaling without the oversight of an international body. Japan’s intention is to remain an observer to the IWC, thus hoping to still be in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Legally, Japan’s decision is questionable and might not be in line with its international obligations. UNCLOS requires countries to cooperate on whale conservation matters ‘through the appropriate international organisations for their conservation, management and study’. Globally, the IWC is the only recognised appropriate international organisation to do that. Although the IWC does not have the legal mechanisms to sanction countries that violate the moratorium, countries could challenge Japan’s move under UNCLOS. Still, there is the danger that other countries might now follow this example set by Japan – if you are not happy with the decisions made by the majority of an agreement, just leave and do as you please. Not a helpful move in times where international cooperation on protecting our environment and the world’s climate is becoming more important by the day.

Japan’s decision has led to particular concern about the status of a small minke whale population called the J-stock, found off the coast of Japan and already under severe threat. The sei whales targeted by the whalers are still classified as endangered and there is too little data to even know the status of Bryde’s whales. But just talking about numbers and abundance is of course beside the point. Whales are immensely complex, sentient beings. We are still only scratching the surface of understanding

all there is to learn about them and the mysteries of their ocean-dwelling lives. Whaling is inherently cruel and we also now know how important whales are for healthy oceans and even our climate. Saving the whales really means saving ourselves and our shared planet. There is simply no need or demand for a commercial whaling industry in the 21st century.

So what can be done? What we need to do now is give the whales a loud voice, asking the Japanese government, as well as other whaling nations, to abandon commercial whaling and join international conservation efforts. At WDC, we are working closely with other organisations all over the world and also with government departments to try to leverage diplomatic pressure. The UK and other governments have issued strong statements condemning Japan’s move and we will work with them to follow this up with action. We have close links with Japanese animal welfare organisations and we are intensifying those working relationships. Japan’s announcement has received a lot of media coverage with many Japanese commentators raising concerns within Japan and so we hope that this will bring more domestic attention to the issue and make it easier for our allies in Japan to get traction and garner support. Change will need to come from within Japan and so our work with our colleagues there is a crucial tool in our box. But most importantly, the Japanese government also needs to hear from you! We would encourage people to write to the Japanese embassy and let them know that the resumption of commercial whaling is unacceptable.

Astrid Fuchs
Stop Whaling campaign lead
Whale and Dolphin Conservation

A SQUIRREL NAMED DEFRA, A TRUE (ON 29 JANUARY 2019) STORY



At the time of writing, grey squirrels, with nothing particularly exciting happening between Christmas and spring, are mating. Around forty days later, a squirrel who is going to be called Defra will be born. Her mother will be moving her between nests, but Defra will be left behind in the general commotion that accompanies house moves. A compassionate member of the public will pick up the cold and dehydrated baby squirrel and will take her to Urban Squirrels rescue. There she will be called Defra, hand-reared, introduced to a couple of nest mates of similar age and, when old and capable enough, returned back to the place where she came from, much to the delight of the compassionate member of the public, who will be kept informed of her progress.

Except that this may not happen. Just before Christmas 2018, rescue centres throughout the country that deal with 'alien species' got an email informing them that, effective from the end of March 2019, their licences are revoked and any animals that are brought to them after that date will have to be euthanised. This decision is based on the translation into British law of EU regulation 1143/2014.

Little Defra is a grey squirrel, and her ancestors were brought here from America in the 19th century, at the time when it was fashionable to move animals between continents. Unfortunately for her, the pendulum of

academic fashion has now swung in the opposite direction, and, as far as traditional conservation is concerned, introduced species are public enemy number one, regardless of their actual ecological impact.

If Defra the squirrel could construct and put across arguments to policy makers, she would say that her species do not reduce the bird population (as a government-funded monitoring programme has shown) or destroy trees (as Forestry Commission research found). She might also point out that the so-called native red squirrel that she is supposed to have replaced virtually disappeared from Great Britain before grey squirrels were introduced and were themselves reintroduced from Scandinavia, so are not exactly native either. She might say that she is a better ecological fit in the present habitat (as opposed to the habitat as it was 300 years ago) and performs the same function in the ecosystem as the 'native red'. But Defra the squirrel cannot construct arguments, and creatures better adapted for communicating with policy makers than she is seem unable to get those arguments across to them either.

Now, when the compassionate member of the public, who is very likely to have a child in tow as well, picks up the baby squirrel and calls rescue organisations, they will be told, again and again, that no help is available. They will then ring their trusted vet. The vet will say that all

they can do for Defra the little squirrel is kill her. Suddenly the compassionate member of the public (and their child) will have to make a decision. Do they take the baby squirrel to the vet to be killed? Do they leave her where they found her to slowly die of cold and dehydration? Do they try to hand-rear her themselves, without any training, or equipment, or proper formula, and possibly watch her die from their mistakes?

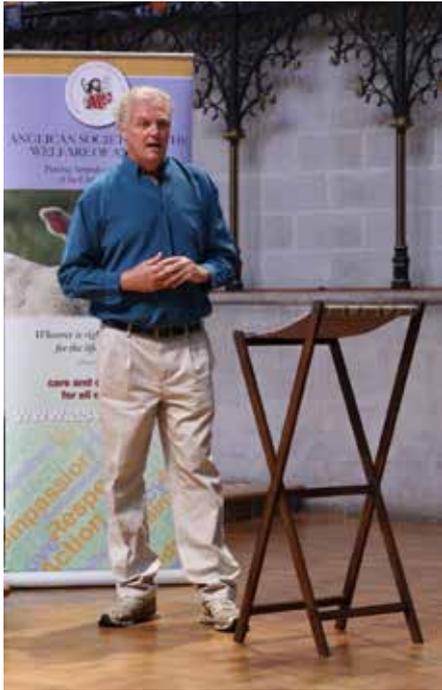
A campaign is under way to stop this nightmare scenario. Urban Squirrels has started a parliamentary petition at bit.ly/SquirrelPetition asking for rescue to be made exempt from invasive alien species legislation. After all, we are not importing exotic animals into the country, or breeding them, or releasing new species into the wild. We are taking from the wild the animals who are already there and returning them back where they came from. The number of animals who come into rescue is not significant statistically, but very significant from the point of view of humanity's compassion footprint.

At the time of writing, 39,000 British citizens have signed the petition. Several wildlife rescue organizations sent a joint letter to MPs on the same matter. Several animal protection organizations wrote a joint letter to environment secretary Michael Gove; the letter became the subject of an article in *The Independent*. Wildlife Aid, home of TV's Wildlife SOS, made several public statements. The RSPCA made a public statement. The *Vet Times* published an article outlining the problem. Numerous private individuals took the trouble to contact their MPs and other politicians.

All these humans are hoping that the legislation will be amended to make rescue exempt from invasive alien species legislation, so that Defra the little squirrel will not die an early, completely unnecessary and possibly slow and painful death, but will be brought to rescue, put in a warm nest, given her name and lots of love, until it is time for her to rejoin her kind in the wild. Will you add your voice?

Natalia Doran
Urban Squirrels

ASWA DAY CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY 2018 AND OTHER ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES



To celebrate Animal Welfare Sunday in 2018 we decided to hold a half-day conference followed by a service of celebration. The focus of the weekend would be on Caring for the Marine Environment. This was mainly due to the fact that David Attenborough's documentary, 'Blue Planet 2', had hugely raised the profile of this important subject and we thought it was important to show that environmental issues that affect our planet and animal welfare are inextricably linked. Television footage showing floating 'islands' of single use plastic in our oceans and the stomachs of sea birds and marine creatures full of tiny fragments of plastic that they had mistaken for food has been truly heart-breaking for all of us who love and value our precious wildlife.

Revd Canon Bob White and his team welcomed us to the beautiful St Mary's Church in Portsea. This beautiful gothic church is a real gem and anyone living in the Portsmouth area should definitely go and visit. We particularly love the mission statement on their website:

'Being with God – Being with others – Being with the rest of creation'. The whole church community got involved, including a team of biscuit makers making fish-shaped biscuits for the weekend's events and the two lovely curates, Darcy and Marcus, assisting with the logistics and sound.

The half-day conference started promptly at 9.00am on Saturday 6th October with refreshments. We were truly blessed to find three wonderful speakers, all passionate about their particular area of expertise in the marine world. Professor Meric Srokosz from the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton talked about the enormity of the challenge of the damage being done to our oceans by climate change. Tim Ferraro from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust took a more local angle, talking about particular species in the waters of the south coast (we are all now much better informed about whelks!) And, all the way from the USA, Bob Sluka from A Rocha International took us on a wonderful journey learning about the gentle manatee and we all longed to go out to Florida and meet one in the wild. Sadly, these wonderful creatures are at risk from tourism and, in particular, the propellers of boats which cause them terrible injuries.

The audience, which included both regular worshippers at St Mary's and also local folk interested in marine ecology, listened in fascination and gathered afterwards for coffee and those fish-shaped biscuits to share stories.



The following morning, Animal Welfare Sunday, we returned to St Mary's for their Harvest Festival family service where ASWA Chair, Revd Dr Helen Hall, preached to a congregation of all ages. The wonderful balloon sea

creatures that Helen had made with the children the previous day were on display amongst the harvest vegetables. The children were fascinated as Helen preached about the mighty Old Testament Leviathan and once again focused on care for our oceans and the creatures that inhabit them.

We would like to thank the staff and community of St Mary's, Portsea and all those who came to support the event. Also, our huge thanks to our three speakers who gave up their time for us. ASWA's 2019 annual service will be in London at St James', Piccadilly on Sunday 6th October at 11.00am.

Samantha Chandler

ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

Church of St Peter & St Paul, Coleshill, Warwickshire

Each month we run a Messy Church function and our theme for September was our animal companions. At 4pm on Sunday we had planned to have a short outdoor service for the townspeople of Coleshill to bring their pets (small or large). On the day, however, the wind was quite high so we called everyone inside instead. A service like this is popular with Coleshillians, indeed for some it's an opportunity to remember past companions and, after a blessing for all animals, everyone is invited to stay to explore for a while what it means to be a custodian of the animals we care so much about. During this fellowship, there's opportunity to express ourselves through 'messy' planned craft activities, or over a cup of coffee. We learned that the feast of St Francis of Assisi (4 October) is a timely commemoration of the life of St Francis, who is also the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment.

By far our largest guest at our animal service was Ash the pony (who was very well behaved).

Andrew Moore

Inverness Cathedral



Inverness Cathedral held its first ever pet blessing service on Friday 5th October 2018. The service was organised by the two Scottish Episcopal Church ordinands currently on placement, Katrina O'Neill and Jaime Wright. Twenty dogs and one cat came along for a blessing, and we were joined by the local branch of Pets As Therapy.

Katrina O'Neill

St Martin's Church, Kensal Green, London

Despite the inclement weather on Saturday 6th October, with a steady downpour increasing in intensity as the 2pm start time approached, the 2018 animal blessing service at St Martin's attracted an excellent turnout, with hardy animals and their carers coming from across London and beyond making their way to the church in Kensal Green. They arrived on foot, by bus, train, car and taxi, undaunted by the adverse conditions.

As usual, dogs were in the majority but cats were also well represented.

The service was led by the vicar of St Martin's, the Revd Graham Noyce, whose support and encouragement have played a vital role in making the service the successful event it has become over

the years. After the animals present had been blessed, the companion animals of those unable to attend the service were also remembered and prayers were said for animals in different parts of the UK and Europe, including France, Spain, Russia and Cyprus.

St Martin's has links with an Orthodox convent in Russia, where the animal-loving nuns rescue and care for unwanted and abused animals, especially cats, and a retiring collection was held to assist them with their welfare work.



James Hogan

St Mary-at-Latton, Harlow, Essex



Our newly priested curate, Revd Malcolm Green, got to bless the animals at our animal blessing service for the first time this year. The service, in which animals are both blessed and anointed, was held on October 7th, 2018, Animal Welfare Sunday.

Lynn Hurry

St Michael-in-Lewes, East Sussex

At St Michael-in-Lewes, East Sussex, we were very pleased to celebrate our first Animal Welfare Sunday on October 7th, 2018. Our children chose the

intercessions, provided in the Animal Welfare Sunday pack, as their part in the service. Eight of them read these before spending the rest of the service in the kitchen – along with adult helpers – to prepare a special meal for everyone. There was time after the service to enjoy warm sunshine in the churchyard. One of the features of the churchyard is our beehives. We have an expert beekeeper in the congregation who assures us of a plentiful supply of the very popular 'angelic honey' throughout the year. Finally, everyone was ready for a delicious meal of soup, made from home-grown vegetables, and bread in the shape of animals.

Beryl Wilkins

St Peter's Anglican Church, Scarborough, Ontario



On Saturday, October 6th, 2018, St Peter's Anglican Church in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, held its annual Blessing of the Animals Service in the church sanctuary. The service was conducted by the Reverend Sister Mary Florence Liew, and there were approximately twenty people in attendance, along with their companion animals – dogs, cats and one ferret. We also had a visit by three members of the Toronto Police Service Mounted Unit with their horses, which were blessed by the Reverend Sister Mary in our churchyard.

Lisa Turner

THE BIBLE AND...

Animal Conservation in Religious Law

This Bible study is designed to help and individual or small group to explore what the Bible says about the conservation of wild species in the Law given by God to his people

Deuteronomy 22.6–7

“If you come on a bird’s nest, in any tree or on the ground, with fledglings or eggs, with the mother sitting on the fledglings or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young. Let the mother go, taking only the young for yourself, in order that it may go well with you and you may live long.” (NRSVA)

When it comes to conservation of species, the Bible might not be the first place you’d think to look for guidance. And yet, the Bible does have something to say about the preservation of wild species. The passage quoted here, while allowing the hunting of wild birds or the gathering of their eggs for food, makes clear that doing so must be within certain limits. The mother must be left so that she can produce more offspring to replace those taken.

Similarly, humanity’s purpose as described in the words of Genesis 2.5, to “till and keep,” or to “tend and care for” or even to “serve and care for” God’s garden (depending on how one

translates the Hebrew), is to preserve and nurture God’s creation. It could be argued that another way to describe preserving and nurturing could be ‘conservation’.

Questions for Groups:

Do you think that the principle behind the command in Deuteronomy 22.6–7 sets a good balance between human need and the conservation of wild species?

How do you think the principles that underly the Deuteronomy verses, together with Genesis 2.15, could be applied to thinking about species conservation today?

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 two candidates looking to stand for another three-year term are Mrs Samantha Chandler standing for Secretary and Mr Keith Cottrell standing to be a committee member.

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.

Samantha Chandler:

Samantha has been Secretary since 1996. She has been involved in animal welfare for over 30 years, supporting many organisations such as Compassion in World Farming, Animal Aid and the Born Free Foundation. Samantha says that working for ASWA gave her the opportunity of combining her Christian faith with her love for animals and concern for their welfare. She is married with three young adult children and lives in Hampshire with a flock of rescued sheep and an elderly terrier. Sam has appeared on Channel 4 TV’s ‘4Thought’ series and is a regular contributor to BBC regional radio and Premier Christian Radio.



Keith Cottrell:

Keith’s lifelong passion for animal welfare started as a child in Singapore. He joined ASWA some 20 years ago and since retiring has been able to devote more time to God’s animal kingdom. He is also a trustee and actively involved with three other Christian organisations and lives happily near Bristol with his wife, daughter, three cats and a dog.



THE VEGGIE TRAVELLER

Travelling has become a regular occurrence for many of us, whether for business or on holiday, but it isn’t always easy for the vegetarian or vegan traveller. But, if you know where to look, there’s some great food to be had, even in unexpected places.

Coventry – The Phoenix

I’m a fairly regular visitor to Coventry and was recently introduced to the Phoenix on Gosford Street as a great veggie- and vegan-friendly place to eat.

The Phoenix is just what it appears to be – a student-oriented pub, which is no surprise given its location. And while

that may not appeal to everyone, it does mean that they have a good selection of vegetarian and vegan food. Being pub food, the menu mainly runs to burgers (including a delicious vegetarian quinoa burger and an equally delicious vegan jack fruit burger), sandwiches and wraps, but they also do a falafel salad, curries, an all-day breakfast and various specials.

If you’re in Coventry and are looking for a quick, casual vegetarian or vegan meal, the Phoenix could have what you want.

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.



BOOK REVIEWS

AT THE MASTER'S SIDE

By Stephen J Poxon

Monarch

ISBN 978-0- 857-21907-7

384pp Paperback

Price £12.99

I enjoyed reading this lovely and thought-provoking book which is dedicated to human beings everywhere who love dogs, appreciate their company and realize their worth. It comprises 365 daily meditations from a member of the Salvation Army. His great sense of humour shines through the book as do his pragmatic observations.

Relaxing and easy to read, each day's reflection takes just a few minutes and so doesn't demand changing your routine. I found myself looking forward to spending time focussing on God and his canines. Readers of *Animalwatch*, especially dog admirers, will I'm sure enjoy the journey as well.

Occasionally it is good to find a book that challenges some of our beliefs and behaviour rather than simply confirming what we think and how we act. Stephen Poxon did just that to me on several days. One such example being the reading on November 7th which quotes Ecclesiastes 3:21, "Who knows if the spirit of man rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?" followed by Billy Graham's comforting observation "I think God will have prepared everything for our perfect happiness. If it takes my dog being there in Heaven, I believe he will be there". I certainly expect to see again the wonderful animal companions who are and have been part of my life.

I have pleasure recommending this book. I found each passage easy to read, often stimulating intellectually, sometimes spiritually uplifting, occasionally making me laugh and overall a comforting daily reminder of God's love and everlasting faithfulness. In fact, I think I will start the book again!

Keith Cottrell



FABULOUS FINN

By Dave Wardell with
Lynne Barrett-Lee

Quercus

ISBN 978-1-786-48906-7

300pp Hardback

Price £16.99

I first remember hearing about Police Dog (PD) Finn on social media. He caught my attention straight away, not only for being a German shepherd (one of my favourite breeds), but also for being one of the many extraordinary service dogs that our emergency services have.

Finn's whole social media presence was the result of a near-fatal knife attack in the line of duty that resulted in a campaign for Finn's Law. As it currently stands, someone who attacks a service animal can only be charged with criminal damage.

This book tells the story of that night, the heart-wrenching hours and days that followed and Finn's recovery and return to duty. It provides a wonderful insight into the life of a service animal, both at work and at home, through the eyes of his incredibly committed partner, handler and Dad, PC Dave Wardell. Discovering, along the way, the journey that brought PC Wardell from a tough childhood to realising his dream career.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, being brought into the world of police dogs, from their selection and training to the thrills and demands of the job. I was struck by how incredibly special the bond is between handler and dog and the reality of how the work can affect police officers and their mental health.

This book highlights how wonderful, hard-working, loyal and loving dogs truly are and their importance in our lives, both physically and emotionally. An inspiring read.

Penny Ewbank



SPONSORED SWIM



I decided to do the swim for ASWA in September as I want to support animal welfare and all that ASWA does to keep the issue of animals on the agenda of the Anglican Church. I am 61 and not very sporty, so swimming is my best attempt at keeping fit! I have always swum breast-stroke, badly, so decided to have a few lessons with a local teacher who was very patient. She had me swimming front-crawl in a few weeks with more confidence that I have had in the water before, so my goal became to swim a kilometre and raise some funds for ASWA. I did the swim at Forest Pines Leisure, in Broughton, North Lincolnshire, where I swim regularly. The staff were very accommodating and allowed my friend to come and count lengths to verify the distance. The pool is only 18 metres long so I had to swim 60 lengths to cover the 1km distance. It took me 40 minutes – not bad for me as I do everything very slowly. My friends and the congregations of my five rural parishes were very generous and I have raised £615. I'm sure ASWA will put this money to good use. Thank you for all that you do.

Revd Kathy Colwell
Kirton in Lindsey, Lincolnshire

And a very big 'thank you' to you, Kathy, for your efforts and to your sponsors for their generosity. ASWA is grateful for your donation and delighted that the swimathon challenge also gave you the opportunity to improve your technique in the water.

OBITUARIES

May Tripp



It is with great sadness that we report the death of May Tripp in December. May founded and for many years ran Animal Christian Concern (ACC), as well as being a supporter of other animal welfare charities and initiatives. She was a wonderful, inspirational person and ACC did some important work in the area of Christian animal welfare. May was also devoted to helping people in need, as well as animals. She will be very much missed by her husband Harry, son Jonathan and many friends.

A publication entitled *Animal Welfare Through the Cross – a collection of Animal Christian Concern articles* compiled by her good friend Roslyne Louise Smith is available on Amazon.

ASWA and ACC often worked closely together and representatives from ASWA attended her funeral. She left St Margaret's Church, Horsforth on her final journey in a hearse drawn by two

beautiful black horses complete with black head plumes – we are certain she would have very much approved.

Joyce Dorothy Wood

We report with regret the death of Joyce Wood. Joyce was a doctor of public health in Gloucestershire until her retirement in 1981. She had a real connection with nature and the natural life around her and was an active supporter of many conservation groups, including Cats Protection, the RSPB, and the Woodland Trust, as well as ASWA. Her medical training meant that she approached all this natural history not only with joy and wonder, but also with a scientific thoroughness. She is greatly missed by her family and friends.

ANIMAL AID CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This wonderful event, organised by Animal Aid, is held annually in Kensington Town Hall and is now in its 26th year. ASWA is a regular attendee and our presence as the only Christian witness is now accepted and welcomed.

Animal Aid does great work promoting and encouraging a cruelty-free lifestyle. Their supporters campaign peacefully against animal abuse. This Fayre facilitates the vital work of many campaign groups and sanctuaries helping animals in the UK and abroad – apes, badgers, chickens, dogs, elephants, foxes were all represented. This year every space for a stand was sold and we found ourselves in a new

location on the stage. We had around two hundred visitors with many enquiries about membership and a good number of Christmas cards and literature were purchased.

Well over a thousand visitors walked around the three floors looking at the huge range of cruelty-free products, enjoying the vegan cafés, cooking demonstrations and attending the talks. Those with children made use of the crèche, children's workshops and face painting.

The atmosphere was always good as all felt united in our hope and desire to improve the wellbeing of animals.

It is a great venue to buy unusual gifts for Christmas and to taste new food and drink which for me meant tasting some new vegan cheeses and trying a vegan beer!

Several people approached our Stand with words of encouragement, and many observed how refreshing it was to see a Christian presence focusing on God's animal kingdom.

This is a day full of fun and offers us a very worthwhile opportunity to promote ASWA so if you would like to help us next year, please do get in touch with the Secretary.

Keith Cottrell

ASWA REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE



On Sunday 11th November, ASWA held its seventh 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 a large crowd gathered to honour those animals who have died in war over the years. As it was the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, we particularly focused on the huge loss of life, particularly horses, in that conflict.

Pen Farthing who, along with his Nowzad supporters, has been a wonderful supporter of this event since its inception was unable to attend due to illness but many of the Nowzad family were in attendance which was wonderful. In Pen's place, we were incredibly honoured to welcome Police Officer Dave Wardell and his wonderful German Shepherd, Finn who has been the subject of a book, Fabulous Finn (see review in this issue). Finn accompanied Dave to the service along with Dave's two daughters. Finn was quite vocal, to the huge amusement of the gathered crowd, and it is obvious how much he adores Dave. He is now retired but continues to live with Dave, his family,

and Dave's current working canine partner.

Our other speaker was Susan Osborne from the War Horse Memorial in Ascot who spoke movingly about the role and huge sacrifice of horses in the First World War. The memorial takes the form of a bronze sculpture named Poppy that was unveiled last year and stands near Ascot Racecourse. Poppy stands with her head bowed and a string of barbed wire around her hooves.

We were joined and supported by our friends from Catholic Concern for Animals, Quaker Concern for Animals and Animals Interfaith Alliance, who read for us.

This is a wonderful, moving event and we hope that some of you will be able to join us again this year on Sunday 10th November at 3.00pm. ASWA always lay a wreath on behalf of the society and individuals are also encouraged to lay their own wreaths if they so wish.

Samantha Chandler

Remembrance at All Hallows Church, Mealsgate, Cumbria



The Church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, including a special window for animals in war. There was even a copy of ASWA's booklet on Animals in War in the bottom left corner. In addition to the decorations inside the church, purple poppies were included amongst the red poppies at the foot of the war memorial in the Churchyard.

Helen Wallage



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

PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire
RG27 8GT, UK. www.aswa.org.uk

Correspondance Secretary:

Mrs Samantha Chandler

Tel/Fax: 01252 843093

Email: AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com

Treasurer: Dr Chris Brown

Editor: Revd Jennifer Brown

Email: animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

Mr Keith Plumridge

Email:

aswamembership@btinternet.com

Patrons:

Dr Tony Campolo

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ANNUAL SERVICE FOR
ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY
Sunday 6th October



All welcome

A SPECIAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY
ON SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2019

SPEAKER: REVD JEREMY FLETCHER
11.00am

Venue: St James's Church
197 Piccadilly, St. James's, London W1J 9LL

Nearest Tube station:

Piccadilly Circus (Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines)
or Green Park (Piccadilly and Victoria lines)

Piccadilly Circus bus stop opposite Church - bus lines 6, 14, 19, 22, 38.