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Summer 2019

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animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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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!

21–24 July

Oxford Animal Ethics Summer School, St Stephen's House, Oxford. This year's theme is 'Humane Education: Increasing Sensitivity to Animals and Humans'. For more information, visit www.oxfordanimaethics.com

3–6 September

Animal Welfare Retreat, Hinsley Hall, Leeds. For costs and further information, please visit www.catholic-animals.com/events.

Sunday 6 October

Animal Welfare Sunday.

ASWA Annual Service, St James' Piccadilly, London, 11am. Preacher the Revd Jeremy Fletcher.

Sunday 10 November

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

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 threats facing wildlife today. You will also find in this issue the Chair's report from our AGM, and interviews with the winners of this year's Animal Friendly Church award.

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 and do make a note of the dates in Doris' Diary – especially ASWA's annual service in October and the Remembrance service in November. 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 submissions to *Animalwatch* for further details and restrictions on submissions.

Jennifer Brown, Editor

The deadline for the Autumn magazine is **Monday 19th August 2019**.

ASWA NEWS

Britain's Animals Have Got Talent!

Police Dog Finn who, together with his handler PC Dave Wardell, was ASWA's guest at the 2018 Remembrance Service for Animals, has found fame on Britain's Got Talent. Finn and Dave have appeared as contestants on the show and, at the time of going to press, had made it to the semi-final round. We are delighted to hear of their success so far. Good luck Finn!

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 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.

SUBMISSIONS 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 either as typed manuscripts by post or by email as Word documents, with any accompanying photos sent as high-resolution jpg or gif files. Items submitted as pdf files or email text

cannot be accepted. Submissions must be the contributor's (senders') 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.

A WARM WELCOME

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

We are pleased to welcome ten new members who have joined since the publication of the Spring issue.

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.

Sticker sheets & books:

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

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



Sneak Preview of ASWA 2019 Christmas Card

Thea Olrog has created this beautiful card especially for ASWA this year depicting animals celebrating a Christingle service. The card will be available to order from September either on-line via our website or by sending a cheque made payable to ASWA. The price of this year's cards will be advertised in due course. Please do not send in orders yet as we will not be able to process orders received before September.



GOOD NEWS

A reprieve for birds

In April of this year, a court ruled that it is no longer permissible in England to kill birds under a general licence. Prior to this ruling, farmers and others had been able to obtain a general licence from Natural England that allowed them legally to kill birds that had been designated as pests. Sixteen species were identified as pests, including crows, collared doves, Canada geese, and jays. Under the general licence, licence-holders did not need to demonstrate that the birds killed had damaged or were likely to damage crops or that they posed a risk to human health. Nor were they required to record or report the number of birds killed or to demonstrate that non-lethal means of discouraging the birds had been attempted. Since this ruling, those who feel they have no other option than to kill birds causing damage or danger to health will have to apply for a specific licence to do so and justify their actions.

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.



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.

ASWA VP to judge prestigious award

For a second time, ASWA Vice-President, the Revd Prof Martin Henig, is to be one of the panel judging the facilities shortlisted for the annual prisons' wildlife award. This award recognises the work that prisons do to make their grounds wildlife friendly, and the entries are always impressive. Prisoners are active in these wildlife projects, which provide part of their rehabilitation as well as creating havens for wildlife. ASWA is honoured to be involved in supporting the prisons' wildlife award and delighted that Prof Henig is once again able to take part in judging the inspirational entries.

TALKING POINT

Invasive species

Invasive species – those that have established in but are not native to a particular habitat or ecosystem – can pose a significant threat to indigenous wildlife and have become a problem in many parts of the world. In many, probably most, cases, invasive species are brought into an area by humans*. And yet it is the so-called invaders themselves that are often demonised and maligned. The solution is often the mass killing of the invasive species in order to protect native species. An area's native species, especially if already endangered or under stress, do need to be protected. But is it right that this is done through inflicting suffering and death on other creatures who, through no fault of their own, have found themselves in a new environment and thrived there? Should human beings be willing to shoulder more of the burden by using more humane, and more expensive, means of removing invasive species (such as capture, neuter, release programmes to prevent breeding, or removal and return to a species' place of origin)? And what about those species that, driven by resource depletion or climate change, are moving out of their native ranges into new areas? As conditions change across the globe, this is likely to become more common. Should these species be treated as invaders or refugees?

**It could be argued that the most widespread and dangerous invasive species worldwide is, in fact, humanity.*

OBITUARY

Anthea Haig

Anthea was an animal lover through and through. She had a strong faith and an amazing 'can do' attitude. She regularly attended the monthly animal welfare prayers at Gloucester Cathedral. She would appear at the chapel entrance often in her wellington boots, offer heart-felt prayers and then make the long journey back to Hereford via a bus journey and a trek across muddy fields. Whatever the weather she

never missed coming and was a delight. She was completely unassuming and yet incredibly tough, a pioneer and a total inspiration.

She was very private and didn't talk about herself much. She preferred to listen, but her kind and gentle presence enriched any gathering. Tiny in stature but huge in heart she overcame every obstacle and just got on with being a loving, compassionate, beautiful person.

ANIMAL FRIENDLY CHURCH 2018



In 2018, the Animal Friendly Church Award was jointly awarded to two of the churches granted animal friendly church status in that year, St Mary's, Greenhithe and St Andrew's, Melton. We congratulate both of them on winning the award and on all that they are doing for animals. Both churches kindly responded to our questions about what it means for them to have won this award.

St Mary's, Greenhithe, Kent



We feel proud of our church for being awarded animal friendly church status and to be joint winners of the Animal Friendly Church of the Year award. ASWA provided a platform from which we could champion animals and the environment in our church. We are excited to be part of ASWA and all that it stands for. Julia and Hilary, leaders of the animal friendly church project, are not involved in other leadership within our church, so this was a new experience for them, through which they have grown.

We hope that being an animal friendly church is important to most of our congregation. We don't know what is on the hearts of each congregation member, but we can say that it has been well received and has become a whole church effort. Many people have said that they are pleased and that it's refreshing that these issues are being raised. People have also shared their own animal rescue stories and contributed to our dedicated ASWA pinboard with photos and literature. We are and want to be a church that cares. The community is broad and has an outward focus, including our world and its creatures.

We have dedicated a pinboard which raises the profile of animal welfare and environmental issues, including seasonal information and information about local rescue centres. Information about ASWA has also been included in the church notice sheet over the year and we have had four dedicated family services on how the environment and animals are part of the church agenda. Our animal blessing service was held in a public park and attracted interest from people using the park with their animals. I think it has demonstrated that we have a broader focus than people sometimes assume.

We have had several animal friendly activities, including church fun days during which we made wildflower seed bombs and bird feeders, planted sunflower seeds, installed bird houses, feeders and birdbaths in the church grounds, made bug houses, created wild areas, and planted raised flower and vegetable beds in the church grounds. We have also provided a home in the grounds of the church for rescue chickens from the British Hen Welfare Trust. It has been beautiful to see these lovely birds regrow their feathers, grow in confidence and engage in their natural behaviours, such as dust baths and sunbathing, for the first time. This has helped to raise awareness of the reality of factory farming.

Being an animal friendly church is part of the fifth mark of mission, "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth." It is inclusive of congregation members and gets people involved in the church who may not have been before. It can involve all congregation members and has something for all ages. It's fun and most importantly focuses on God's earth. We still have more to do. We see our animal friendly work as a continuum of which we are only at the start.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge Revd Andrew and Carol Avery for embracing this project.

St Andrew's, Melton



We were delighted to win the Animal Friendly Church Award. The award has helped raise the profile of animal welfare in our church and the award has also been mentioned in the parish magazine, which is delivered to every household in Melton.

We have always held a service for the blessing of animals every September, which have included a variety of pets, including large African snails and, one year, a pony. We have also had dogs attending weddings and a funeral.

In November, at the Remembrance service, a purple wreath is laid at the memorial and many members of the congregation wear both red and purple poppies. On Palm Sunday we walk between the two benefice churches and dogs will often join their owners on this walk.

We always have a bowl of water for animals by the church door. In the grounds we have a variety of bird boxes and feeders and a meadow area for wildlife. We are hoping to add more nesting boxes and a bug house.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SOUTH AFRICA



Refuge for cats

In 2017, we reported on TUF CAT, a project caring for the feral cats at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) since 1997. Feral cats have lived at the campus in Bellville South on the 'Cape Flats' for decades. It is believed that the original cats were pets left behind when the Unibel and Modderdam squatter camps were demolished during the apartheid era. TUF CAT, under the direction of sociology lecturer Sharyn Spicer, continues to care for these cats, and this report provides an update on their work.

Today, the cats have their own full-time caretaker – Patrick Lupuzi. Patrick feeds and traps cats on an ongoing basis. He cleans and repairs their shelters and sells second-hand books to the students to bring in funds to sustain the project. He is a huge asset to the organization and the cats are so lucky to have him.

Fortunately, the TUF CAT project is supported by the institution and is viewed as a success by the university's operational services. This environmentally friendly method of rodent control has not gone unrecognized and UWC has won the Green Campus Award three times. The award was based on six 'green' innovations and practices, including the use of feral cats instead of poison for pest-control purposes. The TUF CAT project is in-line with UWC's overall mission and guiding ethos which emphasise ethical, environmental and social awareness.

TUF CAT has also enjoyed other successes, including:

- Fewer cats and kittens born or dumped on campus,
- Positive attitudes – more volunteers, help, support and donations than before,
- Fewer complaints and incidents of cats being a 'nuisance',
- No rats (less money is spent on pest control),
- Other institutions and companies following our example and using us as a model,
- Through our weekly fundraising book sales, we have promoted a 'culture of reading' amongst our students.

We are actively involved in educating people about feral cats and animal welfare in general. Through education, negative perceptions about cats can be changed and we will continue to provide information and demonstrate through example that cats play a positive and supportive role in human society.

TUF CAT has also realised another long-term dream by opening a sanctuary for feral and other unadoptable and unwanted cats on a smallholding near Villiersdorp, a rural part of the Western Cape, and providing outreach to farms and in the townships. There is no other animal welfare organization in the area. We have monthly sterilisation clinics and have sterilised nearly 400 animals since October 2018. We also assist with veterinary care, food, kennels and fencing to help get dogs off chains.

For more information about this project or to help, visit www.tufcat.co.za or like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TUFCAT-185864518133590/>).

Sharyn Spicer

SWEDEN



Protection, and risks, for pets and schemes to provide help for bees

The new law prohibiting abandoning pets is now in action. Pet owners can be prosecuted and if found guilty can serve either two years in prison or be fined if found leaving their unwanted pets at pet-shops, on roads or other places. Unfortunately, this new law is now inadvertently creating serious suffering. Unwanted pets are now being dumped far away from population centres and therefore are less likely to be discovered by people who could otherwise save them or take them to a shelter.

The bee situation is terrible. One third of Sweden's 270 varieties of wild bees are vanishing due to pesticides and lack of natural flora and greenery. One percent of Sweden's total land area is covered by lawns or similar. It has been suggested that instead of keeping lawns cut a more 'natural' approach should be taken, allowing a part of lawns to be wild and free. People are also encouraged to start sowing seeds for flowers that attract bees. People are even being encouraged to sow seeds out and about on the waysides in an effort to help the bees survive. The art of beekeeping is also becoming popular and has become a bit of a trend.

Garden centers are selling various kinds of 'bee-hotels' as well that people can put in their gardens to provide a safe refuge for bees. Every act of kindness and awareness in helping Mother Nature right now really does make a difference.

Sandra Kinley

USA



Virginia Passes Tommie's Law

On February 20th, the Virginia state legislature passed a law making animal cruelty a Class 6 felony, which is punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,500. Previous legislation required that the animal die as a result of the abuse before felony charges could be made.

The law—dubbed 'Tommie's Law'—came in response to death of pit bull that Richmond Animal Care and Control named Tommie. On February 10th, Tommie was tied to a fence in Abner Clay Park in Richmond. His abusers covered him accelerant and set him on fire. Despite the valiant efforts of first responders and the staff at Richmond Animal Care, Tommie died just five days later. His body couldn't recover from the extensive wounds.

As news of Tommie's abuse flooded social media, the public was horrified to find out that Tommie's abusers could only be charged with felony animal abuse if Tommie died. As sponsoring State Sen. Bill DeSteph (R-Virginia Beach) commented, "The crime matches the penalty. Not whether the dog lives or dies, the act of maliciously wounding or torturing a dog is the felony. They couldn't charge him with a felony until Tommie passed away, which is a horrible thing. The act itself is the horrible thing too. The act itself should be the felony, not the outcome."

Both chambers of the Virginia legislature passed the bill unanimously. Governor Ralph Northam signed the bill on April 1st. The bill goes into effect on July 1st and applies only to cats and dogs.

Tanya Garrett

THEY NEED OUR HELP

On land and in our seas, wildlife needs our help. Animals of all kinds are facing challenges – challenges that in many cases threaten their very existence. Sadly, most of the problems that animals the world over are facing have been caused by humans. The question is, are we humans willing to do what it takes to solve them?

So what are the biggest challenges being faced by the world's wildlife? In both Africa and Asia, wildlife trafficking is a problem, as people seek exotic animals as pets. Taking these animals from the wild puts pressure on populations, as well as inflicting suffering on the individuals taken into captivity and often transported in unsuitable conditions with inadequate care. Poaching of animals, particularly rhino and elephants, for bushmeat or body parts like ivory or rhino horn, is a very serious threat and one that is proving hard to combat. Poaching generates huge sums of money and there is evidence that international organised crime groups are involved. In our oceans, overfishing has led to the collapse of fish stocks in many areas. The Worldwide fund for Nature (WWF; www.panda.org) estimates that 90% of the world's fish stocks are already fully exploited or overfished. Not only is this a risk for the fish themselves, it also poses a threat to other species, predatory fish, whales, seals and seabirds, that depend on these fish for their food.

Human population growth is also a problem for wildlife. As our towns, cities and farms expand into previously unpopulated areas, wildlife is driven out. In some parts of Africa, this encroachment into wild areas can result in incidents of human-animal conflict, with animals being killed as a result. According to the African Wildlife Foundation (www.awf.org), there are even some areas in which more elephants are lost to human-animal conflict than to poaching. Perhaps the greatest threat from the expansion of human land use is the loss of habitat. The WWF claims that habitat loss is, in fact, the greatest threat facing species today. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN; www.iucn.org) has identified habitat loss as the primary threat to 85% of species classified as 'endangered' or 'threatened'. Clearly, we as a society, even as a species, need to have serious discussions about our population levels, and we need to think urgently about

how we can use land more efficiently so as to limit or even reverse loss of habitats across the globe.

Pollution is a problem on land and in the oceans. Plastics waste is a problem that impacts on both humans and non-human animals. In the oceans, microplastics are a particular concern, as these tiny plastic fragments can be ingested by animals at all levels of the food chain, even plankton. Because the microplastics can absorb and concentrate other, toxic pollutants, they pose a potentially significant threat to fish and marine mammals higher up the food chain and possibly even to human health. Larger plastics, especially plastic bags, are also a danger to marine life. Not only can birds become entangled in plastic bags (and in plastic fishing line), bags and other plastics can be mistaken for prey animals, such as jellyfish, by turtles and seabirds. The result is that animals end up filling their stomachs with these nutritionally useless and undigestible items and, eventually, starve.

Recent reports have highlighted the threats to insect populations. Habitat loss, widespread use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, in some cases spread through the commercial trade in pollinators like bees, are all taking their toll.

All of the threats mentioned so far could soon pale in comparison to the challenge facing not just wildlife but human beings, as well – global climate change. For many creatures, local changes in temperatures and weather patterns may make life unsustainable. Those species that are able to migrate to new areas or higher altitudes may find some respite. As sea levels rise, vital coastal habitats will be lost. Prolonged or frequent droughts will make life precarious for many. And as vital resources, such as arable land and clean water, become more scarce, human-animal conflict is likely to increase.

All of this paints a bleak picture for our wildlife. They cannot face up to these threats alone. They need our help. And there are things that we can do. We can reduce the number of single-use plastics that we use – and take care to recycle or dispose of them properly. If you spot some litter by the side of the road or in a park or woodland or along a footpath or hiking trail, pick it up and make sure it's properly disposed of. Just because someone else was careless or inconsiderate enough to drop it

doesn't mean we have to leave it. If you encounter large-scale fly-tipping (illegal dumping of rubbish), report it to the authorities. If you have a garden, or even a patio or balcony, you can create some vital habitat. Investigate what plants are native to where you live and plant those that you can. This will help your local bird, insect and small mammal populations. If you are a gardener, garden organically, and leave some areas to go a little bit wild. Finally, there are things that we can all do to tackle climate change. It may seem like an unsolvable problem but there is hope. At an individual level, we can reduce the amount of meat that we eat or move entirely to a plant-based diet. Changing our diets is probably the single biggest contribution we can make to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and it also has an immediate benefit for animal welfare. We can switch to low-energy appliances and change to renewable-sourced electricity providers. We can reduce the number of car journeys that we make, either by combining journeys or using public transport, and we can avoid flying for personal holidays. Try finding places close to home that you haven't yet explored. Most importantly, we can use our political power. We can contact politicians at local and national level to let them know that we care about stopping climate change and protecting wildlife. We can let them know that these things matter when we come to cast our votes – and stick by that. Many voices together are stronger than one. We can lend our voices to the various organisations working in the area of environmental protection and caring for wildlife, those mentioned in this article and others. Some of us can give financially or volunteer our time. Of course, not everyone is in that position, but we can all join campaigns and sign petitions. And we can all talk to our friends, our neighbours and our churches about the challenges facing wildlife and encourage them to do their bit as we do ours.

Jennifer Brown

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF HUNTING



In 2004, the UK government passed a law prohibiting the hunting of wild mammals with dogs (often referred to as the hunting ban). Hunts have continued by exploiting a variety of exemptions to the Hunting Act. An example is what hunters describe as 'trail' hunting in which hounds pursue a scent derived from live quarry. No live animals are meant to be hunted but, unfortunately, that's not always how it turns out.

If the dogs on a trail hunt pick up the scent of a live fox or other animal, they may well go off in pursuit. Hunting in

certain areas, for example fields where hares are likely to be found, or areas where foxes are frequently sighted, will increase the risk of accidental kills. Sadly, it appears that there are hunters who will take their hounds into just such areas.

In one hunt that I witnessed, hounds were seen splattered with blood. This is a strong indication that there had been a kill. Instead of calling it a day or taking the hounds to another location (now that it was probable that a kill had been made), the hunters instead put the

pack into another field which was of a type ideal for hares, and that was where a confirmed kill, of a leveret (young hare), took place.

This incident highlights the inadequacies of the 2004 Hunting Act. For hunting to be illegal, it must be shown that an identifiable individual saw that his or her hounds were hunting live quarry outside any exemption and encouraged those hounds to hunt that quarry. No kill is necessary for it to be illegal, but there has to be clear intent to hunt. It is difficult to prove intent and when things happen quickly there is no time to gather evidence (such as video footage) to show – if this were the case – that any hunter, realising what was happening, encouraged hounds to hunt that hare.

The Hunting Act urgently needs to be strengthened and enforced and its loopholes closed. This can only be done by a Government sympathetic to wildlife. Police then need to be ordered to enforce the law.

Mike Huskisson
Animal Welfare Information Service

HAPPY HENS?

I was stuck in a traffic jam en-route to Kampala, the capital of Uganda. Unfortunately for me, I was stuck behind a taxi on top of which were about 50 live chickens – legs tied together, many dangling over the edge, wings dishevelled, crammed in and tied down by ropes over the top – a heaving mass of crumpled wings, gasping beaks and unspeakable suffering for them all. There was even a man sitting on top of some of them, on a cardboard "seat". The chickens were on their way for slaughter, of course.

The disregard for animal welfare in Africa generally is prevalent constantly, both in-your-face cruelty and ignorance about non-human animals being sentient beings.

When I am there, I work with the USPCA (the Uganda Society for the Protection and Care of Animals), which is the only animal charity and welfare organisation in Uganda. We have made some headway in the live transport of cattle,

but there are still many sightings of ankole cows crammed into trucks, their huge horns digging into one another and their tails tied upwards on to the railings of the truck. I once shouted at a cattle truck driver, "Those animals are suffering!" "They're only going to be slaughtered soon anyway," was his angry reply.

It is hard to know where to start in order to educate and change attitudes. We can only try one by one. We do school visits and try to help children to learn that not all dogs are ferocious beasts carrying rabies and needing stones thrown at them to keep them at a distance. We take puppies in and call children up to come and stroke them. Sadly, many fear to do so.

ASWA has helped three Ugandan animals to have safe lives: my own two pets (a cat and dog) and another dog, all of whom are now happily settled in the UK.

Let us pray that God will open hearts and minds everywhere to the fact that his creatures are sentient beings. I love the slogan of the animal charity People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), "Animals are not ours to experiment on, eat, wear, use for entertainment or abuse in any other way."

God wants us to take care of them – he who notices when a sparrow falls.

However much we might be mocked, let us continue to speak out and try to make a difference, albeit one by one, wherever we find ourselves in the world.

Mary Mills



CHACHI'S HAVEN ON THE MOVE!

After years of searching for new premises I am pleased to announce that the cat sanctuary Chachi's Haven in Israel has found a new home. Gail Joss and the cats have endured cramped and unsafe conditions for too long. It is wonderful to let our supporters know they will now have a lovely new home to call their own.

There are over 150 cats in the shelter as well as approximately 300 street cats in several locations who Gail feeds every night. Many of these cats have special needs and require regular doses of medication.

The new premises are close to the current shelter in Tel Mond and central to the street cats, though most of them will be transported to the new home. The new site is a former event hall. It is a large property with plenty of outside space which will be fenced off for safety. It is a little piece of Paradise surrounded by fields and wildflowers and is very peaceful – the main sounds heard being birdsong. The area is isolated and very safe with a bus stop close enough for visitors and volunteers.

There are plenty of areas for the cats to explore. The former bar in the centre will be the cats' dining area. There will also be a cat lounge with cushions and baskets so the cats can relax. There are plans for a separate kitten room fenced off so the kittens can interact with the

adult cats whilst being protected from any rough play. The facility also has room for storage as well as an isolation unit.

Upstairs, Gail will have her own room, which she does not currently have, plus a room for visitors. The covered outside space is large with a high ceiling and concrete floor giving access to the garden so the cats can enjoy the sunshine, roll in the dust and enjoy their freedom.

It was vital to move from a dangerous, unsafe building but finding suitable, affordable accommodation has proved difficult. Gail is having essential work done before the move. Some of our lovely supporters have helped, both on the ground and raising funds through fundraising activities to make this possible. We have managed to raise funds for this urgent building work, but the new rent is double the current one. We would be so grateful for any donations as Chachi's Haven is a non-profit sanctuary relying on kind donors. Thank you to those readers who have donated in the past. We appreciate all your help. It makes the difference between life and death in many cases. If you would like to help, donations can be made by going to www.chachishaven.com/donations.

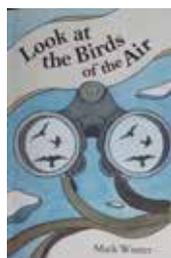
Gillian Philpott



BOOK REVIEWS

LOOK AT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR By Mark Winter

ISBN 978-1-792-82998-1
178pp Paperback
Price £10.00



Look at the Birds of the Air is an unusual book by a lay Anglican from Northumberland. Mark Winter is an active member of his village parish church, and he is also a keen birdwatcher. For the past fifteen years he has been leading unusual retreats on Holy Island that combine watching birds with the Christian faith. Now he has written a book about the birds which feature in the Bible.

The book takes its title from the teaching of Jesus who told his followers to look at birds and learn lessons about God's

love. Mark points out that Jesus wasn't unique in saying people can learn about God from birds. He followed a rich Jewish tradition, going back to Moses, of people observing birds and drawing lessons about God's character and purposes. Moses sang of God being like a parent eagle catching its young to prevent them falling. The psalmists spoke of the Lord protecting them like a bird with wings. Prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel repeatedly used bird imagery to proclaim what God was doing, while the wisdom literature of Proverbs and Job is replete with many references to birds.

Birds play key roles in the Bible, as Mark's book explores. They are important in the lives of prominent people like Noah, Elijah and Peter, as well as Jesus himself. Strange forms of birds appear in the dreams and visions of prophets like Ezekiel and Daniel,

while other prophets warn of birds acting as agents of divine judgement on Israel's rulers and people. Birds appear in prophecy and poetry, wise sayings and songs of worship, even in the intimate conversation of two lovers. Five kinds of birds feature the most in the Bible and Mark devotes a chapter to each one: the dove, eagle, chicken, owl and raven. Overall, his book is an easy-to-read biblical study guide, as well as a personal account of the joys of watching birds.

As an animal lover and keen birdwatcher who has attended Mark's birdwatching retreats on Holy Island, I recommend *Look at the Birds of the Air* unreservedly. It is available from Amazon or, if you prefer, you can buy it direct from the author by emailing evensparrows@gmail.com

Revd Jenny Lancaster

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

2019 AGM at St Michael's Church, Chester Square, London, SW1W 9HH

This has been a highly positive year for ASWA, and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this. We decided to focus on aquatic life as our theme for 2018/19, partly because it is in the public consciousness at present and partly because, for obvious reasons, creatures living in water are generally less visible to humans and can often be overlooked.

Appropriately, in light of this, we celebrated Animal Welfare Sunday at St Mary's, Portsea. The parish gave us an overwhelmingly warm welcome. We were bowled over by their energy and enthusiasm and had a wonderful time. The parish has a tradition of having a half-day conference on a theme for mission (in the widest sense of God's work in the world) around the time of Harvest Festival. This year, we were invited to organise it and our three speakers – Tim Ferrero, Rob Sluka and Meric Srokosz gave some engaging, educational and thought-provoking presentations at an event on the Saturday preceding the annual service. The Sunday worship which followed was an All-Age service with a warm community atmosphere. I was privileged to give an address which combined Harvest Festival and jellyfish, and some younger members of the church were kind enough to show us some of their artistic creations from the conference day (including a model jellyfish named 'Jeff').

Continuing our watery theme, thanks to all those who participated physically, prayerfully or financially in a fundraising Swimathon for ASWA. Please note that it is not too late if you didn't get around to this and would still like to take part. Please email if you would like details or a sponsorship form.

Moving onto November, the Remembrance Service continues to grow and is clearly appreciated by a wide variety of people. This year we were joined by the canine celebrity, 'Finn' the police dog, who is every bit as charismatic in person as he is on the television. We are also delighted to note that the legal campaign for which he is the 'poster-dog' has been successful. The law will now recognise that criminals who harm service dogs are doing something different, and much more serious, in moral terms than merely damaging property. The acceptance that inflicting suffering on a living, sentient being is a different and a more heinous offence is important, and a step in the right direction in terms of how our society views animals. Our congratulations to Finn and his handler PC Dave Wardell.

Whilst celebrating, I must of course come to the most important part of the Chair's address and pay tribute to the hard-work and dedication which allows ASWA to function and thrive. Thanks are due as always to our Secretary, Sam Chandler, without whose indefatigable work ASWA as we know it could not

operate. Also of course, to our other Committee Members for their hard work and time: Jennifer Brown (Editor of *Animalwatch*), Chris Brown (Treasurer), Hugh Broadbent for his Theological contributions, Philip Petchey for his wisdom and insight, Keith Cottrell for his spiritual and also very practical input and Janet Murphy as our Paw-a-Coffee and fundraising cheerleader.

Mention must also be made to Helen Hellier, our bookkeeper and Keith Plumridge, our Membership Secretary, both of whom beaver away constantly behind the scenes, and we could not be more grateful to both of them.

Last but certainly not least, there is the constant support and advice from our President, Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS, who invariably provides fresh and valuable insight into any challenges we face, and our Vice-President, Revd Martin Henig whose compassionate and whole-hearted dedication to animal welfare is inspiring. In addition to which of course, there are the many and varied contributions of our members and supporters all over the world, for which the Committee and I are deeply appreciative. Like any society, the work of ASWA is the collective enterprise of an entire community.

Thank you.

Revd Dr Helen Hall

ASWA Chair

ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE

All Saints Church, Snodland, Kent

On Sunday May 12th, 2019, All Saints held their annual animal blessing service. The service was conducted by the interim minister, the Revd Mandy Young, and the Associate Rector, the Revd Sue Brooks. People attended with their animals, including dogs, cats and a rather large tortoise, all very accepting of each other as they went forward for their personal blessings.

I have attended All Saints' animal blessing for the last three years and I particularly enjoy the Act of Commitment, in which candles in the different colours of the rainbow are brought forward to the chancel steps with the words, "The rainbow was given to Noah as sign of God's love for all his creatures and his commitment to their welfare. May it also be a sign of our love and commitment to his creation."

After the service there were refreshments and ASWA literature was available.

Janet Murphy



THE BIBLE AND...

Environmental degradation

This Bible study is designed to help an individual or small group to explore what the Bible says about the the impact of human activity on the earth and other creatures.

Hosea 4.2-3

"Swearing, lying, and murder, and stealing and adultery break out; bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing." (NRSVA)

Human actions can have an adverse impact on wildlife and even the earth itself and this is becoming more and more evident. All over the world we see

the effects of human activities – over-hunting, over-fishing, pollution, and habitat destruction – on a range of other life. We are now in the midst of a mass-extinction event, largely of our own making. In addition, global climate change threatens to cause further damage to habitats and creatures. Modern farming practices are depleting soils.

But this idea that human actions and choices affect the natural world is nothing new. We find it in the Bible. The passage above from the prophet Hosea makes it clear that human sinfulness leads to distress among animals, birds, fish and the land itself. Although we know that we all sin at times, when we become mired in sin, when the very structures of society are sinful or encourage sin, we

lose sight of our God-given mandate to care for one another and for the world that he made.

Questions for Groups:

What connections do you see between human (or human society's) sinfulness and damage to the natural world?

Hosea names five very specific sins, but all appear to be the outworking of greed and aggressiveness. This suggests that it is these underlying sins that result in harm to the wider world. Do you agree?

Do you think that our society today encourages greed and aggression? If so, how can we change society so that this is not the case? What can we do to improve things for the earth and the creatures who share it with us?

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.

Charleston, SC, USA – Five Loaves Café

You might think that the southern United States isn't always the easiest place to find vegetarian and vegan food and, sadly, you'd be right. If you look, though, there are places that do veggie and vegan dishes and do them very well.

The Five Loaves Café was just such a place. Five Loaves is not a vegetarian restaurant, but they have a good range of vegetarian dishes, including salads, a burger and Italian dishes. We went for the one vegan option on the menu, the Thai coconut hotpot. This noodle and vegetable dish was spicy and delicious. Although we were disappointed that there weren't more vegan options available, the one that they did have definitely hit the spot.

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.



THEY ALSO SERVED

Remembering the Animals of War



Join us at the Animals War Memorial,
Park Lane, London

Sunday 10th November – 3.00pm

A working dog and handler from the
Metropolitan police will be our special guests

Further details:

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals

Tel: 01252 843093 Email: AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com

www.aswa.org.uk

ANNUAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY

Sunday 6th October



All welcome

A SPECIAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY ON 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.

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