

104

Spring 2020

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Cover: Edward Hicks - Peaceable Kingdom
from the National Gallery of Art open access collection

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 20 May

ASWA AGM, The Temple Church, Temple, London, EC4Y 7BB, 6.30pm, by kind permission of the Master of the Temple, the Revd Robin Griffiths-Jones. The AGM will be preceded by Evensong at 5.45pm.

Sunday 14 June

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

Sunday 5 July to Saturday 11 July

Summer School in Biblical & Theological Studies, focusing on Care for Creation, Ripon College Cuddesdon, nr Oxford. Speakers include *Animalwatch* editor, Jennifer Brown, and Rebecca Dean, contributor to *Animalwatch*. For more information and to book, please visit www.rcc.ac.uk/summerschool.

Sunday 16 August to Wednesday 19 August

Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics Annual Summer School, Merton College Oxford. This year's theme is 'animals and public policy'. For more information and to book, please visit <https://www.oxfordanimaethics.com/what-we-do/summer-school-2020>.

Sunday 4 October

Animal Welfare Sunday.

ASWA Annual Service, St Botolph's Church, Boston, Lincolnshire, 10.30am. Preacher the Rt Revd Dominic Walker, OGS, ASWA President.

Sunday 8 November

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

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



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. With the impacts of climate change being felt in different parts of the world, from fires in Australia and California to record high temperatures being recorded in both the Arctic and Antarctic in the past twelve months, and several species being declared extinct in 2019, we felt that it was important to remember that there is also good news to be celebrated with regard to animals and the environment. This issue, therefore, is entirely devoted to good news. Because of that, there is no 'good news' feature in this issue, but it will return next time. As well as stories about good things happening in the world, we have our regular reports from around the world, reports from animal welfare services and information about the upcoming AGM and ASWA Committee elections.

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 1st June 2020**.

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!

A WARM WELCOME

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

We are pleased to welcome sixteen new members who have joined since the publication of the Autumn 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.

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

either as a typed manuscript by post or by email as Word documents, with any accompanying photos sent as high-resolution jpg files. Items submitted as pdf files or email text cannot be accepted. Submissions must be the contributor's (sender'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.

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



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.



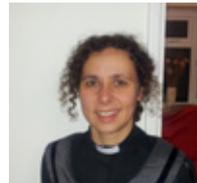
ASWA AGM

This year's annual general meeting will be held at The Temple Church, Temple, London, EC4Y 7BB, by kind permission of the Master of the Temple, the Revd Robin Griffiths-Jones on Wednesday 20th May, 6.30pm. The AGM will be preceded by Evensong at 5.45pm. All welcome.

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 candidates looking to stand for another three-year term are the Revd Dr Helen Hall standing for Chair, Dr Chris Brown standing as Honorary Treasurer, Mrs Janet Murphy and Mr Philip Petchey, both standing as Committee Members.

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



Helen Hall: Helen is part of a team ministry in a City Centre parish in Nottingham and a university lecturer in Law. She is a member of the Association of Lawyers for Animal Welfare. As well as dogs and horses, she has a particular passion for cephalopods and great apes. Helen has served as Chair of ASWA since 2014.



Chris Brown: Chris has been a member of ASWA for many years, with a long-standing interest in the ethics of animal welfare. He has served as ASWA treasurer since 2017 and previously served as treasurer for a team ministry group of churches.



Janet Murphy: Janet has been a Christian and a member of ASWA for many years. She believes that the animal kingdom is an important part of God's creation. Janet has served on the ASWA committee since 2008, and has found it to be a great privilege. During her time on the committee, Janet has been finding creative ways actively to promote ASWA. 'Paw a Coffee for ASWA' and other events have helped raise much needed funds and encouraged new members. In addition to ASWA, Janet is a member of many animal welfare charities. In the past she has been the proud owner of many ex-battery hens as part of a re-homing scheme from the British Hen Welfare Trust. She has also been a Garden History tutor and designer by profession. Janet is also a volunteer at Folly Wildlife Centre, Kent.



Philip Petchey: Philip is a barrister specialising in local government, planning and ecclesiastical law. He is Chancellor of the Diocese of Southwark and a member of the congregation at St Mary's, Woodford, Essex.

EMAIL AND CHANGES TO DATA PROTECTION IN THE UK

The new data protection regulations, known as GDPR, have now been in force for more than a year. GDPR requires that we have specific permission from our members to make contact about campaigns and our activities. 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, news, events and activities, and you have not replied to GDPR emails sent to

you, 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."

ASWA NEWS

ASWA patron to be next Archbishop of York

We are delighted that the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford and an ASWA patron has been named as the next Archbishop of York. We are grateful to Bishop Stephen for his support for ASWA's work and we wish him well in his new ministry.



Photo courtesy of the Church of England

GOOD NEWS FOR BATS AND CHURCHES



Bat walk at Braunston-in-Rutland

The Bats in Churches project is a unique partnership between Natural England, the Church of England, the Bat Conservation Trust, the Churches Conservation Trust, and Historic England that was created to address the issues that bats can cause in churches, while also continuing to protect their roosts. Funded by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project endeavours to empower church communities to live alongside and appreciate their resident bats by helping to alleviate some of the pressures that bats can cause.

England's bat populations have declined in recent decades as a result of agricultural intensification and conversion of old buildings and so are protected by law. Churches that have remained largely undeveloped have become disproportionately important roosting sites for bats, all the more so because churchyards are often species-rich habitats. Unlike in domestic dwellings, where bats and people are separated by a ceiling, the open architecture of churches means that church communities can suffer from the presence bat faeces and urine, smell, and damage to church fabric when bats are roosting in large numbers.

The Bats in Churches project recognises that in order to safeguard both the long-term future of church communities and their bats, practical support for, and engagement of, church and built heritage communities is needed. This will help to soften and complement the impact of bat protection legislation by protecting important church heritage and empowering communities. The project is bringing engagement, heritage and volunteer training experts together with bat and conservation specialists, to find locally appropriate and sustainable solutions to ensure that both bats and church communities are able to thrive.

Building on the latest research and engaging highly qualified bat ecologists, the project is working with over 100 churches living with bats to create practical, tailored solutions to reduce the impact of bats without harming their populations. This will protect church fabric and enable church communities to use

their churches fully, while still providing for the needs of bat colonies living in these church buildings. Natural England has created a special Bats in Churches Class Licence for the use of specially trained ecologists to allow large-scale works, such as the creation of bespoke bat boxes, to make this possible.

The project is bringing together church communities, bat and heritage enthusiasts, and local people to create a shared appreciation of historic places of worship and the bats that use them. Activities and events are running at project churches throughout the remaining four years of the project and people can engage beyond that by surveying their local church for bats as part of the Bats in Churches Study (no bat experience necessary).

Currently, too few volunteers have the knowledge to support churches with bat roosts. The project will therefore work to develop the skills of existing volunteers and recruit new volunteers to create a national network of over 1,800 fully trained volunteers able to support churches with their bats around the country. Over five years it will offer 94 professionally led training courses, training 1,545 individuals. The project also aims to facilitate positive communication between bat, heritage and church groups at national and local levels to help each understand the issues involved and find collaborative solutions.

As well as being of benefit to churches, the people who worship in them and the bats who roost there, the project hopes to leave a useful legacy. The innovative techniques employed to separate people from the impacts of bats and the cleaning practices developed for valuable heritage items may be of interest to those caring for other types of historic building both nationally and internationally, and the project will share the new approaches trialled in this project. In addition, the volunteer-led Bats in Churches Study provides the opportunity to survey the Church of England's 16,000 churches providing crucial evidence about which bat species are present and their impact upon communities and historic buildings, as well as potentially building volunteer support for churches sheltering bats.

The positive impact the Bats in Churches project can make can already be seen in the case of All Saints Church, Braunston-in-Rutland.

All Saints in Braunston-in-Rutland is a medieval church with 15th Century wall paintings and a rare 12th Century font and is surrounded by a grassy churchyard. Bats had been recorded in the church for decades, but the population increased

dramatically about seven years ago when a nearby chimney collapsed and a maternity colony of soprano pipistrelles moved in.

The bats were using holes in the ceiling to enter the church and bat droppings could be found on most floors and walls with a concentration in the south aisle where the most significant heritage items are located.

The cleaning burden and the smell became so acute that at one point it was feared that the church might have to close. Desperate for help, the church wardens contacted their local MP who helped to publicise their plight, which led to the church becoming one of the three pilot churches in the development stage of the Bats in Churches project.

After carrying out the necessary bat surveys, the specialist ecologist, Dr Charlotte Packman, concluded that there was no need for the bats to enter or fly inside the church and recommended the temporary blocking of holes in the ceiling to cut access into the church from the roost, meaning that the bats would no longer be entering the nave.

Continued monitoring showed that the temporary blocking had not affected the numbers of bats using the roost so permanent blocking then took place and the soprano pipistrelle colony continues to thrive with more bats using the south aisle roof space than ever before, but with no mess or nuisance inside the church.

Sue Willetts, one of the church wardens who championed the church's involvement in the Bats in Churches project said, "It's been a fantastic outcome for us. The church can now be used as intended."

If you are interested in learning more about the project and its work, please visit the website: batsinchurches.org and follow the project on Twitter for updates: @batsinchurches. For churches that aren't involved in the project but are looking for advice on their bat population, the Bat Conservation Trust helpline is free to use on 0345 1300 228.

Ione Bingley

Bats in Churches project



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA



Australia's wildfires

Many ASWA members will be aware of the wildfires devastating Australia. They are widespread and unpredictable, involving vast areas of the country. The forests are often eucalypts, which burn fiercely and lay waste to everything in their path. The heroic firefighters are often faced with out-of-control situations. Lack of sensible land management has led to a large build-up of combustible material on the forest floor, and added to this, Australia is in drought.

It is estimated that over one billion wild animals have died. Figures for farmed animals are yet to be determined. So is there any good news for the surviving wild animals? Well, yes. Help for them from within Australia and internationally has been truly amazing. Wildlife refuges are working 24/7 to treat any koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, wombats, bats, birds, snakes, lizards etc. that come their way. Vets for Compassion are travelling round to treat animals they come across or euthanise those that are beyond help.

Recovery from this tragedy will take years as the habitats for the animals has been destroyed. I do believe, though, that the State and Federal Governments are now fully aware of the deep concern for animals that exists here, and in the past week the Federal Government has committed an initial fifty million dollars to assist.

As everyone says, if only it would rain!

To learn more do visit, for example, the websites of Animals Australia and Wires.

Olga Parkes

Our readers may wish to know that in January ASWA donated £500 (approximately 900 Australian dollars) to Animals Australia to support their work with animals injured and displaced by the wildfires. –Editor.

SOUTH AFRICA



Cats, cake and coffee

"Time spent with cats is never wasted!" - commonly attributed to Sigmund Freud.

This quote finds new meaning when you step into Cat Heaven in Somerset West, the first Rescue Cat Café in South Africa.



Valerie Steinmann's passion for 'all things cat' was ignited in Thun, Switzerland at a small gift shop and she decided to open Cat Heaven, her own Cat Gift Shop. Enter Cat Heaven and you are transported to a cat lover's paradise. "After my visits to Japan, I decided to open my own unique Cat Café. Most Cat Cafés deal with special breeds, ours are different in that we aim to rescue cats from shelters", says Valerie.

Our 22 rescue cats have a 'pawsome' indoor play area, as well as a lovely garden, something they don't have at shelters, with a jungle gym and lots of catnip. This in itself is different from cat cafés around the world as most cafés are just indoors. Visitors can indulge in cat cuddles while enjoying a cup of coffee and cake or can read a book with a purring cat on their lap. Not everyone has the space, time or wherewithal for a cat of their own, especially senior citizens, and end up feeling disconnected. At Cat Heaven, they are able to feel contentment and reconnect with the therapeutic wonder of animal companionship.

Cat Heaven is a non-profit organisation and survives solely on donations, funds generated at the Café and the entry fee of only R20 to visit our beautiful kitties. We also created an in-house adoption program where one can become a Paw Parent. Paw Parents pay R120 a month and can visit the kitties whenever they please without paying the entrance fee.

"Our Cat Café was built and designed with the love for our cats as a priority," says Valerie, "A local vet conducts monthly medical checks on our cats

ensuring that they are vaccinated and treated for fleas, worms, etc. We have a list of very necessary Cat Café rules and a zero-tolerance policy for anyone causing distress to our furry friends."

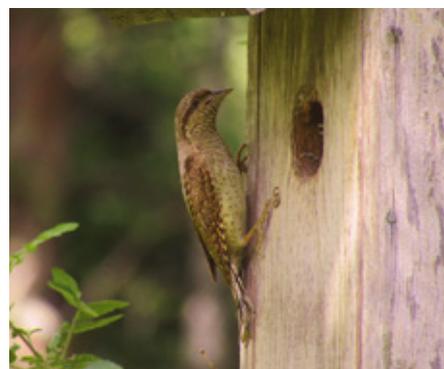
For more information visit our website: <http://www.catheaven.co.za/cat-cafe-somerset-west/> or find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/catheavengifts/>

Joanne Christians

SWEDEN



Horror for pigs and some hope for the wrynecks



The Animal Rights Movement have written to the government demanding the prohibition of the use of carbon dioxide gassing in connection with the slaughter of pigs by 2025 in Sweden and the European Union, as the suffering the pigs experience is well documented.

Carbon dioxide is used as an anaesthetic prior to slaughter. It has been well documented in research, however, that it causes extreme stress, pain, fear and discomfort for several minutes before the pigs lose consciousness.

Together with EFSA (The European Authority for food safety) the Animal Rights Movement are now committed to making a change on this.

The enigmatic and shy wryneck has long been red-listed in Sweden. However, from being basically defined as 'nationally extinct' this sparrow-sized member of the woodpecker family has miraculously now been described as 'viable'. During the past decade the wryneck population has increased by 5.3 percent (between 2000 and 2014). One reason for this is perhaps the milder winters that encourage insects to thrive, thereby supplying food for them.

Sandra Kinley

TALKING POINT

Joys and Sorrows

There are many things to lament in today's world – poverty, injustice, the violence human beings commit against one another and against animals, climate change and our apparent inability to make the changes that we know are needed to keep temperature rise to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. But in amongst this bad news there is also good – simple kindness and generosity expressed in responses to natural disasters and human need, the enthusiasm of the young for more sustainable living, successful conservation initiatives, and a growing awareness of the needs of our planet and the other creatures that share it with us. Some might suggest it is wrong to celebrate the good things when there is still so much that deserves lament. On the other hand, if we don't acknowledge and celebrate signs of hope, we run the risk of sinking into despair and feeling that there is nothing we can do. What is the right balance between acknowledging those things that are wrong in the world and celebrating what is good and joyful and gives us hope?

MOVING TOWARDS BEING AN ECO-COLLEGE



Many churches across the country have become, or are working towards becoming, accredited Eco-Churches through an A Rocha scheme. But we, the staff and students of Ripon College Cuddesdon theological college, are trying to work out what it might mean to be an 'Eco-College'. The issue has become increasingly prominent in the media and wider society, but we are engaged in these issues because we are Christians and responding to climate change is a question of justice and faith.

Cuddesdon is no ordinary church community and so can be no ordinary eco-church. With about 150 residents of all ages on site, communal meals, theological teaching, large grounds,

historic buildings and many part-time students, understanding the college's impact on the planet is complex. The first step to becoming an eco-college has been to undergo a self-led audit of our activities and teaching on the environment. We have found that we already do many things to contribute to making Cuddesdon environmentally aware: we have beautiful grounds which are used for worship and recreation; we pray for our planet regularly and our kitchens have meat-free Mondays, as well as regularly catering for the vegetarian and vegan members of our community.

The next stage is moving to planning practical steps to further reduce our impact on the planet as a college, but also considering how we equip each other to be church leaders in a time of ecological crisis.

**Claire Browes
Ordinand
Ripon College Cuddesdon**

Photo courtesy of Ripon College Cuddesdon

ASWA REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

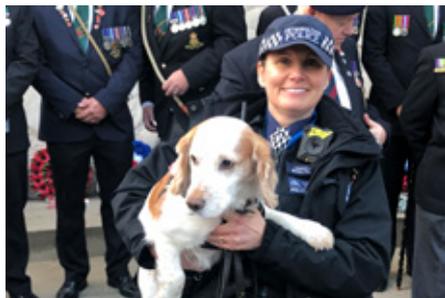


On Sunday 10th November, ASWA held its eighth Remembrance Service for Animals at the Animals' War Memorial in Park Lane, London.

The service was led by ASWA Chair, the Revd Helen Hall, and our special speaker was PC Emma Robling from the Metropolitan Police, along with her lovely spaniel, Eddie. Ms Robling spoke incredibly movingly about the relationship between service personnel and their canine partners and a copy of her talk is printed in full on p.8, this issue. The Revd Fergus O'Connor read from Isaiah 2 and the Revd Martin Henig said some beautiful prayers. As in past years, this was a very moving event in which we honoured and remembered those animals who had served (and continue to serve) alongside humans in conflict and with our armed forces. As always, we acknowledged that they have 'no choice'. We feel that it is important to remember the sacrifice of so many animals, particularly in the two World Wars. Wreaths were laid from ASWA and many other organisations represented at the service, as well as from private individuals. This is a very popular event and the number of people who gather, often bringing their dogs with them, increases each year. This time, we even had a cat in a pushchair! Do join us again this year on Sunday 8th November at 3.00pm.

Samantha Chandler

THE BOND BETWEEN DOG AND HANDLER: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ADDRESS



Good afternoon. My name is Emma Robling. I've been a police officer for 21 years, 16 of those as a Police dog handler for the Metropolitan Police Service.

At this time of year when we pause to remember the incredible sacrifice of so many in times of war, and at this beautiful memorial where we remember those courageous animals who served with no choice, it made me reflect and want to give thanks for the bravery of police dogs who serve across the world today.

To do this, I would like to give you an idea of the kind of bond that exists between a police dog and its handler.

Now, Xia was my first ever Police dog. Allocated to me at 9 weeks old, this adorable Belgian Shepherd puppy was placed into my arms with her soft tan-coloured coat and her little black face which looked as if she'd dipped it into a pot of paint. Her dark eyes stared up at me intently as if to convey a message of, "I am small, I am helpless, please take care of me". Immediately I was smitten with her. I nodded absentmindedly, practically ignoring my trainers who warned me that the breed was considered a 'high drive' working dog and that I had a steep learning curve ahead of me. Maybe if I had listened to them, maybe if I had taken off my rose-tinted spectacles for a second, then maybe I would have seen what those eyes were actually saying to me which was, "I may look cute but I am the bringer of doom and destruction to your life. I am mischievous, I am

rebellious. With my howling, which can be heard three streets away, I will test relationships with your neighbours; I will shred any post that arrives through your letterbox; in training I will perform perfectly one day and then pretend I have no idea of what you require from me the next....and at Christmas, when you briefly leave the kitchen, I will steal the turkey you left on the side to cool and with glee I will drag it round the house whilst you attempt to catch me."

But even if I had known all of that would I have changed any of it? No...except maybe the turkey part.

As Xia grew up and her training progressed we grew ever closer. The exuberant welcome I received every morning a testament to how much she loved her life and me being her mum. Police dogs live at home with their handlers. There Xia became my permanent shadow. My husband and I often worked opposite shifts meaning I spent more time, and probably had more conversations, with her than with him.

Fast forward a year and a half, and after completing a gruelling 14-week course, we were finally out on the streets as a fully qualified team. Together we faced everything modern policing has to withstand, from controlling hundreds of angry protestors, to catching violent offenders, rescuing the injured or finding the lost and vulnerable. Each time I took her out of the van in a stressful or volatile situation, her determination and loyalty to me never wavered, and neither did mine to her.

And that's because dog handling is about team-work. It's an unspoken bond of trust you build in one another. We investigated incidents together, got lost in cemeteries in the dead of night together, waded through ice-cold streams together, put ourselves in harm's way together, went on vehicle pursuits together and we got through

the odd dull night duty sharing packets of salt and vinegar crisps together.

She still retained her naughty streak.... but for every job she left me red faced at, like the time at a crime scene where she flatly refused to work and in front of some very high ranking officers ran off down the street with a box of Kentucky Fried Chicken in her mouth which she'd found in the gutter, I can think of dozens more where she made me extremely proud, like the time we stormed a premises to detain several suspects, allowing the ambulance service to treat a man who had received life threatening stab wounds.

Xia's career and her time on this earth was cut short by cancer and when she was taken from me I grieved far more for her than for any human I'd ever known. I felt as if I'd lost a big part of myself. As I reminisced about how much fun she'd had and the lessons I'd taught her during her short life, it was only then that I realised it was in fact she who had been teaching me. Because of her I had more patience, more compassion and more joy in my life than I'd have ever thought possible.

Xia wasn't just a dog, she wasn't just a police dog...Xia was family.

So, on this Remembrance Sunday I pause and give thanks for Xia and to the Met Polices dogs from my team who are out protecting us this afternoon... they are PD Luca, PD Fizz, PD Buddy and PD Eddie.

I came across a short verse that I would like to finish with which sums up my bond with Xia but is true of all dog ownership:

"She is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are her life, her love, her leader. She will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of her heart. You owe it to her to be worthy of such devotion".

Emma Robling

OBITUARY

Diane Finlayson

It is with sadness that we report the death of Diane Finlayson, a longstanding member of ASWA. We remember with gratitude her support of the society and her interest in the Remembrance Sunday service in London.

ANIMAL BLESSINGS AND SERVICES FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY

Annual Service – Sunday 6th October 2019

St James's Church, Piccadilly

Those of you who managed to join us for our annual service on Animal Welfare Sunday in October will, I am sure, agree what a wonderful uplifting event it was.

St James's, Piccadilly is one of our Animal Friendly churches and ASWA member Adolfo Sansolini was instrumental in both the application for Animal Friendly Church status and also for suggesting it as a possible venue for our annual service.

The staff and congregation made us very welcome, and longstanding ASWA member, the Revd Jeremy Fletcher preached a brilliant sermon which we have printed in full in this issue. We first met Jeremy when we held our service at York Minster back in 2005 where he was then Precentor. He is now vicar at St John-at-Hampstead in London.

The service was combined with Harvest Festival and the church was beautifully decorated. Afterwards we all gathered for a vegan lunch supplied by the brilliant City Harvest who make amazing meals out of surplus food that would otherwise be thrown away. Check them out at www.cityharvest.org.uk.

We would like to thank all the team at St James's, Piccadilly for their support and making us so welcome – particularly Adolfo, Deborah Colvin and David Hamilton-Peters.

Samantha Chandler

ASWA Secretary

Animal Blessing Service

Precincts of Canterbury Cathedral 2019

The service was organised by the Friends of the Cathedral and was led by the Dean, the Very Revd Dr Robert Willis. A large group of more than fifty dogs, four cats, two tortoises and their families and friends were present. They all came together in an act of gratitude for the companion animals who share their lives.

The dogs attending included hearing dogs for the deaf, therapy dogs and specialist dogs who can detect illness changes in their owners. One of these dogs had saved his owner's life and received a special commendation from the Dean. All the animals who attended were given a certificate with a space for a photograph to commemorate the blessing.



It was a very special day.

Roberta Hargrave

Animal Welfare Sunday at St Michael in Lewes

On 6th October 2019 we celebrated both Harvest Thanksgiving and Animal Welfare Sunday. The two themes blended well with an overall link of environmental concerns. ASWA members of the congregation, helped and encouraged by our priest, prepared a section specific to animal welfare with the rainbow as its focus.

A rainbow was symbolised by placing tall white candles in the seven branches of a menorah. Seven ribbons – each a different rainbow colour - were tied to the candles. While the candles were being lit, a passage was read to remind us how the rainbow was shown to Noah as a sign of God's love for all his creatures and his commitment to their welfare and how we may see it as a sign of our own commitment to creation. Two ASWA members compiled prayers to represent each colour of the rainbow.

Beryl Wilkins

ANIMAL-FRIENDLY CHURCH(ES) 2019



We are pleased to announce that again for 2019, two churches have each been named as joint winners of the Animal-Friendly Church Award. They are St James's Church, Piccadilly, who very kindly hosted ASWA's annual service in 2019, and St John the Baptist, Pendeen, Cornwall, with All Saints Church, Epping Upland, Essex, named as runner up. We hope to include interviews with representatives from the two winning churches in our Summer issue.

The winners of the Animal-Friendly Church Award are drawn from among those churches that have been granted Animal-Friendly Church status. We are delighted that this now includes eighteen churches. The majority of these are UK-based, but Animal-Friendly Church status has also been given to a church in Tenerife and one in Australia.

It's very exciting that this many churches already meet the criteria to be recognised as animal-friendly. We hope that, as concern for the whole of God's creation continues to grow amongst Christians, more churches will apply for Animal-Friendly Church status.

Jennifer Brown

ASK THE ANIMALS AND THEY WILL TEACH YOU: ASWA AT ST JAMES PICCADILLY

Job 12. 7 -13; Luke 12. 16 – 32

I am here because of a donkey. There's much more to it than that, of course, but the donkey was pivotal. Cathedral Precentors get to help shape all sorts of acts of worship, but when the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals came calling at York Minster in 2005 to prepare for its annual national service it was the donkey which provided our focus. Pets would be welcome and animals would be blessed if they came, but this was about animal welfare, and the presence of a donkey would focus our thoughts and our prayers. It focussed the minds of the vergers too, because they were the one with the buckets and brushes.

Donkeys are a barometer the world over for the way animals and humans relate. There almost needed to be no formal prayer at the point the donkey came down the aisle. My photograph of the event includes the Lord Mayor of York in close proximity. She had entertained the Queen not that long before. I hope that Councillor Greenwood was even more connected to the depth and wonder of creation in the service than she was when she rode in a carriage with the Royal Family down York Racecourse. What was I taught, and what did I learn when a donkey came down the aisle, and looked at me and looked at us? Specifically, the donkey caused me to sign up to ASWA, and thankfully I've just paid this year's subs...

"Ask the animals and they will teach you", says Job to Zophar the Naamathite. In telling Job the correct way to think about the divine purpose, Zophar, with youthful arrogance, has compared Job to an "empty headed donkey". "Since you mention animals..." says Job, "What do they know? With what are their heads full?" They know that "the hand of the Lord has done this", that in the hand of God "is the life of every living thing." This is no sentimental anthropomorphism, attributing human emotion and thought, say, to the expression of my cat when she wants feeding. What Job says springs from a humble and awed attention to the complexity and variety and detail and majesty of the created order. Give regard to animals and fish and plants, says Job. You'll learn. God makes. God sustains. They know that.

Two poems have flown into my life recently. As a recent London resident, I do love the "Poems on the Underground" project. Did you see *The Meaning of Existence* by the Australian poet Les Murray this summer?

"Everything except language knows the meaning of existence. Trees, planets, rivers, time know nothing else. They express it moment by moment as the universe.

Even this fool of a body lives in part, and would have full dignity within it but for the ignorant freedom of my talking mind."

Les Murray, from *Poems the Size of Photographs*, 2002

The universe knows.

The other poem is by Neil Curry and is called *A Benedicite*. It's full of animal facts. You can tell the temperature by using a Snowy Tree Cricket. All you have to do is count the number of chirps in a 15 second period, add 40, and that's the temperature in Fahrenheit. It's called Dolbear's Law, and has been around since 1897. Amos Dolbear gets the glory, but it was Margrette Brooks who first recorded the observations a decade before. It's not the first time a man has got the credit for work first done by a woman, but that's another sermon. Anyway, Neil Curry begins his poem with a quotation summing up Darwinism, and then gives us things to make us gasp about what animals can do.

A Benedicite

"through the mechanistic operation of inanimate forces and by the power of natural selection' we have:

the cuttlefish, which expands and contracts bags of yellow, brown, orange and red pigments embedded in its skin so as to change colour and blend in with its background;

and the eye of the common newt, whose lens, when removed surgically, will grow again from the edge of the iris;

and the bombardier beetle, which defends itself by squirting out a jet of noxious benzoquinones at a temperature of 100 degrees centigrade;

and the male emperor moth which can detect a female emperor moth by her smell at a distance of eleven kilometres, up wind;

and that series of small peristaltic pumps arranged along the oesophagus of the giraffe which enable it to lift water up to the required height of three metres when it is standing, head-down and legs-straddled, drinking;

and the in-built thermometer of the Snowy Tree Cricket: add 40 to the number of chirps it emits in any period of 15 seconds and you have the exact air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

For these, and so much more, O, 'Mechanistic Operation', we give thee thanks."

Neil Curry, from *Walking to Santiago* Enitharmon Press 1992

You called me a donkey, says Job. Have you ever wondered what the donkey knows, and can teach you? Have you ever wondered what the bird knows, and will tell you? These are things of such wonder that you should really be stunned into silence, and awed into shame, especially when you consider what use you make of these creatures, what abuse you heap upon them, what misuse you put them to by devastating their habitat and turning them solely into single use industrial providers of nourishment for an overweight and indulgent humanity. Above all, says Job, a donkey is not empty headed. Its head is full. It hears what you are deaf to. It sees what you are blind to.

At the very end of the book Job himself is stunned into deeper silence when God unfolds this all the more. It is the poetry, like the poetry of Psalm 104, like the teaching of the lilies of the field and the birds of the air in Luke 12, like the original *Benedicite* to which Neil Curry's

poem pays homage, the text from the Apocrypha which is one of the glories of the church's worship, and such a feature of medieval church art and architecture, wonderfully depicted in the South Transept roof of York Minster, and remade after the fire so that twenty years later an ASWA donkey could stand under it and teach us. Pay attention to the whole of creation and you will be cured of the temptation of thinking that you know, and can rule, and can build barns big enough to make you stop relying on God.

Jesus' public ministry, revealed in his baptism, is honed by his experience of temptation in the wilderness. There is a brilliant verse in Mark's brief telling. After the temptations, Jesus was "with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him." Translators I trust put it this way, "wild animals were his companions." It may well be because of ASWA, but I now include dogs in our service registers

at Hampstead. I am deeply jealous of those churches which have a resident cat, and feel no visit to Southwark Cathedral is complete without seeing Doorkins Magnificat.

Today is about so much more than recognising animals as companions and teachers. It is about being humbled, broadened, awed, and challenged. Today is about a theology of creation which sees Christ in all and through all, a theology which makes us question how we are with animals, what we are doing to them and for them which is contrary to the way creation can be and should be, what our effect on this planet might be if we cherished more and exploited less. That will lead some of you to remove yourself from anything which is produced by or from animals. It will lead all of us, I hope, to ensure that their welfare and their habitat is all it can be. It may lead some of you to occupy a faith bridge tomorrow, and to protest

with all you have about the environment. It will lead all of us, I hope, to address every possible behaviour which harms and to do everything possible that will sustain.

This is not about human self-interest, or just about making sure our grandchildren have a place to thrive. The incarnate Lord had wild beasts as companions. Job invites us to know what they know. When we recognise ourselves as fellow creatures, and know that we, with them, are fearfully and wonderfully made, then we will tread more lightly and more confidently, serving them and each other as companions of Christ, and so making Christ known, until that day when the whole creation will rejoice with the glorious freedom of the children of God, to whom be all praise, now and for ever. Amen.

Jeremy Fletcher

THE BIBLE AND...

Good News

This Bible study is designed to help and individual or small group to explore what the Bible says about the good news of Jesus for all creation.

Mark 16.15

"And [Jesus] said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.'"

In the longer ending of Mark's Gospel, the resurrected Jesus appears to the eleven disciples (minus Judas Iscariot) and gives them the command to, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." This feels like a pretty big ask, especially following on as it does from the disciples' inability to believe for themselves the report that Jesus was alive.

Given the enormity of such a task, it is perhaps unsurprising that many interpreters have chosen to focus on the human dimension of the command, and to gloss over the reference to the 'whole creation'. Indeed, many have understood these words simply as a

dramatic flourish to underscore the intended inclusion of all human beings, rather than an instruction that also incorporates the many non-human parts of the created world. It is difficult to be certain over the intended meaning here, but we can note that at the two other places in Mark's Gospel where the word 'creation' is used (10:6 and 13:19) it is explicitly linked to God's initial act 'in the beginning', bringing to mind the numerous components of the six day creation story in Genesis 1.

It is all too easy to focus our attention on the human characters within the Markan story, and to see everything else as scenery or side-note. However, a more thoughtful reading sees Jesus' story in Mark's Gospel as one that begins with wilderness and water, his ministry as one that overflows with grains, vines, figs, bread, donkeys, doves, mountains, oceans and fire, and his death as an event marked by darkness across the land. This is a story of the whole creation that contains a message of good news for the whole creation.

This good news is never explicitly defined by Jesus, but it is amply demonstrated within his ministry of non-violent resistance to injustice and his willingness to challenge the status quo at significant personal cost. It is found in the promise of restoration and inclusion for the broken and the voiceless, and the vision of relationship and connection within the created world. As modern-day followers of Jesus and inheritors of this teaching, we might ask ourselves how we can proclaim and become this good news to the created world around us.

Questions for Groups:

How do you understand Jesus' ministry to relate to the wider creation beyond human beings?

In what ways can we as individuals and as church communities be good news to all creation?

Rebecca Dean

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.

Beaminster, Dorset – The Ollerod



The Ollerod is a hotel and restaurant in the town of Beaminster, Dorset. We were there for a weekend stay in

the autumn. Although we stayed in a modern annexe and not in the more picturesque main house, the room was still comfortable and well-appointed. The staff were friendly and helpful and the food excellent. The Ollerod offers a full vegan dinner menu. We were able to sample most of its offerings during our stay and all of the dishes we tried were superb. The breakfast menu includes a vegetarian English cooked breakfast. We asked if a vegan version could be provided, expecting that it would be served just having had the veggie sausages and eggs omitted. We were very pleasantly surprised when we were also given very tasty vegan sausages which appeared to be homemade. Beaminster is a short drive from Charmouth and Lyme Regis, so a good place to stay for a visit to the coast and some fossil hunting. The

staff, atmosphere and food all made the Ollerod a delightful base for our weekend away.

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.



ANIMAL AID CHRISTMAS FAYRE

As most of our readers will know, this wonderful event is held annually in Kensington Town Hall and ASWA is a regular attendee.

Our presence as the only Christian witness is now accepted and welcomed.

The organisers, Animal Aid, do 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, cats,

chickens, dogs, elephants, foxes were all represented.

This year our stall was back at our preferred location near the Auditorium, which enables us to engage with many people before and after presentations from the speakers. The star attraction this year was Chris Packham CBE, the famous naturalist, lecturing about his journey to become a vegan.

Once again, people approached our stand with words of encouragement, and many observed how refreshing it was to see a Christian presence

focussing on God's animal kingdom. We talked to well over one hundred visitors with several enquiries about membership, and a good number of Christmas cards and literature were purchased. Many gave us a donation, which is encouraging. It is very worthwhile that ASWA is able to engage with the public at events such as this. We are particularly pleased to be involved with the Christmas Fayre where there is always a good atmosphere, with all feeling united in our hope and desire to improve the wellbeing of animals.

Keith Cottrell

GOOD NEWS FOR CAPTIVE ANIMALS

In 2014, a court in Argentina ruled that an orangutan held in a zoo in that country had rights as a 'non-human person', and therefore should be freed and permitted to live in a sanctuary. In September 2019, that finally happened and Sandra, as she is known, was moved to a sanctuary in the USA.

The original court ruling was itself a landmark, establishing that apes are persons, not property, and have rights under the law. The release of Sandra to the sanctuary is another landmark, in that it demonstrates that the court's ruling and its implications have been taken seriously. It remains to be seen, however, whether courts in other

countries will follow this route. We should be hopeful. As our understanding of non-human primates grows, it becomes harder to deny that they are sentient persons.

Zoos are, of course, merely one area of human society in which animals are captive reared. Far more animals are reared in farming systems across the world. Various animal welfare groups have worked over recent years to raise awareness of the cruel conditions and practices to which animals can be subjected in some farming systems, including the mass killing of male chicks, often seen as a 'by-product' of the egg industry.

Male chicks are surplus to the needs of egg producers, as only hens are required to produce eggs, and are therefore routinely killed, often using methods that it could be argued are not humane. It was reported in January of this year that France and Germany are both to ban the routine killing of male chicks. This is, indeed, good news, and it is hoped that a similar ban will be put in place across the European Union and in the United Kingdom. Ideally, we should hope that this practice will be phased out globally. That would be very good news.

Jennifer Brown



Help make a Difference in 2020

*with Paw a Coffee for
ASWA*

Would you be able to support us by taking part in our Paw a Coffee for ASWA fundraising event? Organise your own event at a date of your choice before the end of October 2020, then please sign up for our ASWA fundraising pack. You could invite family and friends around for coffee and cake or hold a coffee morning in your Church. You may have your own ideas for another venue.

As a charity we rely on donations and fundraising from our supporters. Our mission of Putting Animals on the agenda of the Christian Church is expanding. ASWA is reaching out further afield with our Animal Welfare Sunday service. We have introduced new literature, resources for children and youth and incentives for churches.

Please help us continue to make a difference.

To send for your fundraising pack, contact our secretary Samantha Chandler. All funds raised to be sent to ASWA by end of October 2020:

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

Tel 01252 843093 www.aswa.org.uk

**For fundraising information please contact Janet Murphy ASWA
Committee Member Tel 07793 748634 or janetjmurphy2@gmail.com.**





"The Earth is
the Lord's":
Caring for
Creation,
Honouring God

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THEY ALSO SERVED

Remembering the Animals of War



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

Sunday 8th November – 3.00pm

Speakers to be confirmed

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 4th October

All welcome

A SPECIAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY
ON SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2020, 10.30 EUCHARIST

PREACHER: BISHOP DOMINIC WALKER OGS - ASWA PRESIDENT

Venue: St Botolph's Church, Church Street, Boston, Lincs PE21 6NW

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