

87

Summer 2014

Price £2 (free to members)



# animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CREATING A BUZZ  
AROUND CHURCHES

LIVING AS GOD  
INTENDED

YOUNG MEMBERS'  
PAGE



# IN THIS ISSUE

A WARM WELCOME	3
AGM 2014	4
CREATING A BUZZ AROUND CHURCHES	5
LIVING AS GOD INTENDED	7
POETS' CORNER	8
YOUNG MEMBERS' PAGE	9
BOOK REVIEWS	10



Cover image and photos on p5 courtesy of C.A. Brown

## 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 ewe may enjoy!*

**Sunday 6 July**  
Sung Eucharist, St Mary's Church, London Road, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2AY, 9.30am.  
Speaker: Revd Dr Martin Henig, followed by All-Age Pets' Service at 11am.

**Saturday 4 October**  
Pet Service, St Thomas à Becket, Pagham, West Sussex, 3pm.

**Sunday 5 October**  
Animal Welfare Sunday

ASWA Annual Service, St Woolos Cathedral, Newport, Wales, 10.30am.  
Preacher: The Rt Revd Dominic Walker, OGS  
Please note that this is NOT an animal blessing service.

Animal Blessing Service, St Michael's, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey, 3pm.

Pet Blessing Service, Kirton Church at St Andrew's, Kirton-in-Lindsey, North Lincolnshire, 3pm.  
Further details from Revd Kathy Colwell, katherine.colwell@btinternet.com, 01652 640552 or via the church website [www.the-umc.org.uk](http://www.the-umc.org.uk).

Animal Blessing (Pets) Service, Great Malvern Priory, 3pm.  
For further details please contact the Priory Office on 01684 561020, via email [office@greatmalvernpriory.org.uk](mailto:office@greatmalvernpriory.org.uk) or via the website [www.greatmalvernpriory.org.uk](http://www.greatmalvernpriory.org.uk).

Service of Blessing for Animals  
St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street, Leicester (near the LRI), 3pm.  
Music by Badgerbrook County Primary School.  
Free refreshments after the service and the opportunity to browse around a variety of animal welfare stalls.

Animal Service, Raglan Group of Churches, Monmouthshire.  
Contact: 01291 690330 for further details.

Blessing of Animals, St Paul's Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, USA  
Time TBA.

Sunday 9 November  
ASWA service of Remembrance at the Animals' War Memorial, Park Lane, London, 3pm. Led by Revd George Ochola.

for further details of events, please visit the website: [www.aswa.org.uk](http://www.aswa.org.uk)



# HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. Our focus in this issue is insects. When we think about animal welfare, insects are often overlooked. Why? Because many of them are small and easily go unnoticed, they aren't cute and cuddly, although many are incredibly beautiful, and of course, some – the biting ones – we simply don't like. But insects are vital to earth's eco-systems, and many species are in trouble, so it is right that we include them within our sphere of concern. You'll also find our Young Members' Page in this issue. Do check it out. You may have noticed the new logo on the front cover. This logo was adopted earlier this year, and will soon appear on all ASWA publications and promotional materials.

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 make a note of the dates in Doris' Diary – especially the annual service in October. 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](mailto:animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk). Please note that, owing to space restrictions, it may not be possible to print all contributions, and that letters and other contributions may be edited for length.

**Jennifer Brown, Editor**

The deadline for the Spring magazine is **Monday 18th August 2014**.

## 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.

Mrs Juliette Adams, Ipswich, Suffolk

Andrew Day, Oxford, Oxfordshire

Alan Dourish, Tullyavy, Enniskillen, Fermanagh

Trudi Gibson, Werrington Centre, Peterborough

Dorothy Hayes, Stamford, Connecticut, USA

Bruce Lachlan, Yateley, Hampshire

Mrs Celia Lasseter, Camborne, Cornwall

Mr Peter Lucas, Tonbridge, Kent

Jean Mantle, Wells, Somerset

Jeanette McLaren, Biggin Hill, Kent

Mrs Jody Seymour, Levedale, Stafford

The Congregation of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Sparling United Church

Ms Lesley Wootton, Norwich, Norfolk

Eileen Mary Wright, Oxford, Oxfordshire

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

## EMAIL ADDRESSES PLEASE!

ASWA is updating its membership records to include email addresses. This will keep the ASWA membership better informed of our activities and expand our influence to help animals.

Just put "ASWA email address (and your name)" in the subject line and send it to:

**[aswamembership@btinternet.com](mailto:aswamembership@btinternet.com)**

Thank you to all those who have already done this in response to the appeal in previous issues.

## ASWA NEWS

### ASWA joins rockin' event

ASWA had a presence at "Wildlife Rocks" which was held at Guildford Cathedral on the 5th of May. Now in its second year, this joint venture is run by the charities Harper Asprey Wildlife Rescue and Save Me. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness of the importance of wildlife and how many species are endangered, both here and around the world, with particular importance placed on education.

ASWA was the only distinctly Christian charity there, and there was a good deal of interest in our presence, some from existing ASWA members, some from passers-by, and also from a journalist who took interest in our work.

There were a number of high profile speakers throughout the day, including rock star and wildlife advocate Brian May, as well as representatives of Animals Asia, Born Free, IFAW, League Against Cruel Sports, and the RSPCA. Many other organisations were present with a stall at the event. The day was accompanied by musical entertainment, readings and poetry, all of which gave the feel of a rounded day with something for everyone.



# GOOD NEWS

## Children's voices heard on ivory

For over a year, school children in Hong Kong have been speaking out, setting up petitions and organising protests against the ivory trade, and they are making a difference. Earlier this year, following the submission of a petition with 18,000 signatures, the Hong Kong government announced the destruction of 95% of its ivory stockpile. School children in Hong Kong have also organised protests outside major retailers selling ivory, with the result that two of them announced that they will no longer carry ivory products. Could this be the beginning of the end for the ivory trade, and the poaching that goes with it? Let's hope so.

## 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](http://www.aswa.org.uk). Check the website for the latest resources for youth & children.

### **Animal Welfare Sunday Sunday 5th October 2014**

Animal Welfare Sunday resources will be available via the web site later this year.

### **ASWA Annual Service**

Sunday 5th October 2014, 10.30am

ASWA's annual service this year will take place at St Woolos Cathedral, Newport, Wales. The speaker will be ASWA president the Rt Revd Dominic Walker, OGS.

### **Comments by Springwatch's Chris Packham**

Many ASWA members will have seen Chris Packham's comments about Christianity and animals made in his interview with the *Radio Times*. While we must acknowledge that, historically, the Church has not always been helpful to animals or the environment, there is a much greater awareness among Christians now of our God-given call to be good stewards of the earth and its creatures. A letter was sent to Chris Packham from ASWA to let him know that Christian animal welfare organisations like ours exist and are active, and that many

thoughtful Christians care deeply about animals and the environment. We hope that he will respond.

### **ASWA Local groups**

Don't forget that there are ASWA local groups in different areas. The Oxford group meets quarterly in different locations around the Oxford diocese. The contact for the group is Revd Martin Henig ([martin.henig@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:martin.henig@arch.ox.ac.uk)). The Surrey/South London group meets monthly on either Friday or Saturday afternoons at 2pm. The contact for this group is Janice Hoyle (01372-842884).

The Watford group meets monthly. Members come from as far as Tring, Milton Keynes and Chesham to this group. The contact for this group is Sarah Dunning (01923-467502). In addition, there is an Ecumenical group, the Three Counties Animal Welfare Prayer Group, who meet for a service at Gloucester Cathedral at 12.15 on the first Saturday of each month. The contact for the ecumenical group is the Revd Helen Hall (01633-677775 or [helen.hall123@ntlworld.com](mailto:helen.hall123@ntlworld.com)).

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

## AGM 2014

The ASWA committee, members and supporters met once again in St Michael's Church, Chester Square.

During her annual report, the Chair, Revd Dr Helen Hall, thanked Bishop Richard Llewellyn for his many years as Chairman and also the President, Rt Revd Dominic Walker, and the Vice President, Revd Dr Martin Henig, for their continued support and guidance.

She reported on the generous bequest recently received by ASWA and that the committee have been considering a variety of ways it can be used to encourage animal welfare to be seen as a more mainstream concern in Anglican Churches.

Helen also thanked Keith Plumridge for his support and in particular for the excellent email service he runs to keep ASWA members up to date with current issues and events. If you are on email and would like to be included in this list, please contact the Secretary.

There had been no need for a postal ballot as there were fewer candidates than vacant posts available. Therefore Janet Murphy, Rita Donovan and Philip Petchey were all re-elected and also Revd Dr Helen Hall as Chair.

The guest speakers were Ian and Yvonne Birchall from Kent Action Against Live Exports (KAALe) who gave an informative and inspiring talk about their work in the struggle against Live Exports from the South coast.



Ian and Yvonne Birchall from KAALe with ASWA's Secretary, Chairman and Vice President.

# CREATING A BUZZ AROUND CHURCHES

Insects are, almost certainly, the most populous group of creatures living on earth. There are 900,000 different insect species.<sup>1</sup> Insects aren't merely abundant, they are also important. Most people are aware of the role that insects play in pollination, even if unaware of its extent. Insects account for pollination of as much as 75% of food crops consumed by human beings.<sup>2</sup> They are also hugely important economically, with the value of global insect pollination estimated at over €150 billion each year.<sup>2</sup> Many insects also play a part in breaking down dead organic matter (both plant and animal), which helps maintain soil fertility and provides nature's own recycling programme. Insects are so much a part of the earth's ecosystems and life cycle that, without them, it is unlikely much else could easily survive.

Unfortunately, insects, like many other creatures, are in decline. From the first reported cases of colony collapse disorder (CCD) in 2005 and 2006, the plight of bees has received a great deal of media coverage. Bees, however, are not the only pollinating insects in decline. Butterflies and other pollinators are also at risk. In the UK, 72% of butterfly populations showed a decline in numbers over a 10-year period, and distribution across the UK also declined for 54% of butterfly species.<sup>3</sup>



What is causing these declines? There are several factors affecting insect populations across the world. There has been much debate about the impact of pesticides on bees, but recent research has demonstrated that neonicotinoid pesticides can have a dramatic effect on bee colonies. A study done by a team at Harvard University found that chronic exposure to neonicotinoids, even at doses below that which would be fatal to bees, seriously impaired honeybees'

ability to survive over winter and to repopulate depleted colonies as spring approached.<sup>4</sup> In the same study, half of the colonies exposed to the pesticides suffered CCD.<sup>4</sup> Bees can also fall victim to the varroa mite. This parasite is now found most apiaries in Europe, and is a major contributor to colony deaths.<sup>5</sup> For pollinator insects as a whole, not just bees, potentially the most important factor driving decline is change in land use and subsequent habitat loss and fragmentation.<sup>2</sup> This is certainly the case for butterflies in the UK.<sup>3</sup> Loss of diversity in food sources, often the result of intensive mono-crop farming, loss of uncultivated field margins, pollution and climate change have also had a negative impact on many pollinating species.<sup>2</sup>



It is difficult to assess the full impact of any one of these contributing factors in insect decline, and for the UK's butterflies (and maybe butterflies elsewhere), climate change might actually be beneficial. The increase in average temperatures associated with climate change appears to be allowing some species of butterflies to extend their range, moving into areas that were previously too cold to be suitable habitat.<sup>3</sup> Weather, however, is a major factor in the fluctuation of butterfly populations from one year to the next, and recent years of wet summers in the UK may have negated any positive impact of overall warming and contributed to the observed decline in butterfly numbers.<sup>3</sup> No one thing can be said to be solely responsible for the decline in insect populations, and that makes addressing the problem extremely difficult. But that doesn't mean that there is nothing to be done.

How can churches help? As the Invertebrate Conservation Trust points out, gardens are now important insect habitats,<sup>6</sup> so individual church members can help by making their

gardens bug-friendly. Churchyards can play a part, too. Most churchyards are large, mainly undeveloped spaces. This means that they have terrific potential to provide much needed habitat for insects, and there are simple things that can be done to make them even better. While it's understandable that people like to see a neat and tidy churchyard, leaving one or more sections of your churchyard with long grass will provide nesting sites for insects, and will benefit other wildlife, too. Avoiding the use of pesticides in the churchyard will help to ensure that insects have a safe, non-toxic habitat in which to live. Planting wildflowers will also help pollinators by providing a vital food source. It's important to provide early flowering plants, so that bees will have food when they emerge from hibernation in the early spring. Placing 'bug houses' around the churchyard can provide safe places for insects to overwinter. Do these few simple things, and you are likely to notice a buzz around your church as insect populations grow.

Sadly, bugs often have a bad reputation, thought of as scary or dirty or ugly, and it is true that some insects are pests that can damage or destroy crops, or spread disease. But many bugs are beautiful, many are beneficial, and they are all interesting. Insects are also an integral and essential part of our world. We can't do without them and, as things are now, it seems they need our help, too.

## Jennifer Brown

1. Smithsonian Institution. Bug Info. [http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia\\_SI/nmnh/buginfo/bugnos.htm](http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/nmnh/buginfo/bugnos.htm). Accessed 2 June 2014.
2. Potts S.G., Biesmeijer J.C., Kremen C., Neumann P., Schweiger O., and Kunin W.E. (2010). Global pollinator declines: trends, impacts and drivers. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*. 25(6):345–353.
3. Fox R., Brereton T.M., Asher J., Bottham M.S., Middlebrook I., Roy D.B., and Warren M.S. (2011). *The State of the UK's Butterflies 2011*. Butterfly Conservation and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.
4. Lu C., Warchol K., Callahan R.A. (2014). Sub-lethal exposure to neonicotinoids impaired honeybees winterization before proceeding to colony collapse disorder. *Bulletin of Insectology* 67(1):125–130.
5. Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs. <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm?pageid=93>. Accessed 4 June 2014.
6. The invertebrate Conservation Trust. Gardening for bugs.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## AUSTRALIA:



### Live export still an issue



I wish I had good news about animals in Australia, but I don't. Australian cattle, sheep, goats and buffalo continue to be exported in large numbers, particularly to the Middle East and neighbouring countries. The Australian Government claims that measures are in place to ensure our animals will be treated humanely through ESCAS – the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System – which requires that licensed exporters must submit their proposed export details to the Department of Agriculture for assessment and approval. However, it has been shown that, on occasion, the documentation is not signed off, and yet the ships still sail, carrying their cargo of misery and pain to foreign ports where the animals will be killed without stunning. Whatever measures are in place in Australia, we have no control overseas.

I have, as have many people, visited my MP and given to him independent assessments of the impact on the Australian economy should live export be phased out in favour of boxed meat. However, this compelling evidence is ignored by my MP in line with both major political parties.

Australia is now opening up markets in China. Our Minister for Agriculture is very pleased.

On the micro scale, things look better. Rescue groups for pets are booming, and the RSPCA and many council pounds, which until recently did not welcome them, is allowing rescue groups into their shelters and many more animals are finding homes. My own little dog (he looks like a birthday card dog!) came to me as a rescue. At first he just sat and shivered, but now,

after tremendous amounts of TLC, he is just wonderful.

Prayers for the animals, and best wishes to everyone for their animal work.

**Olga Parkes**

## SWEDEN:



### Compassion in farming



Here is a short report from Sweden and it intends to give a hopeful perspective on what we in animal welfare issues otherwise seldom see. There are about 67,000 farms and smallholdings in Sweden, and about one third of them are run by people over the age of 65. Today I have had the privilege of interviewing one of them, Thore Ek, a 75-year-old farmer who has worked the land since he was a boy. He has had a hard life yet he radiates a silent strength and has a warmth in his voice. When he was young, his mother, a single parent with 10 children, rented a smallholding and had about eight cows, which she hand milked. After school, Thore had to help out, and started milking cows at the age of 12. He also often worked the forests with heavy draft-horses pulling timber. In the 1960's he came to a small village near Uppsala and worked on a farm which later became his. He has had over 100 milk cows and today he has slowed down a bit and now has about 40. He knows every cow by name. No antibiotics are given unless the cows are ill, which is rare. The feed is organic. Yesterday was Ascension Day and according to Swedish tradition this is when all cows are let out to graze. People go to farms to watch the livestock go happily crazy at seeing the land after having been stabled during the harsh Swedish winter. Now the cows are free roaming through summer and part of the autumn. People are amazed,

as Thore's cows produce good milk and live many years, the oldest one was 16 years before she had to be slaughtered. He does not see the point of slaughtering healthy animals. He is concerned about the animals' wellbeing, not greed for profit. Many of the cows he has today are over ten years old and still produce good milk. He also has some free range chickens just for the eggs. Not all animals have such a good life but this is really the way it should be. I only wish we would see value in this...this is stewardship at its best. A blessing!

**Sandra Kinley**

## CANADA



### Feline Friends: Go Forth and DON'T Multiply



This past April, the Feline Friends Spay and Neuter Program of Sparling United Church (Winnipeg, Canada) celebrated its first year of operation and with that, the spaying and neutering of 20 cats from Winnipeg's Weston/Brooklands neighbourhood. With this program, part of our food bank outreach, we help address feline overpopulation in our city while also supporting animal companionship for people in our community.

Much of the work of Feline Friends is managed by three volunteers who are responsible for serving as Programme contacts at our bi-weekly food bank, booking and confirming appointments, delivering cats to and from the clinic, and providing a follow-up telephone call. In addition to a spaying or neutering procedure, each cat receives rabies and upper respiratory vaccinations, an identification tattoo, and a nail trim. We also try to provide each cat with a toy and some catnip.

The operation of Feline Friends is maintained through donations to our Outreach Fund from congregation members and non-members who wish to support Sparling's work on behalf of companion animals. We do not charge for spay and neuter services, but for clients who wish to contribute, a donation of C\$20 is suggested. We are also very grateful for the kind and generous support of our veterinary partner, Dr. Peter Schwartz and the staff of the Assiniboia Animal Hospital.

If you would like more information or a copy of our brochure, please contact us at [sparlingunited@mts.net](mailto:sparlingunited@mts.net)

Thank you to Janice Freeman for the great program idea, Rev. Scott MacAuley for turning the idea into Feline Friends, and Jeff Allston for many hours of feline taxi service!

**Jacqueline Wasney**

## UGANDA



### Uganda Society for the Protection and Care of Animals

Recently, we have been contacted by an ASWA member who lives for part of the year in Uganda where she is involved in missionary work. She wrote to me about the USPCA which is the only animal welfare organisation in existence in Uganda and 'The Haven' which is the animal shelter which they run. The Haven is located in Mbuya – near to Kampala – and is run by local people. The USPCA does not have its own website but an American organisation called 'Animal Kind International' helps to promote the society on its own website along with other animal welfare organisations in developing countries. Do take a look on their website <http://www.animal-kind.org/index.html> and you will see the USPCA listed as one of the organisations they support. Also those

of you who have Facebook accounts can follow the USPCA as they do have their own Facebook page.

Along with the work they are doing with dogs and cats (work with strays and also education), there is also much to be done with Livestock. The conditions under which animals are transported to slaughter in Uganda are horrendous – particularly for the long horned Ankole cattle which are often tied in trucks by their horns and tails. Slaughterhouses in Uganda are brutal places and methods of slaughter crude and inhumane.

Uganda is a country where poverty and poor health care are major issues for the human population so those who work in the field of animal welfare have to be especially sensitive. It is heartening to see that the USPCA is an organisation where local people are very much involved. We hope to have a more detailed report in our next issue.

**Samantha Chandler**

## LIVING AS GOD INTENDED

Free-rang eggs are growing in popularity, but sadly there are still millions of hens suffering in tiny cages. The eggs from caged hens are less expensive than free-range, and not all products using eggs from caged hens are labelled as such. Many processed foods, such as biscuits, noodles, and mayonnaise, amongst others, contain battery-produced eggs, and many people are unaware of the hidden ingredients. The charity Four Paws ([www.four-paws.org.uk](http://www.four-paws.org.uk)) calls for clearer labelling.

I have been re-homing ex-battery hens for some years, and there is nothing more rewarding than watching their recovery and discovery of their new environment as they are released from a life of confinement in a small cramped cage with no natural light or fresh air. From lifeless weak creatures, within a week they are scratching around exploring, digging and discovering their first worms. All their natural Instincts return and they are living as God intended. They quickly transform into energetic, clever birds. They are curious and mischievous, and make wonderful pets. The life-

span of the ex-battery hen is between two and three years. They are quite short-lived due to their earlier lifestyle. I had a hen named Flora and although she was at the bottom of the pecking order and not always treated well by her fellow hens, she out lived them all. Her favourite pastime was joining us in the kitchen for a special treat.

Many of my rescued hens came from the 'British Hen Welfare Trust', (BHWT), founded by Jane Howorth. The charity have now re-homed over 400,000 hens. There are many co-ordinators over the country who collect sometimes 20,000 hens from one farm. Helpful farmers allow BHWT to take them as they have passed their prime for laying. These lucky hens now have the chance to start their retirement in a loving home.

Hens are always looking for new homes and I can say from experience how satisfying this has been. If you would like to find out more Information from BHWT, contact number 01884 860 084; email: [info@bhwt.org.uk](mailto:info@bhwt.org.uk)

**Janet Murphy**

### ASWA Donation Envelopes



If you are planning an ASWA animal service, don't forget there are ASWA Donation Envelopes for you to give out at those services.

For more information please contact:  
**Tel/Fax:** 01252 843093  
**Email:** [AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com](mailto:AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com)

## ASWA MERCHANDISE

**A variety of items are available from the ASWA web site**

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

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

**ASWA postcards:** 2 designs sold together in a pack of 6. £4 per pack.

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

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TALKING POINT

## Dear Editor

I read the Spring edition of *Animalwatch* with interest, in particular the "Talking Point" which covered fracking. There seems to be widespread concern about the dangers of fracking and the issue of whether shale gas development should be allowed in the UK.

I have spent a number of years in the oil and gas industry and am now a semi-retired part-time consultant. It seems to me the media grossly exaggerate the risks involved with fracking and come up with predictions of environmental catastrophe based on unlikely chains of events.

Fracking, or to use the correct term, rock fracturing is not, as some media articles suggest, a new and dangerous process invented by the shale gas industry. It is a widely used operation for increasing the permeability of rock adjacent to a well in order to enhance the flow of oil or gas. Hydraulic fracturing, which involves the pressurisation of water to create cracks is one of a number of fracturing methods, but is considered the most suitable for shale gas wells.

There are some two hundred onshore oil/gas well sites dotted about within the UK, some of which date back several decades. Most are small wells and many are now depleted, but over the years the vast majority will have had rock fracturing operations carried out. There have been no reported cases of damage to property, livestock or anything else as a result. The reports in the US media of ecological damage from shale gas developments, should be regarded with caution. These days a shale gas development tends to be blamed for any unexplained environmental damage in the vicinity without any proper evidence.

In America, hydraulic fracturing began in the 1940's and their Environmental Protection Agency concluded some years ago that there were no significant environmental risks as a result of properly managed hydraulic fracturing. State regulations

require well construction practices to ensure there is no contamination of drinking water.

In the UK the oil and gas industry is strictly controlled. Environmental Impact Assessments have to be produced at the planning stage and developers have to show that any conceivable leakage of oil or chemicals can be contained within the site and measures are in place for safe disposal should this occur. The planning rules effectively ensure that an oil/gas well site is both invisible and inaudible. For example, I know a village in Hampshire where some residents have lived next to an oil field for 20 years without realising it.

There is no reason to suppose that the unobtrusive presence of onshore oil and gas wells in the UK would not continue with the advent of shale gas development.

**Bruce Lachlan, Yateley, Hampshire**

## Dear Editor

It is with great sadness we learn of the death from cancer in December 2013 of John Ruane, the founder of Naturewatch. John Ruane will be remembered for his many inspired and successful projects for which he was honoured three times with the presentation of awards.

I particularly recall his outstanding work on stray dog welfare in Ukraine, and his innovative call for the Home Office to establish a ring-fenced levy on each animal used in vivisection, with the money raised to be used for the development of non-animal testing methods. He was also involved in the effort to end the suffering found in puppy mills.

Naturewatch also sponsored World Animal Day, a movement that will bring a growth of merciful empathy and perhaps also encourage peace.

All of John Ruane's work will live on through the work of Naturewatch under the care of its director, Caroline Ruane, and from its own momentum.

**Iris Pyves**

Does your church have an environmental policy? When we consider how many church buildings there are, and the Church of England alone has more than 16,000 church buildings, it is easy to imagine the tremendous impact that could be made if every church had and followed an environmental policy. What could such a policy include? Everything from energy use, to installation of solar panels and other renewable energy-generating equipment, to wildlife-friendly management of the churchyard, to making sure that only recycled and sustainably-sourced products are used, to using LOAF (local, organic, animal-friendly, fair trade) food at church events, to including the environment and animal welfare in sermons, prayers, Bible studies and other church activities, and more. Do you think that your church and the community it serves would welcome the introduction of an environmental policy? Should every church be required to have one?

---

## POETS' CORNER

*Poet's Corner continues to generate positive feedback from our readers. In this issue, we have this original poem to offer, which we hope you will enjoy.*

### There by Grace

I dreamt a dream of flying fur.  
As day follows night so death does fear,  
And as the gate swung wide against it pressed  
The slow momentum of paws and muzzles.  
The tone of atonement, the beating of wings.  
The rustling of spines, an airborne purr,  
A vibrant squeak, a muted roar,  
A mighty wave of flying fur.

**Jenny Kartupelis**

# YOUNG MEMBERS' PAGE

Welcome to our young members' page. This page features in the summer issue of *Animalwatch* each year. We'd like to make this your space, and to do that we need contributions from our under-18s membership. We want to hear from you! And if you have a suggestion for a feature to add to this page, do let us know.



## SHACKLETON SEARCHES THE SCRIPTURES

Hi! My name is Shackleton. I'm named after a famous explorer, and I've been asked to help you explore the Bible to learn

more of what it says about animals.

### Proverbs 6.6–8

*Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. Without having any chief or officer or ruler, it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest.*

In these verses, the writer of Proverbs encourages us to learn from and imitate the humble but hardworking ant.

- Have you ever been inspired by something in nature?
- What else can we learn from the natural world?
- Have you ever wondered at the way that animals' instincts and ability to learn help them to survive? Do you see the gift of instinct as an expression of God's love for his creatures?

## BUILD A BUG HOUSE

You will need:

- 1 medium-sized plastic flower pot
- hollow bamboo canes
- string or garden twine
- straw or organic cotton wool

Cut the bottom out of the flower pot\*. Then cut\* the bamboo canes into segments the same length as the flower pot is deep. You will need enough so that, once cut and bundled together they fill, or nearly fill, the pot. Using the string or twine, tie the cut canes into a bundle and slide it into the flower pot. Any gaps can be filled

with straw or organic cotton wool. When finished, place your bug house on its side somewhere in the garden – it's best if you can find somewhere off the ground, such as hanging from a tree or on a stand.

\*please get an adult to help or supervise any cutting.

## HILDA'S HIGHLIGHT

Did you know that, for many centuries, the Church has used the butterfly as a symbol for the resurrection? It's easy to see why. When a caterpillar begins its pupation, it seems to be dead, and

the cocoon even looks like a shroud (a special cloth that is used to wrap a body for burial). When the butterfly breaks out of the cocoon, it is the same creature that it was before, but changed so much that it is almost unrecognisable as the caterpillar

it once was, just as the risen Jesus was so changed that his own closest friends didn't recognise him. So, the next time you see a butterfly, let it remind you of Easter.



## THE DOG AND THE AIR RAID SHELTER

This true story was sent to us by one of our readers, and recounts a story that happened during her childhood in World War II.

This is a story about how clever animals really are.

The blitz [the bombing of cities by the Germans – editor] had started over London NW6. My parents, grandmother and her daughter all lived in the same large house, together with Sally, our dog (I had been evacuated on 1st September 1939, at the age of 9 years). For safety, my parents would go to the St John's Wood underground station when the bombers came. My grandmother and her daughter refused to go with them saying, "What is to be, will be." They kept

Sally with them, with the top of her lead under the foot of a chest of drawers. Luckily, she had a braces lead, rather than a lead around her neck.

One night, eight bombs dropped near our home and when the furniture was shaken, Sally's lead came loose; she escaped. Even though she had never been there before, Sally found her way to the St John's Wood underground station and went down the escalator with her lead trailing behind her. A porter picked her up in his arms in the hope that someone would recognise her. My mother said to my dad, "Doesn't that dog look like Sally!" Immediately, Sally fled out of the porter's arms and into the arms of my parents.

**Norah Killingbeck**

This picture was taken during the Second World War, and shows Norah with Sally, the wire-haired terrier. The larger dog, Major, belonged to a friend. When this picture was taken, both Sally and Major had been evacuated to be with Norah in the countryside during the bombing of London.



## OBITUARIES

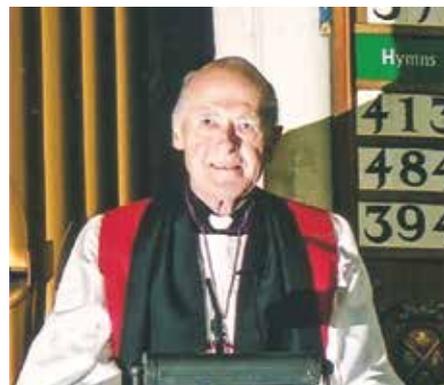
### Vesna Jones

Founder of Greek Animal Rescue. Her work alleviated the suffering of many animals, especially stray dogs, in Greece.

### Rt Revd John Austin Baker

Bishop of Salisbury from 1982 to 1993. He was also a respected theologian

and academic, and passionate about issues of animal welfare. He was very outspoken on the issue of the use of battery cages, and became president of ASWA in 1999. He stood down from the ASWA presidency in 2008, after which he remained a patron of the society. He died on June 4th, aged 86. A memorial service will be held at Salisbury Cathedral at 2.30pm on Friday 5th September.

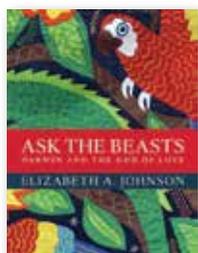


## BOOK REVIEWS

### ASK THE BEASTS

Darwin and the God of Love

By Elizabeth A. Johnson



Bloomsbury  
ISBN 978-1-4729-0373-0

xviii + 323pp. Hardback  
Price £18.99

This is an exceptionally important book for anyone who wants to understand the implications of Darwin for Christian theology, as we all should. Elizabeth Johnson takes up half the book with an elegant summary. She has an appreciative understanding of Darwin's theory of evolution, describing the way that living organisms have come into being, evolved into different animals or plants, most frequently in directions which have simply led to extinction. By far the majority of life forms that have ever existed are now extinct, leaving in some instances fossils in rocks and sediments. But some branches of this tree of life have flourished, and human beings (*homo sapiens*) and other now extinct hominids, together with our primate cousins, are part of this same process.

Darwinian evolution can be slotted in to a much longer cosmological development, the creation of the universe from, it now seems, a stupendous explosion, commonly described as the 'Big Bang'. This too is an evolving story which will one day, many millions of years hence, come to an end, though long before that time the earth and the sun around which it orbits will be extinct.

It is important to appreciate the science on its own terms. God is not part of this cosmic and evolutionary drama, simply filling the gaps. He is the very ground on which it exists, he is the creator, not the created. Moreover we find something of this understanding in the Bible, especially in the Wisdom tradition of Proverbs, the Wisdom of Solomon and above all the book of Job. The title of the book is taken, of course, from the last chapters of Job in which God does not provide Job with a simple explanation for his misfortunes, but rather describes the wonder of the universe and especially the earth and its natural history. God simply asks Job whether he was there when the creatures of the earth came into being, and whether Job has understanding, and was he the creator of these wonders? In a philosophical sense we are no nearer to an explanation today, though we can marvel at Darwin's 'entangled bank', the beauty and complexity of life forms around us.

However, we are faced with an age-old moral problem: pain of creatures throughout earth's history, historic extinctions, and the alarming rate of extinction today. These haunt us. If God brought the universe into being through love, and if he created the great variety of life (see Genesis 1) as 'very good', why the waste and the suffering of myriad individuals? Here our faith in the redemption of creation, 'groaning in labour pains until now' (Romans 8:22) may help. For the Christian belief is that God is not outside creation, but in Christ subjected himself to pain and death in it. And through his resurrection, all flesh will be redeemed. That is the promise of Revelation's 'new heaven and a new earth' (Revelation 21:1): God loved creation from the beginning and will save it.

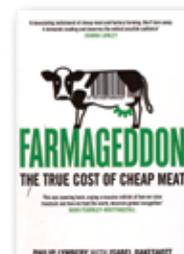
For us in ASWA, the most important lesson of this book is its proclamation of our unity with other animals, our brothers and sisters in evolutionary terms, but also in the community of creatures loved into being by God. We are causing mass extinctions amongst them at an alarming rate through the destruction of habitats, polluting the land and sea, and through disastrous climate change; there have been past mass extinctions but this time it is our fault, and we should see our thoughtless and arrogant actions as sinful. Creation is, indeed, truly 'groaning'! Churches have not been good at accepting that they should have a truly ecological vocation going beyond using energy-saving light-bulbs; they have not placed the duty to conserve a universe 'filled with the glory of God' in its myriad life forms amongst their top priorities. Johnson warns us, however, that if Christians continue to ignore this duty they risk being 'locked into irrelevance while a terrible drama of life and death is being played out in the real world'.

Martin Henig

### FARMAGEDDON

The true cost of cheap meat  
By Philip Lymbery and Isabel Oakeshot

Published by  
Bloomsbury  
ISBN 978-1-4088464-4-5  
426pp Paperback  
Price £12.99



If you eat, you should read this book. It makes clear just how far-reaching are the choices that we make. It is no secret that intensive

farming is incompatible with good animal welfare and inevitably leads to animals suffering.

Humans also suffer as a result of intensive farming. In California's Central Valley, where intensive dairy farming sits alongside intensive mono-crop growing, the average life span is now 10 to 15 years less than in the rest of the state. In Chimbote, Peru, where intensive fishing is combined with fishmeal production, children suffer disproportionately from a range of health problems, and between 70% and 90% of children in the town suffer severe skin conditions. Despite the fact that fishing is the primary industry in the region, and the fish caught are anchovies – perfectly edible for humans – as little as 1% of what is caught is eaten by local residents. Most becomes fishmeal

to feed farmed fish, despite the fact that 20% to 30% of Peru's population suffers from malnutrition.

This book is full of statistics like those quoted above, and it makes for sobering reading. But it is not by any means a boring or dry read. It is written in a very conversational style, with technical terms explained clearly and simply. Although Philip Lybery is the CEO of Compassion in World Farming, the book definitely does not come across as a piece of propaganda. The facts are taken from quality research and first-hand observations, the arguments are rational and evidence based, and counter arguments are presented and given a fair hearing.

There are signs of hope. The consumption of meat in western countries may have already peaked

and be on the wane (although demand for meat continues to increase in developing nations like China). In both Britain and America, people have begun to reject meat and eggs from caged chickens, demanding a basic welfare standard for the animals that provide their food.

We cannot be complacent, however. Agriculture is now big business, and the companies involved have influence over governments worldwide. We, as consumers, must be vigilant and insistent that what we want is not cheap food at any cost. The choices we make will make a difference.

**Jennifer Brown**

see the full review on the ASWA website:  
[www.aswa.org.uk/page/book\\_reviews/farmageddon](http://www.aswa.org.uk/page/book_reviews/farmageddon)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### From Linda Bodicoat

Animal Welfare Prayer Cards, hymn leaflets and price list available directly from Linda J Bodicoat, Rose Cottage, 51, Highfield Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, LE9 7HS Or by email – [linjbrosecottage@aol.com](mailto:linjbrosecottage@aol.com). Please use "ASWA/Prayer Cards" as a subject heading if using email.

Animal Welfare Prayer Cards & Hymn Leaflets are also available from the ASWA website.

## Sings, Strings & Tings A Swingin' Soirée!

A CD inspired from the Musical Soirée that raised funds for ASWA and Hillside Animal Sanctuary.

The CD's are £11.60 postage included, £3 will go to ASWA

A collection of sounds from the classics, musicals, jazz and pop world. Brought together by some of the UK's most talented unique musicians.



Ken Bruce,  
Presenter,  
BBC Radio 2

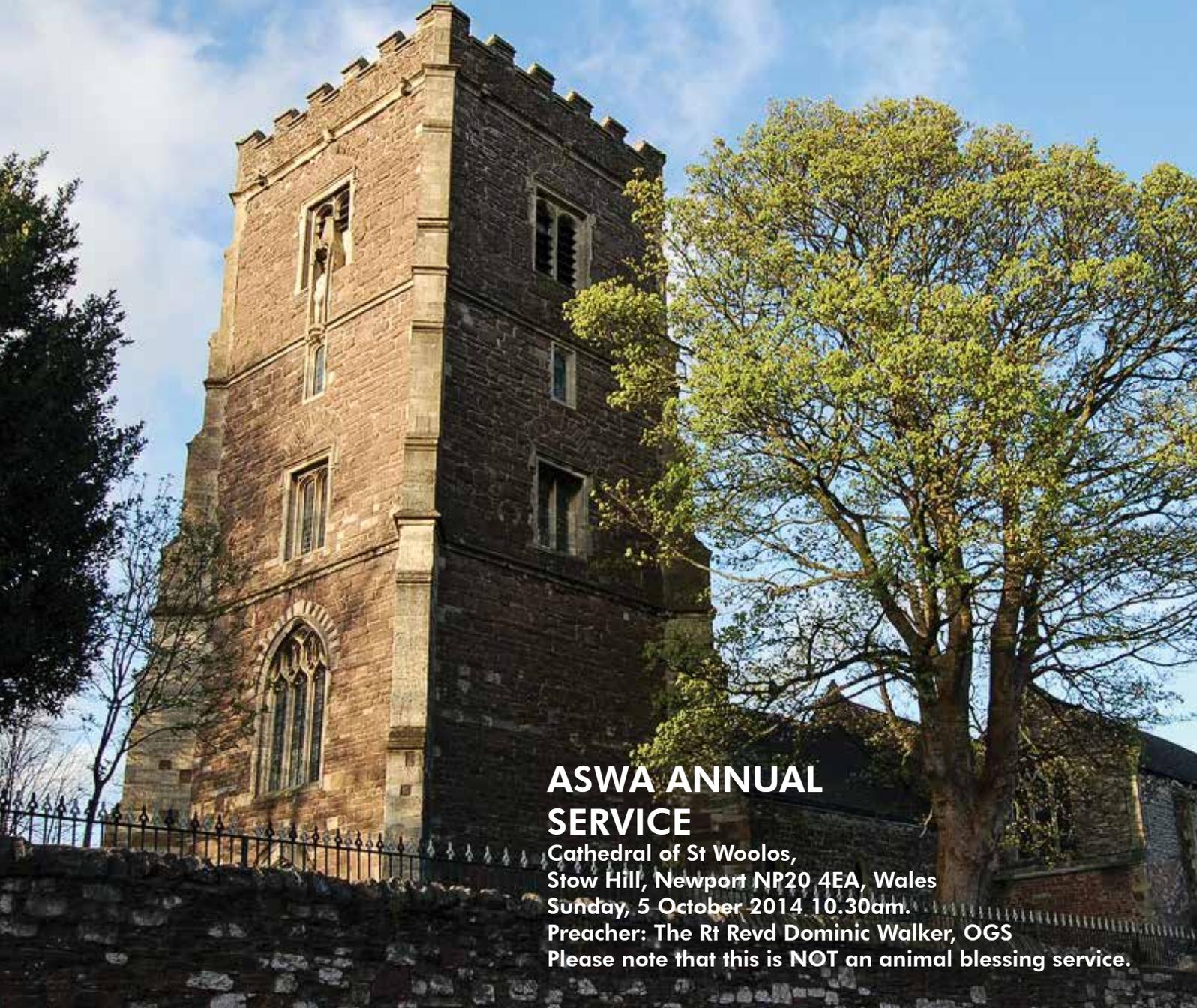
### Featuring...

Clive Dunstall (Piano/Keyboards)  
Mandy Watsham Dunstall (Soprano)  
Mike Smith (Drums/Percussion)  
Rebecca Leyton-Smith (Cello)  
Dan de-Fry (Harp)  
Dorina Markoff-McNulty (Violin)

### The Programme...

1/ My Favourite Things 2/ Gershwin Medley 3/ Legrand Duet  
4/ Ave Maria 5/ Rainbow Collection 6/ The Swan  
7/ Hushabye Lullaby 8/ All Things Bright & Beautiful  
9/ Cinderella 10/ Sings, Strings & Tings  
11/ O Mio Babbino Caro 12/ Fragile

Each CD will raise  
£3 for  
ASWA



## ASWA ANNUAL SERVICE

Cathedral of St Woolos,  
Stow Hill, Newport NP20 4EA, Wales  
Sunday, 5 October 2014 10.30am.

Preacher: The Rt Revd Dominic Walker, OGS

Please note that this is NOT an animal blessing service.

### ANGLICAN SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS

PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire  
RG27 8GT, UK. [www.aswa.org.uk](http://www.aswa.org.uk)

**Correspondance Secretary:**

Mrs Samantha Chandler

**Tel/Fax:** 01252 843093

**Email:** [AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com](mailto:AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Mrs Jenny White

**Editor:** Revd Jennifer Brown

**Email:** [animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk](mailto:animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:**

Mr Keith Plumridge

**Email:**

[aswamembership@btinternet.com](mailto:aswamembership@btinternet.com)

**Patrons:**

Dr Tony Campolo

Mr David Coffey MRCVS

The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell  
(Bishop of Chelmsford)

The Rt Revd James Jones  
(Former Bishop of Liverpool)

The Rt Revd John Pritchard  
(Bishop of Oxford)

The Revd Dr Steven Shakespeare

**President:**

The Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS  
(Bishop of Monmouth)

**Vice President:**

The Revd Dr Martin Henig

**Chairman:**

The Revd Dr Helen Hall

