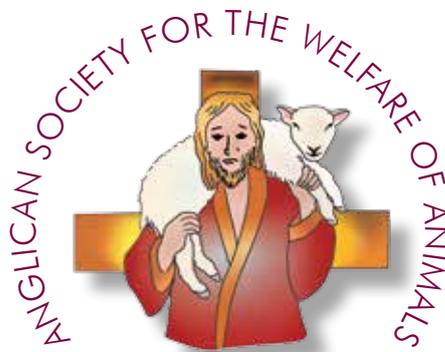


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Autumn 2013

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FACING THE FACTS
ABOUT ENDANGERED
SPECIES

BADGER CULL FROM
THE FRONT LINES



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Cover image courtesy of Mateusz Stachowski

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!

Saturday 21 September Great Gorilla Run 2013

Could you run 7km dressed as a Gorilla?

Join 100s of runners on the streets of London to help save an endangered species from extinction.

To register go to greatgorillarun.org or call: 0207-916-4974

Sunday 6 October Animal Welfare Sunday

ASWA Annual Service,
Truro Cathedral, 10am

The preacher will be ASWA Committee Member the Revd Hugh Broadbent.

Please note that this is NOT an animal blessing service.

Saturday 12 October

Animal Blessing & Thanksgiving Service for Pets

St Martin's Church, Mortimer Road, Kensel Green, London, 2pm.

Service led by the Revd Graham Noyce.

"All well-behaved pets welcome!"

Sunday 10 November

ASWA service of Remembrance at the Animals' War Memorial,

Park Lane, London, 3pm. Led by Revd George Ochola. Special guest

& speaker Pen Farthing of Nowzad Dogs

for further details of events, please visit the website:

www.aswa.org.uk



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. This issue reflects the theme of this year's Animal Welfare Sunday – endangered species. We also have reports from this year's AGM and the annual prisons' wildlife award. As promised in our last issue, we approached the Dr Hadwen Trust for their input into our series of articles on animal experiments. Unfortunately, at the time of going to press, we have not received their response. We hope to be able to print their reply in the spring issue.

We hope that you enjoy keeping up-to-date with news and information on our website. Animal Welfare Sunday resources for preachers, youth leaders and children's workers are all available on the website. Do check regularly for a range of resources and information about upcoming events. Speaking of events, please make a note of the dates in Doris' Diary – hope to see you at the Animal Welfare Service at Truro Cathedral.

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

Jennifer Brown, Editor

The deadline for the Spring magazine is **Monday 13th January 2014**.

ASWA NEWS

Farewell to Bishop Richard

In July, the ASWA committee held a farewell lunch for Bishop Richard Llewellyn. Bishop Richard served as ASWA Chairman from 2004 to 2013. During his time as Bishop of Dover, he became actively involved in the campaign to stop live exports to the continent. He has been an inspiration to many in ASWA. The farewell lunch was a joyous celebration of all that Bishop Richard has brought to ASWA during his time as chairman, as well as an opportunity to offer ASWA's best wishes to him and his wife Jenny for their retirement.



A Warm Welcome to our new members.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Carolina Bowie – Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire
Owen Edwards – Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey
Revd Simon Buckley, London

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

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

ASWA SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

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

ASWA 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: 01 252 843093
Email: AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com



GOOD NEWS

Otters making a great comeback

Fifty years ago, otters were a rare sight in Britain. But that's not the case today. Following the removal of damaging pesticides and other chemicals from Britain's waterways, habitat management and re-introduction programmes, otter numbers have increased greatly since the 1950s and 1960s. Once in peril and, indeed, absent from many parts of the country, otters have now returned to every county in the UK.



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 website for the latest resources for youth & children.

Animal Welfare Sunday Sunday 6th October 2013

This year we will focus on endangered species. Animal Welfare Sunday resources are available via the website.

ASWA Annual Service Sunday 6th October 2013, 10am

ASWA's annual service this year will take place at Truro Cathedral. The preacher will be ASWA's own Revd Hugh Broadbent.

Annual Remembrance Service Sunday 10 November, 3pm

This service takes place at the Animals' War Memorial on Park Lane in London and is led by the Revd George Ochola. This is a very moving service, remembering the animals that have been compelled to serve in war, and who have given their lives in our service. Special guest & speaker Pen Farthing of Nowzad Dogs

Archbishop of Canterbury and RSPCA

ASWA members may have seen the media reports surrounding Archbishop Justin Welby's announcement that, owing to the demands made on his time by other commitments, he will not be a patron of the RSPCA.

Following these reports, ASWA has made contact with the Archbishop to express our concern that animal welfare issues be embraced at all levels in the church. We look forward to receiving his response.

ASWA Prayer Chain

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Following discussions regarding the need for more prayer for the many pressing animal welfare issues both here in the UK and overseas, there is now an ASWA prayer chain to offer prayer for ASWA members, and for the many issues facing animals. If you would like to join the prayer chain, please contact ASWA Secretary, Samantha Chandler. Prayer requests can be made to any of the contacts listed below.

Contacts:

ASWA Secretary – Samantha Chandler – via email: AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com – 24 hours

Sarah Dunning – by text please: 07761-589948 (no calls after 7.00pm please)

Sheila Irving – by telephone: 01892-864179 (between 11.00am and 4.00pm)

Helen Wallage – by telephone: 01697 371504 (between 11.00am and 4.00pm – please leave message on ansaphone with details)

FOUND AT THE AGM

Did anyone who attended the ASWA AGM on 18th May leave behind a paperback copy of The Autobiography of George Muller? If so please contact the Secretary.

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). The Surrey/South London group meets monthly on either Friday or Saturday at 2pm in various members' homes. 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).

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.

Nominations for ASWA Committee

Any ASWA member who would like to stand for the ASWA Committee must submit their name by 15th January 2014 in writing with their proposer and seconder to the Secretary. Proposers and Seconders could be another ASWA member or the vicar/minister of your Church.

FACING THE FACTS ABOUT ENDANGERED SPECIES

Endangered species have been much talked about recently, especially in Britain. The possible pregnancy of Tian Tian, the female Giant Panda at Edinburgh Zoo has got many people talking. But that's not the UK's only endangered species news story. As I begin writing this, the BBC news website has four stories to do with endangered species, three of which are to do with work being done by humans in an effort to save endangered species. Sadly, the fourth endangered species story is not about humans helping endangered species, but rather contributing to their decline. It is the story that poachers have killed a white rhino in Nairobi National Park, in Kenya, to take its horn. This is the 35 rhino killed in Kenya already this year, compared with a total of 29 killed last year¹.

It is hard to determine the exact number of endangered and critically endangered species that exist across the world, as different organisations use different criteria for making determinations, and it can be hard to get an accurate count of animals in the wild. According to a World Wildlife Fund list, however, 15 large animal species are critically endangered and a further 33 endangered. Additionally, 16 species are categorised as vulnerable and another 10 as near threatened². It is very possible that this is, in fact, an underestimate of the number of endangered, threatened and vulnerable large animal species.

Does it matter if individual species become extinct? The answer to that has to be yes. Although there have always been episodes of extinction, the truth is that those extinctions have had knock-on effects on other species. This remains true today. The interactions between species in an ecosystem are complex, and so it is hard to say what the consequences of the extinction of one species might be on others. Humans are not immune to this. There is much talk in the media and elsewhere about the impact of declining bee populations on human society. Bees are very effective pollinators, and pollinate many of the plants that we use for food. If there were no bees, it is possible that humanity would struggle to feed itself. In our oceans, we are already seeing mass deaths of corals³. What the long-term effects of this will be on other marine species is yet to be seen, but the impact could be very great.

It must be acknowledged that some species are at risk through natural causes. Primates, such as gorillas and chimpanzees, for example, are vulnerable to communicable diseases like ebola⁴, which can seriously impact

on a local population. And some species, like the Giant Panda, struggle to reproduce in sufficient numbers to maintain a robust population⁵. The vast majority of endangered species, however, are threatened by just one thing – humanity. Hunting, habitat destruction, and the introduction of foreign, invasive species into an ecosystem are all human activities that can have serious negative consequences upon wildlife. We need look no further than the plight of the dodo to see just how quickly humans can hunt a species to extinction. Today, habitat destruction is, perhaps, the greatest threat to many species, as the human demand for timber, minerals and agricultural products leads to the invasion of more and more land that was previously wilderness. The World Wildlife Fund list of endangered species lists five Javan and Sumatran species of animals as critically endangered and two species from Borneo as endangered². Both the introduction of palm oil plantations and illegal logging in these areas have led to vast areas of forest being cleared in recent years. This has resulted in both habitat loss for native species and an increase in human–animal conflict. Sadly, this type of scenario is seen over and over again in different parts of the world where human settlement or economic activity is extending further into what was, until recently, wilderness.

With human population growth set to continue, and much of that growth taking place in developing nations, the expansion of human settlements into previously wild areas is likely to increase. In addition, the growth in demand for meat means that more and more previously forested areas are being cleared for grazing. Demand in the developed world for fish has led to unsustainable levels of fishing in many of the world's oceans. The demand for more and cheaper sources of oil and gas mean that many wild areas are at risk of being exploited for their fossil fuel resources. Are we reaching the point where there will be no place for wildlife? The WWF claim that there are already more tigers in captivity in America than live in the wild globally⁶.

This is a very gloomy outlook. But it is not the whole story. There are many organisations that work in their own locality or globally to preserve wilderness areas and to protect wild animals. But more can always be done. Christians particularly have a role to play. Caring for God's creation is the mission of Christian conservation charity A Rocha. Their Director of Theology, The Revd Dave Bookless, puts it this way, "In A

Rocha we believe that caring for God's creation, and specifically for threatened species and habitats, is not an optional extra for Christians but a core part of our biblical calling. God made a biodiverse world, celebrating the totality of it as 'very good'. The very first command God gave to humanity concerned our responsibility for the well-being of other creatures: 'dominion' is about gentle leadership within the community of creation, seeking the fruitful flourishing of all creatures."

We need to acknowledge that God cares about what happens to all of his creatures. The survival of species matters. The story of Noah being told to build an ark to save breeding couples of every type of animal (Genesis 7) is evidence of this. A Rocha's Dave Bookless agrees, "Within the story of Noah we see God's desire that 'every living creature upon the earth' should be protected and rescued 'so that their kind might continue upon the earth'. Consequently, protecting and conserving endangered species and the habitats upon which they depend is a fundamental Christian calling."

There are three key reasons why Christians should care about and take action on endangered species. First, all of the earth's species are creatures of God, and as such have intrinsic value. They should be protected for their own sake. Second, we cannot know what the consequences will be of losing these species. Our actions may end up having repercussions for us, as well as our fellow creatures. Third, looking at scripture, particularly Psalms 96, 98, 148 and 150, we see that all of creation praises God. So when we diminish the number of species in the world, we diminish the praise that God receives. The Bible describes Noah's act of building the ark as one of faith, obedience and service to God. Surely actions taken now to save the world's many endangered species are nothing less.

Jennifer Brown

1. www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23683420. Accessed 13 August 2013.

2. www.worldwildlife.org/species/directory?sort=extinction_status&direction=desc. Accessed 13 August 2013.

3. www.panda.org/about_our_earth/blue_planet/coasts/coral_reefs. Accessed 21 August 2013.

4. www.wwf.org.uk/wwf_articles.cfm?newsid=5880. Accessed 13 August 2013.

5. www.nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/giantpandas/pandafacts/default.cfm. Accessed 21 August 2013.

6. www.wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/press_centre/index.cfm?uNewsID=6755. Accessed 13 August 2013.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

South Africa:



A real blessing for horses



The Cart Horse Protection Association is a non-profit animal welfare organisation based in Cape Town. As well as rescuing and rehoming abused horses, they also provide facilities for foaling mares, inspection patrols and call-out response, veterinary care, and rehabilitation services to all working cart horses and donkeys living on the Cape Flats. Their overall mission is to protect working cart horses and donkeys from abuse, and contribute to the social wellbeing of the Cape Flats carting community. To that end, they also provide support, education and training to cart horse owners and drivers who use working cart horses as a means of generating income for themselves and their families.

As well as being a blessing to horses through the care and services that they provide on a daily basis, they also hold an annual Animal Blessing at their

Rest & Recovery Centre in Somerset West, where they bless the rescued horses in their care. This tradition is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures and is held each year on a date near St Francis' Day. This year's service will be on Saturday October 5th.

Anne Hemmings



AUSTRALIA:

Voting for animal welfare

Just a couple of items of interest. Firstly, a new political party – the Animal Justice Party – has launched in Australia, and will be fielding candidates for the general election to be held mid-September this year. Irrespective of success, I believe there will be considerable media and community interest. As a local indication, Hunter Animal Watch (I am the Hon. Sec of that organisation), runs a charity shop, funds from which are directed to our subsidised pet neutering programme for pensioners, and our customers are very interested in the new AJP and take membership forms and general information from our counter. Time will tell.

Live exports and factory farming continue to be our major animal issues, and animal advocates continue to chip away and keep in touch with the

Members of Parliament and Senators who are sympathetic to change. TV coverage of animal cruelty continues to bring forth a massive community response.

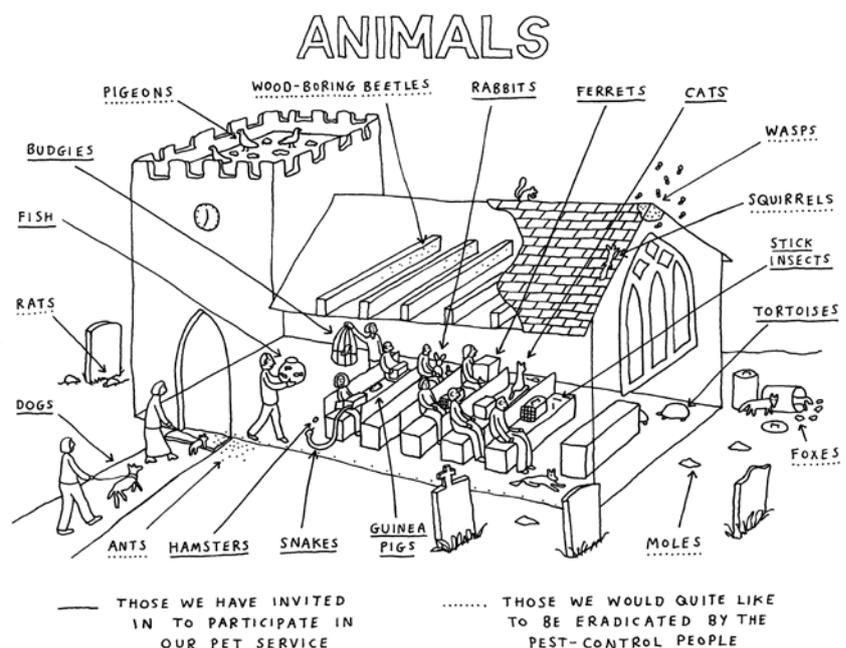
The second matter I would like to mention is the Animal Welfare page on the website of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle (http://www.newcastleanglican.org.au/SiteFiles/newcastleanglicanet/Animal_Welfare_-_28_June.pdf). This is my responsibility, but I have no way of knowing whether anyone actually looks at it! If you would care to, please pay it a visit. I'd be grateful for comments from members, and also to know whether anyone in ASWA knows of anything similar in UK or elsewhere.

I'm particularly pleased that the Reverend Christa Blanke, the founder of Animals' Angels, has given me permission to use passages from her wonderful little book "With the Eyes of Love – We are there with the animals. Dispatches from the front line", and currently on the website I have included a passage about the experience of an Australian Animals' Angel in Western Australia.

Best wishes to all ASWA members.

Olga Parkes

This cartoon was originally printed in the *Church Times*. As we approach St Francis' Day and Animal Welfare Sunday, a time when many churches have animal blessing, or 'pet' services, we thought that we would re-print it for our readers. We would be happy to hear your thoughts on what the cartoon has to say about the church and its relationship with animals. Our thanks to Dave Walker for his kind permission to reprint the cartoon.



NATIONAL OFFENDER MANAGEMENT SERVICE WILDLIFE AWARD 2013

For the fourth year, ASWA once again teamed up with Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA) to sponsor and present the Prisons Wildlife Award. This year it was won for the second year running by HMP Maidstone in Kent.

Samantha Chandler and Revd Hugh Broadbent from the ASWA committee made the trip to the prison for the awards ceremony along with Judy Gibbons from CCA. The scheme was even more impressive this year and we were treated to a tour of the beautifully kept gardens with both flowers and vegetables. Habitats for birds, bats and many types of insect were everywhere and all in use.

Many of the prisoners who had been involved in the scheme joined us for lunch after the tour and it was both moving and interesting to be able to talk to them about their experiences with the project.

The Prisons project is all about rehabilitation. Biodiversity and conservation projects encourage prisoners to think about others, about wildlife and the world around them. ASWA is pleased to be able to be involved in this valuable project.

Michelle Jarmon-Howe of the Department of Justice & Justin Scott of Maidstone Prison with their award.



THE BADGER CULL – A VIEW FROM THE FRONT LINES

What drives the ASWA Secretary to spend the morning being grilled in a Belfast TV studio and the CCA Secretary to be subject to the same at Radio Gloucestershire, giving 12 local radio interviews in two hours? The widespread killing of badgers for what the top independent scientists say is to no good or useful purpose.*

At the time this *Animalwatch* goes to print, the slaughter has already begun in the pilot scheme in Somerset and is about to start in the Gloucestershire region adjoining the Forest of Dean. I have been out several times already on training walks with the Wounded Badger Patrol arm of Gloucestershire Against Badger Shooting. Wearing luminous sleeveless jackets bearing our title on the back we set out at sunset and, following footpaths, look out for setts and evidence of baiting or wire-trapping. Armed with torches, maps, and cameras, we also carry mobile phones to contact the local wildlife hospital (The Vale) and the RSPCA badger hotline if a wounded creature has been found. And there will be plenty of them, although most

will, of course, scurry back into their setts to die slow and agonising deaths unknown to the cullers.

My fellow radio interviewee, the Vice-President of the National Farmers Union insisted that a) there was no available vaccine and the b) culling was one of the necessary tools to help reduce bovine TB (bTB), presently causing farmers such trouble in the hot-spots where badgers proliferate. Both of these arguments are false, as there are vaccines in use for both cattle and badgers, although EU red-tape and specious cost arguments prevent the full implementation of their widespread use; and culling has been found to be counterproductive in previous trials.

One question I was asked, repeatedly, was whether this is an issue that the Churches should engage with. Of course it is, as they should be involved in all matters concerning the whole of creation and of all species. We are not privileging badgers over cattle, nor the other way round – but wanting both species to flourish. Pope Francis made

an impassioned plea in his inaugural address that we must protect 'all creation', including 'respecting ... each of God's creatures'. As the species created in God's image it is our responsibility to exercise our dominion in a God-like servant way, not like the pagan rulers 'lording it over' and 'making their authority felt'. It is just about humanly possible to control bTB, but not in this way.

*http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/isg/report/final_report.pdf

Deborah M. Jones

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

In the news recently has been the story of Mark Bridger who was found guilty of the murder of five year old April Jones, in Machylleth last October. Almost inevitably when such cases occur there is a debate in the press and elsewhere as to how laws may be changed to stop such events in future. It has been claimed that Bridger had an obsession with images of child abuse on the internet, and there have been calls for much stronger controls on such internet material. It was also reported, although not so sensationally, that Bridger had worked in an abattoir in the past.

Nearly a hundred years ago reporter Upton Sinclair worked undercover for some time in an abattoir (in the USA) and he described the inhumane and appalling conditions in his novel "The Jungle" published in March 1906. This is available freely on the internet, either in text format, or for a Kindle. He wrote; "He [the police officer] has to be prompt – for these two-o'clock in-the-morning fights, if they once get out of hand, they are like a forest fire, and may mean the whole reserves at the station. The thing to do is to crack every fighting head that you can see, before there are so many fighting heads that you cannot crack any of them. There is but scant account kept of cracked heads in back of the [stock] yards, for men who have to crack the heads of animals all day seem to get into the habit, and to practice on their friends, and even on their families, between times "

Sinclair's abattoir workers got so desensitised to violence, that rates of murder, and fights increased. More recently Amy Fitzgerald of Windsor University (May 2013, *Toronto Star*) has research which has confirmed the suggestions of this literary classic. She found that as the number of such workers increased in a community so did the rate of violent crime. She also compared the rates of violence in other factories, with dangerous and repetitive work. These were not associated with a similar increase in the rate of crime. Starting from living creatures, was very different from the inanimate ingredients of other processes.

The documented crime rate increases, include a 130% increase in violent crimes in Finney County, Kansas (Broadway 2000) and a 63% increase in monthly police bookings in Lexington, Nebraska (Gouveia and Stull 1995). Increases in crime have also been observed in at least one Canadian town to date: the town of Brooks, Alberta witnessed a 70% increase in reported crime (Stull and Broadway 2004).

We must however be careful in interpreting such results, just because there is a correlation between violent crime and looking at violent images or working in a slaughterhouse, this does not mean that one is the cause of the other. It could be that working in an abattoir makes one more likely to murder or looking at images of child abuse may make one more likely to murder a child. An alternate

explanation is that people with such desires, like the psychopath wishing to kill, will choose such a job as working in an abattoir, where killing is part of the job.

Even if some people are potentially more violent than others, it is still difficult to determine whether this is in some way built in, that is a genetic cause, or because of their life experiences, especially those in childhood.

Anthony C Robin, Colchester

Dear Editor

Experimentation on animals is spiralling out of control, with approximately 10,500 experiments on animals, including dogs, cats, mice, monkeys and others every day of the year. That is up 40% since the year 2000.

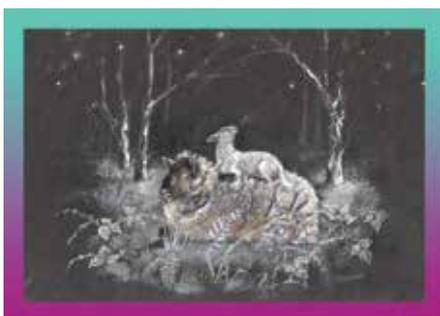
Naturewatch in Cheltenham is lobbying that experimenters should have to pay a government levy on each animal used in experiments. The money raised from the levy could be used to finance the development of alternatives to animal experiments.

Of course, any funds raised by such a levy should be ring-fenced by law for the development of replacements for animal research.

Iris Pyves

ASWA MERCHANDISE

ASWA 2013 Christmas card



Once again, our Christmas card has been designed exclusively for ASWA by Thea Olrog. Cards cost £4 per pack of 6 (including postage). Made from good-quality stiff card with high-quality envelopes, each card is printed with a Bible verse. Cards are available from the Secretary. Please order via the website or send a cheque made out to ASWA to ASWA, PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT.

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)

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

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

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

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

During his annual report, the Chairman confirmed his retirement and that this was his last AGM. He spoke of how his eyes had been opened to the plight of farm animals being exported to the continent when he was then Bishop of Dover and so his journey into the world of animal welfare had begun. He added that the Live Export issue was once again an urgent one and how he had recently met with the new RSPCA Chairman to discuss the way forward. Revd Helen Hall has been elected as Chair for the next year but the committee continue to search for a senior churchperson, preferably a Bishop, to take on this role.

There had been no postal ballot as the number of candidates was less than the vacant posts available. Therefore, the three candidates, Keith Cottrell, Revd George Ochola and Sarah Dunning, were all re-elected.

Our guest speaker was Laura Bambini from the Bat Conservation Trust who gave a fascinating talk about bats in churches.

Laura Bambini of Bat Conservation Trust with ASWA Secretary Samantha Chandler



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Needless to say, I am very excited about taking on this role. My day job is as a parish priest in the Church in Wales, working in quite a lively urban area. I was a solicitor before being ordained and still have an active interest in law, religion and human rights. I have always had strong feelings about justice and protecting the vulnerable; this is one factor which has drawn me both towards animal welfare in general and ASWA as an organisation.

I had quite a rural childhood and was lucky to grow up in a household in which all living creatures were valued and respected. One of my earliest memories is of toddling beside my father on our dogs' night-time walk, proudly helping him to carry toads across a busy road. Not only did I learn compassion, I was also encouraged to see the wonder and beauty in animals, regardless as to whether society arbitrarily deemed them 'cute'.

To my mind, it is important that ASWA should address animal suffering directly and be prepared to continue providing a voice for the voiceless in public debates. We also have a role in encouraging churches to celebrate God's amazing creation with awe

and joy. As ASWA youth officer, I have a particular interest in children's ministry and worship and am keen to try to reach out to as broad a spectrum of people as possible. I believe that regardless of age, culture or theological background all Christians have a duty to care for animals and the planet we share with them; this is a key part of discipleship and not an optional extra.



Helen Hall

TALKING POINT

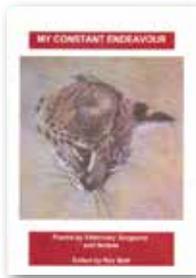
Are zoos a good thing?

This is a difficult question. Zoos may be the last refuge for an endangered species, and their contribution to conservation and education is significant. But it cannot be ignored that zoos are also places where wild animals are kept in captivity and put on display for human entertainment. Many zoos now seek to provide appropriate habitats for their animals, but for migratory animals and those whose territory in the wild might cover many miles, or even hundreds of miles, a zoo simply cannot provide them with the space that they need to respond to their instinct to roam. As we become more and more aware of the sentience and sensitivity of many animals, is it right to expose them to near constant observation by the human public? Zoos have to raise money to support their research and conservation work. Allowing people to pay to come and view animals is the simplest way for them to do this, and does inspire many to take an interest in animals and conservation. Is this simply the price that has to be paid to ensure the survival of endangered species?

BOOK REVIEWS

MY CONSTANT ENDEAVOUR

Poems by
veterinary
surgeons and
nurses
Edited by Roy Batt



Published by Hub
Editions
ISBN 978-1-903746-99-8
182pp Paperback
Price: £10

The title of this book comes from the declaration taken by veterinary surgeons on professional admission:

"I promise and solemnly declare that I will pursue the work of my profession with integrity and accept my responsibilities to the public, my clients, the profession and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and that, above all, my constant endeavour will be to ensure the health and welfare of animals committed to my care."

The book is dedicated to the late Barrie Edwards, an eminent and respected equine and bovine surgeon, and includes memorable and entertaining contributions from, among others, Richard Allport – a homeopathic vet who writes for pet magazines. I particularly liked his poem about slugs and snails. Dane Atkin writes an amusing poem called Vetitis about a dog's visit to the vet.

Each poem is preceded by a brief résumé of the author and creates a context to their contribution. Overall, I was saddened how many veterinary surgeons appear actively involved in hunting, field sports and other activities which could be considered to be in direct conflict with their oath, 'to ensure the welfare of the animals'. The collection consistently challenged me to explore this apparent contradiction and to consider how those whose mission is to alleviate suffering can pursue or reconcile their activities which by consequence cause such distress to God's creation.

I was disappointed by the ridiculously stereotypical view of animal rights

activists expressed in Keith Bolger's poem Animal Rights.

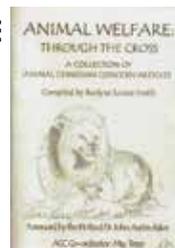
I was deeply moved by the insights of poems dealing with challenging subjects including arriving at the decision to have a much loved, aged horse put to sleep from Madelaine Campbell and a poem by Andrew Coe about his dog. Further examples included poems about the 2001 Foot and Mouth disaster and one by Sylvia Herbert which recalls the tragic death of 'Synchronised', a horse who was killed in the Grand National at Becher's Brook.

Overall, for those involved in animal welfare, the collection will evoke a range of emotions, from humour to disquiet.

Samantha Chandler

ANIMAL WELFARE THROUGH THE CROSS

A collection of
Animal Christian
Concern articles
Compiled By
Roslyne Louise
Smith



Published by Gentle Lamb
Publishing (Available through
Amazon)
ISBN 978-0-95751-0
353pp Paperback
Price £14.99

This book comprises of a collection of sermons, articles and letters from Animal Christian Concern (ACC), many of them written by May Tripp herself, with whom a number of ASWA members will be familiar.

May Tripp has been a huge influence on me personally. When I first started as Secretary with ASWA back in 1996, she was a great help and support and although I have only met her personally a couple of times we have had many long talks on the telephone and she is a great letter writer.

The forward to this book is by Rt Revd John Austin Baker, a former President of ASWA and now a Patron. Bishop John was also a Patron of ACC and spoke at many of their services. Some

of his wonderful sermons are included in this book.

I took this book to read on my annual holiday and was transported back to my early years as ASWA Secretary. Some of the talks were those given at the retreats that were held at Maryvale which were so special. One in particular is by May herself given at the 1993 retreat entitled 'Through the Cross to the New Creation.' The book is worth buying simply for this amazing piece of writing!

Having read this very special book, I think it is important to remember the number of Christians who have been involved in 'fighting the good fight' for animal welfare over the years. They may have been comparatively few in number but what dedication and determination they have shown. We need to be encouraging each other to keep writing, keep talking, keep praying and keep hoping. There is still so much to be done!

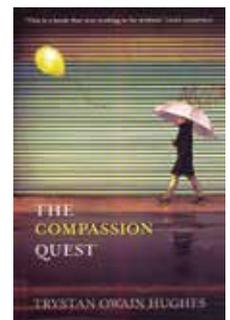
I would like to end with this quote from May Tripp which sums up so much about ACC and what it stood for: "Our battle for animal rights is a conflict which is running parallel to countless other battles for human justice, but I believe that our battle is taking place on the 'last frontier.' At last our concern has extended beyond those of human self-centredness. We are praying and working for a restored harmony in the whole creation."

Samantha Chandler

THE COMPASSION QUEST By Tristan Owain Hughes

Published by SPCK
ISBN 978-0-281-06825-8
120pp Paperback
Price £9.99

In this short and very readable book, Trystan Owain Hughes seeks to encourage Christians to look beyond their own self-interests and to embrace compassion for others as a core Christian value.



Although the focus is not exclusively on animals or the environment, Hughes does have a lot to say on both, as well as on how Christians should value and treat other human beings. Throughout the book, he contrasts the individualistic worldview that has come to dominate our society with the recognition of the interconnectedness of all things that he believes (and I agree) is fundamental to Christianity. This is linked to his concept of 'radical incarnation' – that Christ's incarnation went beyond being human, and embraces all creation.

In chapter four, Hughes includes a section on 'Christ in others – our groaning world.' It is in this section that we get an extended reflection on the relationship of Christ to the non-human world. As he points out in this section, "Some Christians tend to worry more about doctrinal theology and personal morality than about the treatment of God's awe-inspiring world and his precious creatures." The overall argument of this book is that this attitude is a failure to live out our faith.

In the final chapter, Hughes returns explicitly to the relationship that humans have with non-human animals, and he is very clear that our use and abuse of our fellow creatures is not defensible, and that Christians need to think more carefully about this area of human activity and change our behaviour. He stops short of arguing that all Christians should adopt a vegetarian lifestyle, but does advocate a much more reverent and thankful attitude towards the animals that provide the food on so many tables.

The writing style is very accessible. If there is any fault to be found here it is in his constant reference to films – sometimes as many as three or four on a page. While I appreciate the use of films to illustrate a point, his overuse of film quotations gives the impression that he is looking to popular media not so much to illustrate the points he is making but to justify them. Overall, however, this is a very good book, with an extremely important message. It would make an excellent resource for study groups who want to look at

the issue of compassion and Christian responsibility.

Jennifer Brown

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. 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.

POETS' CORNER

We thought that readers might enjoy reading some original poetry on animal themes. The poem *Conservation* brings a thoughtful perspective to our theme of endangered species. As this is our last issue before Christmas, *Somehow we knew*, about the animals who gather at the birth of Jesus, looks forward to the holiday season.

Conservation

Behind antique glass cases they all stare
At me (this traveller from a future time):
Jay, weasel, skylark, corncrake and brown hare,

And nightingale, his beak opened in mime
Of songs he once sang May-long without care,
Before Victorian or Edwardian gun
Or net or snare or treacherous birdlime
Caught them; things they could not outrun.

Though they are only feathers, fur and skin,
The taxidermist skilfully has caught
The tensions of braced limbs, the weasel's grin
In beads for eyes the quickness of his thought.
So, I with sad reflection, looking in,
Remark to these dried bodies without grave:
Weasel and jay, that wood where you were sport,
And hare and corncrake's fields, we did not save:
Since then, progress and time ruthless as gun,
Felled woods, drained fen; all tamed and built upon.

Roger Taylor

Somehow we knew (animals of the nativity)

We were there, we saw the baby born
On that miraculous morn
Not noticed by the woman and man
To them we lent our room
For the child from her womb
And though unsaid, somehow we knew:
This child was born for us, too.

We came with the shepherd folk
After the angel spoke
Perhaps we weren't meant to come along
But we were not to know
We simply chose to go
And though unsaid, somehow we knew:
This child was born for us, too.

We came with our masters from the east
We, burden-carrying beasts
Walking for miles over many, many days
Carrying their gifts this far
As they followed the curious star
And though unsaid, somehow we knew:
This child was born for us, too.

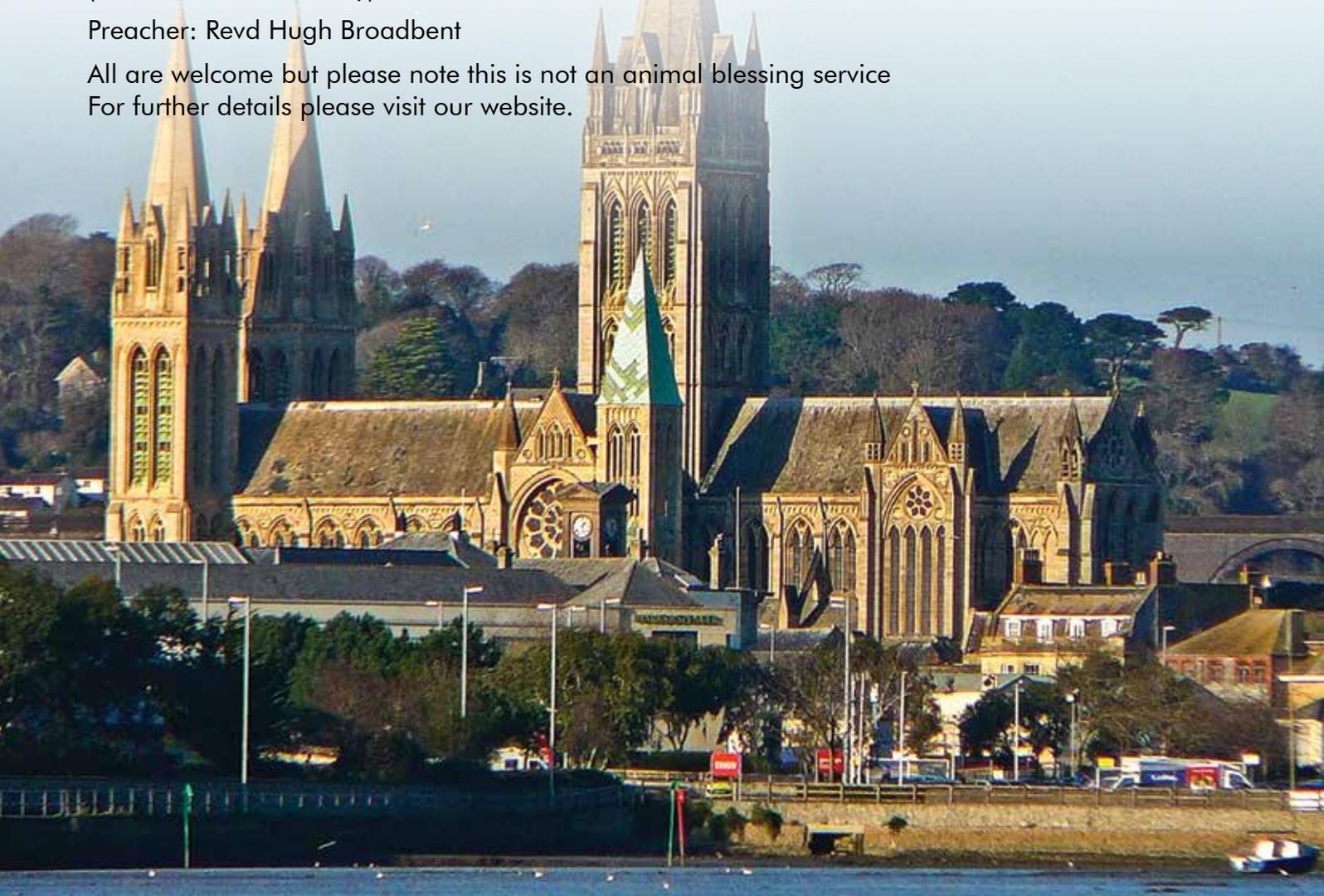
J Brown

ASWA'S ANNUAL SERVICE: SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2013

(Animal Welfare Sunday) 10.00am – Eucharist Harvest Service, Truro Cathedral

Preacher: Revd Hugh Broadbent

All are welcome but please note this is not an animal blessing service
For further details please visit our website.



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