

84

Summer 2013

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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**CHURCHGOERS GROW
WINGS**

**YOUNG MEMBERS'
PAGE**



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Cover image and photo p9 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!

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, 11am
The preacher will be ASWA Committee Member the Revd Hugh Broadbent.
Please note that this is NOT an animal blessing service.

Sunday 10 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



Paw a Coffee for ASWA

Come to our purrfect Coffee Morning in support of ASWA

With your support we can continue our mission:

"Putting Animals on the Agenda of the Christian Church".

Would you like to hold a "PAW A COFFEE FOR ASWA"
(During the months of April to August 2013)

A Coffee Morning is a simple way to raise funds and awareness for ASWA.

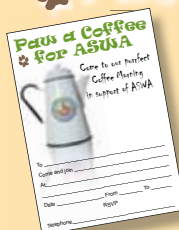
You may wish to hold one in your own home or ask your church to hold a Coffee Morning as a way to promote and advertise ASWA, we also have publications and merchandise that you could display.

For more information please contact Janet Murphy 07793 748 634 janj1@ntlworld.com

Please find enclosed 1 invitation for you to give to a friend or neighbour and if you wish to send more invitations we have supplied a sheet for you to copy.

It would be appreciated if you could send any monies raised from the coffee morning by the end of September 2013, indicating that it is for Paw a Coffee for ASWA to The Treasurer, ASWA, P O Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8GT.

Thank you Janet Murphy.



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. This issue sees the return of our Young Members' Page, with a Bible study and activities for young people. Don't forget to check out our page for children and youth on our website, too! The focus of this issue is birds. Many of us enjoy bird watching and hearing the dawn chorus on a spring morning. But we often fail to think of birds when considering animal welfare, though welfare issues affect both wild and domestic birds.

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. 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 Autumn magazine is **Monday 12th August 2013**.

ASWA NEWS

Interim Committee Chair

ASWA would like to thank Bishop Richard Llewellyn for his leadership and service during his time as chairman of the committee. He retired from the post following the AGM, and as the search for our next committee chair continues, we are pleased to announce that the Revd Helen Hall, one of our committee members, will be acting as interim committee chair. We are grateful to Helen for taking on this role, and ask that ASWA members would pray for Helen, and all the committee, over the coming months.

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!

A Warm Welcome to our new members.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Elaine Atkins – Morden, Surrey

Rebecca Evans – Llanddarog, Carmarthen

Laura Ferguson – Hereford

Mrs Jessica Fusniak – Bexleyheath, Kent

Janice Hellens – Wandsworth, London

Mr & Mrs J. Lessells – Oadby, Leicester

Mrs Kay Moore – Enfield

Catherine O'Doherty – Jarrow, Tyne and Wear

Karin Olivier – South Woodford, London

Sophie Schuil-Brewer – Hanwell, London

Margaret Todd – Stelling Minnis, Kent

Jacqueline Wasney – Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Carolyn West – Haverhill, MA, USA

Catriona Young – Edinburgh

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.

GOOD NEWS

Top Model speaks out against squalene

Lilly Cole, one of the UK's top models, has recently spoken out against the use of squalene in cosmetics. Squalene is a product derived from shark livers, resulting in the killing of thousands of sharks for their livers. To have someone as well known as Lilly Cole speaking out against the use of this product ensures that people will take notice. Already, Selfridges have stated that they will cease selling products containing shark-derived squalene. Good news, indeed, for sharks. Let's hope that more shops and cosmetics manufacturers follow suit.



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 will be available via the website later this year.

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, two of our members – Helen Wallage based up in Cumbria and Sheila Irving based in Kent have agreed to be the contacts for an ASWA Prayer Chain.

If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, perhaps you could contact me, providing either an email address or a telephone number and when we hear of a pressing need for prayer, we will contact our list of praying members and we can start a chain of prayer.

Your telephone numbers will be kept confidential and shared only with Helen, Sheila and also Sarah Dunning (ASWA committee member) who already operates a similar chain in Watford.

Similarly, if you have a need for

prayer, perhaps for a sick companion animal or something you have read in the newspaper or seen on the news or even for yourself, please contact one of us. No names will be given out without permission and all prayer requests will only be shared amongst those in the chain.

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)

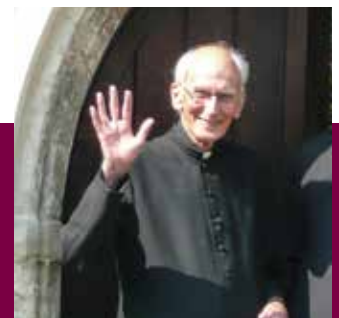
ASWA Local groups

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 and alternates between a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening. 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.



Obituary

Father Trevor Thorpe

It is with great sadness that we must report the death in January 2013 of Father Trevor Thorpe. He was hugely supportive of ASWA in the early days and used to run an Ecumenical retreat at Maryvale near Guildford each year which many of the ASWA team used to attend. He will be remembered with great fondness by all at ASWA.

CHURCHGOERS GROW WINGS

The colours, activity and song wildlife brings can lift your mood in an instant, and our churchyards boast some of the most amazing wildlife the UK has to offer. They can be the perfect haven for everything that flaps, flutters, buzzes, burrows, shuffles and slithers and, as well as enjoying the spectacle, we can all do our bit to help enhance their homes.

As you read this article, you could be lucky enough to hear the scream of a swift overhead – a sure sign summer has arrived even though at times you may doubt it! These incredible birds have travelled thousands of miles to spend their summer in the UK and they can fly without touching down for days at a time – eating, sleeping and breeding on the wing. Sadly, when they do arrive they are increasingly finding that the nest sites they've used in the past are no longer there. Imagine that after such a mammoth journey when you're completely exhausted. Swifts tend to nest in nooks and crannies which are often associated with old buildings, meaning that churches and their outbuildings are perfect. But in many cases these are the kind of buildings that need renovation or maintenance and the RSPB is urging anyone that has visiting swifts to delay maintenance until later in the summer when the swifts have returned to their winter homes. It's actually illegal knowingly to block up a nest site, something many people aren't aware of. If work is essential, you could put up a swift box to replace the nest site. The RSPB would like to know where you're seeing swifts this summer. To report your sightings visit www.rspb.org.uk.

Swallows, another summer migrant that visits our shores, are also sometimes spotted around churches, and they favour the porches over the doorways in particular. Around houses, they tend to nest in garages, sheds and barns so this is the churchyard equivalent.

It can be difficult to tell the difference between swifts and swallows as they are both so agile, but swallows have longer tails, white undersides and

red throats and swifts have dark silhouettes and longer wings. Keep an eye out for these summer visitors and be in awe of their incredible journeys and stamina.

Barn owls are also regular churchgoers – so much so that one of their colloquial names is the 'church owl.' Contrary to popular belief, their heart shaped faces can sometimes be seen during the day, but dusk is your best chance of seeing them. They love open country, which often surrounds churches, as it's ideal for hunting their food like mice, voles and shrews. Churchyards themselves offer good food sources too as the grass doesn't tend to be cut back so short or so frequently as in gardens and other outside spaces, so rodents are often in abundance. The church buildings themselves can be great for nesting too.

Tawny owls can also be seen around churches, as although they tend to nest in trees rather than the buildings themselves, they will use the same food sources. They're slightly bigger than barn owls and darker in colour and mostly heard calling at night. You'd probably only see one during the daytime if you accidentally disturbed it, but a tell-tale sign that you have one living on your patch is pellets below roosting places.

Owls will gravitate towards churches because of the natural food and shelter that occurs but you could entice a whole host of other feathered friends with the addition of some small, inexpensive feeders. Wildlife is pretty good at finding the natural food available to it in the countryside but supplementary food that we provide will be much appreciated too, especially during the winter months. A mixture of seeds like nyjer, sunflower hearts and millet could attract blue tits, house sparrows, robins and nuthatches, as well as countless others. And if you have any leftover food from the church kitchen they would be thankful for those too – soft fruit like apples and pears, grated cheese, unsalted bacon and porridge oats are all good sources of energy

and will attract ground feeders like blackbirds and starlings too.

It's not just wild visitors in the skies that can be seen around churchyards, they really are a haven for all kinds of creatures with the shelter and food they provide. You could also be sharing your space with mammals like rabbits, foxes and rodents. And nature doesn't have to be something that moves. Churchyards are great for wildflowers which, as well as looking beautiful, will attract all kinds of wildlife. Red admirals, small tortoiseshells, whites and orangetips can be seen fluttering around all summer long.

Churchyards tend to be a great fit for wildlife as they are often free of any nasties like pesticides and are left to grow naturally. If you'd like to try and attract more wildlife there are all sorts of things you could do. Some are small steps, some are larger projects that would be great for getting the whole congregation involved and, even better, some are things NOT to do to save you a job! Cutting grass less frequently will give buttercups and daisies chance to grow, making food for bees, and attract butterflies and grasshoppers that need long grass to complete their life cycles. Piles of dead logs and branches needn't be an eyesore and if piled up in a corner will be irresistible to bugs, amphibians, birds and mammals.

Your buildings likely already offer endless nesting places but if you were to add bird boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog boxes you could be offering even more accommodation. Adding a pond to an outside space is one of the best ways to give nature a home and even a small one could attract dragonflies, frogs, pond-skaters and newts. They will also give thirsty birds a drink!

If you'd like more information on the wildlife you're seeing around your church, and tips on how to go the extra mile, visit www.rspb.org.uk.

Gemma Butlin, RSPB

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

South Africa:



Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation

FreeMe Wildlife Rehabilitation KZN exists to care for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife in a large area which extends from south of Pietermaritzburg to the Drakensburg and from Ixopo through to Greytown. This largely rural area covers multiple habitats and climates, including sub-tropical forest, thorn veldt, wet grasslands and the Drakensburg Mountain Range known for its snow, large storms and runaway fires. The area is renowned for its wildlife, and is popular as an ecotourist destination. It contains a large number of threatened or protected species within its boundaries.

Since its founding seven years ago, FreeMe has grown in reputation and now has permits from the local conservation authority, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, for the rehabilitation of all wildlife in the area, including threatened or protected species. FreeMe works alongside the Raptor Rescue Centre outside Pietermaritzburg and the Primate Centre outside Richmond to handle nearly all the

rehabilitation requirements of the area. The species they have cared for include a variety of antelope, such as Oribi, Reedbuck, duiker, blue duiker, blesbok, bush buck, and impala, and larger bird species such as cranes, storks, and herons. They have also looked after some raptor species, Samango monkeys, and a number of bats.

Anne Hemmings

USA:



New liturgies and prayers for animals

The most recent General Convention in the Episcopal Church met this past July in Indianapolis, Indiana; animal advocates and members of the Episcopal Network for Animal Welfare gave thanks that after several years of failed attempts, our General Convention finally authorized a liturgy called "A Service for the Loss of a Beloved Animal." In addition, several prayers for animals were approved for use at various occasions including at the adoption of an animal, for lost or missing animals, for sick animals, for animals who have died in the wild, and for the suffering of animals

during warfare. It is our hope that by the Episcopal Church providing these resources to the wider Church, not only will there be a greater pastoral response to these issues, but that the Church will be reminded of the important place that animals have in our lives as the Church strives to follow our call to be stewards of all creation.

Below is one of the prayers that were approved. The resolution and other authorized prayers can be read in their entirety at:

<http://www.generalconvention.org/resolutions/download/121-1342127005>

At the death of a wild animal

Almighty God, who make the beasts of the wild move in beauty and show forth the glory of your Name: We grieve at the death of this creature, whose existence was a reminder to us of your creative presence in the world. We give you thanks for that which was never ours to claim, but only to behold with wonder; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PALM SUNDAY PROMISE

The Palm Sunday procession at All Saints' Church, Woodham this year was, for the first time, led by a donkey. This delightful creature, named Promise, was well-received by adults and children alike, and drew the attention of many passersby. Promise's involvement was organised by Jenny Higgins, who also spoke about animals as 'living souls' and God's redemptive plan for the whole of creation. During the service, Promise waited patiently outside, and was ready to greet worshippers as they left at the end of the service.

Jenny Higgins



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 – stories about animal welfare issues that matter to you, stories about your involvement in animal welfare or animal-related services at your church, artwork, and poetry. We want to hear from you! This page will also feature a look at animal-related themes in scripture. You may want to introduce these to your Sunday School, youth group or RE class. 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. As we look at the Bible passage, younger readers may want to read the story and think about these three questions:

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What are they doing?
3. What is special about them?

Older children and teenagers may want to dig deeper (I love digging!) and tackle the questions that follow the reflections on the passage. The important thing is to think about the story and what it means for your life today.

Psalm 84.1–4

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

These verses from Psalm 84 describe birds living in the Temple, right next to the altar, a very sacred space. The person who wrote the psalm is not upset by this. Instead, he rejoices that God is so loving that he welcomes the birds into what is his home on earth.

What does your church think about having animals in church?

Do you think that God delights in having his creatures sharing in the space that we use for worship?

The person who wrote the psalm seems to be almost jealous of the birds. They are in the place that he wants to be – close to God. "Blessed are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise." This line also describes the birds who live in the Temple – they are the ones who live in God's house and the person who wrote the psalm interprets their singing as songs of praise to God.

Why would the birds living in the Temple be blessed? Do you think that God blesses animals as well as humans? Can we learn something about how to worship God from the birds of this psalm?



HILDA'S HIGHLIGHT WORD SEARCH

Can you guess what Britain's favourite bird is? According to a survey done in the 1960s, Britain's favourite bird is the robin – and it doesn't look like opinion has changed since. The robin is still a favourite of many, and no wonder, as they are found in many gardens, and can become quite tame. What's your favourite British bird? Why not write and let Hilda know.



How many of these birds can you find?

BLUE TIT
DOVE
EGRET
GULL
JAY
OWL
PLOVER
PUFFIN
QUAIL
RED KITE
ROBIN
SPARROW
THRUSH

R	P	A	B	L	R	O	B	I	N
O	A	X	T	M	H	W	J	K	R
P	B	E	H	G	S	L	I	G	E
U	I	L	R	C	U	A	E	Q	D
F	N	I	U	N	R	L	P	U	K
F	O	R	C	E	H	F	L	A	I
I	D	E	H	G	T	E	V	I	T
N	W	V	N	R	H	I	N	L	E
Z	D	O	V	E	R	H	T	J	M
T	E	L	U	T	U	R	T	A	L
Y	S	P	A	R	R	O	W	Y	D

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

It's the badgers what done it! Between January 2004 and September 2005, farmers, hauliers, abattoirs and livestock markets breached farm animal health, welfare and transport regulations more than 65,000 times, according to the Badgers Trust. Grossly inadequate enforcement makes disease controls a lottery and may be responsible for the spread of infections such as TB, for which badgers are about to be scapegoated and slaughtered in their thousands.

If you are outraged at the thought of one of Britain's most adored wild animals being slaughtered en masse as a scapegoat for cruel and unsustainable farming practices, there is only one solution – go vegan! Walk in the ways of love and compassion, let all creatures live in happiness and in peace. "Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves." (Proverbs 31.8).

John Kampf,
Clacton-on-Sea, Essex

Dear Editor

I found this quote by the 19th century Native American Chief Seattle in a woman's magazine some time ago and wish to share it with your readers.

"If all the animals were gone, man would die of a great loneliness of spirit. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it."

Kathleen Stephenson,
Huddersfield

Dear Editor

With regard to your Spring Issue – it was necessary to raise sooner or later the subject of vivisection. Many accept it as a necessary evil in the name of medical research, despite the suffering to animals and the practice of experiments which have no useful outcome. It is right to highlight the growing use of alternatives. However, I was disturbed to read in the article what I consider a pessimistic

statement: "In a perfect world, we would continue to develop new drugs, medical devices and procedures safely and without the use of animals in research." When we see the changes in society, the growing signs of compassionate, sustainable living without the exploitation of non-human species, concern for the planet, and awareness of our spiritual heritage through the growth of consciousness, are we not aiming for a "perfect world"? We may even be liberated from disease and live in harmony with our environment; then there will be no need for "new drugs and medication". But as long as violence is considered necessary and practised in the form of wars, vengeful acts, exploitation among races, exploitation of the animal world for food and vivisection, the repercussions of all this will prevent the regaining of paradise lost. We do not live in a static society – fortunately.

Agnes Buist, Godalming

BIRDS: THEIR MUTILATION IN ZOOS AND NATURE PARKS

It may not be generally realised that the custom of amputating the end of a wing on baby birds to prevent them from eventually flying away is followed by zoos in the UK. This abhorrent practice is called 'pinioning', and is difficult to trace on line by googling, etc. Although it is illegal to pinion farmed birds, it is, nevertheless, legal in zoos if done by a veterinarian.¹ It is defended on various specious grounds, including conservation, welfare and to prevent the release of non-native species into the general environment.² It would seem in reality, however, that this routine mutilation of birds, such as flamingos, cranes, swans, geese and others, removing their inherent and deeply sensed ability to fly is countenanced and followed because zoos and nature parks lack the money or the will to build properly. Massive enclosed aviaries, such as South Africa's Birds of Eden make pinioning unnecessary.

Sadly, the practice of pinioning is not limited to zoos but, according to a report in the *Sunday Express*, is also routinely carried out by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.³ In fact, more than one-third of the birds at its various sites have been pinioned.³

Of course this is, as usual, all about human gain and pleasure with no empathy for the living creatures involved. This outmoded cruelty is outlawed in Estonia, Italy, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland.⁴

The Captive Animals Protection Society has published *Mutilated for your viewing pleasure*, which gives full details of the practice and what individuals may do in the campaign to end the barbarism. They can be contacted at CAPS, PO Box 540, Salford M5 0DS.

Iris Pyves

with additional research and reporting
by **Jennifer Brown**

¹Captive Animals Protection Society. www.captiveanimals.org/news/2013/04/caps-calls-for-urgent-government-review-on-illegal-zoo-mutilation.

²Captive Animals Protection Society. www.captiveanimals.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/mutilated-for-your-viewing-pleasure-c-caps-2013.pdf.

³Jeory T. 2013. Zoos chop birds' wings in half to keep them captive. *Sunday Express*, 28 April.

⁴Cranswick & Hall. 2010. As cited in Captive Animals Protection Society, 2013, *Mutilated for your viewing pleasure*. www.captiveanimals.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/mutilated-for-your-viewing-pleasure-c-caps-2013.pdf.

BIRDS IN THE BIBLE

There may be more people bird-watching than going to Church of a Sunday morning; indeed the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds vies with the National Trust as one of the biggest societies in Britain, and its annual birdwatch is a national event.

Our tradition of celebrating birds goes back to the Hebrew Bible. Some of its descriptions are, of course, purely lyrical, the psalms, such as Ps 104.16–17 and Ps 84.3, being a rich source of bird imagery.

Metaphorically, the dove has wings which might allow one to escape from an enemy (Ps 55.6–7), but it is only God, himself described using a bird metaphor, who provides such security (Ps 91.3–4).

But metaphor is not confined to the psalms. The king of birds is the eagle and is used as a metaphor for strength and endurance, as in Isaiah 40.31.

The return of migratory birds is part of the lyrical evocation of spring in the Song of Solomon (2.11–12).

Birds are truly part of the mystery of Creation and so, for example, God asks Job, "Who provideth for the raven his food? When his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat. Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south? Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?" (Job 38:41; 39:26,27). This reminds us of God's words in psalm 50, "I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine." (Ps 50: 11).

Birds are central to some Bible stories, such as the raven and the dove released from the Ark by Noah, in order to ascertain that the flood was subsiding (Genesis 8: 7-12), and the ravens which feed Elijah (1 Kings 17:4 and 6).

There is less in the New Testament but Jesus, reared as he was on scripture, is most certainly in sympathy with this vision of Creation, remarking, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father," (Matthew 10:29). The 'falling' here being an allusion to the 'snare of the fowler' in psalm 91. Then there is the Parable of the Mustard Seed, in which the smallest seed grows to become a tree in which the birds come and live (Matthew 13:31-32; see Mark 4:31-32; Luke 13:19).

Two final New Testament metaphors. First the dove, the image of the Holy Spirit, is evoked at Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:16 , and see Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32), and secondly, the mother hen is a graphic image of Christ's love as he weeps over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37 and see Luke 13:34) echoing the symbolism used in Psalm 91.

The large number of references to birds in the Bible, some of them merely incidental, is a tribute to the wide range of habitats in the biblical landscape, ranging from maritime, marshland and temperate Mediterranean scrubland and forest to mountains and deserts (the wilderness). In addition, three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa, meet in the general

region, with the result that Israel in particular is a favoured destination for ornithologists as well as religious pilgrims. The variety of birds, many of them migrants, was a stimulus for the writers of the Bible to reflect on the diversity and mystery of Creation, nowhere more so than in the book of Job.

The task of the birds is stated in the *Song of the Three Jews* , better known as the *Benedicite*:

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever (Prayer of Azariah and Song of the three Jews, 58)

But this is the selfsame task of all Creation, of other animals of course, and of 'all people on earth' too (v.60). So we are left to ponder whether we, with all our petty concerns which seem so important to us today, are really all that different from our fellow creatures, made by God and loved by him.

Martin Henig

TALKING POINT

Should we clone extinct species?

Some Japanese scientists have extracted DNA from the bones of mammoths for exactly this purpose, and scientific advances are bringing us ever closer to the day when this will be possible. But should we do a thing just because it is possible?

The mammoth was adapted to live in an ice-age world. The world now is considerably warmer, and continues to warm. Since their extinction, the mix of species has also changed, and their place in that web of life would be uncertain.

Of course, the reality is that these animals would almost certainly be created, not to be released into the wild, but to be put in zoos and exhibited for human interest and entertainment. Should any animal be created just for that?



BOOK REVIEWS

MEDIEVAL PETS

by Kathleen Walker-Meikle

Published by The Boydell Press

ISBN 978-1-84383-758-9

200pp Hardback

Price: £25.00

In this engagingly illustrated and scholarly work, Kathleen Walker-Meikle surveys the keeping of companion animals in Europe from the early Middle Ages into the early Modern period. Although the use of the term 'pet' is discouraged nowadays, it goes back to the 16th century in Scotland, derived from the Gaelic term for a tame animal.

Pet-keeping seems to have been associated in the Middle Ages with certain classes of people, namely well-to-do and especially aristocratic women, ecclesiastics and scholars who could afford to keep small animals in their domestic, interior spaces. Most common were small dogs and cats, but squirrels, monkeys, ferrets, parrots and other small birds, and sometimes more unexpected creatures were also kept. There is a delightful self-portrait of the Renaissance artist, Giovanni Bazzi (Il Sodoma) with two pet badgers. Pets were distinguished from ubiquitous working or domestic animals – horses, hounds and hawks, for example – in not serving their owners in any material way (cats, which hunted mice were a partial exception). Unlike working dogs, lap dogs were often indulged by being carried from place to place, as they often still are. Pet owners frequently invested considerable emotional attachments on their charges, feeding them (frequently to excess) and providing accessories for them including collars strung with little bells or studded with pearls and upholstered cushions for them to sit and sleep upon. Bird cages too might be expensive and elaborate.



There is copious evidence for pets in art, in Books of Hours, for example or representations of scholarly ecclesiastics. Little dogs are ubiquitous in effigies of women. In addition there are many literary references to beloved pets in Romances, which are themselves illustrated in manuscripts or carved on ivory caskets, and there is a whole class of elegiac verses on deceased pets, especially in the Renaissance period, based on prototypes by Roman poets.

This book provides a category of evidence which was almost entirely lacking in Arthur MacGregor's *Animal Encounters* (reviewed in *Animal Watch* 83, Spring 2013) but it in no way negates the often very negative attitudes that the Medieval and later periods (alas too often abetted by the Church) have displayed towards animals.

Despite the attention lavished on particular, favoured and often over-fed animals, one cannot but, like the author, wonder whether such sentimental affection does not on occasion tell us rather more about the psychological needs of those who owned these creatures rather than genuine concern for the welfare of animals as such. Indeed St Francis, compassionate as he was to all kinds of creatures as brothers and sisters in a divine creation, discouraged his Franciscans brothers from actually keeping pets as self-indulgence.

How much ever changes? Both attitudes are alive today amongst Christians who express concern for animals, and sometimes within the same person!

Martin Henig

WITH THE EYES OF LOVE

By Rev Christa Blanke

Published by Animals' Angels Press

ISBN 978-3-9814946-4-8

170pp Hardback

Price £8.90 (available from Amazon)

This is one of the most moving books I have read for some time. I sat and read it in an afternoon and was

moved to tears throughout. Those who love animals often find it hard to read about their suffering but it is important that we truly understand the immense cruelty endured by these sentient beings in the live export industry.

"We are there for the animals" say Animals' Angels and this is exactly what they do. This solidarity with the suffering of these creatures is so important and is in line with the Christian message. Just as compassionate pet owners will stay with their aged or dying pets as they are euthanized by a veterinary surgeon, so these brave people at Animals' Angels stay with these animals throughout their journeys and ultimately to their deaths. They may not be able to do anything to prevent their slaughter but they are there for them, often offering water to the thirsty, a kind word or touch to the frightened and to simply make sure that the plight of these animals does not go unnoticed.

Read it and weep – yes, you will – but read it you should, and buy a copy for your friends too. It is essential that the world comes to realise the cruelty involved in transporting farm animals hundreds of miles to their deaths. Live Exports either by road across Europe or by sea to the Middle East is probably the most pressing animal welfare issue that exists at the present time.

Samantha Chandler



Christa Blanke

With the Eyes of Love

We are there with the animals
Dispatches from the front line

translated by S.D. Graham



ENDING THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH: AN INDUSTRY VIEW

For the main article in our spring issue, concerning the use of animals in medical research, we contacted Joanna Cruden for her comment. Ms Cruden works for pharmaceutical company GSK, and is a named animal care and welfare officer for her company. We wanted to know if she felt that a future without animal experimentation was possible, and what obstacles were still to be overcome. Unfortunately, Ms Cruden wasn't able to respond to our request before we had to go to print. She did reply, however, and we are printing her response to our queries below. Some readers may object to us giving space to someone who works in a laboratory that does animal experimentation, but it is important that we have informed opinions and engage in dialogue if we are to make headway in this area. To that end, Ms Cruden's opinion was sought, and her comments are given here. We will be contacting the Dr Hadwen Trust to ask if they also would like to offer comment.

—Editor

First, do you believe that a future without animal experimentation in medical research really is possible? If so, how far off do you think this might be?

Ultimately we would like to see the important benefits of this research being applied to humans without the need for animal testing. But we do not believe this can be achieved in the foreseeable future.

Our goal is to use animals only when scientifically necessary, use as few as scientifically feasible and to minimise pain and distress. Significant advances have helped the research community continue to replace animals in some studies, and reduce and refine other studies so that fewer animals are required and introduce new research techniques that improve the welfare and minimise distress of animals.

These advances are having an impact on work at GSK: the number of animals used in 2012 was 22% lower than in 2000 while the two main factors influencing this figure – R&D investment and vaccine sales – have increased over the same period.

As someone working in the pharma industry, what do you believe is the biggest obstacle to abolishing animal experimentation in medical research?

The first biggest obstacle that springs to my mind is that we cannot re-create the interactions which occur

within a whole living organism. This means we could find a molecule that is effective at repairing a cancerous lung but unless we can test it in a whole living organism we won't know if it is causing unwanted effects in another part of the body. Developing the technology may not be our most limiting challenge. What might be more limiting is our ability to define exactly what we need technology to do for us. Some of that is because we need to understand more about the diseases we target.

The second biggest is discovering and validating robust non-animal alternatives which meet or exceed the regulatory requirements. Regulatory bodies and the public need to have confidence that compounds and molecules are as safe as possible before they are administered to people.

Ultimately, we're all interested in the same thing – safe and effective medicines with little or no use of animals to develop them. Accordingly, we're all going to have to contribute to meet that goal. Many of us in pharma are doing the best we can and are pushing toward that goal everyday but it will take effective public-private partnerships to deliver on the promise.

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).

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.

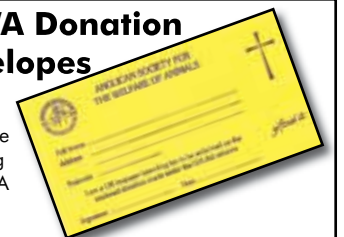
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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 – linjbrosescottage@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.

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.

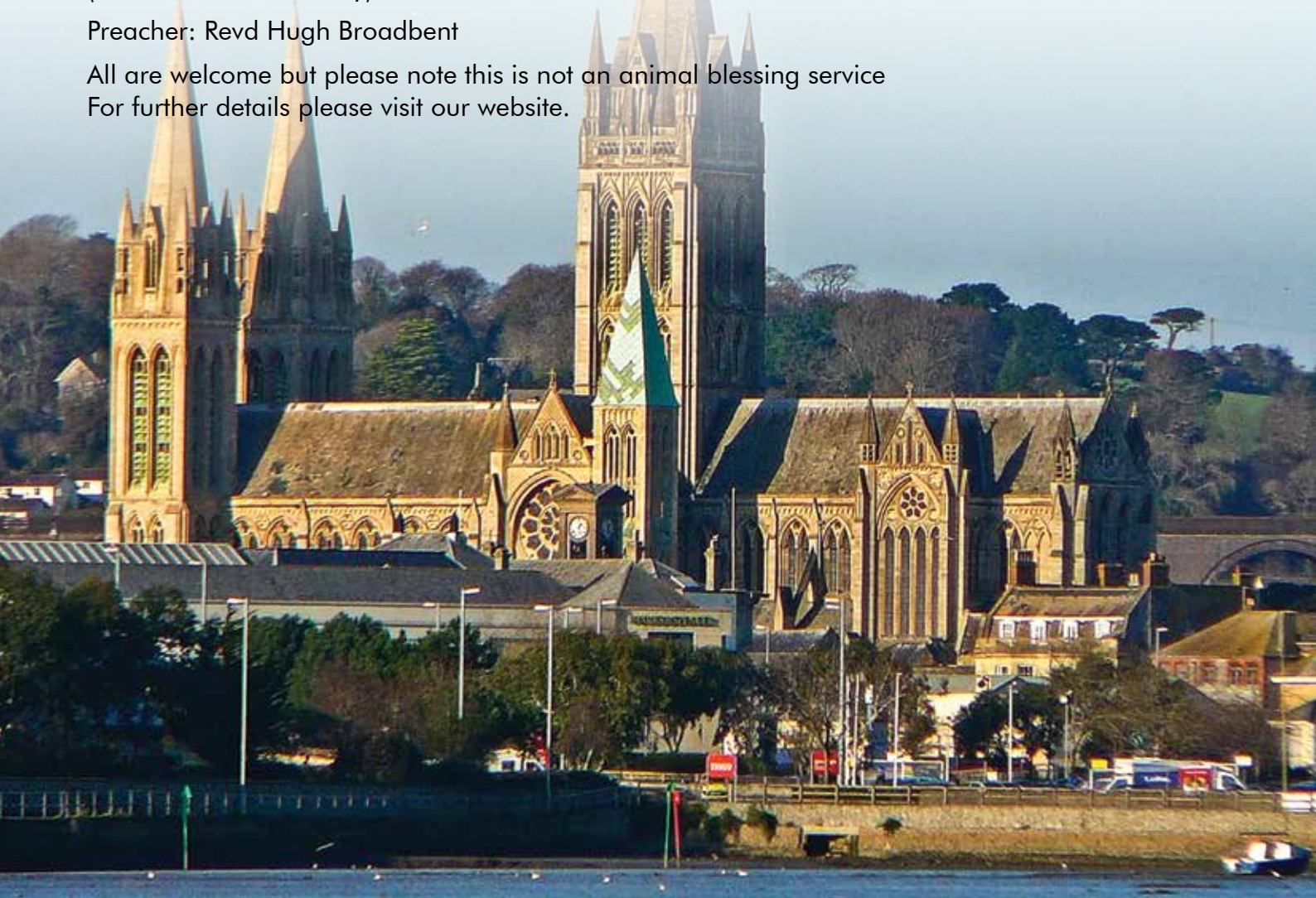
For more information please contact:
Tel/Fax: 01252 843093
Email: AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com

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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