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Summer 2015

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

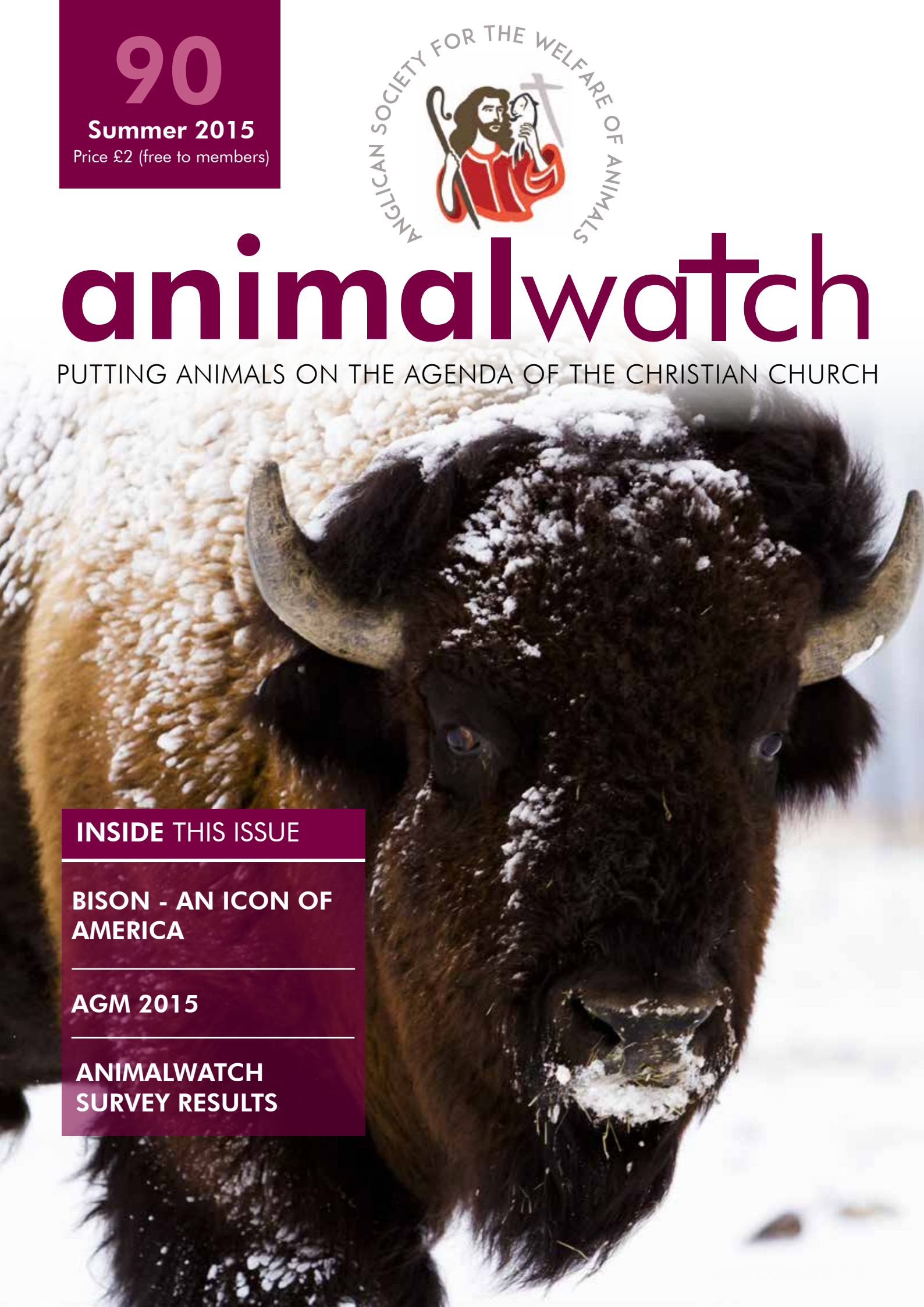
PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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AGM 2015

ANIMALWATCH SURVEY RESULTS



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DORIS' DIARY

Hello! My name is Doris, and I am a Border Leicester ewe with very large ears! I was rescued by ASWA secretary Sam Chandler, as I had outlived my usefulness as a breeding ewe.

Below are some great events ewe may enjoy!

Saturday 3 October
Animal blessing and thanksgiving service for pets, St Martin's Church, Mortimer Road, Kensal Green, London, NW10 5SN, 2pm. Led by the Revd Graham Noyce. All well-behaved pets welcome. For further details of the service, please email: animalblessing@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07958-950137.

Sunday 4 October
Animal Welfare Sunday.

ASWA Annual Service, Newcastle Cathedral, 10am. Preacher: The Rt Revd James Jones, former Bishop of Liverpool and ASWA Patron. This is NOT an animal blessing service.

Animal blessing service, St Andrew's United Church, Kirton in Lindsey, Lincolnshire, 3pm.

Annual pet service, Great Malvern Priory, 3pm. Contact Mary Weatherill, parish secretary, for more details (greatmalvernpriory@me.com).

Sunday 8 November
Service of remembrance for animals, at the 'Animals in War' memorial, Park Lane, London, 3pm. Special guest: 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*. In this issue, we will report on the results of the *Animalwatch* survey. Thanks to our readers who completed the survey. You will also find in this issue our Young Members' Page and a report on the 2015 AGM.

We hope that you enjoy keeping up-to-date with news and information on our website. Do check regularly for resources and information about upcoming events. Please do make a note of the dates in Doris' Diary – especially the 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. 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 24th August 2015**.

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!

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:

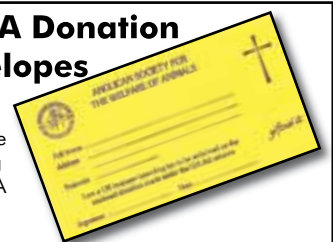
aswamembership@btinternet.com

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

ASWA 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



A Warm Welcome to our new members.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Rachel Allen, Thursby, Cumbria

D.J. Austin, Silsden, West Yorkshire

Peter Barker, Melville, Perth, Australia

Graham Bell, Wooler, Northumberland

L.A. Bevercombe, Norwich, Norfolk

Thomas Bonneville, London

Daryl Booth, Thamesmead West, London

Peter Brooker, Billingshurst, West Sussex

Alan Chopping, Brena Alta, La Palma, Tenerife

Ann Cole, Fazeley, Tamworth, Staffordshire

Revd Jennifer Elliott de Riverol, La Palma, Tenerife

Lee Engeham, London

Helen Fensome, Tiverton, Devon

Fr Michael Fish, Shrewsbury

Terence Howard, Leeds

Asta Lander, Leeming, Western Australia, Australia

Bernadette Liew, Perth, Australia

Shannon Melville, Riverton, Perth, Australia

Sandra Oakes, Banskia Grove, Western Australia, Australia

Lesley P Richardson, London

Adolfo Sansolini, London

Revd Anthony Shephard, Harrogate

Jennifer M Smith, Underdale, Shrewsbury

Lucy Tyler, Canterbury, Kent

Pauline Vickers, Bolton, Greater Manchester

Charlotte Warden, Trecenydd, Caerphilly, Wales

Rachel Warden, Trecenydd, Caerphilly, Wales

Lorna Jane Ware, Guyhirn, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire

E.R. Watson, Malvern, Worcestershire

Diane Willoughby, Illogan, Redruth

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

Animals get recognition from the art world

Artist Ann Johnson has recently had her portrait of a parrot named Little Corella (also known as Ice Cream) accepted as part of the 2015 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. This is Ann's fourth painting to be accepted for exhibition by the Royal Academy – all have had animals as their subjects.

One of Ann's special concerns is for the wild animals caught up in the exotic pet trade and for two years she's been drawing and painting the resident parrots at the Raystede aviaries sanctuary in East Sussex (<http://www.raystede.org/about/>).

Ice Cream is one of those parrots.

Many of the Raystede parrots are victims of the exotic pet trade and have had very difficult, even traumatic, backgrounds. Ann says that in working with them, she has, "come to understand and appreciate their intelligence and complexity and how life as domestic pets is so wrong for their needs."

It is good news that through her art, Ann is able to raise awareness about these animals and the damage that is done by the exotic pet trade.

For more information on Ann and this project see www.annjohnsonpaintings.net (parrots project gallery).



Images ©Ann Johnson

NEWS & NOTICES

Don't forget, you can follow ASWA on Twitter – [aswanews](https://twitter.com/aswanews)



You can also keep up with what's new via our website – www.aswa.org.uk.

ASWA Annual Service

The ASWA annual service will be held on Animal Welfare Sunday, Sunday 4 October, at Newcastle Cathedral at 10am. The preacher will be the Rt Revd James Jones, former Bishop of Liverpool and ASWA Patron. Please note that this is NOT an animal blessing service.

New ASWA merchandise

A new ASWA badge, featuring the new ASWA logo, is now available. These cost £1.50 and are available through the ASWA website or can be ordered by sending a cheque to the ASWA Secretary.

Animal-friendly Church awards

At the start of the year, ASWA launched the Animal-friendly church awards. The first church to be awarded animal-friendly church status is a church in Shrewsbury (see ASWA News). Is your church kind to God's creatures? You, too, can apply for animal-friendly church status.

ASWA Local groups

Don't forget that there are ASWA local groups in different areas.

- 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).

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.

ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES

Snitterby

An animal blessing service was held at Snitterby Parish Church, Lincolnshire, on March 8th this year. Snitterby is a tiny village which is part of the Triangle Group of Parishes (the others are Waddingham and Bishop Norton). There is usually just one service a month, and we have not hosted an Animal Blessing before. But the turnout was good – about 40 people of all ages, with an assortment of dogs, cats, a guinea pig, toy animals and two ponies. I spoke a little about William Wilberforce (fairly local to this deanery, just across the Humber) and his work that resulted in the RSPCA, and members of the congregation took part, including children from Waddingham Primary School who sang. The animals were delightful – even the Rector's collie behaved himself!

Kathy Colwell



BISON – AN ICON OF AMERICA



Bison (or American Buffalo, to give them their popular name), are native to North America, and once roamed the Great Plains of what is now the United States in their millions. Sadly, once Europeans began moving into the west of the continent, these magnificent creatures were hunted nearly to extinction. They have hung on, however, in America's first National Park, Yellowstone.

Yellowstone is a truly majestic place, and its wildlife is central to its allure and the sense of wonder it engenders in those who visit, although it must be said that the landscape itself is breath taking. Of all its wildlife, the bison are perhaps its best known and most 'iconic'. According to the park's website (<http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/bison.htm>), Yellowstone is the only place where bison have lived continuously since the prehistoric era. The Yellowstone herd is special and important, in that it is one of the only herds that has not interbred with domestic cattle. Bison are a key species in the Yellowstone ecosystem and, consequently, the health of their population has a bearing on the health of other species that share this incredible habitat.

The Yellowstone bison are not confined and roam the park freely, migrating to different areas in different seasons. These movements

sometimes take them off of park lands, however, into the surrounding area which is home to several cattle ranches. Unfortunately, this can lead to conflict, as local ranchers worry about bison spreading diseases, such as brucellosis, to their cattle (much in the same way as farmers in the UK worry about wild badgers transmitting tuberculosis to cattle). Sadly, the result of this conflict is that bison are regularly culled either through hunting (outside park boundaries – hunting is not permitted in the national park) or through capture and slaughter. Helicopters and other means may be used to drive animals from one location to another.

It goes without saying that the forced movement of the animals (using helicopters or other vehicles to round them up), confinement, transport and slaughter creates stress and suffering for the individual animals involved. And it seems outrageous to work to reduce the population numbers of a species that has only in the last century come back from the brink of extinction (the Yellowstone herd currently numbers around 5000 individuals).

It should be noted that Yellowstone Park's management are not happy with the measures currently used to manage the herd, and would prefer to have more bison-friendly options open to them. The organisation Buffalo Field Campaign (<http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/bison.htm>) is working to raise awareness of the issues surrounding bison management in and around Yellowstone, and to get a more humane management plan implemented. Sadly, one of the key elements of their proposed alternative plan is 'no vaccination', presumably

because this interferes with the wild nature of the bison and their lives. If the core of the problem is the risk and fear of brucellosis infection, however, then implementing a humane and non-invasive vaccination programme (for example, feed laced with an oral vaccine) for the park's bison would seem to be the ideal solution.

Information about the US government's current and proposed new bison management plans can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/bisonmgntinfo.htm> and <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=50877>. Comments on the proposed plan can be made at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=64791>.

An effective, humane plan to reduce conflict between the needs of the bison and human interests in the Yellowstone area is needed, but this must consider that we are the invasive species here, and Yellowstone and the surrounding area is the only remaining habitat for the bison. Their needs have to have priority, not only from a practical point of view, but from a Christian one. After all, we are called to give priority to the weak and to speak for the voiceless; to bring the Good News to all creation (Mark 16.15). Careful management of the bison throughout the 20th century led to a recovery in their numbers. Effective and humane management that preserves life among the bison and avoids inflicting stress and harm to individual animals is necessary if this success is to continue and America keep this magnificent icon.

Jennifer Brown

TALKING POINT

Room for all to live?

The need to build new homes in the UK has been making headlines for some time now. It is estimated that 250,000 new homes need to be built in the UK each year to keep up with demand. Inevitably, some – maybe most – of these houses will have to be built on greenbelt or farm land. Where do we

place the habitat needs of wildlife in our decision-making and planning processes? Are there ways to provide for our accommodation needs and the needs of other species? Or are we too worried about what might be lost, and not concerned enough about people's present needs? Is there a balance to be found?

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we report the death of

Mr Ernest Thorley, of Little Thornton, Thornton-Cleveleys.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SWEDEN

Consumer lifestyle and animal welfare



This report covers marine life, bird life and the meat industry.

Newsflash from Norway: The cadaver of a sixty-ton whale that kept floating and smelt bad was finally disposed of by the Norwegian Coastguard. The carcass was shattered by explosives that shook the Archipelago. Previous attempts to sink the dead whale had been unsuccessful, neither weights of 20-ton sandbags or lighter explosives had succeeded. Sadly, biologists suspect that the whale had ingested too much of the plastic waste we dump in the sea.

Newsflash from Denmark: Denmark has banned halal and kosher slaughter as minister says that animal rights come before religion. (Interesting, considering how the Danes treat pigs in production.)

Sweden: Our marine life is already threatened by pollution so the news of the presence of the North American Black Bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*) was alarming news. These fish swim about and eat basically everything, and were discovered in a water pool near a gravel pit close to the town of Orebro. This fish is long and slim, dark on top and yellowish on the belly with eight whisker-like antennae which they use to locate food. They are usually about 20 to 30 cm long, but can grow up to 60 centimeters and weigh up to 3.6 kilos. These fish are originally from North America but have been imported into Europe, Denmark and Finland. They are adaptable, and can survive in many waters and like muddy pools. It is obvious that someone has planted these fish and the police have been alerted as this is a criminal act in Sweden. Spokespersons emphasize that this is most serious as the indigenous marine life may be seriously threatened by the Bullheads. It has been decided to fill the large water area with gravel to drown them.

Sadly, only one in ten Eider hen succeed in having chicks. Eider ducks have decreased severely in the Swedish archipelago during the past 15 years. They suffer from B-vitamin deficiency, lack of food (no clams) and high stress due to people's interest in outdoor activities. Many hens abstained altogether from starting a family. Mother Nature is in a bad way.

Ending on a more hopeful note: The horrendous treatment of pigs in Denmark, with sows being constrained and piglets battered to death on concrete floors is now becoming so distasteful to consumers that they are boycotting or buying less

pork from Denmark even though the price difference is big. One large chain of food stores in Sweden leaves an empty space on their counters with a sign saying "No, we do not sell Danish pork". They sell other locally-produced pork, often Swedish. The demand for ecological pork is increasing and breeders are now daring to change their production philosophy. Soil on the Snout is a company/farm that is expanding and has already seen six new pig farms breeding ecologically with fine feed and free roaming. Compassion wins terrain, slowly, over consumerism. Some hope at last!

Sandra Kinley

UGANDA

From puppies to purses



Calvin is a 32-year-old polio victim who walks on his hands. Calvin owned a large, white, female dog called Toby, who produced beautiful puppies. Calvin sold these puppies for income. Toby, understandably, was becoming worn out.

A lady who belonged to the USPCA (the Uganda Society for the Protection and Care of Animals) used to pass Toby each day and felt increasingly sorry for her as she plodded around Bugujju, searching for food around the pork joints. She knew that Toby could have an operation to stop her producing endless puppies, but realised that this would deprive Calvin of his income. She approached Calvin and asked him if he would be willing for Toby to have this operation and he agreed.

Toby was taken to the USPCA headquarters, The Haven, in Kampala and had her operation. The vet said her womb was so thin another pregnancy could possibly have killed her. The caring staff at the USPCA loved Toby, and Calvin agreed that she could continue to live there in peace and safety.

One staff member told a friend about Calvin and Toby, and she suggested she could teach Calvin a skill which would help him to generate an income for himself and his small son, Calvin Junior.

Anna came regularly to instruct Calvin in making bags, purses, hats and belts from caveras (polythene bags). These are cut into strips and crocheted together. Calvin quickly acquired this skill, along with his nephew, Frederick, and together they sat for hours perfecting their new skill. Two ladies from the UK donated many crochet hooks of various sizes.

Calvin now has his own shop in Bugujju and makes beautiful, lined bags and purses to order. If you would like to order one, contact details can be obtained through ASWA.

Mary Mills

TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS



Extending God's love to the animals of La Palma

La Palma is one of the smallest of the seven Canary Islands, and it is frequently referred to as The Green



Island. It is the most occidental island and belongs to the province of Tenerife, which is where we have the nearest Anglican Church and congregation. La Palma has a population of some 86,000 and 10% of the residents are German speaking. There is a small British community, most of whom are retired people, but some work at the Isaac Newton Observatory which is on one of the highest points of La Palma. We live on a beautiful natural volcanic island, which has not been spoiled by popular tourism. Wildlife and animals are a natural part of the environment and they have also been integral to our services. We have had up to three dogs in a service at one time. One day when a lady arrived for a service and asked me, "Is it okay if I bring my dog in?" I replied, "Yes, of course, as long as he gets on with the other two!"

The Anglican Congregation in La Palma was planted in the year 2000 when we were given the use of San Martín de Porres, a Roman Catholic church which is set amidst pine trees and marvellous mountain views. Since then we have also begun to worship at the 17th century church in the centre of El Paso and at the hospital chapel where I am chaplain. More than once I have driven up to church behind a herd of goats and we sometimes have huge black rooks searching the litter bins outside church for food. The environmental officers were in the church

one day to rescue a rook that had flown in and was unable to get out.

As a former teacher, I am invited into secondary schools to give talks about the Anglican Church and this also means being able to share how we love and respect animals in British culture. There is no bull fighting in the Canary Islands, as far as I am aware, but there is cock fighting and also horse racing, where two horses compete in a short race on the main road. Fair Trade is a fairly new concept here but we hope to be able to promote it in the future.

Jennifer Elliott de Riverol

SOUTH AFRICA



Good friends for pets in townships



It all started in 2006 when Dawie and I (now two executive committee members and co-founders of PetPals) came across a very skinny and undernourished German Shepherd dog in an informal settlement called Morkels Cottage in the Strand (Helderberg, Western Cape). We stopped and fed him from our car boot where we always kept spare dog and cat food in case of such an emergency.

It soon escalated into the regular feeding of all the animals in the Morkels Cottage township. We also started to arrange spay days in order to control the number of pets, provided shelter for the dogs, and educated the people with regards to pet care. Other animal lovers started to support ours efforts. Our 'service area' expanded to other nearby townships (such as Beverly Hills) and surrounding poor communities.

In order to formalise our efforts, the organisation named PetPals was

established. PetPals is registered at the Department of Social Development as a Non Profit Organisation (NPO). PetPals is also registered at SARS as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO), thus we can issue Section 18A certificates for donations received. The voluntary work done by PetPals and a few helpers include the feeding of around 500 animals per week, provision of general pet care (e.g. mange treatment, deworming, etc), ensuring sick and injured animals receive veterinary care, ensuring as many animals as possible are sterilised, and fostering and rehoming animals that are unwanted or lost.

The result of this voluntary work done by PetPals implies a continuous dire need for finances to pay for the following:

- Medication (including tick & flea treatment, mange treatment, deworming, etc),
- Vet bills (including inoculations, emergency care, operations, sterilisations, etc),
- Dog / puppy food and cat / kitten food, and
- Shelter & kennels (including wood & tools for building kennels, bedding, blankets, etc).

Donations of goods like pet food, kennels, old blankets & towels, etc. (instead of finances) are always welcome. Details of PetPals' work and how to donate are available online: www.petpals.org.za.

Yolanda Hamman

AUSTRALIA



Animal Justice Party member in the NSW Government



The governments of the six states and two territories of Australia, and the federal government itself, all operate under the Westminster system. Most legislation is enacted in the Lower House, but the Upper House can initiate legislation, and is responsible for about 20% of all legislation.

The Animal Justice Party (AJP) came into being after the many rallies throughout the country protesting against the live export trade. A Committee was formed and the name Animal Justice Party was registered five years ago. At a State

election a few weeks ago, Mark Pearson, the AJP candidate, won a seat in the Legislative Council, the Upper House of the New South Wales Government. He is now The Honourable Mark Pearson, MLC, and he will be in the NSW Parliament for eight years. Animals have an advocate in an Australian parliament and we are filled with pride and hope.

I was among a large crowd of supporters from animal organisations and the Animal Justice Party who attended Parliament House in Sydney on 6th May, 2015, to hear Mark deliver his inaugural speech to the Legislative Council. The chamber was silent throughout, and the standing ovation afterwards was thrilling.

In his speech, Mark touched on some of the issues he would like to see addressed. To name a few: banning puppy farms, stopping live baiting which has recently been uncovered (though illegal) in the greyhound industry, and getting rid of battery cages and sow stalls earlier than was anticipated. He also flagged the possibility that the prosecution of animal cruelty should be the province of the police instead of the RSPCA, which, although a respected organisation, is a private charity with minimal government funding to perform the many aspects of animal protection required. The police have a strong interest in crimes involving animal cruelty, particularly as it is often associated with violence against humans, and they have wide powers to investigate and prosecute.

Another important matter Mark hopes to see addressed is a government proposal to prosecute animal activists who get into factory farms and film what is actually happening behind closed doors. The community wants the truth. Mark was one of those activists until he had to swap his tracksuit for a smart suit.

Many countries are now exploring putting forward animal rights candidates at forthcoming elections, and animal political parties have been established in the UK, the USA, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Germany, France, Cyprus, and Finland. Currently Australia is the second country to have a member in parliament, the first being The Netherlands. There are also two members in the EU Parliament.

Mark Pearson has a full grasp of the issues, a wonderful speaking voice, a respect for the parliamentary process, and a clear head. He also does a flawless impersonation of Dame Edna Everage. He will need all these attributes (maybe not the last) in his new role and I feel sure members of ASWA will wish him well.

Olga Parkes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

The ASWA committee, members and supporters met once again in St Michael's Church, Chester Square, London for the Annual General Meeting.

During her annual report, the Chair, the Revd Helen Hall, thanked the whole committee, our President, the Rt Revd Dominic Walker, and the Vice President, the Revd Dr Martin Henig, for their continued support and guidance.

We also said goodbye to Barry Miles and Simon July, both longstanding Committee Members, who have made the decision to step down after many years of service to the charity. We wish them both well.

The Chair also thanked Keith Plumridge for his tireless support in the role of Membership Secretary, 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 the number of candidates was fewer than the vacant posts available.

Therefore Jenny White was re-elected as Treasurer, the Revd Jennifer Brown, Editor of *Animalwatch*, as Committee Member and the Revd Hugh Broadbent as Committee Member.

The Chair reported on the progress of the Animal Friendly Church initiative and encouraged ASWA members to speak to their own churches about applying. We are already global with Churches in Australia and Tenerife achieving animal-friendly status.

The guest speaker was Vanessa Amaral-Rogers from Buglife (the Invertebrate Conservation Trust). She spoke passionately about the real need to protect the tiny creatures that are so important to our very existence on this planet, in particular, the pollinators.

Samantha Chandler



Vanessa Amaral-Rogers with Helen Hall and Samantha Chandler

SUPPORTING GREYHOUNDS IN NEED

The wonderful charity Greyhounds in Need hosted an evening in December to raise awareness of the plight of Spanish 'hunting' greyhounds, known as galgos. A film entitled *Febrebre, el miedo de los galgos*, which roughly translates as February, the fear of Spanish greyhounds, was shown. The title refers to the month, "all the dogs fear," this being the end of the hunting season when their fate will be decided. At this time, the number of greyhounds abandoned and/or killed by their owners skyrockets. It's deeply shocking that a regular way of 'disposing' of the dogs is to hang them, or to throw them alive into wells! Most of them are no more than three years old.

The team at Greyhounds in Need work tirelessly to try to raise awareness, change attitudes and to bring about actual change, and thankfully they do have the opportunity to rescue numbers of galgos and to rehome them. You can read more about their work at www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk. The film *February* can be viewed at www.februarythedocumentary.com. Please be assured that the film contains no footage of dogs being hanged or of them being thrown into wells.

Rita Donovan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Don't you just hate it when people cut down trees in the nesting season?

Recently, while our vicarage was unoccupied during an interregnum, someone from Oxford Diocese decided that some of the trees in the vicarage garden should come down. You'd think Christians would know better, but we must urge people not to cut trees and hedges until birds have finished nesting. I once saw a female blackbird getting more and more hysterical as a hedge trimmer got nearer and nearer to her nest.

Ann Beer, Old Windsor

ASWA NEWS

First Animal-friendly Church certificates awarded

At the beginning of this year, ASWA launched the Animal-friendly Church awards. We have now awarded the first animal-friendly church certificates. The first church to receive animal-friendly church status was All Saints, Shrewsbury.

Following the award to All Saints, Shrewsbury, two churches outside of the UK were also awarded animal-friendly status: The Anglican Church at San Martin de Porres in La Palma, Tenerife, and St James the Great, East St Kilda, Melbourne, Australia.

Congratulations to Fr Michael Fish and the congregation of All Saints, the Revd Jennifer Elliott de Riverol and the congregation of La Palma, and Fr Roger Kelly and the congregation of St James the Great on their care and concern for all of God's creatures.



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. 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 or their actions?

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.

Genesis 1.9–25

This passage is too long to print here, but do look it up in your own Bible. This is the story of creation, in which God creates the land and the sea, vegetation on the land, fish in the sea, and the different types of animals.

In this creation story, we see the earth divided, very broadly speaking, into different habitats and God populating those habitats with a variety of

creatures. Notice that at the end of each sequence, when each habitat is abundantly and appropriately populated, God surveys (looks at) what he has made and finds it to be good.

- Why do you think that God saw all of these things as good?
- What do you think we can learn from this passage about the importance of caring for habitats and the natural world?
- How can this passage help us to understand our place in the natural world?

HILDA'S HIGHLIGHT

Did you know that domestic gardens account for more than 1 million acres of land in the UK? This is a lot of land, and it is vital habitat to many species. The more diverse the planting in your garden (a mix of grass, flowers, shrubs and trees), the better. And, although we tend to like our gardens neat and tidy, having a few untidy spaces with long grass, fallen leaves and even nettles (!) can make your garden an inviting space for wildlife – with the advantage that it provides a great excuse to avoid mowing the lawn! Even a small area given over to native species of plants can help, as can having a small wood pile that is left untouched to provide a safe haven for insects.



SURVEY YOUR GARDEN

You will need:

- something to use as a 'quadrant' – a hula hoop (not the kind you eat!) works well, or a cardboard frame, such as those used to mount photos. Make a note of the size of your quadrant so that you know how large an area you are surveying
- a magnifying glass
- a spotting or identification sheet (several good sheets are available from the Wildlife Trusts: <http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/spotting-sheets>)
- paper & pencil to write down what you find

This issue of our magazine contains the results of the survey that we did of our readers. A survey is a gathering of data or information to determine the state of something. Our reader survey used questions to gather information about the state of our readers' opinions on the magazine, but there are other types of surveys,

too. To survey wildlife, we look at a particular area and count the number of different types of plants, animals and insects that we find there. This is a survey that you can do in your own garden.

To do the survey, select a space in your garden and put your quadrant on the ground. Look carefully at what is inside the quadrant and write down what you have found. Doing this type of survey, you are unlikely to spot animals other than insects, but that's ok. You may still find evidence of animals living in your garden – footprints or even poo! If your garden has areas that are very different (sunny and open in one place and shady with many trees in another) you may want to do your survey in more than one spot. It is also possible to survey birds and other animals in your garden. To do this, spend a set amount of time (such as 15 minutes) watching a particular area, and make a note of the different birds or animals that you see in that space during that time.

Our gardens are full of life, and this is a great way to discover some of it! Do write in to let us know what you've found.

ANIMALWATCH SURVEY RESULTS

A big 'thank you' to all the readers who responded to our survey. We received a total of 70 responses. Overall, the responses indicate that there is a positive view of the magazine among the ASWA membership.

The majority of respondents thought that the magazine length was about right and they liked the A4 size. They said that the magazine is easy to read, and that the number of photos is also about right. Most also said that the frequency (3 issues per year) was about right.

A total of 22 respondents said that they regularly read all of the elements of the magazine. Individually, each element was regularly read by at least 50% of respondents. News & Notices and ASWA News were the most regularly read items, closely followed by Good News, the primary articles and Letters to the Editor. Poets' Corner and the advertisements were the least frequently read items. ASWA News was the item most frequently selected as being most useful or interesting, followed by the primary articles. Two items were selected by fewer than 20% of respondents as being useful or interesting, those being the Young Members' Page (15.7%) and the advertisements (18.6%). As we want to continue to encourage young people to become involved with ASWA and with caring for God's creatures, we plan to continue to run the Young Members' Page, and would like to develop it further. Any suggestions for items to add to the Young Members' Page, or ways in which it might be developed, should be sent to the editor. These will be gratefully received. The advertisements in *Animalwatch* are a key way in which ASWA communicates with our membership about events, such as our Annual Service, fundraising opportunities, and resources that our membership might find useful. We will, therefore, continue to run the ads, and hope that readers will take note of the various things on offer.

A variety of suggestions were received in response to the question, "What would you like to see added to the magazine?". These were assessed and grouped by category. Practical advice relating to animal welfare (campaigning, etc) was the

category with the greatest number of responses, followed by theological content. Where specific campaigns, campaigning organisations or issues are discussed in *Animalwatch* articles, it is our practice, where possible, to include a web address or contact details for organisations active in the relevant area. Because the magazine is only produced three times per year, it is often not realistic to highlight a particular campaign, as these are often time sensitive. In addition, it is possible that there might be campaigns or organisations that would be supported by some of our membership, but not by others, and in these instances it is best for ASWA to present facts but not to advocate in favour of one particular organisation or point-of-view. Information about campaigns and activities that ASWA does support is available on the web site. We will continue to use the web site as the main vehicle for this type of information, as it can be updated regularly, allowing for information to be kept up-to-date and for us to highlight time-sensitive campaigns. With regard to theological content, this is something that we have been considering for some time, recognising that the only regular feature of this type is the Bible study included in the Young Members' Page. From the autumn 2015 issue, there will be either a short Bible study or theological reflection in each issue. Contributions from the readership will be welcomed, but their use will be at the editor's discretion.

In response to the question, "Is there anything the magazine could do without?" approximately one-third of respondents said, 'nothing', and nearly one-half gave no answer, possibly indicating that there was nothing that they felt the magazine could do without. It is possible that some current features, such as Poet's Corner, may be phased out to make space for new content.

Primary articles and the ethos underlying the magazine were most frequently identified as being liked best about the magazine. What people said they liked least about the magazine varied, and covered both items of content and format/style. Nearly half of respondents

rated *Animalwatch* as excellent, and a further one-third rated it as good. Four individuals rated the magazine as poor, and all of these indicated that the subject matter of articles and features was not of interest to them. When asked if they had ever given a copy of *Animalwatch* to someone else to inform them about ASWA, 75% of survey respondents said that they had, including some who indicated that they left copies in their churches. This suggests that *Animalwatch* is an easy way for our readers to share their interest in animal welfare and information about ASWA with others, and we are very pleased that the magazine is being used in this way.

Overall, it would appear that those readers who responded to the survey are, in general, happy with the magazine. Only three respondents mentioned preferring the old version of the magazine (when it was the *Bulletin*). Unsurprisingly, different individuals have different preferences in terms of both style and content, but it is good to know that the majority of you find *Animalwatch* to be accessible, useful and interesting. We very much value the feedback that we have received through the survey. If you have something else you'd like to tell us about *Animalwatch*, you don't have to wait until we do another survey! Please do email the editor with your comments and suggestions (see contact information on p3).

Jennifer Brown

WANTED: ASSISTANT EDITOR

We are looking for a volunteer to work as an assistant editor to help with copy editing and proofing of *Animalwatch*. The assistant editor will work (by telephone and email contact) with the editor to compile and edit each issue of the magazine. No previous editing experience needed, but the role does require attention to detail and an ability to follow instructions and adhere to a style guide. This is a good opportunity for a student or recent graduate to gain some practical experience in editing/publishing. Interested persons should contact the editor (animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk) to discuss further.

BOOK REVIEWS

ANIMALS AND WORLD RELIGIONS

By Lisa Kemmerer

Oxford University Press
ISBN 978-0-19-979067-8
Hardback
ISBN 978-0-19-979068-5
Paperback
346pp
Price £64.00 (Hardback);
£22.99 (Paperback)

The publication of this book is an outstanding achievement in the thoroughness of its presentation in its first 276 pages of the highest ideals of the world faiths with regard to animals. Despite differences in theology between the various Eastern religions, and between them and the Abrahamic faiths, Kemmerer finds in them all a concern for creation, and indeed a wide recognition amongst all the faiths that we are animals too.

Christians have no need to feel defensive in this respect, bearing in mind Jesus' own concern for the vulnerable, the many stories of the relationship of saints with other creatures and the proud record of Christians involved with animal rights. (Kemmerer employs this spelling when members of one species – ourselves – write of other animals). Christians can, of course, build on a proud tradition of Jewish thought, beginning with the creation stories in Genesis. It is good to read of animal-friendly Islamic traditions. Hindu,

Buddhist and Chinese religions will be less familiar to many readers but animal equality with humans is taken very seriously especially by Jains in India and Daoists in China, who are especially careful not to take life and consequently instil the necessity of a vegan lifestyle. Hindus and Buddhists who believe in the transmigration of souls are by it reminded of the essential unity of all life.

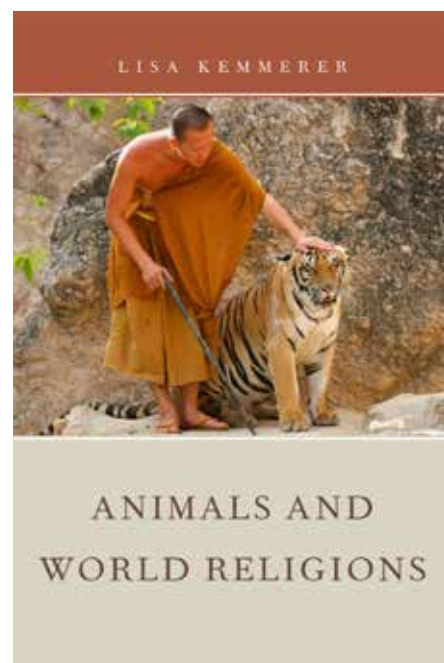
If this book is about ideals, it makes no claims that members of the majority of these faiths live up to these ideals. Indeed there is a powerful sting in the tail, in the conclusion and especially in the appendix which, although less than 30 pages long, lists the horrors of factory farming and industrialised fishing. Although much of Kemmerer's evidence is from the United States (which is supposed to have a high percentage of believers) we all know that many people who claim to be people of faith seem indifferent to animal cruelty.

Animals and World Religions deserves to be read alongside Barbara Gardner's excellent *The Compassionate Animal* (Animal Books and Media Limited) which was in fact published in the same year (2012) and which covers some of the same ground, but also discusses evolutionary, psychological and philosophical aspects which link other animals (animals) to ourselves.

Both Kemmerer and Gardner provide all the evidence we need to draw people

of all faiths together in an interfaith initiative to protect the threatened creatures, the many millions of animal victims exploited and killed by our own benighted species. They demonstrate the necessity of the Animal Interfaith Alliance to which happily ASWA is affiliated. More immediately they have both confirmed me in my belief that a compassionate life, if it is to be truly meaningful, has to embrace all the creatures of this world and that the love of one's neighbour must of necessity include non-human neighbours too. Our task is to persuade the Church (in all denominations) that treating animals with true kindness helps to define us as true Christians.

Martin Henig



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A SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

at St Nicholas Cathedral Newcastle

Sunday 4th October 2015

10:00am Eucharist

All Welcome

Speaker: Revd James Jones
former Bishop of Liverpool

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Please note this is not an Animal Blessing Service

