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Spring 2016

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Cover image courtesy of Orangutan Foundation.

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 May

ASWA Annual General Meeting, St Michael's Church, 4 Chester Square, London, SW1W 9HH, 11am. The guest speaker will be Dr Brett Cochrane, Group Head of Science at the Dr Hadwen Trust.

Sunday 17 July

Animal Celebration Service, Norwich Cathedral Cloisters, 6.30pm. Further details available from Revd David Austin (07740 922 468; email dsj.austin@hotmail.com).

Sunday 24 to Wednesday 27 July

Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics annual summer school at St Stephen's House, Oxford. This year's subject is the ethics of eating animals.

Monday 22 to Thursday 25 August

Annual Ecumenical Animal Welfare Retreat, Charney Manor Retreat House, Charney Bassett, Nr Wantage, Oxfordshire. For more information, please contact Mrs Irene Casey, irene.casey@talktalk.net.

Friday 26 to Monday 29 August

Greenbelt Festival, Boughton House nr Kettering.

Sunday 2 October

Animal Welfare Sunday

ASWA Annual Service, St Cross Church, Winchester, 9.30am. The preacher will be the Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS, ASWA President and former bishop of Monmouth.

Sunday 13 November

ASWA Remembrance Service at the Animals' War Memorial, Park Lane, London, 3pm.

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



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. Our focus in this issue is conservation. With extinction rates growing, and more and more habitat being lost to the expansion of human settlements, whether building or converting previously 'wild' land to farmland, conservation is becoming more important than ever.

Readers will notice some changes in this issue. Following the survey conducted last year, Poets' Corner will no longer appear, but we will now be including a regular theological reflection or Bible study in each issue. Also in this issue, we have reports from a variety of churches on Animal Welfare Sunday/animal blessing services held, and information about those standing for election to the ASWA committee.

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

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

Jennifer Brown, Editor

The deadline for the Summer magazine is **Monday 23rd May 2016**.

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.

Barbara Babbage, Faversham, Kent

Barbara Bell, Kingswood, Cheshire

Antje Brandtner, Baldock, Hertfordshire

Maria Brett, Newick, East Sussex

Joann Brizendine, Waterville, Maine, USA

Jane Burrell, Newbury, Berkshire

Charles Butchart, Truro, Cornwall

Shellie Byatt, Hereford, Herefordshire

Claudia Castle, Woodbridge, Suffolk

F J Franklin, Sherbourne, Dorset

Andrew Halford, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire

Jay Hayes-Light, Warrington, Cheshire

Jason Jorgensen, West Chester, Ohio, USA

Holly Kernot, Great Munden, Hertfordshire

Lisa Luciana-Turner, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

Janine McDougall, Riddells Creek, Victoria, Australia

Keith McDougall, Riddells Creek, Victoria, Australia

Jeremy Miller, St Peter, Channel Islands

Tomos Povey, Cwmbran, Monmouthshire

Jamie Roscoe-Jones, Woking, Surrey

Kumko Shimizu, London,

Lorna Stevenson, Callington, Cornwall

St Augustine's Church, Scaynes Hill, East Sussex.

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

UK Expands Marine Protected Zones

In January of this year, the British government announced that it was creating an additional 23 Marine Conservation Zones. The UK now has 8,000 square miles of ocean waters legally protected from environmental degradation. These zones help to conserve habitats, important geological features and sensitive species.

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

ASWA AGM

The annual general meeting will be taking place on Saturday 21 May, 11am at St Michael's Church, 4 Chester Square, London, SW1W 9HH. The guest speaker will be Dr Brett Cochrane, Group Head of Science at the Dr Hadwen Trust.

Money boxes

Thank you to all those who have made use of the ASWA money boxes to collect donations. As the end of the UK financial year is approaching, it would be a great help if those of you who have not yet sent in the money collected could do so soon. Please do not send cash through the post. Instead, count up what you have collected and send us a cheque for the equivalent amount.

Animal-friendly Church awards

Is your church animal friendly? Last year, ASWA launched the Animal-friendly Church awards. Churches can apply at any time and those meeting the necessary criteria will be awarded animal-friendly church status. Information is available on the website or from the Secretary.

Meat-free Lent

Once again, ASWA is encouraging people to take part in the Meat-free Lent campaign. Abstaining from meat during Lent is a practice that goes back many centuries in the Christian tradition. In fact, in the Orthodox tradition, it is customary to abstain from meat and dairy products as one's Lenten fast, so if you're already a vegetarian, why not try going vegan for Lent? If this is your first Meat-free Lent, do get in touch and let us know how it goes.

Paw A Coffee

Paw a Coffee for ASWA will run from 4th June to 21st August. How about holding a gathering for your Church friends with coffee (or tea) and cake? We provide invitations, napkins with an ASWA logo, literature to give out and a disposable money box for any donations. This is a great way to raise funds for ASWA, to tell people about the work that we do, and to remind others that God cares about all of his creatures. For further information, please contact the ASWA Secretary or ASWA Committee Member Janet Murphy (07793-748634).

ASWA Local groups

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

- 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).
- 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 helenaaswa@yahoo.co.uk).
- The Revd David Austin has recently started an ASWA prayer group in the Norwich area. If anyone is interested in joining, David's contact details are 01603 469112 or dsj.austin@hotmail.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.

Correction

In our last issue, Sarah Dunning's email address at the end of the report on the cats of Bandung (News from Around the World) was printed incorrectly. The correct email address is sariael@googlemail.com. We apologise for the error.

TALKING POINT

Is destruction the only answer?

A recent feature on the BBC news web site asks the question, "Would it be wrong to eradicate mosquitoes?" It's a good question. As well as being widely regarded as an irritant and nuisance, mosquitoes act as vectors for the spread of disease, such as Zika virus, as we've been hearing about recently in the news. For all but pregnant women, Zika tends to be a mild infection with no major consequences for the suffers, but mosquitoes also spread much more deadly infections, including malaria, yellow fever and dengue fever. One obvious way to protect humans from these infections is to wipe out mosquito populations. Only a very small proportion of mosquito species (about 100 out of more than 3000) spread diseases to and among humans. Even so, wiping out these species could have unforeseeable impacts on their ecosystems. So, is wiping out mosquito populations the solution?

HOBO'S STORY

We found Hobo, a 250g juvenile male hedgehog, wandering in our local area on the afternoon of October 3rd, 2014. He had numerous problems; not least, an old wound on his side and some broken spines, as well as a stomach infection and a chesty cough, presumed to be caused by lungworm.

After all the usual checks and treatments, good food, lots of TLC and somewhere safe to practice his nest building skills, Hobo began to make good progress and by Christmas he had reached a healthy 850g. Once we were sure his chest had improved and he was no longer coughing, we moved his rabbit hutch out of the utility room and into the garage, where it was colder, in the hope that Hobo would eventually drift naturally into hibernation. He did, and safely survived his first hibernation, weighing around 750g on waking.

We returned Hobo back to the wild on the evening of April 16th, providing him with a two roomed release box, with separate eating and sleeping accommodation and a regular supply of both food and water in the first few days. After placing Hobo outside in the release box, in a quiet corner of the garden, I closed off the exit for 30 minutes or so, in the hope that he would eat a little supper before he was released.

Eventually, we crept down to the bottom of the garden, by torchlight, to unblock the exit, enabling him to escape as and when he felt ready. We didn't have to wait too long as he had already been busy planning his escape route and had begun to move one of the bricks, which was blocking his exit! On removing the last brick, we stood a short distance away, to watch as he took his first steps towards freedom.

Access to gardens is vitally important for the survival of hedgehogs and they can be helped greatly by creating small gaps in walls and fences and by raising the height

of back/side gates, to enable them to visit as many as eight or nine gardens in an evening. By learning more about their habits and requirements, we can each give a helping hand to the gardener's best friend, the humble hedgehog.

Linda J Bodicoat



ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES

ASWA's Annual Service



On Animal Welfare Sunday 2015, the ASWA team were invited to St Nicholas Cathedral in Newcastle to share our message at their 10am service. We had never visited Newcastle before and it was a great opportunity to make contact with a new area and talk to them about animal welfare.

ASWA Patron, the Rt Revd James Jones, preached an excellent sermon. He began by recounting an experience he had whilst in Honduras with Tearfund, when Psalm 104 became very real to him as he observed the beauty and order of his natural surroundings. A full version of this sermon can be found on our website under 'Sermons' but if you want a paper copy, please send an A4 sized SAE to the Secretary and she will print one off for you.

ASWA Chair, the Revd Dr Helen Hall took the opportunity while the service was on to spend some time with the children and so ensure that they were not left out of our message. We also had a stand displaying our literature.

As we have done for the last couple of years, we also organised an evening

reception with drinks and vegetarian food on the Saturday evening at the Deanery, courtesy of the Very Revd Christopher Dalliston and his wife Michelle. We invited local Church representatives of all denominations, ASWA members living in the area and representatives from local animal welfare groups. The evening was most enjoyable despite the turnout being rather disappointing. Unfortunately there was an international Rugby match taking place in the city on the same evening!

Animal Welfare Sunday 2016 falls on Sunday 2nd October and our annual service will be at St Cross Church in Winchester. If you are an ASWA member living in Winchester and would like to be involved, please contact the Secretary.

Samantha Chandler

Ely Cathedral

Ely Cathedral is known affectionately as The Ship of the Fens, but in October it was transformed into a modern day Noah's Ark, as hundreds of animals were welcomed into the cathedral for the 28th annual pet service. In aid of local and national animal charities. The Cathedral was full, with cats, dogs, ferrets, guinea pigs and two Alpacas, Daisy the Donkey, who is a regular participant in cathedral worship at Easter and Christmas, and an elderly tortoise Freda (Aged 50), who has been a regular at the Pet Service for many years. We were also joined by Aled Jones and BBC Songs of Praise, who wanted to come and find out more. The program was, appropriately, broadcast on the Feast of St Francis.

In the service we celebrated all of God's creatures great and small, and how we can learn from them about difference and diversity, about tolerance and respect, about unconditional love. The talk was delivered by Canon Vicky Johnson, with her dog, Percy, who is known around the cathedral for being a little bit mischievous. We were also joined by The Ely Imps, the Cathedral Children's Choir, the Ely Choristers, and people from various animal charities. We heard the amazing story of Blaze, a guide dog who had given her owner Clare new hope, about the work of K9, a charity which supports vulnerable adults through pet therapy, and we heard about the work of the Donkey Sanctuary, as well as other worthy causes.

The most amazing thing about Ely's pet service is the number of people who might not normally come through the cathedral's doors but who come to worship with their pets. All are made welcome, and this hospitality shows that the church cares and respects all of God's creatures, great and small. It also says something profound about the Christian faith to those who are perhaps unfamiliar with church. For God loves the smallest sparrow, the flower of the field, and every living thing that creeps upon the earth. Wild animals, and cattle and creatures of every kind, God sees as good. There are some who think such services are just a gimmick, but at Ely the annual pet service is a vital part of our mission and outreach strategy, and a means of communicating the Christian faith to a wider audience.

Victoria Johnson

San Martín de Porres, La Palma, Canary Islands

On October 4th, St Francis' day, we held our first ever Animal Blessing service which was conducted by the Revd Jennifer Elliott de Riverol, the first Priest in Charge of the newly formed Anglican congregation. We are an animal friendly church and have been officially recognized as such by ASWA.

Four dogs and "Percy" the fish were blessed. Readers can learn more about us on: www.lapalmaanglican.es

Jennifer Elliott de Riverol

St Martin's, Kensal Green, London

The 2015 animal blessing service attracted one of the most diverse gatherings for some years, with visitors from across London, the Home Counties and a couple all the way from Paris. We were really pleased to welcome ninety-two humans, twenty-seven dogs, five cats and a guinea pig.

As usual, dogs were in the majority but cats were also well represented, including a feisty kitten who was entirely at ease in the presence of the dogs and people. The exotics were not to be outdone, however, with a baby bearded dragon proudly presented for the blessing by its young owner.

The companion animals of those unable to attend the service were also remembered

and prayers were said for animals in different parts of the UK and Europe, including Spain, Russia and Cyprus.

In previous years, I have given a talk during the service about one of the animal welfare projects I am involved with but this year I took the opportunity to pay a personal tribute to Brian Sewell, the art critic of the London Evening Standard, who died two weeks before the service on the 19th. September. Brian was life-long animal lover, who generously supported a variety of animal charities and welfare causes and who endeavoured throughout his life to encourage people to show greater respect and compassion for the other living creatures who share this planet with us. He was a true original in every sense of the word and will most assuredly be sorely missed.

St.Martin's has links with an Orthodox convent in Russia, where the animal-loving nuns rescue and care for unwanted and abused animals, and a retiring collection was held to assist them with their welfare work, raising £230.

James Hogan

St Peter's, Harrogate

For St Francis day this year, Hannah Beck, a Reader at our church, made an eye-catching display in the church windowsills, about animal welfare and the food industry. Each windowsill was full of information about the animal welfare policies of

our local supermarkets. Alongside this information, there were illustrations, Bible texts, prayers, and quotations from Christian thinkers, both ancient and modern, who have written about Christian responses to animal suffering.

The windowsill display had a challenge for everyone who came into our church: "Lord, what can we do to protect our animal friends and brothers and sisters? We can ask questions. We can read labels when we shop. We can pray. At Choral Evensong on St Francis' day Hannah preached about the food industry and animal welfare. Lots of people were interested and wanted to talk about it with her afterwards.

We held our animal blessing service during Afternoon Church at 4.30 pm. It was a delightfully informal, cafe-style service. Our readings were Psalm 104 and a story from Bonaventure's *Life of St Francis*. At the end, at the Blessing of the Animals, everyone received a card with the words of the blessing, and space for them to write in their animal's name. They took the cards home, as a permanent reminder that God loves their animals and does bless them.

Some people brought photos of animals that they weren't able to bring to church with them for blessing. It was a special joy to welcome all those coming to St Peter's for the first time, and those for whom the animal blessing service is the one day of the year that they come to church.

Helen Ball

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



AUSTRALIA

Working tirelessly for animal welfare

I am pleased to report that there is plenty of work on behalf of animals underway in Australia. One issue that has come to the fore in the past year is the greyhound industry. The secretive and cruel practices of this industry are under close scrutiny by governments after *Animals Australia* and *Animal Liberation*, Queensland uncovered live baiting using rabbits, possums and piglets. Shocking footage was shown on national TV, causing an outcry. Dozens of trainers were immediately suspended or banned for life, CEOs were sacked and racing boards demolished. Government inquiries were launched and we await outcomes. Many hope that the industry will be closed down. As well as their appalling treatment in Australia, greyhounds are exported into Asian countries, where these beautiful animals fare even worse than in Australia. This was also shown on national TV and one can only hope that

the combination of public outrage and the results of government inquiries will eventually bring an end to this 'sport'.

Live exports issues are ongoing. In November 2015 I met Dr Lynne Simpson, a vet who had worked on many voyages taking cattle and sheep to the Middle East. Dr Simpson wrote a report for the Federal Government and this has been widely circulated, nationally and internationally. It is heart-breaking to see what the animals endure on their way to a cruel death. Rallies were held in major cities last year calling for an end to live exports, and to make sure the public was fully aware, there was a billboard campaign. It was encouraging to see the billboards across major highways and on the back of buses and taxis. Why does this trade persist?

In October 2015 Christ Church Cathedral here in Newcastle hosted our annual animal service, which is always so enjoyed and looked forward to. Mark

Pearson, a member of the Upper House of the NSW Parliament, spoke about his work in Parliament to challenge all legislation which could have a negative impact on animals. Next month Mark will convene a roundtable in Parliament for various animal groups that have a particular interest in the over-supply of healthy but unwanted cats and dogs in Australia. I am looking forward to that as I help to run an organisation that assists pensioners with the cost of pet desexing. If the roundtable participants decide to work together, there could be some moves to reduce the kill rate in pounds and shelters and foster improved owner responsibility. I wonder how many puppies and kittens were given as gifts at Christmas and are now no longer wanted.

This year there will be a general election in Australia. Hopefully, there will be candidates from the Animal Justice Party.

Olga Parkes



SOUTH AFRICA

Charity challenges hunting

CACH is a registered wildlife charity and public benefit organisation. We are a group of volunteers who campaign together to secure a ban on the captive breeding of lions for the canned hunting industry. There are no paid employees, not even the directors, and all funds raised go to meet campaign expenses.

CACH has raised awareness of the plight of the African lion and, in particular, the barbaric cruelty of the lion farming and canned hunting industry, more than any other conservation or animal welfare organisation. In late 2014 CACH worked with the CBS News 60 Minutes team to expose the unethical sale of lions by the Lion Park near Johannesburg. This show, entitled *The Lion Whisperer* (<http://cbsnews/the-lion-whisperer/>) was apparently seen by 18.4 million people in the USA.

CACH has been raising awareness via social media, TV documentary shows, radio interviews and via the books by the founders Chris and Bev, *For the Love of Wildlife* and *Kalahari Dream* in order to encourage responsible tourism. Our colleague in Australia, Donalea Patman, successfully lobbied for a ban on the import of lion trophies into Australia.

CACH was the sole beneficiary of the Global March for Lions in March 2014 when 62 cities around the world participated in protest marches, all on the same day, to call for a ban on canned lion hunting. We also won a gold at the World Responsible Tourism Awards in London on 4th November 2015.

In 2016 CACH will concentrate on bringing awareness to the Tourism and Volunteer agencies with regard to cub petting and lion walking events which are linked to the canned hunting industry.

Beverley Pervan



SWEDEN

Good news for Swedish canines: wild and domestic

The Swedish Environmental Agency has concluded in their latest report that Swedish wolves can cause harm to domestic animals, resulting in damages for owners. The damage caused is not, however, seen to be of such gravity as to warrant the further hunting or culling of

wolves. They do not cause severe harm to livestock, the deer of the Sami (the indigenous people of the North), or, in the long run, the economy. The report finds that, sadly, only 400 wolves are left in the wild in Sweden. This leads me to report an interesting turn of events for the sheep owner in Moraberg Farm. He claims that 70 of his sheep were struck and killed by wolves and he wanted the licence to hunt and kill any wolf he saw. He also sought reimbursement from the insurance company. The good news is that the County Administrative Board has submitted a complaint to the police authority on the grounds of neglect on two points: not having safety or supervision for the sheep, and the fact that the sheep owner declined the offer of having temporary safety installed to protect the remaining sheep. The sheep owner now faces an interesting spring.

I would like to bring some hope in the often overwhelmingly hard reality for our animal and bird friends. As we know, dogs are often seen as expendable and many people tire of their pets and abandon or neglect them. Dog pounds or sanctuaries exist in many forms, not all of them good. There is, however, much hope in one of them, Hundstallet, the "Dog stable" situated in Stockholm, in a suburb, in newly built kennels with a nearby green area for long walks.

The Dog stable is a sub-society to the Swedish Dog Protection Society. Founded in 1908, for the past century it has taken care of and rehomed tens of thousands of dogs, helping them find new forever homes. The Dog stable accepts all kinds of dogs, those who have been abused, as well as those who have had to leave their owners due to family reasons such as the death of an owner. Most dogs come via the police or the general public. It receives no government funds but relies entirely on private funding and donations. It has an annual turnover of 24 million Swedish Krona. It is open 24 hours a day all the year round. The Dog stable has one supervisor and nine dog handlers, five administrative assistants and eight part-time workers. Many volunteers are engaged in dog walking and also provide emergency homes when the Dog stable is full. The policy is to rehome every dog, to rehabilitate and medically treat as many of them as possible. Vets offer their services and the dogs are medically sound when they are placed. Last year 244 dogs were accepted and only 18 had to be put down for medical reasons. For people who would love to have a dog but for some reason are unable to have one, then becoming a "doggie walker"

responsible for regularly walking dogs, or working as a volunteer may be a win-win solution for everyone.

Sandra Kinley



USA

Working to improve lives for people and animals

Project PAT (People-Animals-Together) is an offshoot of the Humane Society US "Pets for Life" programme, the goal of which is to enable people in under-served, low-income areas keep their beloved pets healthy, happy and with them forever. Waterville, Maine is the poorest city in the state with two areas recognised as having the lowest income and the fewest services in terms of transportation, access to grocery stores and pet care. A Wellness Clinic was held on October 31st for residents of these areas who have a cat or a dog. Each animal was given rabies and distemper vaccines if needed, a check-up by a licensed veterinarian, flea and tick preventatives and vouchers for no-cost spaying or neutering. Local neighbourhood associations and businesses helped by handing out information to their patrons. Our goal is to spay/neuter 500 pets from those areas. In addition, we are in the process of obtaining funding for a "trap, neuter, release" programme for the large population of feral cats.

Joann Brizendine

ASWA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Once again it is time for ASWA Committee Elections. There is, however, no postal voting form in this issue of *Animalwatch* because at the time of going to press there were fewer candidates for committee places than there were vacancies. You will find information about the candidates below.

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

Samantha Chandler: Samantha has been Secretary since 1996. She has been involved in animal welfare for over twenty five years, supporting many organisations such as Compassion in World Farming, Animal Aid and the Born Free Foundation. Samantha says that working for ASWA gave her the opportunity of combining her Christian faith with her love of animals and concern for their welfare. She is married with three children and lives in Hampshire with a menagerie of animal friends including a small flock of rescued sheep. Sam has appeared on Channel 4

TV's 4Thought series and BBC regional radio and Radio 4.

George Ochola: George was born and ordained in Kenya and worked in Church Ministry in the Diocese of Maseno South [ACK] for ten years. He then moved to England where he works as Team Chaplain of West Hertfordshire hospitals, NHS Trust as well as being a priest to the Benefice of St Michael and All Angels Parish within the Diocese of St Albans. George is married with six children.

Sarah Dunning: Sarah is a retired primary school teacher who has been a member of ASWA for many years, and has served on the committee for about fifteen. She is a member of St Michael and All Angels' Church, Watford, where she organises an annual animal blessing service, is a member of the choir, volunteers with the Foodbank and sometimes helps with the Sunday School and Messy Church.

Sarah runs the ASWA Mobile Prayer Group and hosts ASWA Watford at her home. Sarah also helps regularly with the ASWA stall at the Animal Aid Christmas Fayre in Kensington, and represents ASWA at the recently formed Animal Interfaith Alliance [AIA], where she is a director on the board.

Keith Cottrell: Keith's lifelong passion for animal welfare started as a child

in Singapore. He joined ASWA some twenty years ago and since retiring has been able to devote more time to God's animal kingdom. He is also a trustee and actively involved with three other Christian organisations and lives happily near Bristol with his wife, daughter, three cats and dog.

The deadline for applications to stand for election to the ASWA committee next year (2017) is 16th January 2017, but we ask that you contact the Secretary by the end of December 2016 in order to facilitate getting profiles of candidates into *Animalwatch* on time. Candidates must be willing to attend three committee meetings a year, which are held in London, and must be proposed and seconded - preferably by existing ASWA members or a member of the clergy who knows the prospective nominee well.

ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION

Founded in 1990, the Orangutan Foundation is the foremost orangutan conservation organization. Since the start, the Orangutan Foundation has developed a diverse range of programmes to save this enigmatic species and safeguard critical areas of habitat, as well as working with local communities and promoting research and education. This approach recognises that orangutans are essential to their habitat, which is important and unique in its rich biodiversity and is crucial for local communities, who are as dependent on the forest as the orangutans are.

As a result of habitat loss, a growing challenge the Foundation faces is the increasing number of orangutans found isolated in remnant patches of forests or encroaching upon villages and oil-palm plantations. As orangutans are displaced by deforestation, they are also occasionally found orphaned, injured or kept in villages as pets. In collaboration with local government and communities, the Foundation therefore supports an orangutan reintroduction programme, rescuing these animals and preparing

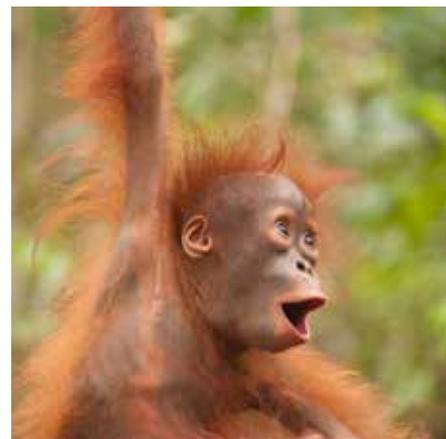
them for release back into the wild. The Lamandau Wildlife Reserve, which the Foundation works to protect, is one of the few places in Indonesia where translocated and rescued orangutans can be safely released, and over 200 orangutans have been reintroduced there. This year is the Orangutan Foundation's 25th Anniversary, and to mark the occasion the Foundation has secured a deal to extend the Lamandau Wildlife Reserve by 8,000 hectares (20,000 acres); a notable achievement for orangutan conservation.

The Foundation also works in co-operation with the park management in Tanjung Puting National Park to protect its critical forest ecosystem. The park is home to a wide range of wildlife, including over 4,000 orangutans. Thanks to Orangutan Foundation guard posts, this wildlife remains under vigilant protection. Another area in Central Kalimantan, named Belantikan Hulu, is known to contain the largest single population of orangutans outside of protected areas. Along with its Indonesian partners, Yayasan, the Foundation undertakes research within this area in the hope that it will one

day also become a protected area of orangutan habitat.

The Orangutan Foundation are working hard to keep this incredible species alive in the wild. To learn more about the Foundation's work or to contribute to their efforts, visit their website at www.orangutan.org.uk.

Rowan Sharp



CONSERVATION AND THE BOOK OF JOB

Some of the most evocative descriptions of animal life are contained within the book of Job. Destitute, bereaved and covered in boils, the eponymous hero finally reaches the end of his tether and snaps. He cries out to God wanting to know why these disasters have befallen him, and receives an eloquent and dramatic reply: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the Earth?" After this, arguably the greatest put down in history of world literature, the Lord reminds Job of the wonders and mysteries of his creation. A litany of animals appear in the text, and it is made clear that they have lives and purposes beyond the knowledge and understanding of humankind. It is glaringly apparent from the latter part of the Book of Job that the universe really isn't all about us.

One beautiful and now poignant passage stands out above the rest:

*Is the wild ox willing to serve you?
Will it spend the night at your crib?
Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes,
or will it harrow the valleys after you?
Will you depend on it because its strength is great,
and will you hand over your labour to it?
Do you have faith in it that it will return,
and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?*

(Job 39:9–12)

Unlike Job, we cannot gaze upon the wild ox and marvel at its strength and freedom, because the aurochs had the dubious honour of being the first recorded extinction in modern times. The last known individual died in Poland in 1627. Unsurprisingly, human beings were largely responsible, having destroyed their habitat and hunted the population to beyond the point of no return. It is difficult to see how any Christian could not hang their head in shame about this reality. Our Holy Scriptures cite these creatures

as living evidence of the glory of God, and our response has been to wipe them out.

There is an uncomfortable irony in the way in which the biblical text contrasts the domestic oxen with their wild cousins, highlighting that the aurochs cannot be harnessed and made useful to humanity. The voice of God cited this as reason to pause and understand his greatness; we apparently saw it as reason to drive them from the face of the planet without worrying too much about it.

From a Christian perspective, conservation has to be tied to our understanding of our path within God's world and the sacred duties which he has given us. There are many pragmatic reasons why we should care for our environment, other animals and eco-systems. Put starkly, it is a *sine qua non* for our own continued survival, as the crisis with population levels of pollinating bees should have reminded us. But for Christians, it shouldn't be that self-interest which drives us. We should of course be mindful of our special duties as appointed stewards of God's creation, and the need to carry that out in a Christ-like way. God invests human beings with power in order to use it for the benefit of the weak, not so that they can exploit them for their own ends. This holds true of kings and priests, but also all people when it comes to responsibilities which flow from being created in the image of God. We should be moved by compassion for the suffering of our fellow creatures, empathize with their pain and remember that Jesus gave his body for their wholeness as well as ours.

There is no escaping from the message of the book of Job. It really is not all about us. God spoke in pride and celebration for the aurochs, and our response was to destroy it. We cannot change that now, but we can make choices about how we treat the animals, and indeed plants, which remain to his glory.

Helen Hall

ASWA REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

On Sunday 8th November, ASWA held its fifth Remembrance Service for Animals at the Animal's War Memorial in Park Lane, London.

The service was once again led by ASWA Chair, Revd Dr Helen Hall, and we had the biggest crowd to date, with well over 100 people present. Pen Farthing from Nowzad Dogs was unable to be with us, as he was called to Afghanistan, but his colleague Sally Baldwin attended in his place and gave a short talk about the wonderful work they do. Nowzad also introduced their lovely new Remembrance badge which is available on their website. Nowzad members were also present and it was wonderful to have their support.

We were also thrilled this year to have two representatives from RAF Police Military Working Dogs and Ziggy the black Labrador. Flight Sergeant Lee Close also gave a talk about the work of the Military Dogs and their huge importance and often sacrifice.

We were also joined by our friends from Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA), Quaker Concern for Animals and the Animals Interfaith Alliance. Chris Fegan from CCA did one of the readings.

This is now a firm date in the ASWA diary, so please come along and support us this year when we meet again on Sunday 13th November at 3.00pm. We hold our service in the

afternoon so that clergy and those who attend their own church services in the morning can still come to remember the animals in the afternoon. We always lay a special ASWA wreath at the memorial but please feel free to bring your own wreaths or flowers if you so wish.

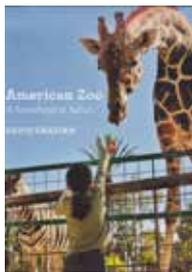
Samantha Chandler



BOOK REVIEW

AMERICAN ZOO A sociological safari By David Grazian

Princeton University
Press
ISBN 978-0-691-
16435-9
272pp + notes and
index
Hardback
Price £19.95



American Zoo is a look at life in American zoos, but not in the way you might think. Although the animals take centre stage at any zoo, this book focuses on the human life of the zoo and how people, whether staff or visitors, interact with the animals and the zoo environment. David Grazian is a sociologist who did his zoo research through interviews with staff and a period of participant observation at two zoos (he worked as a volunteer and observed both the staff and the visitors while he was there). The book, based on this academic research project, is very accessible and readable.

The introduction sets the scene by discussing human impact on the environment and 'nature' (itself a human construct). Zoos artificially re-create 'nature' by building habitats intended to mimic the environments in which the zoo animals would live in the wild (though many of the animals themselves are captive-bred). While we might think such engineering of habitats and enclosures is for the animals' benefit – and in part it is – in the main, it is for the human visitors to the zoo. This artificial re-creation of wild habitats and ecosystems both helps to create an immersive experience for the zoo visitor and aids education by showing, rather than simply describing, the spaces the creatures would inhabit in the wild.

There is an interesting exploration of the significance that humans assign to different animals, and the human preference for some kinds of animals over others – charismatic megafauna, cute animals and animal infants, for example – and our aversion to others, namely bats, snakes and insects, regardless of any actual threat posed to humans by the species in question or their value to human society.

In looking at the human 'residents' of the zoo (the zookeepers), Grazian examines the paradox that being a zookeeper requires a university degree and long period of internship (often unpaid), and yet the pay is very low – about half the US average income. This is despite the fact that the animals the keepers care for are, in many cases, rare and valuable. Of course, this paradox is not restricted

to zoos. Those who care for vulnerable humans, namely the very old and the very young, are also often poorly paid. As with zoo animals, those dependent on their poorly paid carers are often those of great value to us. In all of these cases – caring for babies and small children, the elderly, and zoo animals – a high proportion of the work is physical labour, something our society values much less than intellectual endeavour. That specific knowledge, compassion and specialist skills are all necessary in caring for the vulnerable, whether human or non-human animal, seems to be something that is completely overlooked when it comes to how this type of work is valued and remunerated.

What is the purpose of a zoo? The zoos themselves would probably say that they exist to educate the public about animal life and to contribute to conservation. But that doesn't seem to be what the public is looking for: "...research shows that zoo audiences tend to desire recreational and entertaining experiences far more than instructive opportunities to learn..." as Grazian tells us. For many zoos, this means that in order to engage with the public, they have to put on animal 'shows', although these are often used as a means of educating their audiences about the animals that they are seeing.

Zoos do contribute to conservation efforts. Captive breeding programmes for endangered species have been running since the 1970s, but these have so far had a limited impact on wild populations. No doubt this is in part related to practical difficulties. Funding is, as with many institutions, a major issue. This poses a dilemma for those of us interested in animal welfare. We may be opposed on principle to keeping wild animals in captivity and exhibiting them for the entertainment of a paying public. On the other hand, we recognise the necessity of rescuing and preserving endangered species. Sadly, with continuing destruction of habitats, poaching and other threats, there may be no alternative place for conservation to take place than in zoos. But to run effective conservation programmes, zoos need funds. Should we be giving to zoos in the hope that our funds help with conservation, even if we see a fundamental flaw at the heart of their day to day operations?

Zoos are not perfect, but what comes across clearly in his conversations with these (mainly young) zookeepers is the keepers' love for and commitment to the animals in their care. This is an immensely interesting book that provides a real insight into these complex and sometimes controversial institutions.

Jennifer Brown

ASWA NEWS



ASWA's witness at the Animal Aid Christmas Fayre

ASWA has manned a stall at the Animal Aid Christmas Fayre in Kensington for about fifteen years now. We are not only the only Christian group present, but the only faith group there.

We have always thought that our presence is a definite witness, and thought it important to engage with people in the animal movement, who mainly have had a poor view of the Church and its apparent disinterest in animals generally. At the start most visitors to the stall would challenge us about this anthropocentric stance, and some were hostile to our presence at the Fayre. So it was necessary to own the truth that for centuries the Church had adhered to a dogma which stemmed more from Aristotle than the Bible. We had to admit the Church had got it wrong on this matter, and say that ASWA's mission was to right that wrong.

That witness is bearing fruit. We were always able to engage in meaningful discussion, and there has been a noticeable shift in people's reaction to us over the years. These days, visitors to the stall are interested in ASWA's work and ask about our progress. They are now glad to see us annually at this event, and we have friendly and often long and interesting conversations. I like to think that ASWA's regular presence at the Animal Aid Fayre has helped many people in the animal movement to see the Church in a more positive light.

Sarah Dunning

THE BIBLE AND...

Conservation

This short Bible study is designed to enable an individual or small group to use the Bible to think about what a Christian approach to conservation might look like.

What is conservation? In ecological terms, conservation is the preservation and protection of species and ecosystems. Is this a biblical concern? As conservation is a modern phenomenon, many would probably think it isn't. And yet, there are several biblical passages that point to conservation as something of importance.

God's concern for the conservation of species is seen first in the story of Noah (Genesis 6.5–22). In the flood, God could have destroyed everything and begun again from scratch. But this is not what he chooses to do. Instead, God tasks Noah with building the ark in order to save representatives (breeding pairs) of all animal species. In other words, God gives Noah the vocation of conservation.

- How does Noah's calling to conserve animal species relate to humanity's calling to be stewards of the earth (Genesis 2.5–15)?
- In the light of God's refusal to wipe the slate clean and start from scratch in the story of Noah, how should we understand the place of the non-human creation in the renewal of heaven and earth (Colossians 1.13–20; Ephesians 1.9–10; 2 Peter 3.10–13; Revelation 21.1–5)? Which is the better fit with what we know of God: utter destruction or renewal, rebirth and restoration?

Conservation also appears in the laws that governed the lives of the ancient Hebrew people. In Deuteronomy 22.6–7, the people are commanded:

"If you come on a bird's nest, in any tree or on the ground, with fledglings or eggs, with the mother sitting on the fledglings or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young. Let the mother go, taking only the young for yourself, in order that it may go well with you and you may live long."¹

Leaving the mother bird allows her to have more clutches of eggs in the future, thus ensuring a continuing

food supply. To some, this may seem to be a very anthropocentric (human-centred) and self-serving rationale for conservation. For the ancient Hebrews, however, maintaining a reliable food supply was essential. Even today, and even for those who don't rely on animals as a food source, maintaining a healthy and diverse ecosystem is necessary for our continued survival (see Helen Hall's article Conservation and Job for more on this). As *Star Trek's* Mr Spock says, "To hunt a species to extinction is not logical."²

When it comes to conservation, our responsibility is not just to ourselves alone, nor even just to our fellow creatures. We also have a responsibility to God. Psalm 24 begins, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein."³ We should remember that this world does not belong to us, it belongs to God.

- What does it mean to you that the earth belongs, not to us to use as we please, but to God?
- When you think of stewardship of the earth and its creatures (Genesis 2.5–15), do you think of this as preserving the earth and our fellow creatures
 - for their own sakes,
 - for future human generations so that they won't be deprived of the beauty and goodness that we've enjoyed,
 - for God who created the earth and charged us with caring for it,
 - or all three?
- What role does the Church have to play in conservation?

Even in just the few passages covered, we see that the Bible does have something to say about conservation, and this is an issue relevant to Christians both as residents of the earth and also as people of God.

1. NRSV

2. *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*. ©Paramount Pictures, 1986

3. *Common Worship Psalter*, ©Archbishops' Council, 2000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

These days we often hear the word 'rescue' in relation to finding homes for cats and dogs. It brings images of a poor, under-nourished animal being cared for in a secure place after being cruelly treated or abandoned. I consider my dog Sandy to be a rescue dog. She appeared in my garden one night during a fierce storm, very hungry and shivering with cold and fear. As she was only a puppy, I imagine she had been dumped in the neighbourhood by someone in a passing car. She was so frightened and nervous that she would run off if anyone came too close. After several days, I tried lying down on the grass and finally when she realised I wasn't going to hurt her, slowly she moved towards me. Close enough for me to stroke her head.

I've not had a dog since I was child and being nearly sixty didn't think I would adapt to having one now, but within a few days Sandy became a constant companion and real joy to have around the place. She soon became well known in the neighbourhood and a regular visitor to our church, only falling asleep if the sermon goes on a little too long but normally just walking quietly round saying 'hello' to the members of the congregation. In fact last year she helped in our church, the Anglican Church at San Martin de Porres in La Palma, being awarded an Animal Friendly Church certificate by ASWA.

Life is full of changes and mine has recently suffered losses and heartbreaks but along with my faith the love of Sandy has really got me through some very sad and difficult times. It's left me thinking "Who rescues whom?"

Alan Chopping, La Palma, Canary Islands

A Service for Animal Welfare

St Cross Church, Winchester
Sunday 2nd October 2016, 9.30am
Preacher: the Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS
ASWA President and former Bishop of Monmouth
All Welcome

For further information contact
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