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Summer 2016

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animalwatch

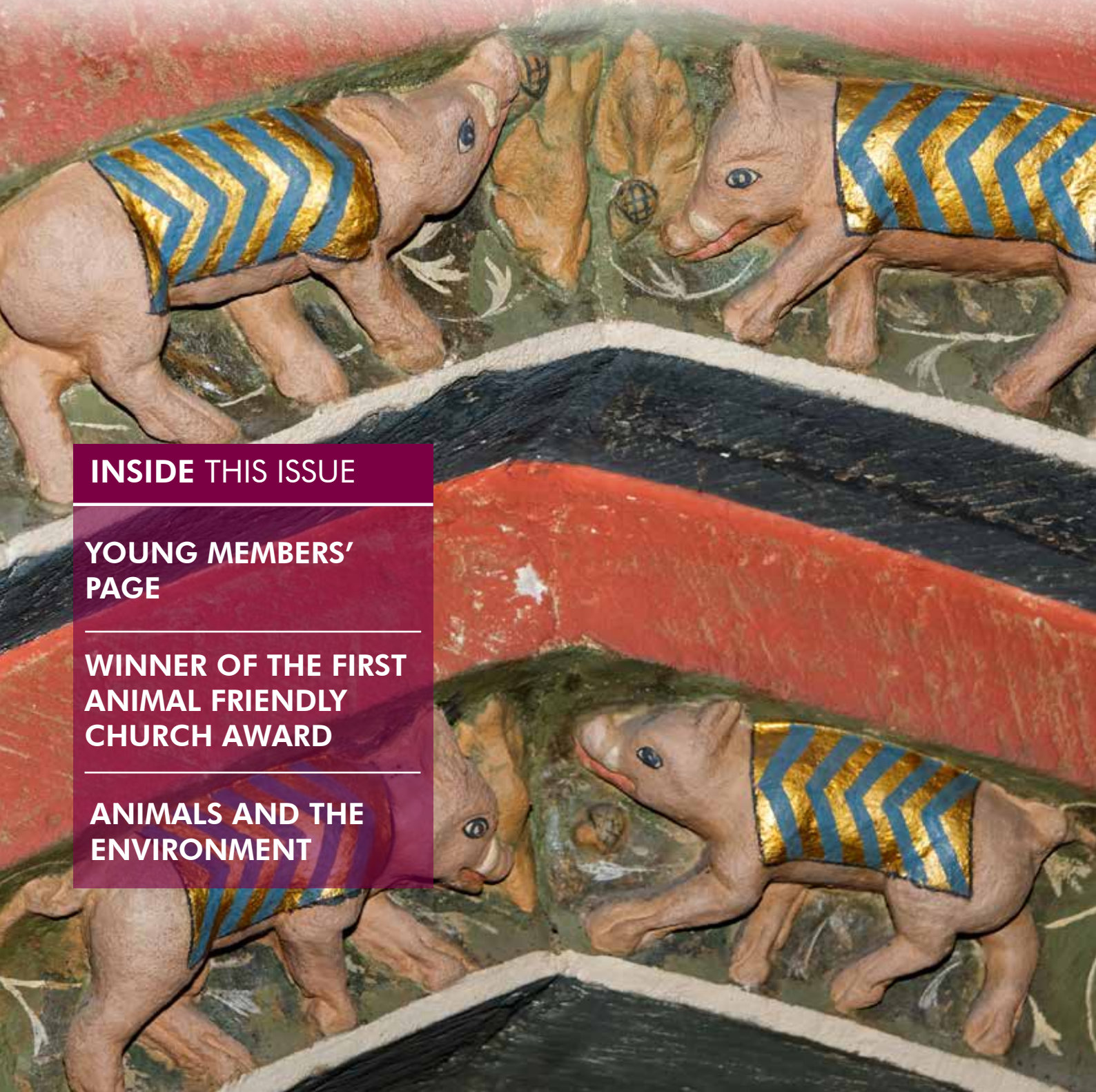
PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**YOUNG MEMBERS'
PAGE**

**WINNER OF THE FIRST
ANIMAL FRIENDLY
CHURCH AWARD**

**ANIMALS AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**



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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!

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 28 August
Animal Welfare - a Christian Concern? A talk by Tony Campolo as part of the Eucharist at St James' Church, Piccadilly, 11am.

An audience with Tony Campolo: A Q&A on social justice issues, Oasis Church, Waterloo, London, 6.30pm. To book visit <http://eveningwithtonycampolo.eventbrite.co.uk>.

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.

Annual pet service, Great Malvern Priory, 3pm. For more details contact greatmalvernpriory@me.com.

Saturday 15 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 18 October
Animal Service, St Mary's, Childwick, AL3 6JJ, 11.30am. This short act of worship (30 minutes) has been especially shaped to thank God for creation and to pray for animal welfare. Pets welcome to come for a blessing. For more information, please visit www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk/home.asp.

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 animals and the Church. The first Animal Friendly Church Award was won earlier this year by St Peter's Harrogate, and in this issue we have an interview with church member Helen Ball about winning the award. Also in this issue you will find our Young Members' Page.

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 29th August 2016**.

PAW A COFFEE AT BURRSWOOD

Burrswood Hospital in Kent provided tranquil and beautiful surroundings for a Paw-a-Coffee afternoon to raise money for ASWA. Twenty people attended the event, held in the tea room. As well as coffee and cake, ASWA literature was on offer, and this was well-received by those who came.

If you'd like to host a fundraising Paw-a-Coffee for ASWA, a pack including invitations and ASWA napkins is available. Please contact the Secretary for details.

Janet Murphy



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.

Valerie Aucouturier, Monti, Menton, France

Elizabeth Hurry, South Hiendley, Barnsley

Basil Youdell, Bognor Regis, West Sussex

Cass Higgins Gastaldon, Llanbedr, Crickhowell, Powys

Janet Yapp, Randlay, Telford, Shropshire

Maria McGannan, Waterlooville, Hampshire

Paul Ashwell, Middlesborough, North Yorkshire

Susan Merrill, Beaufort, SC, USA

Sean Callard, Westminster, London

Cheryl Clark, West Des Moines, IA, USA

Carol Williams, Worcester Park, Surrey

Justin Luxmoore, Sheldon, Honiton, Devon

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

Compassion a popular lifestyle choice

According to the Vegan Society (www.vegansociety.com/whats-new/news/find-out-how-many-vegans-are-great-britain) there are now more than half-a-million vegans in Britain alone. That's more than three times as many as there were ten years ago, making veganism the fastest growing lifestyle trend in the UK. And the vegans aren't alone – there are now more than one-and-a-half-million vegetarians in Britain. This isn't a purely British phenomenon either. It is estimated that as many as 16 million Americans are now either vegetarian or vegan.

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.

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.

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).

Tony Campolo coming to London

ASWA is pleased to welcome Tony Campolo on Sunday 28th August at St James' Church, Piccadilly as part of their Eucharist service. See Doris' Diary for more details.

ASWA Annual Service

This year's annual service will be held at St Cross Church, Winchester on Sunday 2nd October, 9.30am. The preacher will be ASWA President, the Rt Revd Dominic Walker.

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 (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.

ASWA NEWS

ASWA AGM

The ASWA AGM was held at St Michael's Church, Chester Square, London on 21st May (Details of the business meeting will be printed in the Autumn issue). We were very pleased to welcome Dr Brett Cochrane, Group Head of Science at the Dr Hadwen Trust (DHT) as our guest speaker. Dr Cochrane gave a very interesting and informative talk about the work of the DHT, including the many different disease areas in which they are working and the various techniques that are being pioneered and refined to replace the use of animals in medical research. The benefits of DHT's work are two-fold: improving animal welfare by reducing the demand for animals to be used in research and providing more accurate data by using methods that provide human-relevant data. We were all very encouraged to hear of the work being done by the DHT, and the commitment of Dr Cochrane and his colleagues.





St James's Church, Piccadilly
197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL
020 7734 4511 • www.sjp.org.uk

**The Anglican Society for
the Welfare of Animals
warmly invite you to the
following service on
Sunday 28th August.**

**Animal Welfare –
a Christian concern?
Eucharist Service with talk
by Tony Campolo
St James's Church,
Piccadilly at 11am.**

**Enquiries
AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com
or 01252-843093**

ASWA, PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT
T: 01252 843093 • E: AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com

www.aswa.org.uk

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA

Dog Olympics but shocking conditions for pigs



Here are a couple of recent events in Newcastle, NSW, where I live.

The first directly involves the charity I helped to set up in 1998. We run a charity shop, the proceeds of which are used to provide subsidies to pensioners to cover the cost of pet desexing. This has been a very successful venture and over the last 18 years we have helped 30,000 pensioners in our area with the cost of desexing their pets. Many vet practices work in our programme, and we are hugely grateful to all of them. Recently, one practice in particular went beyond the call of duty and organised a fundraising event for us. This was the 2016 Dog Olympics! The dogs competed in various events – races, jumps, chasing etc. Everyone had a wonderful time, and never a growl or a nip, and at the end the winners of the various events were invited onto the podium for medals. They really liked that. And to cap it all off it began to rain, and that is always a wonderful thing in a dry spell in Australia.

And now for something completely different.

The other evening a local cinema (one of those small cinemas that put on interesting films that may never hit the big screen) made itself available, free of charge, for the showing of a film called Lucent. (You can google Lucent if you wish). This concerns conditions in Australian piggeries, with footage obtained by activists. I was shocked to the core. It is unbelievable that we treat animals this way and call ourselves civilised. Surely there are better ways to run piggeries.

Olga Parkes

SOUTH AFRICA

Educating children about animal welfare



In 2005, the General Manager of the Durban & Coast SPCA asked me to devise an SPCA education programme to teach children at schools in mainly disadvantaged areas how to look after animals properly, treat them with respect, and understand that they have feelings much like our own. The programme would include knowing about the role of the SPCA in society and how to contact us to report cruelty or neglect or to ask for help.

Having run a voluntary education programme for teachers at 1300 schools

for 17 years while I was lecturing at a university, the idea of this project was close to my heart. I had fierce feelings about the importance of teaching all children about compassion, something that is rarely touched on in formal education anywhere.

Our SPCA teacher would not only teach, but tell stories and listen to stories and share a range of activities. There would be no set and rigid programme, because every class is different, and the standard of English cannot be forecast. Instead, there would be a clear vision of where we were going and an understanding of the essential guiding principles which would reflect a way of being in the world.

Teaching of this kind requires a personality with a range of abilities, top of the list being a deep love for animals and a passionate belief in the value of teaching compassion. Almost as important would be a certain kind of toughness, an ability to face up to occasional actual instances of cruelty and to pitiful stories. Important would be the ability to hold the interest of the children if one found the level in any class to be higher or lower than expected.

The miracle was that I knew such a person. This was Laura Pretorius, who has been our Education Officer from the first day of our project and continues to run it today. Every day is different. Many days bring her highs, but some bring frustration and even sadness. Some stories leave painful memories.

The modus operandi chosen for this unusual project has proven its value. It is not that we are following a path. It is rather that we are trying to create a path, one that we hope will be followed by many of the children who are introduced to it. It opens up the way to seeing that all life is interconnected and that the way we behave towards other living creatures becomes who and what we are.

Shirley Bell

SWEDEN

The fate of exotic species in Sweden



Very dismal news from wildlife centres and animal parks. Healthy wild animals, tigers as well as bears and other animals, are being shot or euthanized in order to make way for new ones. This is one of the more depressing scandals that has been uncovered by the media in a documentary. The shooting of the little bear cubs, Tassa, Tundra, Trubbel and Tiburtus is just one of the outrageous acts of stupidity and lack of empathy that has upset many people. Internationally two zoos have already

affirmed a new policy not to kill healthy animals, (Antwerp and Planckendael, in Belgium). Four solutions are proposed: 1) the animals are moved to another park or zoo; 2) they are moved to another place in the zoo; 3) they are rehabilitated so they can be set free into the wild; 4) they are sent to an animal care centre where they are taken care of for the rest of their lives. The Swedish Animal Rights Movement applaud the new policy and hope that Swedish zoos and parks will do the same.

Ostriches are on the decline in the wild like so many of our animals and birds. Nowadays they are mainly found in part of Africa's horn, east Africa and southern Africa. Lo and behold, they may also be seen wandering about on farmlands in Sweden. The ostrich farm in Tierp, situated about one and a half hours' drive from the capital Stockholm, has existed for roughly twenty years. In the beginning the ostriches were bred for slaughter, as their meat is highly sought after. Thanks to new slaughter regulations which would require the farmholder to rebuild slaughter facilities at a high cost, the ostriches were saved and allowed to live. They are now only used for breeding and new offspring are used by other ostrich farms, sadly for meat. The current price is about £60 for a kilo so the business is lucrative but on small scale. The ostriches in Tierp run free and also have a stable to be in. About one ostrich a year does get slaughtered, but often due to medical reasons like a broken leg or similar. In some ways maybe this little farm helps to keep good ostrich stock alive and also helps maintain breeding.

Sandra Kinley

USA

Ongoing work of the Humane Society



Here in central Maine we've been very busy over the last few months! In mid-March we dealt with two hoarding situations. The first involved a family with an assortment of animals: cats, rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas, parakeets, ducks and a goat. They had no proper place for the animals, and as the cold weather set in, they realized that they could not stay outdoors. They brought all the animals into their house, and tried to take care of them indoors. As the situation was rapidly getting out of control, they contacted their town office, who in turn contacted the animal control officer and us. We had only a few hours to prepare for them, but shelter staff and volunteers went to work, and had rooms with proper food, water and bedding set up before this motley crew arrived. As each came in,

they were examined by our veterinarian and sent to their designated areas. The ducks were housed in an empty cat room, where they had a swimming pool and lots of room to stretch their wings. We were gifted the next morning with two eggs! The goat had her own corral in the dog area. She was very docile, and enjoyed walking on a leash like a puppy. A loving home was found for each and every animal.

A week later we were asked to help with another rescue, this time involving a family keeping 41 cats in a mobile home. Many of the cats were "dropped off" over the years by people in the area who knew that this family would take care of them. With the help of the Maine department of human services and the local animal control officer we were able to talk to the family and assure them that the cats would be well cared for at the shelter. The cats ranged in age from newborn to senior cats, and all were quite ill with upper respiratory infections and parasites. Another shelter in the southern part of the state helped us out by taking many of these kitties to their facility.

We received quite a bit of press coverage on both of these rescues, and it proved to be a great opportunity to inform the public that if they know of a similar situation there is help available. We stressed that the local governments, the animal control officers and the shelters were not out to punish them, but to care for the animals, have them spayed and neutered, and find forever homes for them.

The People-Animals-Together Project of Waterville held another free wellness clinic on 14 May for residents of the city's lower income areas. We treated more than 80 dogs and cats at this event, and were able to spay and neuter 15 cats the following day at the Humane Society in the Community Spay/Neuter Clinic's mobile surgical unit. Our plan is to hold several more of these clinics at our local pet supply stores before mid-September. Hopefully we will reach our goal of treating 600 pets.

Joann Brizendine

ANIMAL FRIENDLY CHURCH



In January of 2015 ASWA launched its new Animal-Friendly Church initiative in an effort to try to encourage more churches to consider the welfare of animals, both domestic and wild, as part of their agenda. We designed an application form which is available on our website or as hard copy pack, and ran several adverts in the Christian press to let churches know about the scheme. It was very encouraging when the first applications started arriving. We even had two from abroad, St James the Great in Melbourne, Australia and the Anglican Church at San Martin de Porres in La Palma, Tenerife. All those who applied were granted Animal-Friendly Church status and received a framed certificate. We also ran a competition for the best application, and in January of this year announced the winner as St Peter's Church in Harrogate. ASWA member Helen Ball had encouraged her vicar, Revd Tim Hurren, to put the church forward and

they were very worthy winners (See the interview with Helen in this issue). St Peter's Church is particularly sensitive to insect life, with flower beds full of insect-friendly plants. Dog water bowls are made available to visiting dogs and cleaning and washroom products bearing the 'leaping bunny' symbol are used. Even more impressively however, animals are welcome to attend worship, and prayers for animals are included. High-welfare meat products and free-range eggs are used for church catering.

All of us at ASWA hope that this scheme will encourage other churches to adopt similar policies. We can all start with our own churches. All of the applications received thus far have been through the initial efforts of one member of the congregation with the will and determination to try to change attitudes within their church. We appreciate that this can sometimes feel like an impossible task, but if we truly believe that compassion to all creatures is part of the Christian message then we can all try to do our part. Changing hearts and minds can take time, so be gentle in your approach, get involved with your church, get on the list for intercessions, get elected onto your PCC. All it needs is one person with a mission.

Samantha Chandler

TALKING POINT

Praying for all creation?

What does your church pray for on a Sunday morning? In many, probably most, churches, there will be prayers for the worldwide Church, for persecuted Christians, for people affected by wars or natural disasters, for our local communities, for the sick and the bereaved. It is right and good that we pray for all of these things. But is there something missing? Some churches will pray for the environment. How many pray for non-human animals, including the ones we use for food or in laboratories, and those whose habitat is lost to human greed and exploitation on a daily basis? If we aren't praying for God's non-human creatures, why not? Are we afraid of giving offence? Are we afraid such prayers are inappropriate? Or are the issues just so big that we don't know what to say?

INTERVIEW WITH HELEN BALL OF ST PETER'S CHURCH, HARROGATE, WINNERS OF THE FIRST ANIMAL-FRIENDLY CHURCH AWARD

Congratulations on winning the first Animal-friendly Church award. What does it mean to you that your church has received this award?

I feel immensely encouraged. I joined St Peter's when I moved to Harrogate three years ago. Until then, I did not know any church where the congregation was at all concerned about animal welfare. I used to feel discouraged, more often than not. Belonging to a church where animal welfare is taken seriously – recognised by ASWA as an Animal Friendly Church and now having won this award – has been hugely exciting.

Is being an animal-friendly church something that is important to a majority of the congregation?

Being an animal-friendly church is something that is very important indeed to a small group of animal welfare enthusiasts at St Peter's. It has also been warmly welcomed by the majority of the congregation.

Has winning this award helped to raise the profile of animal welfare in your church? Has it had any impact on how your church is viewed in the community?

Winning this award – and being awarded animal-friendly status in the first instance – has helped us to raise the profile of animal welfare at St Peter's. Our ASWA certificate is displayed in church, on the wall near the door to the kitchen. Its presence has encouraged more people to take an interest in food-related animal welfare, and our church wardens have helped us to understand better the different ethical logos on meat products. It is much clearer now, to all the different community groups that use our church facilities, that animal welfare is part of our church's mission.

When our prize hamper arrived, we invited members of St Peter's breakfast club and the toddler group to come and help us unpack it and share the lovely things inside it. I know that members of the breakfast club, some of whom are homeless,

are deeply appreciative of the warm welcome and the food that their dogs receive at St Peter's.

Our ASWA award has featured prominently in our church news letter and in our magazine, both of which have wide readerships, far beyond the confines of our congregation. We even mentioned Animal-friendly Church in our parish profile, when we were advertising for a new vicar.

Can you tell us about some of the animal-friendly things that your church does?

We use cruelty-free 'leaping bunny' products ('leaping bunny' products are those which are approved as animal-friendly by Cruelty Free International, and carry their logo – a leaping bunny. -Editor) for cleaning in church. We keep our town-centre church garden rubbish-free, and full of insect-friendly flowers and plants.

Animals are welcome to attend worship at St Peter's, and a number of dogs come regularly. We include prayers for animals and for animal charities in our daily intercessions, which are shared in the newsletter and on Twitter.

We have designed some Sunday school sessions to help our younger church members to start to think theologically about animals in scripture and these have been very successful.

We have also produced a series of five Bible studies for adults on the theme of animals in the Bible. We should be delighted to share these with others, if any congregations or groups would like to have them.

What advice would you give to other churches that want to be more animal friendly?

I should encourage them to try one or two new things in the first instance. Buying 'leaping bunny' cleaning products, for example, is so much easier to do nowadays than it used to be, and it won't be more expensive.

I'd also say that being animal friendly helps people to like church more. Some of those who come for lunch at St Peter's tell us that our sandwiches are tastier, since we have started using better quality, higher welfare meat. And I have lost track of the number of people who have stopped to tell me, when they have met me coming in or out of church with my dog, that they think it's lovely that dogs are allowed in the church. We want churches to be lovely in people's eyes, it seems to me. For the loveliness they see is God, of course.

Does the church have any plans to expand what they do for animals?

Our church is planning to mark Environment Sunday on 5th June with a special service and with an exhibition about the Church of England's Eco-Church project displayed in our new glass foyer.

Later in that month, the PCC is looking forward to its Away Day with our new vicar, for vision discernment and planning for the future. Animal welfare will not be forgotten on that day, I feel confident.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your church?

We have also recently won a RICS award for our church building extension. The award is the regional Project of the Year award in the Community Benefit category. Our animal-friendly dog water bowl sits proudly on the step of this new wrap-around glass entrance development.

Helen Ball



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 and our life as a Church today.

Revelation 5.13-14

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!'

And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

In this vision of heaven, we are told that every creature, not just humans and angels, worship God together.

- If all creatures worship and give glory to God in their own way, do we have a responsibility to protect and care for other animals so that they can do that?
- If animals are part of the heavenly worship, should they also be allowed to be a part of our worship?

FINDING ANIMALS IN CHURCH

This issue of our magazine talks about the ways in which our churches can welcome animals, but animals are already in many of our churches. At least, images of animals are there. Plants and animals have been used for centuries to decorate our churches. Because Christians believe that God created the world and that nothing in the world is outside of God's love and care, it is right that these images are there in our churches to remind us of this fact.

Take a look around your church. What kind of animals can you find there? They might be in stained-glass windows, carved on pews or screens, part of stone carvings or even in paintings and plaques on the walls.



WORDSEARCH

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

There are some animals that are very easy to spot in churches. Can you find them in the word search?

EAGLE
LAMB
DOG

PELICAN
FISH
MOUSE

SNAKE
DOVE

CAN ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS GET ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA?

ASWA's mission is summed up in the phrase, 'putting animals on the agenda of the Christian Church'. It's a massive task. Animals so often disappear down that black hole located between the well-recognised injunction to 'love your (human) neighbour' and the broadly accepted responsibility of 'stewardship'. Often animals are anonymised in that all-embracing word, 'creation'. They don't have a face and their voices remain unheard.

I write as a vegan, whilst recognising that ASWA embraces people whose diets are not the same as my own. We all share, I assume, the common perspective that God's purposes (however mysterious they may, at times, seem) are for the whole of creation and not just the human bits of it. As St Paul says, "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth...as we await redemption..." (Romans 8:22-24).

Making the invisible animals visible feels like an uphill struggle, and I suspect I am not alone in experiencing a more than occasional sinking feeling when I gather with Christian companions to share food, and encounter indifference to the suffering of the animals on people's plates. How are we to make people take this matter more seriously? The recent World Health Organisation report confirming a link between the eating of processed meats and the increased likelihood of developing certain types of cancer has unleashed a media storm and, despite predictable denial from those with vested financial interests in the industry, may lead to some people reviewing their eating habits. Some animal lives may be saved and some future suffering avoided.

However, there is perhaps a more significant contemporary issue which may help in the quest to make the invisible visible. I speak of our concern for the future of the environment. Pope Francis' recent Encyclical, *Laudato Si*, has brought this issue into sharp public focus recently but the concerns it raises have been well known for some time. As *Time* reported in 2013, "There may be no other single human activity that has a bigger impact on the planet than the raising of livestock." We chop down rainforest to create grazing land and we raise cattle whose emissions contribute significantly to global warming. With some research indicating that it takes up to 1,800 gallons of water to produce 1lb of beef the impact of the animals-as-food industry on the world's fresh water supply is easy to see. And when we use up the world's resources and damage the environment on which we all depend it is the already disadvantaged who suffer most and suffer first. As the earth's human population increases, maintaining a supply of food and water becomes more of a challenge, and we know that we could not possibly feed the whole world on a typical western diet. As a Viva! Report (<http://www.viva.org.uk/feed-world>) recently stated, "People go hungry because much of arable land is used to grow feed grain for animals rather than people. In the US, 157 million tons of cereals, legumes and vegetable protein – all suitable for human consumption – is fed to livestock to produce just 28 million tons of animal protein in the form of meat."

It may well be that our concern to protect the planet on which we all depend will lead to a gradual change in the eating habits of those whose diet is presently largely based on

animal products, just as others may change their diet out of a concern for their own health. This will undoubtedly produce benefits for animals who will no longer be brought into the world for the sole purpose of being killed. Whilst this would be a step in a better direction, I remain troubled. Environmental and health concerns may well get animals onto the agenda, and not just in the Christian Church, but if the only reason they are on the agenda is because of human self-interest then we are still no nearer to recognising the intrinsic rather than instrumental value of animals. As long as we continue to think of animals as being here for us rather than with us, then we will also be able to continue to find ways of justifying our abuse of them in arenas other than the food industry.

I will give at least two cheers if our concern for the environment or for our own health leads to a rethink of the way in which we see animals as food. I will reserve the third cheer for the day when we rethink our relationship with animals in its entirety. "And God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very good." (Genesis 1.31a). All of it was 'very good', not just the human bits. If we can absorb the divine vision of the interconnectedness of the goodness of creation, then we will see that there is no distinction between self-interest and other-interest. What is good for us will be good for other animals, and what causes them to suffer cannot be good for us.

Rev Dr Jan Goodair

BOOK REVIEW

THINKING THROUGH ANIMALS

By Matthew Calarco

Stanford University Press
ISBN 978-0-8047-9404-6
69pp + notes Paperback
Price £9.99

This short, easy-to-read book provides a brief introduction to the philosophy underlying what the author refers to as animal studies, and which are frequently used in support of animal rights. Calarco divides these into three sections: identity, difference and indistinction.

Identity concentrates on the traits that all humans share with other animals. Calarco gives a clear explanation of the way that evolutionary theory has influenced thinking, as we have come to realise that human beings exist on a continuum with other species, not distinct and wholly separate. Within this section, he then looks at the work of several philosophers, some of whom will be familiar to our readers, namely Peter Singer and Tom Regan.

This is followed by a discussion of the practical applications of the philosophical principles, as well as their limitations.

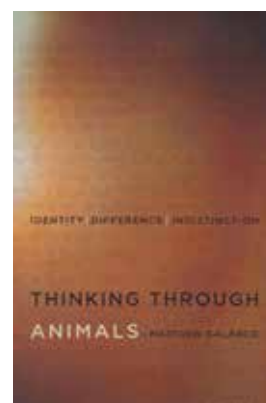
Difference concentrates on philosophies that seek to give value to animals by emphasising, not their similarities to human beings, but their differences – the things that make them unique. The difference approach is based largely on the work of Emmanuel Levinas. Unfortunately, as Calarco himself points out, Levinas explicitly excluded animals from his philosophy and many others in this particular branch of philosophy have done the same. There have, however, been some notable exceptions, among them Jacques Derrida, and Calarco explores how this philosophy can take animal ethics beyond the limits imposed by identity-based philosophies.

Indistinction looks at a recently developed area of philosophy for thinking about human-animal relationships. Indistinction goes

beyond the arguments of identity philosophy and encourages us to stop thinking in terms of 'humans' and 'animals' as distinct categories. Such a radical change in thinking would, necessarily, have an impact on political and economic systems.

This little book is a great introduction to some important philosophical ideas and thinkers in the realm of animal ethics, and a helpful guide to understanding the ideas that support the arguments for animal rights.

Jennifer Brown



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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

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