

**103**

**Autumn 2019**

Price £2 (free to members)



# animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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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 we may enjoy!*

**Sunday 6 October**  
Animal Welfare Sunday.

ASWA Annual Service, St James' Piccadilly, London, 11am. Preacher: the Revd Jeremy Fletcher.

Animal Blessing Service, the Precincts, Canterbury Cathedral, 2pm. All welcome. Pets should be on leads or in appropriate carriers.

**Saturday 12 October**  
Animal Blessing and Thanksgiving Service for Pets, St Martin's Church, Kensal Green, London, NW10 5SN, 2pm. The service will be led by the Revd Graham Noyce. All well-behaved pets welcome. Photos of pets can also be brought for pets who would be uncomfortable attending or if you would like to remember an animal who has passed away. Those unable to attend in person can send the name and some details of a pet for inclusion in the service. For more details, please contact [animalblessinguk@gmail.com](mailto:animalblessinguk@gmail.com).

**Sunday 10 November**  
ASWA Remembrance Service for Animals in War, Animals' War Memorial, Park Lane, London, 3pm.

**Sunday 8 December**  
Animal Aid Christmas Fayre, Kensington Town Hall, London

**For further details of events, please visit the website: [www.aswa.org.uk](http://www.aswa.org.uk)**



# HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. In this issue, we focus on animal welfare and what we eat.

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 and do make a note of the dates in Doris' Diary – especially ASWA's annual service in October and the Remembrance service in November. We hope to see you at both of those events.

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](mailto:animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk). Please note that, owing to space restrictions, it may not be possible to print all contributions. Please refer to the information about contributions to *Animalwatch* for further details and restrictions on submissions.

**Jennifer Brown, Editor**

The deadline for the Spring magazine is **Monday 20th January 2020**.

## ASWA NEWS

### New Appointment for *Animalwatch* Editor

*Animalwatch* editor, the Revd Jennifer Brown, has been named as the new Director of Training for the College of Preachers. An ecumenical charity, the College of Preachers seeks to promote excellence in preaching through its resources, workshops and training programmes. Jennifer will be responsible for developing the College's training programme and working with their regional trainers to deliver training events across the country. We wish her well in her new position.

## ASWA SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

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

## ASWA MERCHANDISE

### Available from the ASWA web site

**ASWA literature:** a range of literature on a variety of animal welfare subjects available.

**PAWS for Prayer cards:** paw shaped cards with a prayer for companion animals printed on one side. £0.20 each.

**Egg Cards:** egg shaped cards with a prayer printed on one side. £0.20 each.

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

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANIMALWATCH

We very much welcome contributions to *Animalwatch* from our readers. We are interested to hear about the positive things being done for animals in your churches and communities. We also welcome informed pieces on specific areas of animal welfare, such as items relating to animal welfare law, the history of animal welfare, and theology. Articles should be submitted to the Editor either as a typed manuscript by post or by email as Word documents, with any accompanying photos sent as high-resolution jpg files. Items submitted as pdf files or email text cannot be

accepted. Submissions must be the contributor's (sender's) own original work, and (unless otherwise agreed) not published elsewhere. Items may be edited for length, readability and appropriateness of content. Publication of submitted items is at the Editor's discretion. In submitting an article, the contributor assigns copyright for the piece to ASWA. For items submitted by email, please assume your item has been received unless you get a delivery failure notice. The Editor is unable to acknowledge receipt of individual submissions.

## A WARM WELCOME

**to our new members. We look forward to hearing from you.**

We are pleased to welcome seven new members who have joined since the publication of the Summer issue.

To all our new members we extend a warm welcome and we would ask that you, along with our existing members, encourage others who share your concern for animal welfare to join. Introductory leaflets are available from the Secretary.

**ASWA badges:** show your support for ASWA by wearing a lapel badge with the ASWA logo. £1.50 each.

### Sticker sheets & books:

Activity sheet with stickers (ravens or bees), £2.00 each.

**Our Wild World**, an ASWA resource for children, £3.00 each.



# GOOD NEWS

## IPCC report encourages move to plant-based diet

Although not specifically calling for people to adopt vegetarian or vegan diets, the IPCC report released in August did highlight the role that meat and dairy consumption play in driving climate change. The IPCC report stated that it is necessary to reduce meat consumption and change land use as part of efforts to combat climate change. Let's hope that this report will help to raise awareness of the role that diet plays in caring for the environment and will encourage people to think more carefully about what they are eating.

## NEWS & NOTICES

Don't forget, you can follow ASWA on Twitter – [aswanews](#)



You can also keep up with what's new via our website – [www.aswa.org.uk](#).

Check the web site for the latest resources, including those for youth & children.

### Animal-friendly Church awards

Is your church animal friendly? ASWA sponsors the Animal-friendly Church award to recognise those churches that take animal welfare seriously as part of their ministry and mission. 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.



### ASWA Annual Service

This year's annual service will be held at St James' Church, Piccadilly, London on Sunday 6th October, 11am. Speaker: the Revd Jeremy Fletcher.

### ASWA Remembrance Service

Our annual Remembrance Service for Animals will be held at the Animals' War Memorial on Park Lane in London on Sunday 10th November at 3pm. All are welcome to attend this very special event.

## TALKING POINT

### Is it ok to buy that burger?

Many supermarkets in the UK and the USA have introduced vegan options or expanded what were previously limited ranges of vegan alternatives. Restaurants, too, are now regularly catering for vegetarian and vegan clientele. This trend is now even seen in the fast food sector. For many vegetarians and vegans, this is a cause for celebration, as it makes eating on the go much easier. But for others, it raises an ethical dilemma. Is it right to support a business that's main trade

is in meat by purchasing the vegan alternatives that they offer? Should we be giving these places our custom to show that there is a demand for veggie and vegan food and try to encourage them to include more of these items, and fewer animal products, on their menus? (Leaving aside, of course, the health-related question of whether or not any of us should be eating any kind of fast food at all!). These ethical questions are present in most of our purchasing decisions. So how should we spend our money, and where? Consumer power is real – how we choose to use it matters.

## ASWA 2019 CHRISTMAS CARD



Thea Olrog has created this beautiful card especially for ASWA this year depicting animals celebrating a Christingle service. The card is now available to order, either on-line via our website or by sending a cheque made payable to ASWA. The price for this year's cards is £5.50 for a pack of 6 (including postage). Made from good-quality stiff card with high-quality envelopes, each card is printed with a Bible verse and has ASWA's details on the back. Sending an ASWA Christmas card is a great way to help raise the profile of ASWA and the work that we do.

# A PERSONAL VIEW OF BEAR WOOD IN THE WILD PLACE PROJECT OF BRISTOL ZOO



I recently visited this new attraction run by Bristol Zoo. The objective of this new attraction is not so much about conservation or saving endangered species but primarily to educate the public about the ancient woodland of Britain.

Seven-and-a-half acres of woodland, crossed by a seven-hundred metre wooden raised walkway enable visitors to see four Eurasian brown bears, two Eurasian lynxes and, in due course, five European male grey wolves (which soon will be relocated from another part of the zoo) and two wolverines. The animals were all born in captivity and come from zoos in Sweden, Siberia and the Highland Wildlife Park in Scotland. The keepers hope to breed the Lynxes and Wolverines.

Many information boards, crammed with information, are alongside the walkway. There is a bear viewing den with floor to ceiling glass windows. The new attraction is proving popular, especially with children. I do, however, question whether

this venture is worth the stated cost of five million pounds as, although long-extinct in Britain, none of these animals are classified as endangered. This woodland has been in place for centuries.

Initially we heard that the 'rare' bears would be able to roam freely across the whole site but that is not the case as, clearly, wolverines need to be kept separate. The bears have one-third of the land and will share their compound with the wolves.

Management's claim that the woods offer a vital habitat for threatened species such as the greater spotted wood pecker, tawny owls and hedgehogs seems rather weak, as I know from my walks in nearby fields that these creatures are all living in the surrounding countryside as well as in these woods.

The other attractions on the site include meerkats, male Gelada baboons (originally from Ethiopia but these came from a zoo in Switzerland), cheetahs, giraffes, reindeer, zebra and lemurs. There are also many games and outdoor

activities for children, which at times makes the premises seem like a theme park. Of course, Bristol Zoo in Clifton has a far greater range of animals, both mammals and reptiles.

At the official opening, HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, said, "Congratulations to everyone involved in Bear Wood. I know trying to create an environment that is a natural habitat has been a long-held dream. I hope everyone is very proud of what has been achieved. I trust that many visitors will come to enjoy Bear Wood for years to come."

As mentioned above, however, these woods have been here for well over three-hundred years and were already a sanctuary for wildlife. The project has been about building fences to enable animals extinct in the wild in the UK to be kept in a caged environment, and spending a lot of money on a raised walkway for visitors.

If you do decide to visit, then be aware that you may not see some of these animals as they can easily remain hidden behind foliage. On our last visit, we could not see any wolves or cheetahs and only caught partial glimpses of the lynxes and wolverines. We did enjoy good views of the bears but not through the expensive viewing den as they were elsewhere in the enclosure.

While ensuring that such a sizeable space will remain woodland and reintroducing mammals long extinct in the UK will be welcomed by many and provide a good day out for families with young children, on balance I have to say I found this new attraction disappointing. I would prefer the money had been spent on helping endangered animal species survive but perhaps that would make the project more difficult to be a profitable tourist attraction.

**Keith Cottrell**

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## SOUTH AFRICA

### The soul of humanity in an animal's eyes



When you've held a dying dog in your arms – dying of starvation and neglect in the midst of a vast bustling community – your response may be compassion, but it may also be determination to create change through action.

Out of this experience the South African Mass Animal Sterilisation Trust (SA.MAST) was founded. It is the first animal welfare organisation to establish a dedicated mass-sterilisation and primary treatment clinic in the Khayelitsha township on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa. With the aim of reducing the growing number of unwanted dogs and cats, animals are collected on a daily basis, sterilised, vaccinated and treated for parasites, all for free, before being returned to their homes.

When Archbishop Desmond Tutu explains that our humanity is bound up in each other, this really resonates with me. Khayelitsha has an estimated human population of three million people, most of whom are living in shacks – guarded by their dogs. I understood that a practical outlet for compassionate and responsible behavior was needed to turn the situation around and so far, we've spayed and neutered over 19,000 cats and dogs.

The SA.MAST Animal Clinic also has a fully equipped hospital with ambulances for sick or injured patients and a kennel building programme also distributes approximately 20 kennels a week to residents needing better shelter for their dogs. While SA.MAST does not consciously think of what they do as

'God's work', their vision has provided humane education, improved health and safety standards, particularly for children, and ensured a greener environment. By increasing compassion for animals as sentient beings, people are made more aware of the value of life and the power of love.

SA.MAST is a registered non-profit organisation working from the heart. They receive no government funding, relying on kind donations only. I believe that it is only if you are motivated by love that sustainable change is possible. Over the last ten years we've transformed many parts of South Africa's largest township, but there is still much to be done. We've recently produced a short documentary for the citizens of the world and we're hoping to be invited to show this documentary wherever and whenever we can.

If you would like to help or to get more information, please email: [samast@samast.co.za](mailto:samast@samast.co.za) or visit [www.samast.co.za](http://www.samast.co.za).

**Tamsin Nel**

**Founder, SA.MAST**

## SWEDEN

### Bees, Butterflies and Deer hunting



The terrible situation for bees is a fact but people are becoming more aware of the destruction pesticides cause to bee populations. It seems that bees are becoming trendy. Evening classes about beekeeping are frequently offered and people with gardens are more aware of the importance of planting bee-friendly perennials.

The Butterfly Society is finding new members and is also seeing a positive trend in certain butterfly populations around Sweden. On social media and talk shows we are hearing about the advantages of adopting a more relaxed attitude to gardening and the upkeep of gardens. We are being encouraged to, "let things grow a little wild and crazy," thus enabling bees and butterflies to find a healthier environment. Some good news in other words.

But for deer the news is very bad indeed. A bill has been submitted to legalise hunting deer with a bow and arrow. This method of hunting requires extreme skill and is very difficult to perfect into a swift and efficient method of killing.

Archery Societies have voiced their unwillingness to support this form of hunting. They maintain that it is animal cruelty, as an arrow seldom hits its target precisely enough for a clean kill. Instead the animal runs off, in severe stress and pain, and has to be tracked down and shot in the end. One million animals a year (all sorts of animals) are killed in hunts and how many more are lost in the forests and die in pain is unknown. The Animal Rights movement is opposed this and will continue to fight against the bill going through. The final decision will be made some time next year.

**Sandra Kinley**

## USA



### The South Rallies to Prepare for Hurricane Dorian

Rescues throughout the south-eastern United States sent out calls to volunteers and transporters to assist in pulling as many animals as possible out of the path of Hurricane Dorian and relocate the animals to shelters farther north and inland. Several hundred dogs, cats, horses, and other livestock animals were relocated to shelters and rescues in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama.

Fleet of Angels assisted in the evacuation of horses and their owners in Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas by creating a list of vendors and farms available for emergency transport, temporary stabling, and other equine crisis services. In addition, Fleet of Angels has raised money, coordinated volunteers, and prepared to step in with emergency services in the aftermath of the storm.

Rescues are already being called in to the Bahamas and Florida as safety permits to search for and rescue any animals separated from their owners. Rescuers are reminding people to make sure animals are microchipped and to make sure they have proof of ownership, so animals can be reunited with their loved ones as quickly as possible following the storm.

**Tanya Garrett**

# FR RICHARD ROHR HELPS US UNDERSTAND ANIMALS

I'm a patron of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals and we need every friend we can find. We've found one in a Franciscan monk named Richard Rohr. This Catholic Brother gives us some firm theological groundings for our love for animals in his new book *The Universal Christ*.

A major point Rohr makes in his book is that before the eternal and universal Christ was incarnated in Jesus, Christ was earlier incarnated throughout the natural world. He claims that those who, in the words of Jesus, "have eyes to see and ears to hear," will see and hear Christ in all relationships with both inorganic and organic elements throughout nature.

In order to understand the ways in which Christ can be mystically encountered in nature, and specifically in animals, he first directs us to consider insights derived from the writings of the Jewish Hasidic theologian and philosopher, Martin Buber. It is Buber, in his book *I–Thou*, who shows us how relationships on the human level can be lifted into the spiritual encounters with divine transcendence. These, in turn, prepare us for spiritual encounters with animals. When spiritual encounters on the human level happen, according to Buber, other persons no longer are experienced as 'its', or 'things,' but, in mystical fashion, are felt to be sacred. They are not just objects in a world of objects. Instead they become subjects who can only be known through spiritual relationships. Such persons no longer are mundane creatures but come to be known in a holy manner. They cease to be things existing in a disenchanted world filled with other things, as most positivists would claim. Rather, they have become sacred persons, in whom Christ's presence vibrates, and who are able to connect spiritually with others.

In Buber's writings, there is a strong suggestion that such sacred encounters cannot only be had with other people. He makes the claim that he himself has had such relationships with his cat.

This is no surprise to Fr Richard Rohr, who calls upon us to listen to all of creation as it groans to be called into full spiritual encounters with the sons and daughters of God (Romans 8:20–23). Rohr makes the possibility of the I–Thou relationships with animals very real to his readers by going into in-depth descriptions of his own subjective interactions with his dog, Venus. As I read his book, he enabled

me to somewhat empathize with the intimacy that he has had with Venus as, on various occasions, he experienced his sometimes depressing loneliness being dispelled as they sat together in the living-room of his house. He gave to me a clear explanation as to how he enjoyed being 'understood' by Venus' intensive eye to eye contact when understanding was what he desperately needed.

The most moving description of this dog–man sacramental relationship was when he and his dog were emotionally locked together for several minutes while his dog was dying. A lingering illness had Venus suffering with great pain, and kindness required that the dog be 'put down.' Father Rohr describes how, as his loving companion lay quietly on the floor of the Veterinarian's office, Venus' soulful eyes were fixed upon the face of her human friend. Her eyes, according to Rohr, communicated clearly that this dog grasped that what was happening was something her master had to do. Venus seemed to accept her fate and died without protest. Rohr wrote that he could only hope that when death came to him that he could accept it with this same kind of peaceful resignation.

For those of us who believe that the same Christ who was incarnated in Jesus previously had been incarnated in nature, and especially in animals, this book by Fr Richard Rohr gives solid references to affirm that kind of connection.

This Franciscan theologian enabled me to experience something of what St Francis himself might have felt when he had established an I–Thou relationship with a wolf that he brought in from the wilderness outside of Assisi and tamed. Saint Francis, through an I–Thou relationship with this wolf, transformed this once troublesome animal from a threat to the sheep that lived on the hillside outside the town into a gentle creature so that he could live and play among the children of Assisi until his dying day.

Several years ago, a woman told me about an experience she had had when she was just eight years old. At one special Sunday morning worship service she had heard, during the reading of the scripture, that Jesus had commanded his disciples to, "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." She explained to me that she believed that Jesus meant exactly what

he said. To preach the gospel to every creature, to her, meant that this included the cows on her parents' dairy farm. So that Sunday afternoon she went outside her home and standing on a wooden box that she had set up behind the barn, began to call the cows to come and hear her preach the gospel. She wanted to tell the cows to come to her so that she could tell them the 'good news' about how Jesus loved them and died on the cross to show them how much he loved them.

As she called out: "Cows come! Cows come!" she wasn't at all surprised when the cows came and gathered around her to hear her preach the gospel. She told me "The cows just stood there and listened to me, and I think they understood what I told them." I believe her.

Reflecting on her story I am sure that St Francis of Assisi would have believed her too. So would have Fr Richard Rohr, who, through his writings, invites us into spiritual intimacy with all of nature in general, and with animals in particular. It's time for us to join Fr Rohr and experience the Christ, as Christ is, even now, waiting to be encountered in those animals who are so much a part of his first incarnation, in nature; even before Christ was incarnated in Jesus.

**Tony Campolo**

**Eastern University and ASWA Patron**

# A FAR-REACHING RETHINK OF OUR FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEMS

Climate change is undoubtedly one of the biggest challenges faced by humanity today. Without drastic action, the current rise in global temperatures will have devastating and far-reaching consequences.

Last month, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a new Special Report on Climate Change and Land. It explores the ways in which land is under increasing pressure, due to the growing global population and unsustainable use.

This report is the latest in a long line of studies that highlights the urgent need for a reduction in meat and dairy consumption, which is essential if we are to meet the Paris climate targets.

It's extremely encouraging to see a broad cross-section of groups and individuals stressing that the solution to solving many of the crucial issues faced by humanity today lies in changing our diets.

## Inefficient and cruel food production

Two-thirds of farm animals worldwide are reared in intensive systems, often living in cramped and stressful conditions. Their lives are typically spent in barren pens, crates or cages which prevent them from expressing natural behaviours such as nesting or foraging. These systems rely heavily on vast quantities of grain for feed.

The production of grain for animal feed creates desolate, pesticide-soaked

landscapes and the large quantities of manure produced from animals crammed into intensive units can lead to polluted water courses. Biodiversity loss across the globe has reached critical levels.

Despite already producing enough food globally to feed the current population and more, most is wasted by feeding crops to animals. For every 100 food calories of edible crops fed to livestock, we get back just 30 calories in the form of meat and dairy – a 70% loss. In short, people are being forced to compete with farm animals for food.

## Intensive farming: bad for animals, bad for people, bad for the planet

Factory farming is not just bad for farm animals, it also negatively impacts human health. It has been shown that eating too much meat, especially processed meat, can contribute to heart disease, certain cancers, obesity and diabetes.

In addition, the overuse of antibiotics in farming is fuelling the global antibiotic-resistance crisis. Factory-farmed animals are regularly given antibiotics in their feed or water because of the higher risk of disease when large numbers of animals are kept in inhumane, overcrowded conditions. Soon, we could be unable to treat fatal diseases with life-saving drugs.

The IPCC report stresses that, if we are to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) expansion, we must move to diets that produce much lower emissions. Livestock

production, fuelled by factory farming, is responsible for more GHG emissions than all the world's planes, trains and cars put together. This means the food on our plates is the main culprit in the rapidly unfolding climate catastrophe.

## Less and better

With an ever-increasing number of major retailers introducing vegan lines and restaurant groups adding plant-based options to their menus, it's never been easier for us all to reduce the amount of animal products that we eat.

Some may choose to cut out meat, eggs and dairy completely, which obviously reduces animal suffering and environmental impact. Even if this isn't for you, however, we all need to shift our attitudes towards meat, so it is seen as a treat to enjoy occasionally, rather than every day. And not only should we eat less, when buying meat and dairy products they should be higher welfare.

Each time we choose a little less and better meat and dairy, making sure it comes from pasture, free-range or organic farms, we're doing our bit for human health, farm animal welfare and the future of our planet.

**Nick Palmer**

**Head of Compassion in World Farming UK**

## OBITUARY

### Audrey Eyton

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Audrey Eyton. She was a great friend and supporter of ASWA and helped write many of our booklets including our Animal Welfare Sunday literature. She was passionate about farm animal welfare and through the Matthew Eyton Trust (named after her late son who tragically died in his early 20's) she has supported many animal welfare initiatives and will continue to do so. ASWA was represented at her funeral in Canterbury by the Secretary, Samantha Chandler, and former ASWA Chair, Bishop Richard Llewellyn, who was a great friend of Audrey. Friends and colleagues spoke of her work with animals as well as her long career as a journalist and author. She will be very much missed.

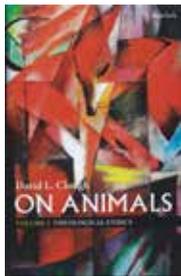


## BOOK REVIEWS

### ON ANIMALS VOL2: THEOLOGICAL ETHICS

By David Clough

ISBN 978-1-792-  
82998-1  
248pp +  
bibliography and  
index **Hardback**  
Price **£100.00**



This is the second book in David Clough's series *On Animals*. In it, he encourages us to apply Christian theology to our ethical thinking about the ways in which human society makes use of non-human animals.

After an introduction about why animal ethics is an important area

for engagement, and a first chapter arguing for a specifically Christian animal ethics, there follows a series of chapters, each devoted to a particular issue, ranging from the use of animals for food to companion animals.

Many readers will find the descriptions of the lives of animals in factory farms, research laboratories and other situations disturbing. It is to David Clough's credit that he was willing to visit farms and research facilities to see the conditions and speak to those who work with animals in those contexts to get as full and accurate a picture as possible. Each chapter ends with a 'Christian ethical assessment' of the subject being discussed. This will be particularly useful for those engaged in apologetics with fellow Christians about the need to recognise animal welfare

as a Christian concern and care for our fellow creatures as a Christian duty.

This is a very well-researched and well-written work full of compassion, and based on a sound Christian theology. If it has any drawbacks, it is that the introduction and first chapter presume that the reader has also read the first volume in the series. That does not, however, preclude being able to follow the reasoning in those sections, and it is still very much worth reading, even if you haven't read volume one. The other drawback is the price. I would recommend speaking to your local library or your church about getting a copy of this book, and encouraging as many Christians as possible to read it.

**Jennifer Brown**

## THE BIBLE AND...

### Radical Inclusion

*This Bible study is designed to help an individual or small group to explore what the Bible says about God's impartial and all-embracing welcome.*

### Peter's Dream Feast in Acts 10

The story of the beginnings of the Church recounted in the Acts of the Apostles is full of Spirit activity, heavenly signs, miracles, dreams and visions. One of the stranger stories is that of a hungry Saint Peter who falls into a trance and sees a strange vision of multiple animals, reptiles and birds being lowered from heaven in a sheet-like object, and who hears the even stranger instruction to "kill and eat" (10:10-16).

Such an instruction would have been especially shocking to Peter, a devout man who faithfully observed

the food laws of his Jewish heritage. Unsurprisingly, he is confused by what on earth this vision might mean, and it is his encounter with pious Gentile Cornelius that helps him to understand that it should not be interpreted as a dietary command, but rather as an indication that, "God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him" (10:34b-35).

The interpretation of the vision itself concerns matters of human nationality and religion. It challenges the status quo and leads to the transformation of accepted beliefs about Gentiles. In spite of this anthropocentric (human-centred) focus, there is scope for imaginative reflection on Peter's glimpse of an open heaven. Some interpreters have suggested that the four corners of the

sheet are intended to symbolise the four 'corners' of the earth, which would see all living creatures represented within this vision and all being lowered down from heaven, where God was believed to live. It is interesting that Peter's revelation does not contain images of cosmic grandeur, but rather all of the creatures that live on earth, large and small, wild and domesticated.

As we navigate the ecological challenges of life in the twenty-first century, we might reflect on what it means for us today that "God shows no partiality", and we might ask what aspects of our own status quo need to be challenged.

**Rebecca Dean**

## THE VEGGIE TRAVELLER

*Travelling has become a regular occurrence for many of us, whether for business or on holiday, but it isn't always easy for the vegetarian or vegan traveller. But, if you know where to look, there's some great food to be had, even in unexpected places.*

Our Veggie Traveller is currently off exploring new places and trying out restaurants with exciting vegetarian and vegan options to provide us with a review for the next issue. If you've been inspired to try any of the places mentioned in the

Veggie Traveller reviews, let us know. We'd love to hear about your experience, too.

*Have you found some great veggie friendly restaurants or hotels while travelling, in your home country or abroad? If so, why not write a short review to send to Animalwatch and let others know about them. If you can, send a photo to go with your review.*



## PURPLE POPPY APPEAL 2019 LAUNCHES IN STYLE

Miss Great Britain 2019, Kobi-Jean Cole, launched this year's Purple Poppy Appeal to remember animals that gave service and sacrifice in war, and support animals in need and military causes today. The 23-year-old anti-bullying ambassador from Bristol, wore a dramatic cloak made up of thousands of knitted purple poppies sent from all corners of the country and Canada, Australia, America and New Zealand, at the Animals in War Memorial in Hyde Park just ahead of National Purple Poppy Day on August 23, 2019.

Kobi-Jean says she was honoured to have been chosen to launch the appeal and wear with pride the cloak of many poppies made by hundreds of kind-hearted people. She said, "I have always been an animal lover, and so it was a great honour for me to have been asked to launch this year's appeal to support such a worthy cause."

We have been both astonished and humbled by the way the Great British public have taken the cause to their hearts. The animal charity Blue Cross have been selling boxes of our emblematic purple poppy pin badges in its high street shops and across its hospitals, clinics and rehoming services. Meanwhile, our network of organisations, pet stores, schools and supporters across the UK have been busy too. Last year we were pleased to sell 5,000 badges. This year we are set to sell an astonishing 250,000 thanks to our army of ambassador volunteers who are enthusiastically selling them across the UK and abroad.

**Alan Carr and Susan Osborne**  
co-Founders of the War Horse Memorial

[www.thewarhorsememorial.org](http://www.thewarhorsememorial.org)



## BADGER CULL – THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

On the 9th of September, the BBC reported that Professor Randal Munro, former chair of a committee with responsibility for assessing the impact of the badger culls, had written to Natural England to say that the badger culls were inflicting "huge suffering" on badgers while failing to reduce the incidence of TB in cattle. According to the BBC's report, Professor Munro has said that between 3000 and 9000 badgers are likely to have suffered "immense pain."

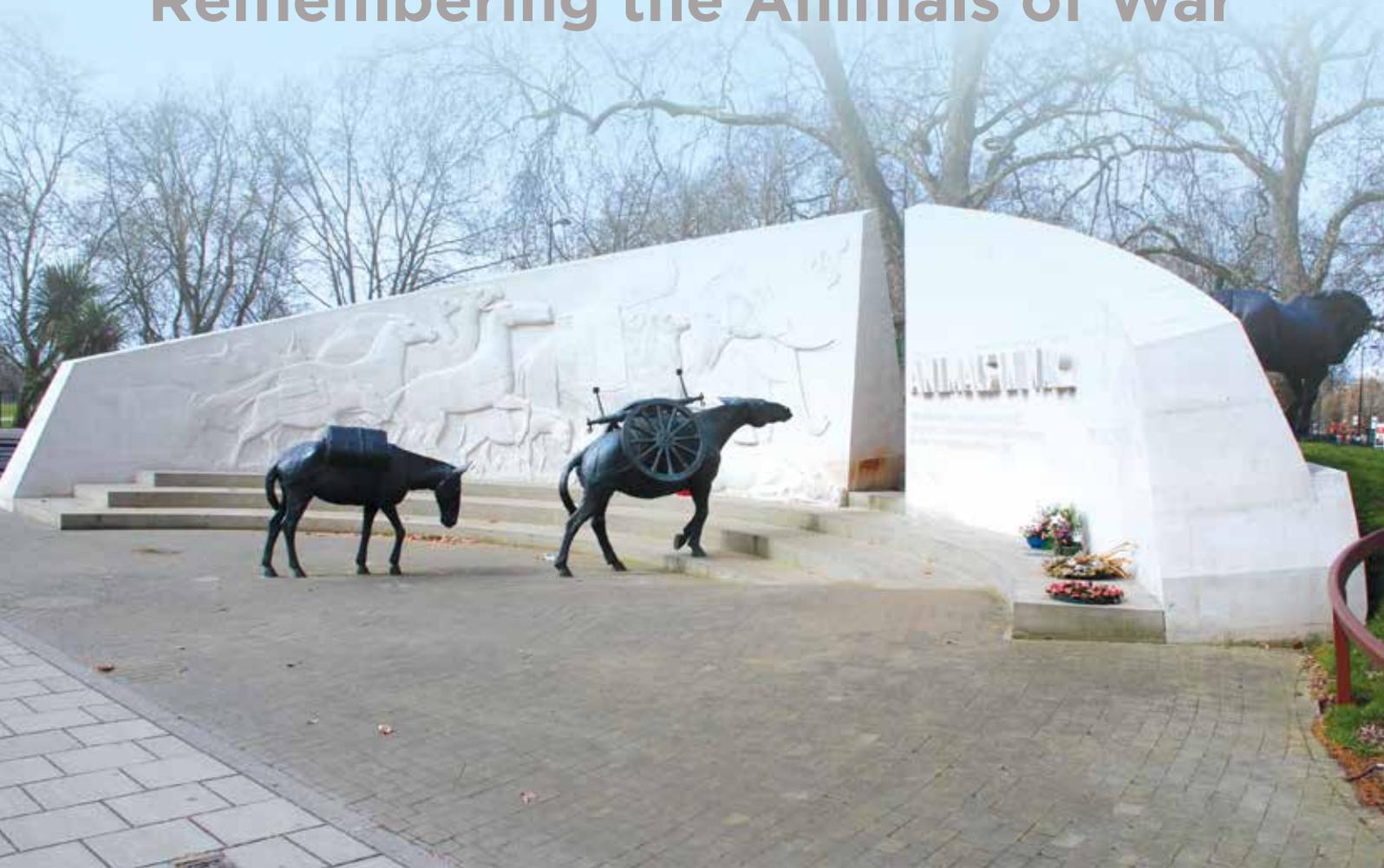
This is obviously very disturbing, as is the assessment that the badger culls are not having the intended effect on cattle TB rates. Just prior to the BBC's report, the Badger Trust wrote to the Prime Minister to ask him to stop a planned expansion of the badger culls to Oxfordshire and Derbyshire. The controversial cull of badgers, a protected species in the UK, continues to be government policy. The evidence so far seems to show that it is not having the desired effect and is

inflicting a great deal of suffering. Those of us who care about wildlife, cattle, and the prevention of animal cruelty need to let politicians know how we feel, and insist that a more scientifically valid method of controlling bovine TB be adopted.

**Jennifer Brown**

# THEY ALSO SERVED

## Remembering the Animals of War



Join us at the Animals War Memorial,  
Park Lane, London

**Sunday 10th November – 3.00pm**

A working dog and handler from the  
Metropolitan police will be our special guests

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Further details:

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals

**Tel:** 01252 843093    **Email:** [AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com](mailto:AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com)

**[www.aswa.org.uk](http://www.aswa.org.uk)**

# ANNUAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY

## Sunday 6th October



## All welcome

A SPECIAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY ON 6TH OCTOBER 2019

SPEAKER: REVD JEREMY FLETCHER

**11.00am**

**Venue:** St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, St. James's, London W1J 9LL

**Nearest Tube station:**

Piccadilly Circus (Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines) or Green Park (Piccadilly and Victoria lines)

Piccadilly Circus bus stop opposite Church - bus lines 6, 14, 19, 22, 38.

### ANGLICAN SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS

PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire  
RG27 8GT, UK. [www.aswa.org.uk](http://www.aswa.org.uk)

**Correspondance Secretary:**

Mrs Samantha Chandler

**Tel/Fax:** 01252 843093

**Email:** [AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com](mailto:AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Dr Chris Brown

**Editor:** Revd Jennifer Brown

**Email:** [animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk](mailto:animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:**

Mr Keith Plumridge

**Email:**

[aswamembership@btinternet.com](mailto:aswamembership@btinternet.com)

**Patrons:**

Dr Tony Campolo

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(Bishop of Chelmsford)

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