

108

Summer 2021

Price £2 (free to members)



# animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

HELPING CHRISTIANS ENGAGE  
WITH FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE

PET SERVICES IN LOCKDOWN

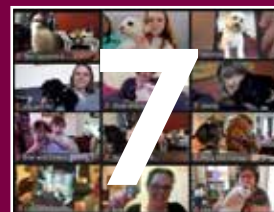
HUMANE EDUCATION  
RECONCEPTUALISED

RSPCA HIGHLIGHTS EDUCATION

# IN THIS ISSUE

HELLO AND WELCOME	3
HELPING CHRISTIANS ENGAGE WITH FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE	6
PET SERVICES IN LOCKDOWN	7
HUMANE EDUCATION RECONCEPTUALISED	8
INTERVIEW WITH ANIMAL FRIENDLY CHURCH WINNERS	9
RSPCA HIGHLIGHTS EDUCATION WORK TO HELP PREVENT CRUELTY TO ANIMALS	11
YOUNG MEMBERS' PAGE	13
ASWA AGM 2021	14

Cover image: Joseph Watson on Unsplash



## 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.

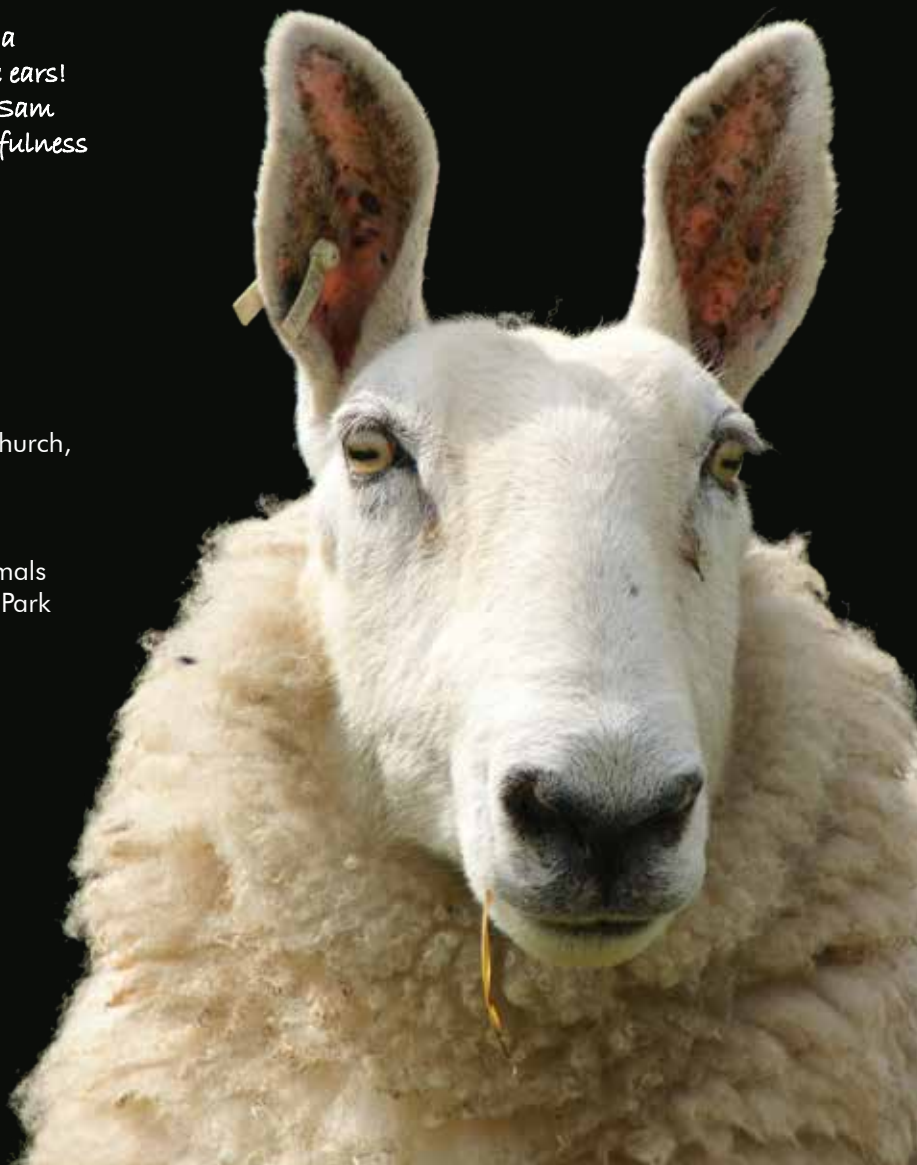
Below are some great events ewe may enjoy!

**Sunday 3 October**  
Animal Welfare Sunday.

ASWA Annual Service, St Botolph's Church, Boston, Lincolnshire, 11am.

**Sunday 14 November**  
ASWA Remembrance Service for Animals in War, The Animals' War Memorial, Park Lane, London, 3pm.

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 projects educating people about animal welfare. This issue also contains our Young Members' Page and reports of pet services during lockdown.

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 information about our annual service.

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 Autumn magazine is **Monday 9th August 2021**.

## 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.**

We are pleased to welcome four new members who have joined since the publication of the Spring 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.

## 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 typed manuscripts 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.

## ASWA MERCHANDISE

**ASWA Christmas card now available!**



Once again, Thea Olrog has created a unique design exclusively for the ASWA Christmas card. The card will be available to order from September, 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.

**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.

**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 each.



# GOOD NEWS

## British government recognises animal sentience in law

In May of this year, the UK Government introduced the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill, which will enshrine animal sentience in UK domestic law. It will now be recognised in law that vertebrate animals experience feelings, such as joy and pain. Animal sentience will now have to be taken into account when Government policies are developed. It is hoped that this new bill will help to reduce cruelty and suffering and to promote animal welfare. Let us also hope that this bill will also result in the needs of animals being given greater weight when decisions are made on trade, infrastructure, and housing development across the UK.

## 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](http://www.aswa.org.uk).



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

### Animal-friendly Church award

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 on Sunday 3rd October at St Botolph's Church, Boston, Lincolnshire. See the diary for more details.

### Keeping in Touch

Interested in keeping up-to-date with what ASWA is doing? Want to hear about campaigns and activities relating to animal welfare? If so, please make sure we've got your email address so that we can send you occasional updates on what's happening. To join our mailing list, please send your email address to [aswamembership@btinternet.com](mailto:aswamembership@btinternet.com).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dear Editor

I ask people who belong to ASWA to write to the Secretary of State for Environment and Agriculture, George Eustace. I urge you to ask him to stop factory farming that causes suffering to chickens, and also leads to bovine tuberculosis. We must have all free range for all animals that have to be killed for food. We also need to end farrowing units for pigs. The sow cannot move and it is brutal to the mother and litter of piglets.

### Victor Rones

### Dear Editor

My husband (who is also an ASWA member and a Franciscan) and I are lifelong Christians, but whereas my husband attended church I felt I could not. The reason I didn't go to church was because it was at odds with my ethical veganism, for example, readings from the Old Testament often have sacrificial elements to them. And when there is fundraising or socialising there is always an animal element to it – bacon sandwiches, barbecues etc.

I run an animal rights group and have been involved in animal rights most of my life. My group's focus is on peace and love and kindness to all. It isn't always easy but neither is being a Christian. My friend (a female vegan vicar) told me that if I wanted things to change I needed to be on the inside rather than on the outside so I started going along with my husband to our local church, but in part this was because the vicar we had at that time was a Franciscan, and Franciscans follow the teachings of St Francis of Assisi who is the patron saint of animals and (more recently) of the environment.

Over the time we have been there we have quietly mentioned that we are

vegan, left leaflets on the side table and tried to be good role models. But I know that there is an increasing number of vegans in the church and within the clergy. I know this because I run a campaigning group called Peace And Love Begin On Your Plate (PALBOYP), and Brian and I and a friend are the only lay vegans in it, whereas the others are all vegan clergy. There are also many Christian Vegan groups, as well as ASWA and Christian Vegetarians and Vegans UK (their present spokesperson is in our campaigning group) and Eco-Church (with whom we are in the early stages of working).

The aim of our group (PALBOYP) is to promote veganism in our churches by looking at it from a number of angles: the environmental impact, encouraging younger churchgoers to attend and participate (as they are more likely to be in tune with environmental issues), and promoting the true Christian message which is love of all God's creatures. Indeed 'veganism' is already discussed within the Bible (see Genesis 1:29 and Isaiah 11:1-9)

We know that veganism is everywhere, everyone knows what a vegan is, and it is very easy to access. There is a disconnect between talking about peace and love in church then going home to eat a meal consisting of a dead animal. I have stood outside enough slaughterhouses to know what a horrific, barbaric and completely unnecessary death awaits these terrified animals whom I see. The environmental impact caused by animal agriculture and commercial fishing is destroying our planet and is actually the biggest source of greenhouse emissions and pollution, but the church currently does little to help protect God's planet and its inhabitants and we aim to change that.

**Debbie Patterson**

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## AUSTRALIA



### Changes to animal welfare law expected

I'm pleased to report that there is an expectation that cruelty laws will be considerably strengthened in New South Wales. The stronger laws have been passed in the Upper House of Parliament, and need now to pass in the Lower House. There would be provision for a large increase in fines and more custodial sentences. At last! What would be even better would be that laws were standardised across the country, but we have eight state governments in addition to the Federal Government. It is sometimes said that we are over-governed.

A big win for animals in New Zealand – in 2008 New Zealand stopped live exports by sea, but a legal loophole meant that pregnant cows could still be exported. This will now end. This is really great news. This was helped along by much lobbying by the New Zealand community supported by animal groups in Australia. If only Australia would follow suit. Currently 90,000 Australian dairy cows are exported annually.

The Animal Justice Party is campaigning strongly against puppy farms. They are banned in a couple of states in Australia, which is good, but unfortunately the laws are very weak in New South Wales, so operators of these farms tend to move into New South Wales. It is hoped the campaign will deter local councils from permitting their establishment.

The beaches in Australia are absolutely beautiful, but very occasionally some unfortunate person is attacked by a shark. This has prompted some local councils to install netting under the water. This practice results in the death of many sea creatures, including turtles, dolphins and rays. A few councils are looking for more humane ways to prevent shark attacks. I do hope this is successful. After all, the sea is their home. We are the trespassers.

**Olga Parkes**

## SWEDEN



### Reactions to new permissive hunting law



During the past twelve years it is estimated that the hedgehog population has decreased by 40%, mainly due to traffic and environmental pollution. They are seen to be more vulnerable than many other mammals, perhaps because they are nocturnal. They are also under threat from badgers and eagle-owls. It's a great sadness the hedgehog is now on the red list and classed as strongly threatened.

The government has introduced a new law allowing the hunting and shooting of blackbirds and fox cubs. Animal rights organisations have, of course, reacted strongly against this for several reasons apart from the obvious ethical and compassionate ones. Cubs should be allowed to live with their mothers and grow to adulthood. Killing a cub is unacceptable.

Shooting blackbirds because they are seen as a disturbance is causing strong reactions. Not only for ethical reasons but also because the blackbird is Sweden's national bird – a symbol of Sweden! They may also be shot during their second nesting period which of course is causing dismay among those in the general public who are aware of this law.

Ending on a more positive note the Facebook group called "Fåglar inpå knuten", ("Birds close by") has gone from a few thousand members to over 123,000 members in a short period of time and is now steadily attracting new members. Anyone who likes birds may join, with or without a camera, and submit observations or cellphone pics or professional pics to the group. There is hope in the midst of despair!

**Sandra Kinley**

## SOUTH AFRICA



### Cleo's Tale

During mid-2020, I noticed a very young feral cat and a tiny feral kitten scratching among the garbage bins in our neighbourhood. Nobody knew where they had come from, so I began to feed them regularly, early each morning and then later in the afternoon. They were so hungry! Sadly, the beautiful striped tabby kitten was run over and killed by a passing motorist; we buried him in our garden.

I continued to feed the little feral cat and eventually a friend and I trapped her and took her to the vet to be spayed and inoculated. She was so traumatised by this episode that she disappeared for a few days; but then she gradually started coming into our garden for her food. I called her "Cleo" because her beautiful green eyes are black-lined just like Cleopatra. Cleo now sits on my lap every evening to watch the BBC news and our local television programmes. She also sleeps on my bed with three other ex-feral cats – a total transformation which still seems unbelievable.

**Anne Hemmings**

---

## ASWA NEWS

### Supporting the work of CreatureKind

The ASWA Committee are pleased to announce that we have recently been able to contribute £5000 to the work of CreatureKind for the development of liturgical resources. These resources will focus on animal welfare and will follow the liturgical calendar, including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. We look forward to seeing the results of this project. For more information about CreatureKind and their work, visit <https://www.becreaturekind.org/>.

# HELPING CHRISTIANS ENGAGE WITH FARMED ANIMAL WELFARE

Two hundred years ago, Christians were at the forefront of a successful campaign to make cruelty to farmed animals illegal for the first time in the UK. The Martin Act was passed in 1822. The Christian campaigners had good reason: they understood that farmed animals were creatures of God entitled to protection from cruel treatment. Two centuries on, the Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare (CEFAW) project is developing resources to help Christians reconnect concern for farmed animal welfare with their faith and take action in response.

CEFAW is a three-year partnership between a research team with expertise in Christian ethics and veterinary farmed animal welfare science, UK churches, and other organizations with interests in farmed animal welfare (including ASWA, -Editor). The Church of England is one of six major UK church partners, represented by Revd Dr Mark Betson, its National Rural Officer. In November 2021, CEFAW published a 60-page report, *The Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare: A Policy Framework for Churches and Christian Organizations*. We're hoping that the framework will be a catalyst for churches at local, regional, and national level to get to grips with appropriate policy and practice in relation to a pressing ethical question with implications for the lives of millions of farmed animals. The Framework also has implications for the practice of other Christian organizations such as church schools, Christian charities, Christian ethical investors, and so on.

The Framework sets out why farmed animal welfare should be a concern for Christians, proposes a Christian approach to farmed animal welfare based on the flourishing of humans and farmed animals, assesses the extent to which current UK farming systems enable the flourishing of farmed animals, and states conclusions and recommendations for the practice of churches and other Christian organizations, farmers, food retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers, Christian investors, and policymakers. The Framework can be downloaded from the project website, [https://](https://www1.chester.ac.uk/christian-ethics-farmed-animal-welfare/)

[www1.chester.ac.uk/christian-ethics-farmed-animal-welfare/](https://www1.chester.ac.uk/christian-ethics-farmed-animal-welfare/) cefaw-policy-framework, where you can also find a short animated video introducing the project. Free print copies are available on request.

The involvement of church partners has been crucial to CEFAW's success to date. Having churches and other partner organizations involved from the beginning has helped ensure the academic research has been shaped throughout by the questions that are of concern to churches. A consistent theme from the churches in the first 18 months of the project has been the importance of recognizing the very difficult position of UK animal farmers struggling with changing consumer attitudes, climate change policy, Brexit, potential post-Brexit trade deals, and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visits to see how animals are being farmed in the UK have also been a crucial part of the project. Members of the Research Team together with representatives of partner organizations have had the chance to discuss farmed animal welfare in the context of first-hand experience of how animals are being raised. Site visits have included a wide range of species and different welfare levels. The contrast between seeing pigs raised intensively in crowded indoor sheds and outdoors according to organic standards was particularly striking.

The project has responded to a public enquiry on the gene-editing of farmed animals, a Defra consultation on national food strategy, and most recently has produced a briefing on farm animal welfare issues in the Agriculture Bill that was circulated to bishops and other peers in advance of the Bill's Second Reading in the House of Lords. A project blog also made the case against the intensification of animal agriculture in response to the climate crisis.

We are already making plans beyond the initial three-year term of the project. We are awaiting news of an application for a further year of funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council that

will focus on working with teachers to develop teaching resources based on the project for use in schools and theological training institutions. We are also making plans for a successor project engaging US churches with the very different context of US animal agriculture.

If you're interested in how your church, school, or Christian organization could connect its Christian mission with farmed animal welfare, especially in relation to the consumption of animal products, do take a look at the Policy Framework, find the recommendations relevant for you, and consider discussing how they could be implemented in your church or organization. If you have questions about any of that, we'd love to hear from you. Visit the CEFAW website (<https://www1.chester.ac.uk/christian-ethics-farmed-animal-welfare/>) for contact details.

**Prof David Clough**  
**University of Chester**



# PET SERVICES IN LOCKDOWN

## Purrr-fect pet service

The youth group at Ripon College Cuddesdon love to talk about their pets and decided to put together an all-age Zoom pet service for the whole community. They worked hard for three weeks to plan a service of celebration and thanksgiving for all our animal companions, past and present. We met lots of lovely, interesting pets and were even treated to a music video of 'Our God is a Great Big God' with actions performed by the dogs of the community.

One of our young people, Emma, tells us more:

*"A few of the Ripon College children got together to design a wonderful pet service filled with animal videos, hymns, Bible verses, and a prayer: all filled with fun. It was decided that animals through the Bible/history need to be noticed and remembered. Taking all of this into account, they also stuffed the service with humour as it was for all ages. It was a fun event that put smiles on everyone's faces."*

**Angie Kately, with contributions from Emma, and members of the youth group**

## Ripon College Cuddesdon

*Editor's note: Ripon College Cuddesdon (RCC) is an Anglican theological college. Members of the youth group are young people who have a parent (or parents!) training for ordination at RCC.*

## St John's Church, Ben Rhydding Animal Blessing Service

St John's held their regular service on Zoom this year (because of the pandemic) and were delighted, on Feb 20th, to have twenty-four households – across a wide age-range – bringing their animals to show and be prayed for. We had dogs, cats, chickens and guinea pigs – and many of these were introduced personally and had their lovely coats admired!

Prayers were offered for farmed animals and those in the wild, and we were reminded in our final blessing of our responsibility to care for all animals ranging across our earth. We were glad to have the company of Robbie Moore, our MP, who shared about an animal welfare issue he is currently working on in Parliament, involving legislating for heavier sentencing for animal-cruelty offenders.

Doing things differently was rather fun, and meant that we could include cats and chickens, which might not have been too happy in our church building side-by-side with other animals!

**Sylvia Walker**

*Human and animal members of RCC attending the pet service*



## OBITUARY

### Revd Eric Lindsay

It is with sadness that we report the death of the Revd Eric Lindsay, who died earlier this year, aged 90. Born in South Africa, Mr Lindsay came to the UK to study before serving in a variety of parish posts between 1957 and his retirement in 1998. Mr Lindsay very kindly left a donation to ASWA in his will, and we are grateful for his generosity and concern for animals that moved him to make this gift.

## TALKING POINT

### Can you teach kindness?

Can kindness be taught? We can talk about the need for kindness. We can explain why others are deserving of and in need of kindness. But will any of that make someone kind? Or is the best way to teach kindness to model it – in how we treat those that we love, the creatures that God loves, and those who would not necessarily be kind to us? Jesus didn't just talk about forgiveness, he modelled it right to his last breath. If we want to see more kindness in the world, don't we need to do something similar?

# HUMANE EDUCATION RECONCEPTUALISED



Humane education is seen as a means by which it is possible to nurture compassion for all living things. Yet how can we achieve this outcome when so many disadvantaged communities in South Africa suffer the ravages of poverty and are often very afraid of the neglected dogs that roam the streets in informal settlements?

With this in mind, the Humane Education Trust embarked on a pilot project based on the Five Freedoms for Animals as endorsed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The principles contained in the Five Freedoms appeal to an understanding that is innate in every one of us – the need for justice and respect. And if this is what we readily understand for ourselves, the question is, can we extrapolate it to the ‘other’ – including animals.

Thus, with permission from the principal, we took our Five Freedoms for Animals pilot programme into a school on the outskirts of Cape Town to assess its impact on learner behaviour. Over a period of three terms, a class of 42 Grade 3 learners (aged approximately 9 years old) were familiarised with the principals of the Five Freedoms. By the end of the third term, they demonstrated their understanding of the issues by performing a puppet play that has since been broadcast on national television SABC2’s *Issues of Faith* on three different occasions! The play can be seen at <https://youtu.be/qDkXnoOoloE>.

A formal academic assessment of the impact of the programme showed a positive response by every single learner and will be incorporated in a new handbook on humane education compiled by the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. Class teacher Vivienne Rutgers

commented that the learners had begun to show the early manifestations of empathy for animals as a direct result of the Five Freedoms programme. She reported, “An example is the discussion I overheard in the playground. A dove was sun-bathing nearby, extending its wing to catch the rays of warmth. Two nine-year-old boys saw this and the one said to the other, ‘See! That’s Freedom from Pain, Injury and Disease.’ ‘No, it’s not,’ retorted the other, ‘that’s Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour.’ They amicably argued the point. Our Five Freedoms programme had opened a new window of curiosity for them that would otherwise have remained closed. If they had not been exposed to the humane education programme, they probably would not have even noticed the bird or, based on my experience, they may well have decided to chase it away by throwing stones at it. On another occasion, we unlocked the classroom for the day’s schoolwork to begin, only to find a little bird had somehow been shut in all night. It perched on the rail above one of the windows and was clearly traumatised by the sudden surge of 42 children into the room. Before the introduction of the Caring Classrooms programme, I believe the children would have caused pandemonium trying to catch the bird. Instead, they heard me... I said, ‘Sit quietly, I’ll open the window, and we will be patient while the bird finds its way out.’ The little bird took a significant amount of time to do this but as it hopped nearer to the open window, one child whispered, ‘nearly there’, as encouragement to the bird. To hear that whisper, all 42 children had to have been as quiet as mice. Then several of the children whispered, ‘nearly there’ with every hop the bird took in the right direction. And we all whooped when it finally flew out. That ‘nearly there’ whisper of encouragement was empathy in action across species, and I hadn’t seen it before.”

Ms Rutgers also observed that, “The children spontaneously extrapolated their understanding of the Five Freedoms not only to other animals, but to themselves too! ‘Don’t bully me,’ I heard one small girl say, ‘I’m a sentient being. I have feelings too.’ It was said in all earnestness. She understood the Five Freedoms and their implications better than she understood her own child rights in the South African Constitution. What she said was something no-one could argue about and the young bully boy was stuck for a retort.”

The Humane Education Trust’s programme starts with dogs at this early age but as learners grow older, the lesson plans invite them to consider our relationship with all animals. So far more than 1000 teachers are using the free lesson plans available online for download at [www.caringclassrooms.co.za](http://www.caringclassrooms.co.za). The Humane Education Trust believe many more will come on board as the programme moves into the higher grades. Your support of this endeavor would be immensely appreciated. Anyone who wishes to donate to the programme can visit <https://www.payfast.co.za/donate/go/thehumaneeducationtrust>.

**Louise van der Merwe**



# INTERVIEW WITH ANIMAL FRIENDLY CHURCH WINNERS, ST MARY THE VIRGIN, TICEHURST & ST MARY-AT-LATTON, HARLOW



Rev. Lynn Hurry of St Mary-at-Latton

We invited the two churches who were joint-winners of Animal Friendly Church 2020 to talk to us about winning the award. Here we share the responses to our interview questions from Penny Evans of St Mary the Virgin, Ticehurst, East Sussex, and Rev. Lynn Hurry of St Mary-at-Latton, Harlow, Essex.

**Congratulations on winning this year's Animal-friendly Church award. What does it mean to you that your church has received this award?**

*Penny:* There's a lovely photo of a pet service at our church from the 1960's (very well attended!), so a love of animals goes back a long way. We've really enjoyed reviving that tradition in recent years through an annual pet/animal welfare service. A range of serious contemporary issues – biodiversity loss, climate change, and now the increasing awareness of zoonotic viruses, has prompted us to reflect deeply on the human impact on animals and their habitats, and God's call to us to be partners in the healing of all things created. We were surprised and delighted to hear that we had been chosen as joint winners of the ASWA Animal Friendly Church of the Year Award, which has given us a wonderful opportunity to share our beliefs and values more widely.

*Lynn:* At Latton we are delighted to have won the award. We are members of inclusive church and so to have the award shows our inclusivity extends to God's wonderful creatures too.



Rev. Ashley & Mrs Penny Evans of St Mary the Virgin, Ticehurst

Our strap line is 'Whoever you are and wherever you are on the journey, you are welcome here'. Well those words include animals too. It's great to have our work with God's creatures recognised and we can promote ourselves as an Animal Friendly Church with confidence.

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

*Penny:* We registered as an Eco Church at the beginning of 2019, and have been hugely enthused by the scheme, achieving our Silver Award status last summer. Throughout this process, the PCC and the wider congregation have been very supportive of our actions, which have prompted discussion, reflection, study and action. We also engage as much as possible with the wider community, particularly over practical care of our churchyard and other church land, so that it feels more like a whole-community effort. The local Scout Beaver group, with the help of a local enthusiast, have helped to make our bird boxes, bat boxes and bug hotels, which I'm glad to say are well used, and the pet service is always popular.

*Lynn:* Many folk in our church family also promote animal welfare in the ways they live their lives and encourage others by taking the opportunity to speak about animals in their work places, on the allotments, in schools, among families and friends, etc. They love any

opportunity to bring their pets to church. Being an Animal-Friendly Church is important and natural to many. It's part of our calling as Christians and good to see it recognised.

**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?**

*Penny:* I think yes in church and yes in the wider community! We use every reasonable opportunity to raise awareness of animal welfare issues in our prayers, worship services, songs and sermons, but also through projects inspired by our churchyard activity. This includes writing articles in the local village magazine and posting regular updates on our church and village Facebook pages. Our achieving this award has generated a lot of interest not only in the church, but also in the local community, in the deanery and in the diocese! We were even interviewed on local radio and were the subject of a long feature article in the diocesan 'Faith in Sussex' magazine. The award has helped people to realise how relevant Christian faith is to the most pressing issues of the day and how much we are doing to advocate for the healing of the planet.

*Lynn:* I believe so, as I receive a lot more emails where people share things relating to animal welfare and folk wanting to write articles. People are keen to do much more to raise the awareness of just how much abuse takes place. A number of people have said to me, "Oh you're from the church that helps animals aren't you. Every church should do what you do!" And I even took a funeral recently of someone who had requested, "I want the vicar from the church that cares about animals and won that award, to take my funeral." That felt such a privilege to take.

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

*Penny:* So much of what we do relates in some way to caring for

animals, whether that be our worship, what cleaning products we use, our churchyard management, or the food we serve at church events! Our worship includes regular references to animals, animal welfare, and issues relating to domestic, farmed and wild animals and their habitats. We hold an annual pet/animal welfare service where animals can be blessed. The service is followed by refreshments for both animals and humans! Of course some pets would be highly stressed by attending in person, and so we encourage photos to be brought too. One of the major projects we have focused on over recent years has been enhancing our churchyard for wildlife: some areas are now managed as a summer meadow; we have installed bird boxes, bug hotels, a bat roost and a hedgehog house; we take part in the Churches Count on Nature event which draws in the whole community; we are planning projects to encourage swifts and hedgehogs which will include discussing issues over their decline. In general terms we try to reflect on animal welfare impacts across the range of our activities, creating a culture whereby we understand ourselves as co-creators of a flourishing world.



*Lynn:* We welcome animals into the building and have regular pet services. We provide safe havens for animals, leaving them food and housing, such as bat, hedgehog, and bug houses, bird boxes, etc. We have bird feeders in the churchyard and water bowls for pets and wildlife. We support animal charities, sponsor donkeys, preach and pray about animals and creation, write about animal issues, raise awareness of the cruelty and abuse of animals, and promote animal welfare in a number of ways.

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


*Penny:* Throughout the Bible we see a God who delights in all parts of creation and calls us to care deeply and compassionately for animals and the created world. A greater focus on creation themes says something really important about who we are, and what sort of God we worship. It draws people across the generations to us, especially today, post-pandemic, where the links between human justice issues and planetary/animal justice issues are so deeply interconnected. My top tip would be to take things slowly, try to involve the whole church

as you move forward and avoid pointing a finger or criticising! Offer delicious vegan meals at events, and I guarantee people will be pleasantly surprised! For us, starting with the churchyard was a good move – it was already a space that was well used by the wider community, and so from an early stage we involved them in the decision making. This project was non-threatening, fun, and church members could see how it was drawing the wider community in. It has helped to generate a desire amongst the church community to discuss and study issues around faith and the natural world, so that gradually care of the planet is becoming a core value of our church culture.

*Lynn:* Just get on with it and make a start, perhaps with simple things that are easy to do such as putting up bird boxes, hanging fat balls, add animals to your intercessions, hold something like a Lent course around a creation theme. Sign up to Eco Church: A Rocha UK's' award scheme for churches who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. So much there will encourage you to promote animal welfare whilst caring for the environment. And hold a pet service. They are such fun, and our experience is that the animals never make a mess and always sing beautifully!

## ARE YOU AN ANIMAL FRIENDLY CHURCH?



**Christians have a sacred duty to care for God's Creation**

The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals is now awarding 'Animal Friendly Church' certificates to churches which practise and promote a compassionate attitude towards God's creatures.

Applicants will also be automatically entered into our annual **'ASWA Animal Friendly Church of the Year Award'**

The Winner will receive a hamper full of ethical and useful goodies for your Church and a plaque to display on your wall.

For further details visit our website

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

or apply in writing to: PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT

**T:** 01252 843093 • **E:** [AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com](mailto:AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com)

# RSPCA HIGHLIGHTS EDUCATION WORK TO HELP PREVENT CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

## The 'P' in our name is for Prevention

Educating children and young people about animals' needs is key in creating a kinder society in the future, according to the RSPCA. Now the charity is highlighting its important education work which helps young people understand and respect animals and aims to prevent cruelty towards animals in the future.

The RSPCA has four education hubs at animal centres that delivered Wild Things projects to 7,500 young people in 2020. These include RSPCA Newbrook Farm Animal Centre in Birmingham, Mallydams Wildlife Centre in Hastings, Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre in Cheshire, and West Hatch Wildlife and Animal Centre in Somerset.

Dave Allen, Head of Education and Prevention at the RSPCA, said, "We believe educating the next generation about animal welfare is key if we are to achieve our mission to prevent animal cruelty. We hope to inspire the next generation of animal lovers and create a kinder society for both people and animals. As well as teaching children about animals' needs, many of our programmes also equip them with the skills they need to become compassionate individuals in all aspects of their life."

The education teams offer face-to-face and online sessions with children and young people in their communities, from coming to the centre to learn about nature to giving talks in schools. They also run projects such as Paws for Change, which is now an online course where young people learn about their dogs' behaviour to help them to have more harmonious relationships together. Breaking the Chain is an intervention programme which explores and tackles the issues surrounding young people and animal cruelty. It is produced with the help and guidance of teachers and Youth Offending Teams.

In 2020, 3,000 primary schools and home educators took part in Compassionate Class which supplies lesson plans and resources for teachers to use for KS1 and KS2 pupils and is now developing resources for SEND pupils too.

The Great Debate which sees secondary school students take part

in regional heats debating both sides of an animal welfare issue before competing for a place in the final reached over 1,000 secondary school students last year.

## Spotlight on Compassionate Family

The charity has recently launched Compassionate Family which provides online resources for parents to teach their children about animals' needs at home. During the pandemic, more parents than ever were home-schooling, and there has also been a huge surge in pet ownership. The activities, which focus on the welfare of dogs, cats, and rabbits, can help prepare those families who are thinking about getting a pet, or help those who have recently bought or adopted a pet, to learn more about their animal's needs and behaviour.

The programme begins by introducing the concept of compassion and outlining the animal's needs. There are then a range of discovery activities for parents and children to complete together. The final section is advocacy which brings together their learning and encourages the family to champion animal welfare in a creative and imaginative way. This could be carrying out a litter pick, creating a wildlife friendly garden, or keeping an eye out for higher welfare labels like RSPCA Assured when shopping.

## Spotlight on Teamworx in the Midlands

The scheme is run by Laura Khan at the RSPCA Newbrook Farm Education Centre in Birmingham, PCSO Keturah Coyle and PC Matthew Shakespeare at West Midlands Police. It is a six-week programme aimed at teaching animal welfare to primary school aged children in the West Midlands using a range of fun activities.

The education centre in Birmingham has remained open during the pandemic, with an increase in demand for their services providing vital education and some light relief through what has been a particularly challenging year for children and young people.

The children take part in activities such as creating habitats for different animals, learning about unhealthy and healthy food for rabbits and

creating balanced meals for the rabbits in the centre's care. They also take part in scanning soft toys for microchips using a microchip scanner and reuniting the soft toys with their 'owners'. All the activities give the children a real insight into the work of the RSPCA and teaches them why animal welfare is so important, as well as equipping them with the skills to become compassionate and caring adults in the future.

## Campaigning to have animal welfare included in education

The charity would like to see animal welfare being taught in schools and continues to campaign to ensure that the needs of animals are included in education.

Dave Allen, Head of Education and Prevention at the RSPCA, added, "The RSPCA is continuing to call on the Governments in England and Wales to include animal welfare in education. We believe that this would help to prevent cruelty in the future by equipping the next generation with an understanding and knowledge of animals' needs.

"Teaching animal welfare in schools would also help children develop key life skills including compassion and empathy and will help to create a kinder generation and benefit society as a whole.

"We know that this is something the public strongly agree on, with 78% of people polled saying they would like to see animal welfare included in education."

Educating the younger generation in animal welfare is one of the charity's top priorities and the RSPCA aims to reach half a million young people by 2030 as part of an effort to reduce animal cruelty and neglect in England and Wales by half in the next 10 years. The aim is to galvanise young people around animal welfare and nurture a generation which is instinctively kind and compassionate to animals.

For more information about the education work of the RSPCA visit: <https://education.rspca.org.uk/>

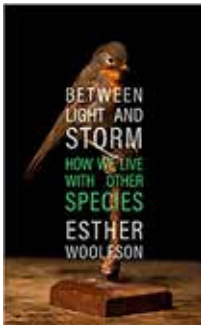
**Emily Stott**

**RSPCA**

## BOOK REVIEWS

**BETWEEN LIGHT AND STORM**  
How we live with other species  
By Esther Woolfson

Granta Books  
ISBN 978-1-783-78279-6  
368pp Hardback  
Price £20.00



This is a learned and ambitious book covering the ways in which human beings have been involved with other species since *Homo Sapiens* first evolved, and, as such, Woolfson calls on Natural History, Archaeology, Anthropology, Ethics, Philosophy and Religion. There are no footnotes, but each chapter has a very full bibliography.

This is a very special book. First, that is because of the author's personal relationship and empathy with other creatures, especially birds, foremost amongst them the rook called Chicken, her companion for many years, to whom the book is dedicated, as well as for all life. Secondly, the often poetic quality that infuses the writing of what is in effect a long, meditative essay, renders it truly memorable amongst many that have been and are being written on the subject. Both the head and the heart were clearly deeply involved in its composition and, for readers of *Animalwatch*, there is a religious background, albeit presented with a light touch, emanating from the writer's natal Judaism, a dynamic tradition whose ancient concern with the suffering of animals (p.117) and abhorrence of hunting for sport (p.218) have deep roots in the Hebrew Bible and should thus be equally applicable for those who follow the Jewish teacher Jesus.

It all began in the caves, and having as a child seen some Palaeolithic caves in the Dordogne, the account of early humans living in a world with many other species including large herbivores is enchanting; animals early became a part of human folklore that lasted. With growing sophistication came human speculation on the soul, and what made other creatures different. Certainly from Aristotle and his followers, in the West at least, a gulf has grown between our species and others.

What Jews, Christians and others of any or no religious persuasion may have

done from the origins of agriculture to today's Anthropocene with regard to other creatures has had deeply troubling consequences. Despite the quality of the writing and the humanity of the author I found myself unable to read the book all at once; so much in each chapter made me want to weep at human greed and cruelty.

Animals which were at first offered in sacrifice to the divine became a staple of diet and are nowadays reared as commodities in their millions, often in inhumane conditions in factory farms and face death with terror in some cases never having had a life. This is the theme of chapter 4. What rights do animals have in this world where humans feel they have the right to experiment on and vivisection other animals without their consent (chapter 5)? Humans have shot and otherwise killed animals in order to stuff them and preserve them in museums or indeed in their houses (chapter 6), hunting and killing is often sanctioned by tradition, which includes whaling, hunting migratory birds and indeed religious festivals – yes, that certainly includes the Christmas turkey and Paschal lamb! (chapter 7). Of course, hunting, including big game hunting and the shooting of grouse in the author's native Scotland (chapter 8) is discussed. Another chapter chronicles the bludgeoning of baby seals, and the trapping or rearing of animals, foxes, mink, chinchilla, rabbits and others for their fur, again treating other animals as mere commodities (chapter 9). Chapter 10 is entitled 'What is Love? And, even here, we find that love can be problematic: The rearing of pets, sometimes to produce breeds that catch the fancy of humans but have health problems is cruel and unnecessary and what about unloved animals, and of course the pet-meat trade?

The charge sheet is long and could have been longer if a chapter on the factory trawling for fish had been included. This lament for human loss of innocence, perpetrated it has to be said more by men, the slaughterers, hunters and fur trappers, than by women, inevitably leads to thoughts about how humans have treated and are treating each other through wars and genocides. But the elegiac tone, chronicling what we have lost, is shot through with hope, by reading of those who have said no, and above all by the radiance of Esther Woolfson's love and hope through all. She ends with the words, "The 'Angel of

History' seems indelible, an image of flown doves and coming storms and I know it will not be washed away, even by the autumn rains" will surely become a classic for all who seek harmony between our species and our fellow creatures.

**Martin Henig**

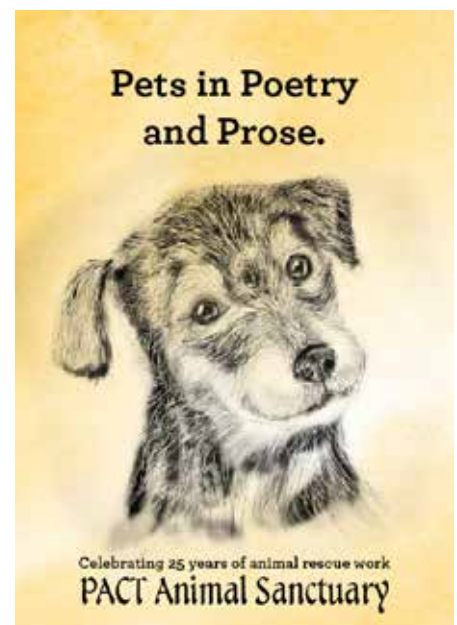
**PETS IN POETRY AND PROSE**  
Celebrating 25 years of PACT  
Animal Sanctuary

Price £15.00  
Available from PACT Animal  
Sanctuary, [www.pactsanctuary.org](http://www.pactsanctuary.org)

ASWA readers who like poetry might be interested in this lovely collection of poetry, stories, memories and illustrations which celebrates 25 years of the PACT Animal Sanctuary based in Norfolk. It is sold in memory of Chris Rockingham who was one of the co-founders of PACT. The book features a section entitled 'Pets in the Pandemic' with some reflections on the past year from an animal's point of view.

PACT is a sanctuary and rescue centre for a variety of different types of animals from dogs and cats to rodents. There is also a Wildlife Hospital on site. You can sponsor a resident animal, including a pig called Princess and an Alpaca called Maverick, and there are also animals for rehoming.

**Sam Chandler**



# 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. What is this passage about?
2. What does it tell us?
3. Why is it special?

Older children and teenagers may want to dig deeper (I love digging!) and tackle the questions that follow 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.

### Luke 13.14-16

*But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.'* But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or

*his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?'*

- What can this passage teach us about how important it is to take care of our animals?
- Jesus uses the example of caring for animals to teach about caring for each other. What can our relationships with animals teach us about how we treat other human beings?

Bible quotation from *The New Revised Standard Version*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## HILDA'S HIGHLIGHT

### Large Blue Butterfly

If you've never seen a Large Blue Butterfly, that's because they became extinct in the UK in 1979. But beginning in 1985 they were re-introduced into the British countryside and can be seen flying in several locations in Southwest England.



## ACTIVITY

Jesus often used stories, called parables, to teach people things. Can you write a story that would help people understand why we need to be kind to animals? It might be a true story about an animal you know, or it could be a made-up (fiction) story. Think about what you want people to know about animals and what you need to put into your story to make people think about how we treat animals. If you want to, you can send us your story to be included in the next Young Members' Page.



## ASWA AGM 2021

Due to the continuation of restrictions because of the COVID Pandemic, we once again opted for a Zoom AGM this year. This was held on Wednesday 16th June at 4.30pm.

We were delighted that so many of you were able to attend – certainly, far more than for an in-person meeting. We think that this may well be something that we might continue even after restrictions are lifted. Our members are based all over the country and normally only those of you who are London based are able to attend the AGM.

We welcomed our three new Committee Members, Revd Lynn Hurry and Revd Olivia Maxfield Coote – both vicars in the Chelmsford Diocese – and also Revd Dr Jaime Wright from Old St Paul's Scottish Episcopal

Church in Edinburgh. Do read more about them on our website. Revd Lynn Hurry is vicar of one of our Animal Friendly Church winners.

We were also delighted that our Editor, Revd Jennifer Brown, has agreed to another term serving on the ASWA Committee and producing *Animalwatch* for us.

The Chair, Revd Dr Helen Hall, read her annual report where she gave an overview of ASWA activities over what has been a challenging year. Both our annual service and the Remembrance Service had to be celebrated on-line due to the pandemic. We hope that we will be able to hold both physically this year if restrictions are lifted and remain so.

Sadly, once again the HMPPS Wildlife awards cannot take place physically,

but ASWA, along with our project partners, Catholic Concern for Animals, have once again made a donation to prison libraries.

The Chair thanked the Committee for their continued service and also thanked Keith Plumridge, who manages the membership database and responds so efficiently to membership queries.

A copy of the annual report and accounts are available to any of our members by request.

Once again, thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership subscriptions and donated to the society. We are most grateful for your support and encouragement.

**Samantha Chandler**  
**ASWA Secretary**

---

## HOPE: PANDORA'S BOX AND COVID-19

Pandora's Box is a perfect metaphor for the Covid pandemic – all manner of evil released into the world, with only a glimmer of hope left in the bottom of the box.

What possible hope can be gleaned from this awful pandemic which is taking so many lives and threatening to leave many in poverty?

For me, hope comes from the chance we now have to change our relationship with animals from one of exploitation to one of care and respect. Whatever the source of the virus turns out to be – pangolin or bat or some other creature – it is clear that it came from our interference with animals – eating them, imprisoning them, destroying their habitats.

In the Garden of Eden, humans were given responsibility for caring for animals, and everyone ate plants. It was the quest for knowledge that led to the Fall and humankind's exploitation of their fellow creatures – larger brains led to higher intelligence, which gave us the means to kill animals bigger, stronger, and faster than us.

We now use this intelligence to keep our fellow creatures, who suffer from pain and confinement just as we do, in factory farms that prevent them

carrying out any of their natural behaviours.

A large part of global warming, which threatens to destroy us all, is due to loss of habitat to make way for growing crops to feed animals that we then eat. Factory farms and meat markets are hotbeds for future pandemics. The World Health Organisation urges us to adopt a plant-based diet when, at the same time, cultures that were traditionally largely vegetarian, such as China, are now adopting a more Western diet based on meat and dairy.

It is easy to despair when we see pictures on the news of pangolins, dogs, rabbits, cats, etc, caged and stacked in wet markets in China, but in Europe it is little different – rabbits, animals in fur farms, and even pigs are caged and stacked in similar ways – the only difference is that it is hidden away, and we eat pigs rather than dogs, though these two species share many characteristics: intelligence, sensitivity, playfulness.

What can any of us do as individuals when faced with such abuse of animals? The Humane Society and the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals ask us to consider our diet and engage in compassionate eating. Wherever we are on our journey to

help animals we can make choices: to eat British instead of imported food, free-range instead of caged, plants instead of animals. Our spending power can set animals free to be the individuals they were created to be.

So start your compassionate eating with small steps, and let Isaiah 11: 6-9 inspire you, and remember the prayer attributed to the 4th century church father St Basil of Caesarea when next you shop for food:

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness  
Thereof. Oh God, enlarge within us the  
Sense of fellowship with all living  
Things, our brethren the animals to  
Whom thou gavest the earth as  
their home in common with us.  
We remember with shame that  
In the past we have exercised the  
High dominion of man with ruthless  
Cruelty so that the voice of the earth,  
Which should have gone up to Thee in  
Song, has been a groan of travail.  
May we realise that they live not  
For us alone but for themselves and  
For Thee, and that they love the  
sweetness  
Of life even as we, and serve Thee in their  
Place better than we in ours.*

Amen.

**Liz Hurry**

# THEY ALSO SERVED

## Remembering the Animals of War



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

**Sunday 14th November – 3.00pm**

Speakers to be confirmed

---

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 3rd October

## All welcome

A SPECIAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY  
ON SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2021, 10.30 EUCHARIST

PREACHER: REVD DR HELEN HALL - ASWA CHAIR

**Venue:** St Botolph's Church, Church Street, Boston, Lincs PE21 6NW

### 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:**

Revd 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

Mr David Coffey MRCVS

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell  
(Archbishop of York)

Rt Revd James Jones KBE  
(Former Bishop of Liverpool)

Rt Revd Richard Llewelin  
(Former Bishop of Dover)

Rt Revd John Pritchard  
(Former Bishop of Oxford)

Revd Dr Steven Shakespeare

**President:**

Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS  
(Former Bishop of Monmouth)

**Vice President:**

Revd Dr Martin Henig

**Chair:**

Revd Dr Helen Hall

