

109

Autumn 2021

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS FROM AROUND
THE WORLD

PADRAIG O'SAORAÍ

HELPING DONKEYS
IN THE HOLY LAND

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



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DORIS' DIARY

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

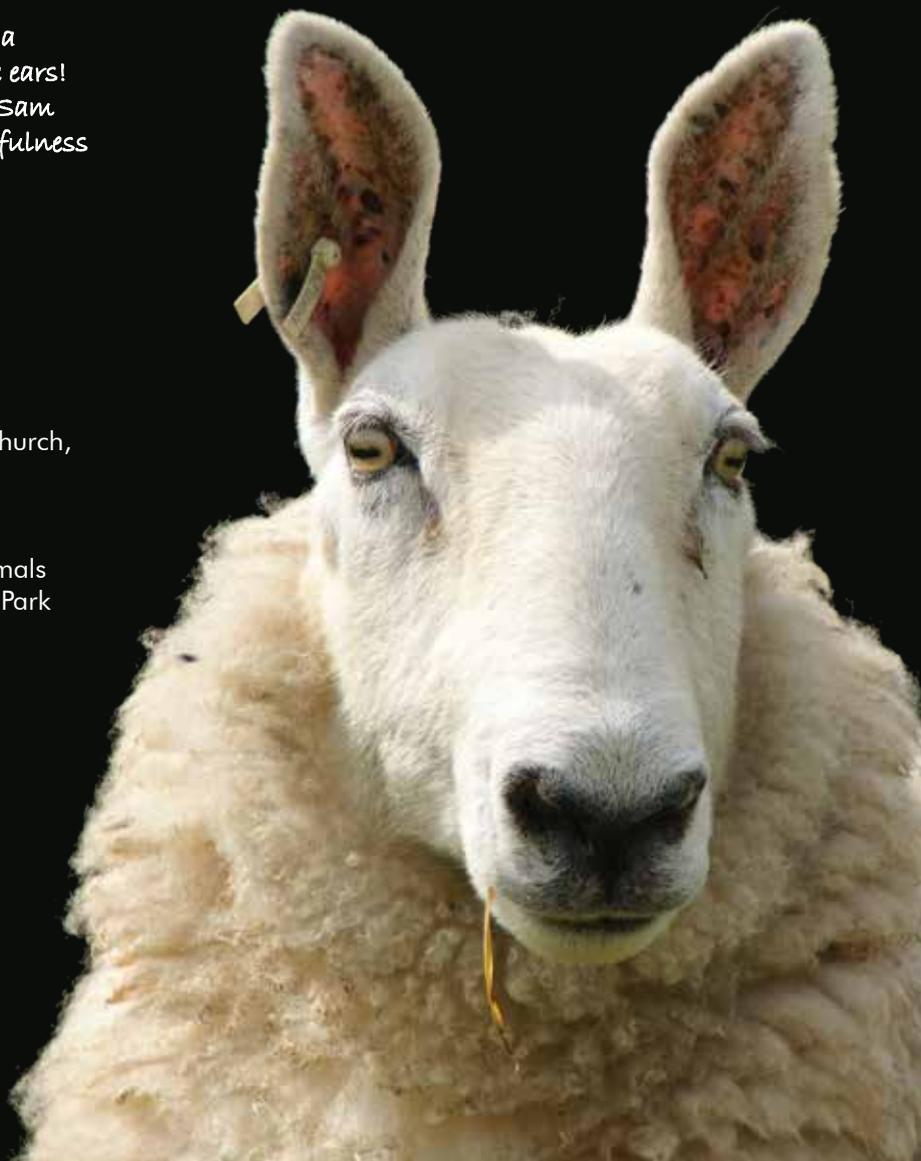
Below are some great events ewe may enjoy!

Sunday 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



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. In this issue, we focus on working animals. As part of this, we had hoped to bring you an article from Pen Farthing about the programme Nowzad has begun for working animals. Unfortunately, the desperate situation in Afghanistan has made that impossible. We pray for Pen, the Nowzad team and the animals in their care.

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 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. 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 10th January 2022**.

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 two new members who have joined since the publication of the Autumn 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 is now available and can be ordered, 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

Pen Farthing and Nowzad animals safely out of Afghanistan

Pen Farthing, founder of the Afghanistan-based animal rescue charity Nowzad, was safely evacuated from Kabul with over 100 dogs and cats rescued by Nowzad. We are hugely relieved that Pen and the animals made it to safety.

This is not unalloyed good news, however, as Nowzad's Afghan staff were not able to leave, and a similar charity, Kabul Small Animal Rescue, despite accessing the airport, were denied permission for a flight out. Their founder, Charlotte Maxwell-Jones, remains in Kabul, and their dogs were released by military personnel into the airport grounds. Their fate remains uncertain. Cats from KSAR are safe and being cared for by another organisation based in Kabul.

We give thanks for all the successful rescues from Afghanistan – human and animal – and continue to pray for those left behind.

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 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.

Supporting Evacuations from Afghanistan

ASWA was able to provide financial support to Nowzad and Kabul Small Animal Rescue to aid their efforts to evacuate from Afghanistan. We are pleased that we were able to help fund these amazing charities in their attempt to rescue staff and animals.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

For many years I have campaigned and been an advocate for farm animals in Dover, Trafalgar Square, and Ramsgate, speaking out against live exports of cattle, sheep and many other animals, such as goats.

It is horrific and cruel. The animals are not watered or given any space and with drivers beating them and police looking on or the other way.

This trade must be stamped out for ever.

We have put this forward to parliament for 50 years now and still it goes on regardless of all the promises to end this long time misery for the animals.

Victor Rones

TALKING POINT

Should we replace working animals?

Is it right that we continue to use animals as a workforce? While many working animals are valued and cared for, it's undoubtedly true that many are pushed beyond their limits and mistreated or neglected. Is it always wrong to use animals for work?

OBITUARY

We are very sad to report the death of Sarah Dunning after a long illness. Sarah served on the ASWA Committee for many years and was a valued member of the team. In more recent years, she served as Membership Secretary of Catholic Concern for Animals and as a Board member of Animals Interfaith alliance. She was passionate about animal welfare and justice for all. She leaves behind her husband Darrell and two adult children Paul and Claire. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SOUTH AFRICA

SA.MAST works to prevent rabies outbreak



Two dogs were recently diagnosed with rabies in the Khayelitsha area of the Western Cape. SA.MAST is working with the Department of Agriculture to vaccinate as many dogs and cats in the area as possible to prevent the disease spreading further.

Humans, as well as animals, can contract rabies, and it is a horrible disease. The work of SA.MAST and the government to vaccinate animals and prevent a larger outbreak is vital, and an example of how the work of animal welfare charities can benefit not just animals but also human populations.

SWEDEN

New Hope for an animal friendly future



One of my first reports from Sweden, about seven years ago, was an interview with the farmer who ran the smallholding close to the village where I live. He is pensioned now and lives in a house overlooking the farm.

The farm has for several years been run by younger people who have the kind of sentiment and drive that can make a positive impact on animal welfare and nature conservation. I spoke to Elin Ekman, who has a background in the equestrian world and has had horses for years. For various reasons she is now investing most of her time on sheep. From caring for a small herd of old stock so called Roslagsfår, protected and endangered Swedish sheep, she is fulfilling a lifelong dream of building up a flock of Valais Blacknose, originally from Switzerland. Today, she showed me her prize ram who, as a newcomer to the farm, is in quarantine until he is settled and can mingle about and graze outside without posing a health risk to the flock. He is a magnificent creature and surprisingly gentle (although he got quite perky when presented with some extra treats to nibble!).

Elin explained that all animals get ecological feed grown on their land and are used mostly for the wool and enjoyed because they are good company. Only the odd one goes to slaughter as meat. The wool is sheared by a shearer who wears handmade soft moccasins so as not to harm the sheep.

One sheep, called Cissy, lives a very good life. She was bottle-fed, as she was rejected by her mother, and today follows Elin around like a little dog, although she is fully accepted by the flock and by her previously disinterested mother.

Elin talks about the future plans of starting a breeding programme from the newly acquired Valais blacknose, and the pros and cons of doing this, but above all she cares about the importance of being part of a farm culture that respects animals and encourages the general public to see animals not as consumer items but as living sentient beings.

The village fair this summer was full of Elin's splendid vegetables and flowers grown on the farm, which, needless to say, were sold out in no time. Hope springs and grows on this farm.

Sandra Kinley



FR PADRAIG O'SAORAÍ: A PRIEST WHO STOOD UP FOR ANIMALS

I would like to pay tribute to an Irish priest, the Dublin-born Fr Padraig O'Saoraí, (or Patrick Seery) whom I knew for more than twenty years through his advocacy for animal protection causes. He served in a number of posts in his native county before moving to Athy, County Kildare. Unfortunately I lost contact with him and only recently learned that he died in 2018, in his mid 90s.

Fr O'Saoraí was famed for his sermons. They were stylistic masterpieces, reflecting his scriptural scholarship and avid reading of world literature, especially the classics. He would typically begin in a hum drum, easy-going tone, as if indulging a set routine or initiating a casual chat – but his presentation would then take an unexpected turn to captivate Mass-goers and guarantee their undivided attention. His voice had a sonorous allure, and his tallness, combined with his somewhat gaunt complexion, gave him an ascetic demeanour redolent of a Man of God from another age. Throughout his ministry other clerics admitted to studying his method of delivery in an effort to fine-tune their own preaching.

But it was Fr O'Saoraí's passionate commitment to the cause of animal welfare that defined his long and distinguished role as a pastor. It drew the plaudits of compassionate people from all over Ireland and abroad and, inevitably, the barbs of those involved in various forms of animal cruelty, whether legal or prohibited. Side by side with his calling to serve God he felt he was in some way also called to speak out on behalf of the millions of creatures in our world that suffer untold misery, much of it inflicted by humans.

As a teenager, he would never pass an injured bird or animal, or if he saw someone beating a donkey or horse he'd try to reason with them, pointing out that this was one of God's creatures and deserved to be treated as such. His interventions might elicit scorn or hostility, but occasionally his message hit home and the perpetrator agreed to re-think his errant behavior.

Reading the *Lives of the Saints*, the young Padraig discovered that many

of them had a special place in their hearts for the animals. In particular he was inspired by the example of St Francis of Assisi, who regarded the so-called lesser beings as his brothers and sisters and decried any ill-treatment of them. And he read of the Irish saints like Brigid and Kevin, who also exemplified compassion towards non-humans. Brigid is said to have shown special kindness to stray dogs, and Saint Kevin is renowned for allowing a blackbird to make its nest in his outstretched hand.

Throughout his training for the priesthood Padraig shared with his fellow students his vision of a world where animals fared better, eliciting a variety of responses, ranging from approval to shrugs of indifference. But he felt that any discussion of the issue could only help the animals, however obliquely.

As a curate in Harold's Cross in the 1970s he availed himself of the annual Feast of St Francis in October to address humanity's relationship with the animal kingdom. The Feast of St Blaize afforded another opportunity to broach the subject because, as he reminded people, Blaize risked his life by freeing captive wild animals destined for the Roman coliseum. Fr O'Saoraí officiated at animal blessings at Harold's Cross. Cats, dogs, pigeons, rabbits, and horses arrived in abundance, but also the odd hamster, turtle, or goldfish. The blessings continued when he was appointed as parish priest of Ayrfield where he served from 1980 to 1997.

In the mid 1970s he co-founded a group called the *Irish Catholic Study Circle for Animal Welfare* with actor Des Perry, who was well known for his role in Irish TV's long running drama, *Tolka Row*, as well as his many acclaimed stage performances. Des edited the group's newsletter titled, *The Irish Ark*, and became a staunch supporter of Fr O'Saoraí's endeavours to highlight the plight of animals. The group sought to make the Catholic Church's teaching on animal cruelty more widely known. Fr O'Saoraí emphasized that it had always been clear in its message that cruelty to animals was contrary to the Christian

ethos, and he published quotes from a range of theologians, saints, and church scholars to reinforce this point.

Fr O'Saoraí traversed the country to join protests against activities such as hare coursing, fox hunting, cruelty to greyhounds, and badger snaring. From the mid-1970s right up to 2010 he journeyed to Clonmel in County Tipperary to protest outside the annual National Coursing Festival. Hail, rain or snow, he'd arrive at Powerstown Park to register his opposition to the controversial practice. In the early years Des Perry would be there too, and John Cowley, who played the part of Tom Riordan in the famed RTE rural drama series.

Fr O'Saoraí stood for hours on the quay in Waterford in 1984 protesting against the transportation of live animals on long sea journeys, exhibited a badger snare outside the Department of Agriculture in 1992 to show how these shy nocturnal creatures are captured, and in June 1993 he stood for more than three hours outside Dail Eireann with a placard as TDs inside debated Deputy Tony Gregory's Bill to ban hare coursing.

Fr O'Saoraí took part in numerous radio and TV debates on animal welfare, including two *Late Late Show* appearances. After retiring as parish priest of Ayrfield in 1997 he moved to Athy in County Kildare where he carried on with his advocacy work until his health began to fail. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of a twinning arrangement involving Athy and the town of Grandvilliers in Northern France. His fluency in French was an invaluable asset to those promoting cultural ties between the two towns.

At Woodlands Nursing Home in Navan, County Meath he received postcards and letters from well-wishers until the day he departed this world on June 3rd, 2018.

John Fitzgerald (Campaign for the Abolition of Cruel Sports)

HELPING DONKEYS IN THE HOLY LAND



My passion for helping downtrodden donkeys and my distress at the way they are so often treated began many years ago. As a little girl of 7, while on a day trip during a family holiday to the small Italian island of Elba, I spotted a poorly looking, heavily laden, old donkey. I gave him the apple from my packed lunch and then went about asking other members of the tour group if they'd also be willing to relinquish the apples from their packed lunches to feed the donkey. Then, many years later, in my early twenties, after working as a volunteer on a kibbutz in Israel, I had another encounter with a donkey. Being a devoted animal lover, I ended up volunteering for 5 years at the Jerusalem SPCA where I became 'chief keeper of the cattery', and it was during my time there that I came across my beloved Donk, a wonderful donkey character who belonged to a Bedouin man.

Donk used to be left 'hobbled' – tethered by one leg or with both front legs tethered together – outside the SPCA. Sometimes rope is used for hobbling, but more often than not in Israel and Palestine rough string or even wire is used which then eats into the flesh, sometimes so badly that it even results in partial loss of a lower limb. With tender loving care I soon had Donk's wounds healed and after a year or so of watching him come and go, and having fallen in love with him, I eventually decided I had to raise some money to buy him from his owner. With help from friends, I managed to raise and pay the asking price, telling myself that Donk would be the start of something significant. I vowed there and then to return to Israel one day and start a sanctuary for donkeys. Sadly, Donk passed away one year after arriving in the UK but he certainly left a legacy.

In the year 2000, I relocated to Israel. Starting out small with a plot of land and small shelter on a kibbutz, I rescued my next little donkey, Lucy, in April 2001. I went on to move to bigger premises and rescue over 200 donkeys and horses. Over the years, I built up a small team of staff to help care for our many rescued animals as well as establish a unique outreach programme working across the Palestinian West Bank to help the many suffering, over worked donkeys,

mules and horses. Circumstances led to my departure from the organisation in 2015 but, determined to continue my work, I decided to start a new sanctuary independently, and a new Israeli charity was formed at the end of that year. This was followed in 2017 by the creation of Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation, a UK registered charity to raise funds to help sustain the growing sanctuary in Israel. To date at our tranquil sanctuary located in Moshav Burgata, a small country village near the centre of Israel, we have 53 rescued donkeys and 3 horses as well as a number of cats and two dogs.

Some of our poor donkeys have suffered terrible abuse – gouged out eyes, cut off ears, gaping back wounds and fractured limbs – but all have healed at our sanctuary and live a contented, peaceful life full of love and in safety.

I feel that sanctuaries are crucial simply because there is no other permanent respite for abused, rescued donkeys. But just as important is the essential outreach work to help the working donkeys, mules and horses in the Palestinian towns and villages. The animals there belong to their owners but despite being a means to their everyday livelihoods, they are invariably treated appallingly and denied basics such as sufficient water, rest and shelter. They are often made to pull and carry loads far beyond their capability and suffer horrific friction wounds and sores from old and ill-fitting harnesses. Our very small team works to try to alleviate the animals' suffering, albeit only in a minimum way due to such limited resources. We do all we can to enlighten owners and encourage them to exercise compassion and understanding. Being a small organisation, in our efforts to ensure our little sanctuary and outreach clinic work can continue, we are constantly working to raise the necessary funds to support our work. We desperately need to increase our number of supporters. All donations to our charity, however small they may be, are always deeply appreciated.

It can be the most difficult and heartbreaking thing to see such suffering and witness deliberate cruelty and



sometimes, all I've been able to do for a little donkey is gently lay my hand on their neck and pray my heart out for them and ask God to intervene. I pray for the animals and I also pray for their owners that they may show mercy and I constantly ask God to instil some gentleness and love in their hearts and minds.

I have only found solace, peace and light through my faith in God and

even during my darkest days when I found myself faced with indescribable adversity and turmoil, it was only God who carried me through, and I constantly look to him still, to continue carrying me. I have always been quite spiritual and have great faith but I feel I have learned over the years that hardship and suffering serve to bring us closer to God. I think that when our world is suddenly turned upside

down and we are faced with adversity and great difficulty, we have nowhere else to turn to except God. I definitely believe that having witnessed the cruelty that I have, along with facing such incredible setbacks and struggles, I have learned more completely than ever before to lean on God and not my own understanding. I've read that when adversity comes and we are forced to face our problems and pressures that are too big for us to resolve, God gets our attention. We have to seek his guidance, rely upon him and trust him to bring the help we need. Christ's invitation to those who are weary becomes very attractive in the midst of trials. And that, as we come to God with our needs, our inward prayer should echo these words of the Psalmist, "To you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God I trust in you: let me not be ashamed, do not let my enemies triumph over me." (Psalm 25:1-2).

If you would like to help the sanctuary by sending a donation, however small, please go to our web site: <https://www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk/> or email Erika: webgirl@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk for further information.

Lucy Fensom

THE BIBLE AND...

Working animals

This Bible study is designed to help an individual or small group to explore what the Bible says about working animals.

Deuteronomy 25.4

"You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain."

This instruction comes in the midst of rules about social interactions – what happens when two people go to court, the rights of a childless widow, honest dealing, and so on. In this one short line from Deuteronomy, we see that God has concern for working animals, as a specific instruction is given in the Law as to their treatment. To muzzle the animal might impede its breathing, and would prevent expression of natural behaviours (such as eating some of the grain it was working – which would probably

be the reason one might want to muzzle the ox).

This verse is cited twice in the New Testament, in 1 Corinthians and in 1 Timothy. In Corinthians, it is used as evidence that Paul and his companions have a right to ask for food or other compensation from the Church for their labours as apostles and evangelists. In 1 Timothy, the same argument is being made, but in relation to the elders, that is, leaders in the Church. In both cases the meaning attributed to the verse from Deuteronomy is clear: one who works deserves compensation.

While Paul seemed to read Deuteronomy 25.4 metaphorically only, the meaning he attaches to it in no way diminishes its function as an instruction about animal welfare. Just as a human working for the

Church deserves compensation for that work (as Paul says), an animal that works for humans deserves to be compensated through being allowed to access food, water, and to engage in natural behaviours.

Questions for Groups:

Do you think it is significant that this instruction about how to treat a working animal is placed among rules for interactions between individuals in society? What might it imply?

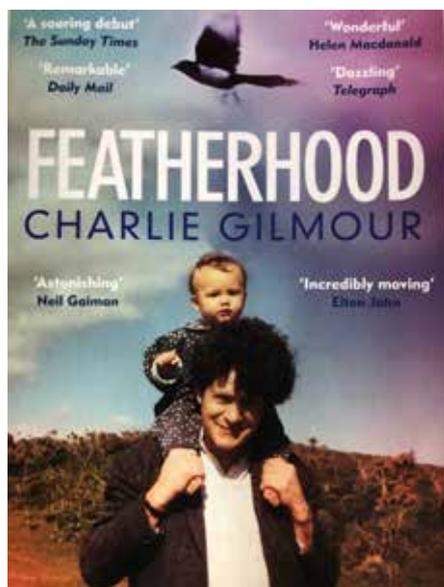
Why is it important that the Hebrew Law contains an instruction about the rights of a working animal?

Do you think our society adequately recognises the rights of working animals embodied in Deuteronomy 25.4? Does the Church?

BOOK REVIEW

FEATHERHOOD
On Birds and Fathers
by Charlie Gilmour

Weidenfeld & Nicolson
ISBN 978-1-4746-0948-7
278pp
Softcover
Price £8.99



There is something inherently endearing about works within the memoir genre. Unlike many works of non-fiction, such as historical, theological, or scientific writing, that seek to persuade readers of a particular take on reality, and unlike the most fantastic of fictional works that seek at their most extreme to create entire new worlds, memoirs represent one person's take on their own personal experience of life. A memoir is the embodiment of the author opening their arms to the universe and saying, 'This is me: this is how I see the world; these are the things I've said and done, and why; and these are my hurts, my sorrows, my hopes, and my dreams.' In reading a memoir we pause to listen to another's beating heart and we cannot help but be moved, for we are reminded that we are all on this journey of being human together, and there are bound to be moments when we cannot help but whisper, 'Me too!'

And yet the best memoirs also take us beyond our own experiences, offering moments of self-transcendence in which we are pushed beyond our own experiences into something more. Charlie Gilmour's memoir is able to do just this. Not only do we get to hear Gilmour's open-armed announcement to the world, 'This is me!', but we also

get to see glimpses through Gilmour's eyes of his father, Heathcote Williams ('squatter, writer, actor, alcoholic, poet, anarchist, magician, revolutionary, and Old Etonian' [p.17]), and of the young magpie, Benzene, who fell into Gilmour's life.

Indeed, *Featherhood*, is a memoir about fatherhood in a variety of forms and directions. The reader becomes privy to Gilmour's reflections on his relationship with his biological father and his adoptive father, as well as his relationship with Benzene and eventually with his own daughter. There are also brief speculations about Heathcote Williams's relationship with his own father, Gilmour's grandfather.

The book is composed of four parts, the title of each corresponding to the life of a bird: 'Pin Feathers', 'Flight Feathers', 'Blood Feathers', 'Nest', 'Egg'. The chapters are well enclosed by a prologue and epilogue. The story that Gilmour shares with his reader is structured around the development and progression of Benzene's life with him and his family, expressing well how the bird's time with him brought about the inner and outer experiences of this engrossing coming-of-age memoir.

For readers of *Animalwatch* it will likely be the cornucopia of enriching anecdotes about corvids, Jackdaws, and especially Magpies, that draw praise for *Featherhood*. Gilmour skilfully weaves in facts, myths, and personal experiences related to the bird into his memoir. We learn, for example, that '[m]agpies are one of the few animals, other than humans, that have been shown to recognise themselves in mirrors, implying that they are self-aware' (p.38); we explore the myths that magpies are divine messengers yet also tricksters; and experience through Gilmour's storytelling the paradigm shift of seeing birds 'as individuals, with their own unique biographies and tastes' (p.42). We also read of intriguing instances in which the boundaries between human and bird are blurred, and yet we are also reminded of just how unknown the minds of other creatures truly are to us.

By the conclusion of Gilmour's memoir, we can share with him his awe in all that has come about from his relationship with Benzene, who taught him 'new ways of seeing, new ways of caring; and the limits of care too' (p.259). This relationship was Gilmour's own

experience of self-transcendence: '[c]aring for this creature ... has brought me out of myself, made me see that it's not just catastrophe that lurks in the unknown; there's beauty to be found there too' (p.156).

Featherhood is a heart-warming tale of the blessings of animals, as their lives intertwine with the lives of humans. As Gilmour points out, '[i]nteracting with animals is good for us: it's been shown to lower the heart rate, reduce levels of stress, and boost oxytocin, the love hormone' (p.209). And yet, for all the wonder, beauty, and blessings, readers of *Animalwatch* will also be reassured to know that Gilmour does not recommend others following his example of raising a wild bird as part of an interspecies family; rather, he suggests calling wildlife rescuers for advice. This important suggestion is repeated after the memoir concludes in a section titled 'Useful Information'.

Gilmour's memoir on birds and fathers brings readers on a journey from confusion and bleakness to self-acceptance and hope. And as for the magpie who led Gilmour himself on this journey, the epilogue concludes that 'Benzene is just another bird now, and no bird will be just a bird ever again' (p.273). As for the author, so for the reader: after reading *Featherhood*, no bird will be just a bird ever again.

Jaime Wright

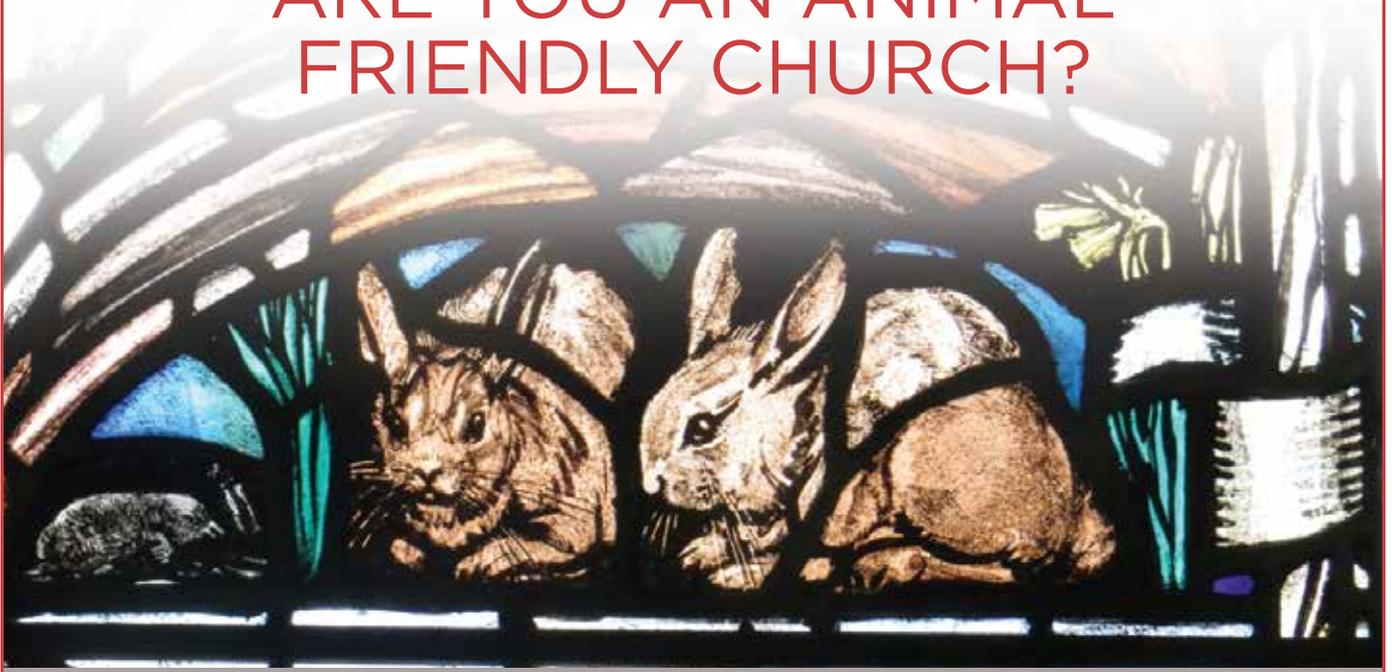
ASWA NEWS

Launch of book by ASWA supporter

Many of you will know ASWA friend and supporter Revd Lynne Chitty. Lynn has recently produced a beautiful coffee table book called *Legacy of Love*. This unique book brings together 48 charity founders, actors, poets, artists and photographers, each contributing a chapter explaining and celebrating their love of animals in personal words and stunning pictures. The book will be launched at events on 10th and 11th September in Gloucestershire. For more information about the book, visit www.legacyoflovebook.org.



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

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

T: 01252 843093 • **E:** AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com

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

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, 11AM 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

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