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Autumn 2018

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

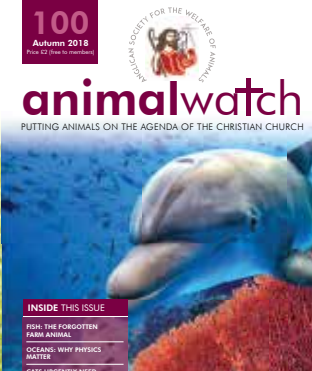
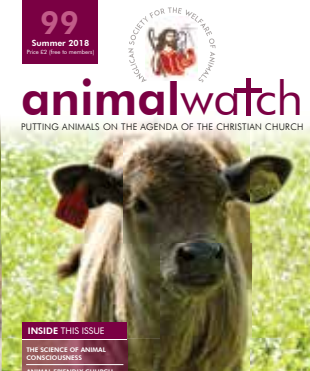
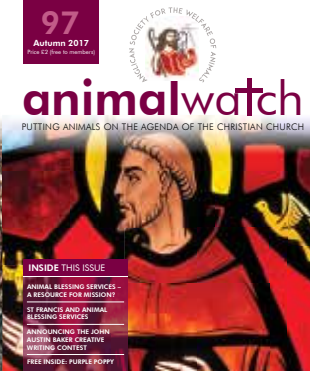
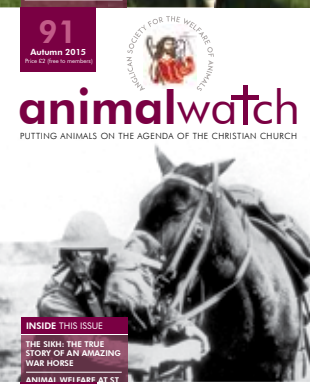
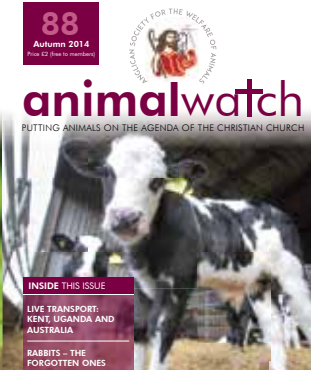
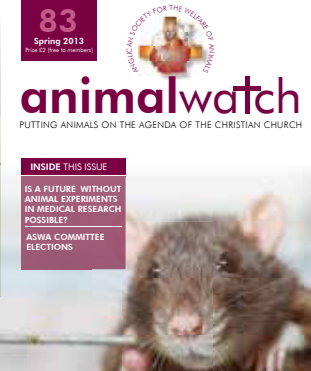
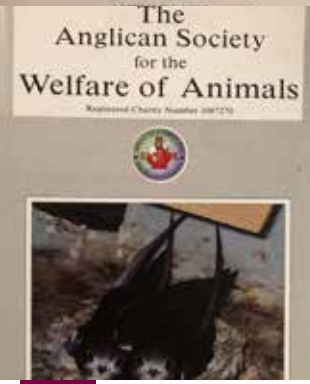
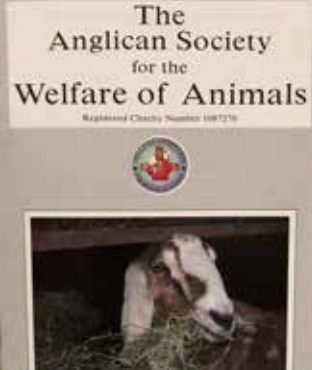
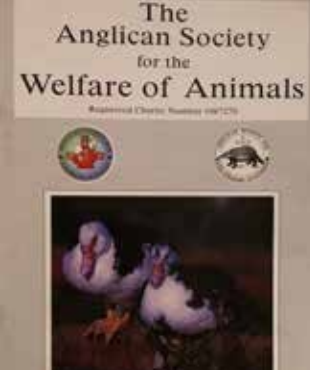
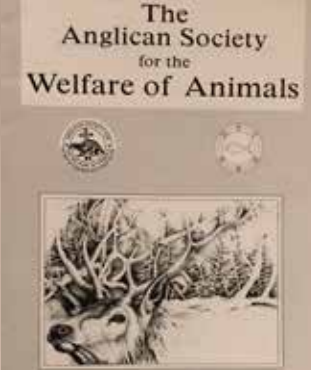
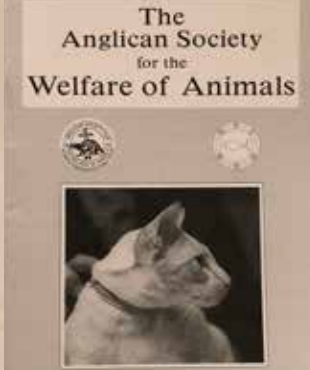
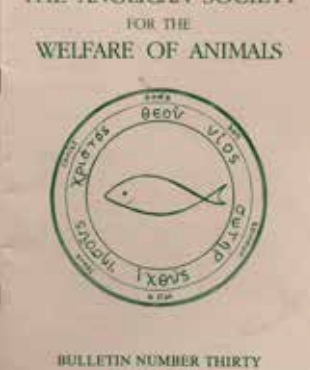
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COMPETITION



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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 30 September

Animal Blessing Service, Canterbury Cathedral Precincts, 2pm.
All animals must be kept in appropriate cages/baskets or on leads.

Saturday 6 October

ASWA Day Conference on Marine Animal Welfare, St Mary's Church, Portsea, Portsmouth, 9am to 12.30pm.

Animal Blessing and Thanksgiving Service for Pets, St Martin's Church, Kensal Green, London, NW10 5SN, 2pm. The service will be led by the Revd Graham Noyce. Those unable to attend in person can send the name and some details of a pet for inclusion in the service. For more details, please contact animalblessinguk@gmail.com.

Sunday 7 October

Animal Welfare Sunday

ASWA Annual Service, St Mary's Church, Portsea, Portsmouth, 10am. The preacher will be ASWA Chair, the Revd Dr Helen Hall.

Animal Blessing Service, St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street, Leicester, 3pm.

This will be a special celebration to mark the 30th anniversary of the animal blessing service at St Andrew's.

Sunday 11 November

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

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



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. This is our 100th issue! Many readers will remember the magazine in its previous format, the *Bulletin*, which was edited faithfully for many years by Reg Frary, who has been much missed by ASWA since his death in 2011. Over its 100 issues, the magazine has undergone a number of changes, and will, no doubt, continue to evolve in the years to come. I very much hope that our readers will continue to send contributions and suggestions, all of which help make *Animalwatch* a success.

In this issue, we focus on marine life, which will also be the focus of the Annual Service on Animal Welfare Sunday this year.

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

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

Jennifer Brown, Editor

The deadline for the Spring magazine is **Monday 21st January 2019**.

ASWA MERCHANDISE

ASWA 2018 Christmas card



Once again, this year's beautiful Christmas card has been designed exclusively for ASWA by Thea Olog. Cards cost £5.50 per 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. Cards will be available for purchase on-line or from the ASWA Secretary from September.

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. £0.35 each (minimum purchase 10)

Egg Cards: egg shaped cards with a prayer printed on one side. £0.35 each (minimum purchase 10).

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.

Our Wild World, an ASWA resource for children is now available to purchase from the ASWA web site for just £3. This sticker book is a fun way to help children learn about the creatures that populate our world and God's love and care for them.



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 by post or by email as Word documents, with any accompanying photos sent as high-resolution jpg, gif or png files. Items submitted as pdf files cannot be accepted. Contributions must be the contributor'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 the absence of any other agreement, by submitting an article, the contributor assigns copyright for the piece to ASWA. For items submitted by email, please assume your item has been received unless you get a delivery failure notice. The Editor is unable to acknowledge receipt of individual submissions.

A Warm Welcome to our new members.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Hobbis, St Rensall, York
Amelie Ling, Bexley, Kent

Ellis Ling, Bexley, Kent

Nicola Penn-Allison, Saxilby, Lincolnshire

Victoria Price, Oxford, Oxfordshire

Mr and Mrs D.G Wild, Ilkley, West Yorkshire

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

GOOD NEWS

UK Government to ban sale of puppies and kittens in pet shops

The UK government has announced plans to ban the sale of puppies and kittens in pet shops in England. A ban on the sale of puppies and kittens under eight weeks old has already been passed and comes into force on 1 October. This move is to be welcomed as a step forward in the goal of eliminating intensive breeding of puppies and kittens. Intensive breeding, in which a female dog or cat is repeatedly made pregnant, is often associated with poor and cramped conditions and results in severe health problems for the breeding animal. It is to be hoped that, should this proposed law be passed, it will be strictly enforced and many animal lives will be vastly improved as a result.

NEWS & NOTICES

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



You can also keep up with what's new via our website – www.aswa.org.uk.

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

Animal-friendly Church awards

Is your church animal friendly? ASWA sponsors the Animal-friendly Church award to recognise those churches that take animal welfare seriously as part of their ministry and mission. Churches can apply at any time and those meeting the necessary criteria will be awarded animal-friendly church status. Information is available on the website or from the Secretary.



ASWA Annual Service and Day Conference

This year's annual service will be held at St Mary's Church, Portsea, Portsmouth on Sunday 7th October, 10.00am. The preacher will be ASWA Chair, the Revd Dr Helen Hall. In addition, this year we will be hosting a Day Conference on Saturday 6th October, focusing on care for marine wildlife. The Day Conference will also be held at St Mary's, Portsea, and will run from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

ASWA Local groups

There is an Ecumenical group, the Three Counties Animal Welfare Prayer Group, who meet for a service at Gloucester Cathedral at 12.15 on the first Saturday of each month. The contact for the ecumenical group is the Revd Helen Hall (01633-677775 or helen.hall123@ntlworld.com).

ASWA is always keen to support the formation of new groups. If you are interested in starting a group in your area, please contact the Secretary.

ASWA SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

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

ASWA NEWS

ASWA to host conference on marine animal welfare

In October, ASWA will be hosting our first conference. This half-day event will be part of ASWA's Animal Welfare Sunday activities, taking place on Saturday, 6th October, the day before Animal Welfare Sunday and ASWA's annual service. The conference will take place at St Mary's Portsea, and will feature speakers from A Rocha International, the UK's National Oceanography Centre and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. This free event is an opportunity for Christians and non-Christians alike to learn about the issues affecting our oceans and to explore ways we can make a difference.

EMAIL AND CHANGES TO DATA PROTECTION IN THE UK AND EUROPE

No doubt our UK and European readers will all be aware by now of the new data protection regulations, known as GDPR, that came into effect in May. Members and subscribers will continue to receive their copies of *Animalwatch* as usual. If, however, you want us to continue to contact you by email about campaigns and our activities, and have not replied to GDPR emails, we need you to let us know it's ok. If you are an ASWA member, and are happy for us to keep you on our emailing list, please email aswamembership@btinternet.com. Please put "ASWA email address (and your name)" in the subject line and include in your message "I give consent for ASWA to hold my name and email address and to contact me with information relevant to ASWA and its work and related issues."

OBITUARY

Anthea Flora Haig

It is with sadness that we report the death in February of this year of Anthea Flora Haig. Anthea was a faithful supporter of ASWA.

FISH: THE FORGOTTEN FARM ANIMAL

Fish are the most utilised animals on Earth. It's estimated that between one and three trillion (a thousand billion) fish are killed for food every year. More than half of these are farmed. If the methods of slaughter are not humane then this is a problem that affects an enormous number of animals.

Compassion in World Farming sees this as a major animal welfare issue that is currently underrepresented. Fish are the forgotten farm animal and because of the low level of awareness around the issues and low consumer concern there is also little legislation in place to regulate this growing industry.

Fish are widely misunderstood. Many people believe that fish have very short memories and do not feel pain. This is far from the truth. The more we explore underwater, the more we appreciate how intelligent and sensitive fish are. Fish live rich and social lives: communicating; hunting cooperatively and even developing cultural traditions.

And yet, people are eating more fish than ever. A 2016 United Nations' report¹ shows fish consumption has hit a record high per capita, passing the 20kg per year mark for the first time. Traditionally, these fish were caught from wild stocks. Today the fish we buy is more likely than not to have been farmed.

As fish consumption has sky-rocketed, marine ecosystems have been decimated. By some estimates, 90% of big fish have been removed from the sea². This level of extraction is unsustainable. In several recorded cases, specific fish stocks have crashed, meaning they can no longer provide a reliable source of food. As well as posing challenges for human food security, overfishing undermines the health and vibrancy of biological diversity at sea which has other serious ramifications.

Healthy oceans are fundamental to all the planetary systems we depend upon – not least regulating our atmosphere.

Fish farming (aquaculture) represents an important part of global food production that has the potential to help feed our growing population whilst allowing marine ecosystems to recover. However, as with other industrial farming methods on land, the potential for harm is extensive. It is important for procedures on farms to be implemented and monitored to minimise any negative impacts.

The rapid growth of fish farming presents various challenges. When the fish being grown are predator species such as salmon or trout, they are often fed fish meal which is composed of wild-caught fish. This kind of farming, common off the coasts of Scotland and Norway for salmon, increases demand on wild fish stocks. Fish meal can be made from any fish and so indiscriminate and damaging fishing methods are commonly used, for example, dragnets and bottom trawling. Approximately 20% of the total fish catch³ is used to make fishmeal for fish farming which is a massive extra burden for the already stressed oceans.

There are other environmental concerns with intensive fish farms. Where the stocking density is high the animals can be prone to disease. When the pens are near wild fish this can pass the infections to them. Farmers will often treat these outbreaks with antibiotics which can also disrupt natural systems as well as be passed up the food chain with potential health implications for humans.

Intensive fish farming also presents serious animal welfare concerns. Fish can suffer throughout their lives if they are deprived of the ability to perform any of their natural behaviours. For

example, if the pens are crowded, the fish may not be able to swim or forage like they would in the wild. Fish can also be highly stressed at times of sorting and grading when they may be handled by people or machines. Most farmed fish are not killed humanely. A quick death, minimizing suffering can be achieved by electrical stunning or percussion. However, most farmed fish are asphyxiated which can take a long time. One research project found that fish can take between 55 and 250 minutes to suffocate to death.

Both science and common sense tells us fish are sentient and therefore deserve good lives just as much as any other animal. Sadly, because of human activities, they currently suffer in their trillions. Compassion in World Farming would like to see the same concern for fish as any other farmed animal and the same level of scrutiny and regulation of underwater farms as the farms on land.

Treating animals well may, for many, be a moral obligation. Time and time again, we also see how the systematic mistreatment of animals creates a cascade of other problems in the environment. Factory farming on land has a bad record. Fish farming is a young industry and does not need to make the same mistakes.

Matt Mellen,
Fish Campaigns Manager
Compassion in World Farming

1. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-36716579>

2. See https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2014/06/03/the-end-of-fish/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.c7121c2726eb

3. See <https://csfbvi.com/news/feeding-fish-farms-the-problem-with-fishmeal/>

MAGNUS THE CHURCH DOG

Magnus is a three-year-old Scottish Terrier who belongs to one of the Churchwardens at St Mary's Kemp Town in Brighton and who, since his puppyhood, has spent most of his waking hours and quite a few of the sleeping ones at the church. He is great friends with our priest, Fr Andrew Woodward. He likes to sit on the baptistery steps to do meeting and greeting and curls up under the votive candle stand when he needs a rest.

He helps out a lot with visitors who are lonely, distressed or angry and keeps small children entertained for hours. He knows all our regular homeless visitors and greets them with unabashed joy and tail-wagging before leading them to the cupboard where the dog biscuits are kept. He 'buries' said biscuits in every conceivable corner of the church, giving unexpected delight to the other dogs who visit us. We occasionally have a bit of a scrap during a service but, on

the whole, the behaviour of the dogs at St Mary's puts some of our human ways to shame.

Katherine Prior



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

TALKING POINT

SWEDEN



Farewell to Fur

The fur industry is seeing a huge decline in Sweden. Mink farms are fewer and the number of minks killed fewer as well. According to the Animal Alliance only 54 mink farms are left in Sweden today. They are mostly found in the south of Sweden. The Board of Agriculture presents between 72 to 79 mink farms in their statistics for 2017 and The Swedish Furrier Association for Swedish Mink has 51 registered mink farms so there seems to be some confusion on this point. The Animal Alliance has contacted each county council in Sweden and it seems that some farms are run under the radar, so to speak. Another sign that the fur industry is on the decrease is that the preparation of skins has dropped 25 percent. Daniel Rolke, spokesperson for the Animal Alliance, says that it is apparent that the industry is on a definitive decline and that the Animal Alliance will not give up until the last farm is closed down for good.

The fur industry also uses rabbit for fur and genetically enhanced rabbits with extra skinfolds and therefore more fur are kept alone in cages and not given any chance of interacting with other rabbits at all, something which in itself is cruel as rabbits are flock animals. Unfortunately, keeping rabbits under this condition is legal in Sweden but the Animal Alliance is working hard to get the law changed.

In June 2018 a new Animal Welfare Act was passed. It states that animals must be allowed to have their natural behaviour respected in order for their well-being to be maintained. It also makes it possible and mandatory to break any confidentiality agreement when severe animal abuse is discovered. This applies to any staff working in healthcare or hospitals as well as social services. This is a very positive step in the right direction for animal rights, as is the definite end to using elephants and sea-lions in all kinds of circuses.

The world of academia sees a new doctoral dissertation on animal welfare! Per-Anders Svärd will be presenting his thesis, "Problem Animals. A Critical Genealogy of Animal Cruelty and Animal Welfare in Swedish Politics 1844–1944". He wants to describe how we view animals from an historic perspective. His research is about the

ideologies that shaped the views of the relationship between man and animals in Swedish politics from the 19th to the mid-20th century.

Sandra Kinley

USA



Another Win for the Horses

On 13th July, rescuers and animal welfare workers in middle Tennessee started a social media campaign to find seven ponies. A Robertson county resident contained 7 loose ponies and reported the ponies to the Robertson County Sheriff's department, who told her she would have to keep the ponies for the state mandated 45-day stray hold. She told the Sherriff's department that she didn't have the resources to keep the ponies but would work with a local rescue to make sure they were safe while the county tried to locate their owner.

The next day, she was shocked when the county Sherriff showed up with a known kill buyer and convicted animal abuser to pick up the ponies. She informed the Sherriff that a rescue had agreed to take the ponies and hold them for the required stray hold and that they were just working on transport. Despite her protests, the ponies were loaded onto the kill buyer's trailer.

The rescue tried calling the Sherriff's department but could not get an answer as to the location of the ponies. The community rose to the challenge calling out the Sherriff's department on social media, calling the department, and even attempting to meet with the county District Attorney. For nearly ten days, animal lovers across the state fought desperately to make sure the runaway ponies were safe.

The efforts of Hickory Hill Farm, Horse Plus Humane Society, Rivers Edge Horse Rescue, Ferrell Farm Horse Sanctuary, and all their supporters, volunteers, and friends resulted not only in the safe placement of the seven ponies with a local rescue foster but also in the election of a new county Sherriff who has a representative working with local rescue to enact new policies for handling livestock strays too big to be held at the county shelter.

Tanya Garrett

Is look but don't touch enough?

So-called ecotourism has been increasing in popularity for some time. Ecotourism offers people a chance to visit often exotic destinations to enjoy the natural world and view wildlife. Done well, it is meant to be sustainable with minimal environmental impact and should benefit local communities. It is often argued that thriving ecotourism can help to preserve wild places by making them more valuable as they are than as a source for natural resources or development. But do we know what the impact on wildlife really is? It is almost inevitable that the presence of humans, often in vehicles, will disturb the animals that tourists wish to view. This may be especially true in the oceans, where the noise of boats taking people on whale and dolphin watching tours could potentially negatively affect the very animals that the tourists are so eager to see and, no doubt, help preserve. How can we balance our desire to connect with the world's magnificent animals and their needs for peace and privacy? How much tourism is enough to support local economies without causing harm? What costs to individual animals are acceptable to conserve habitats and save species?

CORRECTION

We regret that an error was included in the article 'Spike – a swift's story' in our summer issue. The sentence reading, 'Spike was only 15 months old and he was flying solo' should have read 'Spike was only 10 weeks old and he was flying solo.' We apologise for the error.

LONG JOURNEY TO A NEW HOME

Many thanks to all those who contributed towards bringing Betty the dog to the UK from Uganda. She was met at Heathrow Animal Collection Centre on August 18th by Samantha and Henry Chandler and Mary Mills. She is settling in Derby with her new 'mum', Margaret. Margaret was recently widowed and wanting a dog. Please pray that they will bond well and have many years of happy companionship together.



OCEANS: WHY PHYSICS MATTERS

*There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number
living things both large and small.
There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to
frolic there.*

Psalm 104:25–26

“So, do you swim with whales and dolphins?” is often the question that I am asked when I tell people I am an oceanographer. David Attenborough’s *Blue Planet I & II* on the BBC in recent years, and for an earlier generation Jacques Cousteau’s programmes, have given the impression that that studying the ocean is about studying the oceanic charismatic megafauna (such as whales and dolphins). However, I am a physical, not a biological, oceanographer, therefore primarily interested in ocean physics: how the ocean’s currents and temperatures behave and are changing under the influence of human activity. The aim of this short article is to explain why ocean physics can have profound effects on life in the ocean.

The two areas that will be discussed here are first, the effects of human use of fossil fuels (oil, gas, coal) thereby increasing the atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide, and second, the implications of human disposal of plastics in the ocean. The importance of the latter has, of course, been highlighted by David Attenborough on the BBC in *Blue Planet II* in the autumn of 2017, leading to an increased public awareness of this issue. However, both issues have been of concern to oceanographers for many years.

The clear effect of the increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide is that the world is warming, including the oceans. In fact, 93% of the excess heat due to global warming is entering the oceans. The impacts of this on life in the ocean are manifold. For example, many species (such as plankton and fish) are temperature sensitive so that as the ocean warms their geographical distributions and abundance are changing. This could be because of a direct impact on temperature-sensitive fish, or an indirect impact as the fishes’ food source (usually plankton), also temperature sensitive, changes its geographical distribution. At a local level more warm water species,

including some shark species, are being found around the UK, while cold water species will be increasingly confined to the shrinking areas of colder waters at higher latitudes. Perhaps more importantly, warming oceans will lead to the bleaching of coral reefs and the destruction of these oceanic hotspots of biodiversity. Tropical reef building corals are marine invertebrates that exist in a symbiotic relation with plankton, known as zooxanthellae, and it is the latter that give the corals their bright colouring. Changes in temperature of as little as 1° to 2°C can cause the corals to expel their planktonic symbionts, thus losing their colouring – hence bleaching – and ultimately dying. Although coral reefs occupy less than 1% of the ocean floor they harbour about a quarter of all marine life. In terms of biodiversity they are the ocean’s equivalent to the tropical rain forest. It is estimated that up to half the world’s coral reefs may be in danger of destruction within a dozen or so years. The loss of large numbers of species of beautiful, colourful fish and many other types of marine creatures that rely on coral reefs as a food source would inevitably follow.

There is also the so-called other carbon dioxide problem. Increased atmospheric carbon dioxide levels lead to more of it being dissolved in the ocean leading in turn to ocean acidification as it reacts with water to form carbonic acid. This matters for the future of marine life as a more acidic ocean will impact some species by influencing their metabolic rates and immune responses. Perhaps more critically, acidification can also lead to coral bleaching and to the dissolution of the calcium carbonate which reef building corals employ to form their hard skeletons. Additionally, one of the more abundant types of phytoplankton found in the ocean are coccolithophores, which form calcium carbonate plates (coccoliths) and they too are affected by acidification, so endangering an important part of the base of the oceanic food web.

As noted earlier the problem of plastics in the ocean has recently entered the public consciousness in a significant manner, but the issue has been of concern to oceanographers for many years. For example, oceanographers have known of the existence of the

so-called Great Pacific Garbage Patch lying between Hawaii and California (a large part of which is composed of plastics) since the late 1980s. Plastics degrade slowly and can remain in the ocean for centuries and the ocean currents can move pieces of plastic over great distances – hence the formation of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Recently plastic debris has been found on the beaches of the Pitcairn Island group, one of the regions of the ocean most remote from significant human influence. Studies show that ocean currents have transported the plastics there from the coastal regions of Central and South America and even further afield from Indonesia and Australia. Iconic images of turtles and other marine animals entangled in plastic fishing nets or ingesting plastic bags capture the public imagination, but more problematic may be the presence of microplastics (less than 5mm in size) in the ocean. Microplastic particles are small enough to be ingested by plankton or fish, with largely unknown effects, thus entering the oceanic food chain. Ultimately, human beings may eat the fish, so this might affect human health too. It is also possible that decomposing plastics might leach toxic chemicals into the water, again with unknown consequences for marine life.

Overall then the physics of the oceans, temperatures and currents, can have a profound effect on marine life and this article has only discussed some of the impacts. Under global warming ocean currents are changing and this too might affect the life cycle of marine creatures such as squid that rely on the currents to disperse their larvae to areas where they can feed and mature into adult forms. More examples could be given but the key point that has hopefully been made is that ocean physics matters, as does how it is changing, for the future of marine life.

Merik Srokosz is professor of physical oceanography at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, UK. His recently published book, co-authored with Dr Rebecca Watson, *Blue Planet, Blue God: the Bible and the Sea* (SCM Press, 2017) is reviewed in this issue.

CATS URGENTLY NEED NEW SHELTER

I have previously written in *Animalwatch* about Chachi's Haven cat shelter. Chachi's Haven is a not for profit cat shelter in Tel Mond, Israel. It is run single-handedly by the amazing Gail Joss. For over 20 years, she has rescued and given hope to abandoned cats, many with special needs. She not only cares for around 150 cats in the shelter, but every night she goes out to feed and care for 300 street cats.

Now we are desperate to obtain decent premises for Gail and the cats. The building she currently rents is dilapidated and not fit for purpose. It floods regularly making it dangerous as the electrics are unsafe. This also causes Gail a great deal of extra work.

The situation is now critical as the place is virtually uninhabitable. Walls are crumbling, roofs are falling in and windows and doors don't work properly. There is no government funding or local help available. Gail ensures the street cats are neutered and she also pays for all veterinary treatment when needed. All this costs money and we are a small band of regular donors who manage to pay for food, rent and everyday costs of running the shelter.

We are struggling to raise money for decent accommodation. We don't expect luxury, just somewhere safe. We have started a crowd funding site and we hope to raise £100,000 which we expect to cover all costs – rent for at least a few years to give Gail security and peace of mind, plus moving costs and fencing and security if needed.

As well as any kind donations, it would be so helpful if you are able to reach out to any feline loving friends or organisations to help spread the word as far and wide as possible via email and social media. If you have any contacts in Israel or are able to speak Hebrew, that would also help.

A new and safe building will give continued protection to existing residents as well as being fit for purpose for rehabilitation of cats especially ones with special needs.

Finding a new place has not proved easy but we are determined to succeed. Gail has run this shelter alone but now the extremely bad conditions are affecting her already poor health and making it difficult to carry on.

We are all working behind the scenes to find ways of raising money to make this

move possible. We try to raise funds by holding auctions, coffee mornings and similar activities. We have all become attached to the cats in the shelter and Gail names them all. They have all experienced hard times on the streets and Gail has been there to rescue them and give them a home where they are loved. A new and safe home would be a dream come true for needy cats like Joy (pictured).

Here is a link to the crowd funding site if you would like to forward it to anyone. That would be purrfect! <https://chuffed.org/project/cats-urgently-need-safe-shelter>.

Jill Philpott



STICKING YOUR NECK OUT FOR GIRAFFES

This June, in recognition of World Giraffe Day, Sparling United Church in Winnipeg, Canada celebrated Creation Sunday in honour of giraffes. Giraffes are beautiful, gentle animals. They are herbivores, favouring the leaves, flowers and twigs of bushes and trees, and can be as tall as 18 feet with legs and necks as long as six feet. Giraffes are also the longest-necked animal, so it is fitting that June 21, the longest day of the year, or longest night in the southern hemisphere, is also the day to celebrate these amazing creatures and raise awareness about the threats to their survival.

The threats to giraffes and other vulnerable animals are mostly human-caused: habitat loss, climate change, urban expansion, intensive agriculture, trophy hunting and poaching. The

organized crime of poaching has resulted in the killing of entire herds of animals simply for the ingredients used in illegal animal-based products. Population declines of more than 40% in the past three decades means that there are fewer than 100,000 giraffes left in the wild.

The Sparling Church service featured reflections on creation with an emphasis on our role in protecting wild giraffes from harm. We were reminded that the great web of life holds a place for all living things, giraffes and humans alike. In keeping with our giraffe message, the celebration also included vegan layer cakes with giraffe coat patterned icing and photographs with "Justin Case", a giant giraffe stuffed toy.

Operation Twiga III (the Swahili word for giraffe is "twiga") is this year's

major conservation project for the Giraffe Conservation Foundation and its partners. It focuses on the endangered Nubian giraffes of Uganda and involves transporting giraffes from large, well-established herds to small, vulnerable ones. Supporting economic development projects that provide sustainable alternatives to poaching and expanding and promoting natural protected areas are also important conservation measures.

Stick your neck out for a giraffe! To learn more about World Giraffe Day and how you can help giraffes please visit the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (giraffeconservation.org) the African Wildlife Foundation (awf.org) and Wildlife Direct (wildlifedirect.org).

Jacque Wasney

ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICES

St John's Church, Ben Rhydding

An animal blessing service was held at St. John's Church, Ben Rhydding, West Yorkshire, on 27th May, and we had about forty-five people, including lots of families. We had nine dogs, four guinea pigs and a hamster. And some people brought pictures of their cats and two of dogs they had had in the past. We blessed all these and prayed for animals in all sorts of different circumstances, including farmed animals and those in the wild – some of these are having such a tough time. And of course, our companion and domestic animals. The service was led by the Vicar, the Revd Peter Willox, and Reader, Sylvia Walker. There was lots of enthusiasm, and it was such a joy to see our church used in this

way, and to see humans and animals – well, dogs at any rate! – mingling with such happiness. People are already wanting to know if this will happen again!

Sylvia Walker

St Andrew's Church, Hagbourne

St Andrew's, Hagbourne, near Didcot in Oxfordshire, had a pet service on 22nd July. The service as a whole focused on animal welfare, God's provision for all of his creatures, and the idea that all of creation, not just human beings, offer worship to God. The service was led by *Animalwatch* editor, the Revd Jennifer Brown, enthusiastically assisted by her

dog, Louis. Four dogs were present to receive a blessing, and blessings were also offered for two cats who chose not to attend. The atmosphere was joyful, and several people expressed the hope that this might become a regular feature of the life of St Andrew's.

Jennifer Brown

If you are organising an Animal Welfare/Blessing Service and would like an ASWA speaker we will always try to help. Please note, however, that providing speakers on Animal Welfare Sunday itself might be difficult as most of our team are usually already involved in our annual service which is usually held on that date.

THE VEGGIE TRAVELLER

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

Prague - Maitrea

We found this restaurant on our first night in Prague. It is located in the Old Town in the centre of the city. The menu is an eclectic mix of European, Asian and even 'Tex-Mex' items, and also includes vegetarian versions of traditional Czech dishes. Several items are vegan or can be made vegan. The goulash was excellent, as were the spinach crêpes.

The restaurant has a Buddhist theme which might take some by surprise. I don't think it should put anyone off eating there, however. The staff were friendly and helpful and the atmosphere pleasant. We also tried Maitrea's sister restaurant, Lehka Hlava (Clear Head) for lunch later during our stay, and found it also to be a relaxed space serving great veggie food.

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



PAW A COFFEE 2018

On 1st September, a Paw a Coffee event was held in Tunbridge Wells. The event was very well attended by members of Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells, and All Saints Church Crowborough, East Sussex, together with neighbours, family and friends.

The weather was perfect, and the event was held in a private garden which proved to be very animal and insect friendly. Everyone who attended was given ASWA literature. In addition to

raising funds to support ASWA, two other charities were selected to benefit, The Sea Horse Trust, keeping with ASWA's marine theme for this autumn, and SPANA, providing care for working animals, mainly horses and donkeys, abroad. Both seemed to be positive choices and literature was taken and questions asked. An encouraging sum of money was raised to be shared between the charities.

Janet Murphy



THE JOHN AUSTIN BAKER CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

The John Austin Baker Creative Writing Competition was the idea of Revd Lynne Chitty, longstanding ASWA supporter and friend. The competition is held in the memory of the late Bishop John Austin Baker, former Bishop of Salisbury and ASWA President. His widow, Jill, is an enthusiastic supporter of the competition.

There was a diverse selection of poems and short stories submitted and the level of concern and compassion for our oceans and the creatures who live in them expressed in the writing was very moving. It is always incredibly hard to judge and compare entries and we would like to thank everyone who entered.

We did not receive any entries into the youth category. In the adult category, third prize was awarded to Claire Down for *The Secret Life of the Sea* and second prize to Joe Mann for *Endangered Green*. The winner was Katie Norman for her poem *Broken Harmony*. In the children's category, third prize was awarded to Charlotte Down for the poem *Creatures that Live Under the Sea* and second prize was awarded to Minnie Lyon for her poem *The Journey of the Sea Turtle*. The winner was Nessa Bradley for her story *The Puffer Fish Who Didn't Puff*. Congratulations to all the winners.

The poems were judged by Revd Lynne Chitty as principal judge and members of the ASWA Committee.

Lynne has been writing for nearly 20 years and has won a Pan Macmillan Short Story competition resulting in publication in the Ann Cleeves book *Offshore* and was runner up in the Jack Clemo poetry competition in 2017. She has had several poems published in anthologies and contributes regularly to *Roots* and *Quiet Spaces*. Her first novel *Out of the Mist* was published in March and her website www.writingontherun.co.uk includes daily reflections and thoughts.

The first prize winners are printed here. In addition, the winning entries will be on display at the ASWA Day Conference on Saturday 6th October at St Mary's, Portsea.

BROKEN HARMONY

Shimmering
grey then aqua blue,
silver, gold
and purist white;

like a lightning bolt across the water
dolphins dart and leap.

Tantalisingly close one moment
then.....

far away the next
as they dive deep
and interweave with a magical world
of waving throngs

that move
move
move
with the endless motion
of
the
rhythm
of the sea.

Movement within movement;
Colour within colour;
Joy within joy;

Marine life and ocean breathing as one.

Colourless.
Motionless.
Rigid.
Decaying.
Hidden from human eye,
caught up in the plastic waste
of man's delight
a dolphin gives up its life....

And the ocean grieves,
Its rhythm shaken;
the movement,
the colour,
the joy
of one of its own
has been forever lost,
needlessly,
thoughtlessly,
selfishly.

Yet still it flows,
back and forth
back and forth.
Sometimes calmly,
sometimes in great turmoil and anguish
as it waits,
waits,
waits.....

for harmony to be restored.

The puffer fish who didn't puff

One weird, busy day, by the beautiful coral reef, in a small, gloomy cave, a very strange and different puffer fish was born. This puffer fish could stand out in a crowd. No one could take their amazed eyes off this fish. This puffer fish was completely flat!

When this puffer fish was born, everyone was too surprised to laugh at this new member of their species. But

by the time the word of the flat puffer fish had spread across the whole ocean, everyone began to jeer at the unusual fish. The unfortunate puffer fish was now old enough to understand what everyone was saying about her and she felt very irritated, even furious sometimes. Her name was Flgrf (which means flat in puffer fish language). She had spikes protruding from every part of her figure and her eyes and fins were on different sides of her body!

Soon Flgrf was old enough to begin her puffer education, which she was dreading. Like most puffer fish from the coral reef, Flgrf was very intelligent and knew she wouldn't struggle with school work. But she had another reason to dread school.

At school, Flgrf was teased or stared at, even by her teachers (who were ashamed to teach a young puffer fish who didn't look the same as the rest of the puffer fish species). However, Flgrf had a very special yet undiscovered talent. Puffer fish would perform on the coral reef every Thurpsday (Thursday). Fish from all over the ocean would come and watch the puffer fish dance, staring at the performers in awe. While on the famous puffer fish stage, in a puff history lesson, Flgrf got bored of her ancient history teacher droning on and on so she decided to make the most of her time and explore. Flgrf glided swiftly around the coral and tried to swim through a small hole in the coral. She was inside the coral reef! Flgrf had an amazing sensation as she swam through the narrow inside of the coral reef. She felt like she was inside a flower that was about to blossom. Flgrf dipped and dived in and out of the coral reef. She realised that she could weave her body through the coral!

The teacher and the other students were astonished when Flgrf finally emerged from the coral. They had been captivated by her skills. Flgrf was a natural performer! The usually strict history teacher encouraged her to continue her dipping in and out of the coral and soon everyone was watching Flgrf the incredible flat puffer fish.

Flgrf encouraged other fish to join her magnificent show and soon everyone realised that it doesn't matter about how you look! You can still do anything!

THE BIBLE AND...

The Seas

This Bible study is designed to help and individual or small group to explore what the Bible says about the sea

Psalm 107: 23–32

*Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the mighty waters;
they saw the deeds of the Lord,
his wondrous works in the deep.
For he commanded and raised the
stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.
They mounted up to heaven, they went
down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their
calamity;
they reeled and staggered like
drunkards,
and were at their wits' end.
Then they cried to the Lord in their
trouble,
and he brought them out from their
distress;
he made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
Then they were glad because they had
quiet,
and he brought them to their desired
haven.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast
love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
Let them extol him in the congregation
of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the
elders. (NRSVA)*

If we think about the Psalms, then usually, rightly, we think of them as poetry. However, Psalm 107 is a great example of the way in which poems can also tell us stories. The entire Psalm is rather lengthy and consists of a series of 'songs of thanksgiving' that speak of the steadfast and enduring love of the Lord. While the whole Psalm has been interpreted as an account of the story of Israel and their return from exile, several shorter stories are contained within, and these describe the troubles experienced by particular groups of people: the wanderers who struggle to find a place

to belong, the sick, the prisoners, the rebels, and, of particular interest to us in this issue of *Animalwatch*, those who travel upon the sea to make a living. Each of these tales follows the same pattern in which the central refrain is repeated: "They cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress" (verses 6, 13, 19, 28).

The passage that we focus upon here is a story that involves a storm upon the waters: a frightening event that occurs in several biblical texts; perhaps most famously in the tale of Jesus calming the storm (Matthew 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41; Luke 8:22–25). This miracle is sometimes referred to as an 'exorcism of the sea', and it is certainly easy to come away from this story (and others, such as that of Jonah and the whale, Jesus walking on water, or St Paul's shipwreck on the island of Malta) with the idea that biblical writers regarded the sea as something to be battled, feared, and tamed.

However, this extract from Psalm 107 reminds us that the sea represents more than simply a force of chaos in the Bible, and that it is certainly not something that is opposed to God's plan and purpose. Indeed, at the beginning of this short story, the merchants and traders who sail upon the sea marvel at its majesty, and they witness God's awesome power through the wind and the waves. The storm that occurs here is not presented as a punishment; it is simply part of God's creation. More than this, the merchants' encounters at sea give them fresh understanding and insight about God. We find the wonderful image of the waves of the sea pushing the people up towards heaven (the dwelling place of God and the source of true wisdom), and then taking them down to the depths. Their experience of surviving the storm is, quite literally, an epiphany. The power of the sea helps them to know more of God, to see their lives in perspective, and perhaps to consider what is truly important.

Following their safe arrival back on dry land, the thankful merchants tell the story

of their experience to the "congregation of the people", which is likely to refer to the worshipping community, and also to the "assembly of the elders" (verse 32). While this may denote the tribal leaders, some scholars have suggested instead that this is a reference to the older people sitting outdoors, waiting to hear about the adventures of the returning travellers. These references to storytelling are an important feature of this Psalm: the experiences are recounted as an act of thanksgiving to God, and as an act of witness – to share with other people what God has done.

This Psalm underlines the respect that should be afforded to the oceans and the waves, and suggests that spending time on the sea (or by the sea – think of those waiting to hear the stories that the merchants bring back) can enable us to understand our place in the world more clearly.

Rebecca Dean

Questions and Activities for Groups:

- Verses 24 and 25 of the Psalm describe God at work in the wind and in the waves. Do you identify with this idea of God's presence in the waters? How might this idea challenge human attitudes towards the sea?
- Verse 30 of the Psalm talks about a safe "haven" or harbour. What does your safe haven look like? Can you come up with any ideas to help create safe havens for animals, birds, or the creatures of the sea?
- Do you have a story to share about one of your own encounters within the natural world? It needn't be as dramatic as the merchants' tale in this Psalm! Perhaps you have found a sense of peace when walking beside the sea, or gained a new perspective looking out over the waters. Think about telling your story, perhaps to a friend or within a church group. You could even send your story into the magazine to be printed in a future edition.

BOOK REVIEWS

BLUE PLANET, BLUE GOD: THE BIBLE AND THE SEA
By Meric Srokosz & Rebecca S Watson



SCM Press
ISBN 978-0-334-05633-1
255pp Paperback
Price £19.99

Planet earth orbits the sun at just the right distance to allow water to exist in its liquid, solid and gaseous state, making life possible. Without water, there would be no life. It is even probable that life evolved in the sea, and the majority of the planet's surface is covered by water. Generally speaking, however, when we think about our planet, we tend to think of the land, and this extends to our thinking about environmental care. This book by Meric Srokosz and Rebecca S Watson sets out to redress that balance and get us thinking more about the seas and oceans of our world and the life (including our own) that depends on them.

The authors weave together exploration of several biblical passages relating to the sea and insights from science. In doing so, they paint a picture of what a beautiful, mysterious and awe-inspiring realm earth's oceans are. We are shown God's care for and delight in the seas and their life and invited to marvel at the diversity and complexity of that life. Alongside this we are given a bleaker image – the devastating impact that human beings are having on the oceans and marine life. Pollution, overfishing, and the warming and acidification caused by climate change are all contributing to the decline of marine life. As this book makes clear, the oceans do not belong to us – they, like the rest of the earth, belong to God (Psalm 24.1), and exist not primarily for our use but for the creatures that live in them and for God's delight.

As well as providing clear, easy-to-understand explanations of the relevant science, *Blue Planet, Blue God* also offers some wonderful insights into the biblical material, revealing hidden depths (no pun intended!) to what might seem very familiar passages. One example of this for me was the discussion of Psalm 104 in chapter 3, where we're told that the Hebrew word translated 'creatures' in verse 24 can mean property – a reminder that the

creatures of the earth, including those of the sea, belong to God, not to us. The authors go on to point out that this word can also imply paternity. In other words, we should perhaps understand that the creatures of the earth, including sea creatures, are more than just God's property, they are also God's children.

Srokosz and Watson don't shy away from confronting their readers about contemporary western civilization's over-consumption and the impact this has on the world's oceans. Throughout the book the need for human humility in our relationship with the oceans is evident. The final chapter of the book sets out quite clearly the need to reign in our consumption, to be willing to make sacrifices for the good of the planet as a whole. It is all too clear what will happen if we can't do this, or won't. Despite this, the book itself is not one of doom and gloom. The oceans are full of life and beauty, and the Christian faith has within it a confident hope in the renewal of all creation. Christians also have a responsibility to live in such a way as to help make that hope a reality. If we can do that, then all is not lost for our oceans.

Each chapter of this book ends with a key message, essentially a paragraph summing up the chapter, a challenge to be overcome, reflection and discussion points, and an action that the reader can take, either to increase understanding or to make a difference (such as reducing our carbon emissions). This structure makes the book especially suitable for use by small groups, and some might want to consider it for a Lent or other study course.

Blue Planet, Blue God covers a broad range of topics but this results in the feeling that in places more could have been said. I found this to be the case particularly in chapter 8, which would have benefitted from further discussion of sustainable 'blue' economic growth, what that might look like and how achievable it might be. This is, nevertheless, an important book and I hope that many Christians will read it. As the authors themselves say, "If we truly believe that God created and values the oceans, we should make this our concern too."

Jennifer Brown

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 9TH MAY 2018

We held our AGM once again in May at St Michael's Church in London by kind permission of Revd Charles Marnham. We are very grateful for the use of this excellent venue for our AGM each year.

Because of low numbers attending the AGM over the past few years, we decided this year we would not have a guest speaker. We would be interested to hear any thoughts on how we might encourage greater attendance at future AGMs. Having spoken to other charities, however, we realise that this is an issue not limited to ASWA and most spoke of similar experiences. We are aware that not all our members reside in London or the surrounding area and therefore making a long trip on a Saturday in May might be difficult. Given that for many organisations high levels of attendance at AGMs are the result of dissatisfied members wishing to express their concerns, we hope that our recent attendance numbers reflect a general satisfaction among the ASWA membership and confidence in the job being done by the committee.

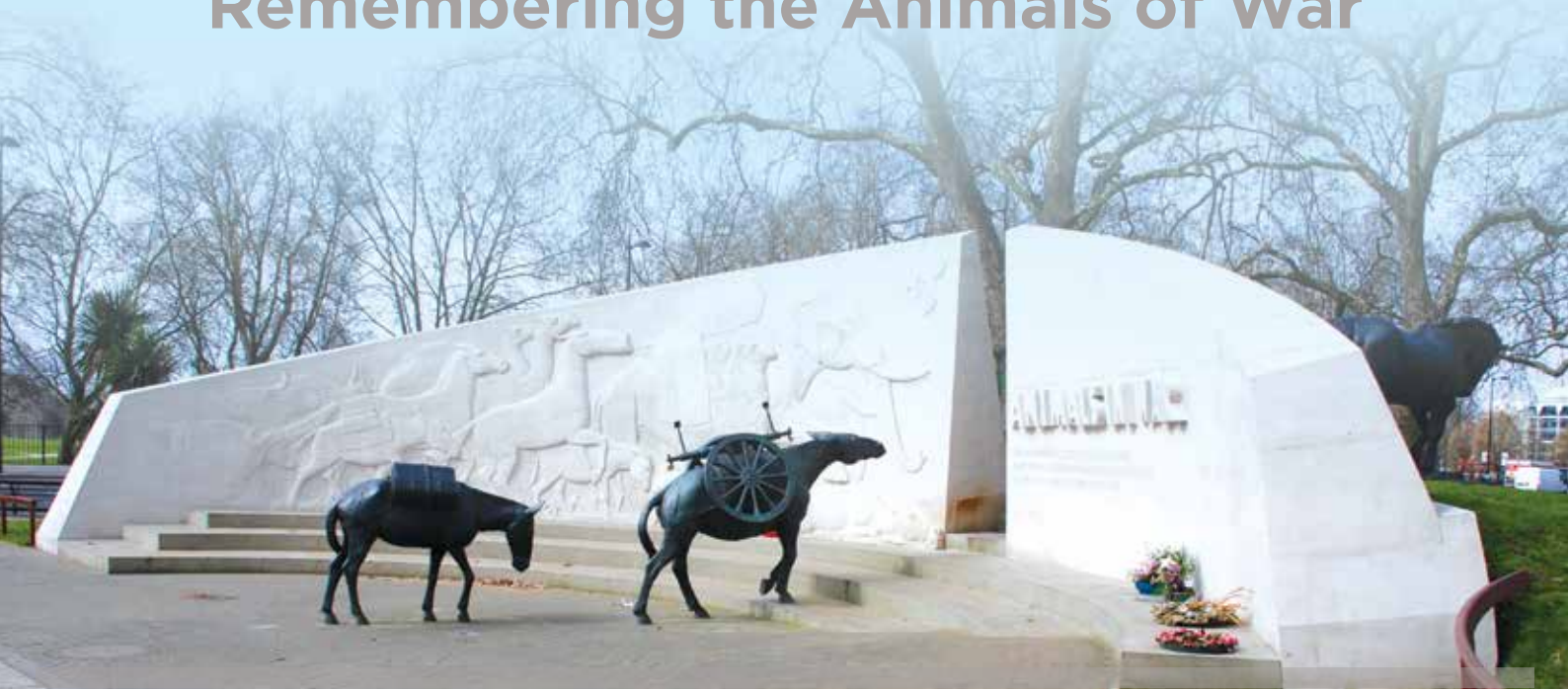
At the 2018 AGM, Revd Hugh Broadbent, Revd Jennifer Brown (Editor) and Mrs Jenny White were all re-elected onto the Committee.

Revd Dr Helen Hall (Chair) gave her annual report. She thanked the Committee for their continued dedication to the society and also Mr Keith Plumridge (membership secretary) for his efficient maintenance of the ASWA database and also Mrs Helen Hellier our bookkeeper.

Copies of the AGM minutes from 2017 are available either electronically or by paper copy for those who would like to see them. The minutes from the 2018 AGM will not be available to members until they are agreed at the meeting in May 2019.

THEY ALSO SERVED

Remembering the Animals of War



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

Sunday 11th November – 3.00pm

For a short service with guest speakers
**Pen Farthing from Nowzad Dogs and
Susan Osborne – The War Horse Memorial**

Further details:

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals

Tel: 01252 843093 **Email:** AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com

www.aswa.org.uk





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

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Revd Dr Helen Hall





ASWA DAY CONFERENCE & ANNUAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th October 2018



A special weekend focusing on the importance
of caring for our Marine environment.

A HALF DAY CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER WITH GUEST SPEAKERS:

Tim Ferrero - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Robert Sluka - A Rocha International

Professor Meric Srokosz - National Oceanography Centre - Southampton

9.00am - 12.30

with light refreshments and the opportunity for questions and answers.

Followed by a Celebration Service on Animal Welfare Sunday

7th October 2018 - 10.00am.

Preacher: Revd Dr Helen Hall

Venue for both events: St Mary's, Portsea, Fratton Road, Portsmouth PO1 5PA

By kind invitation of Revd Canon Bob White.