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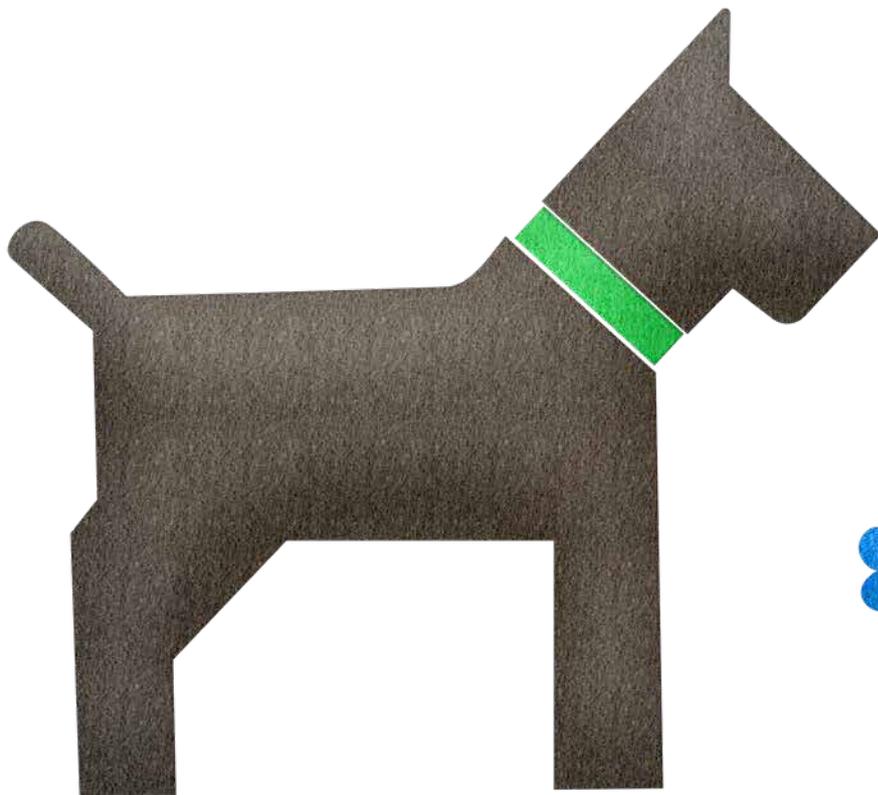
Autumn 2022

Price £2 (free to members)

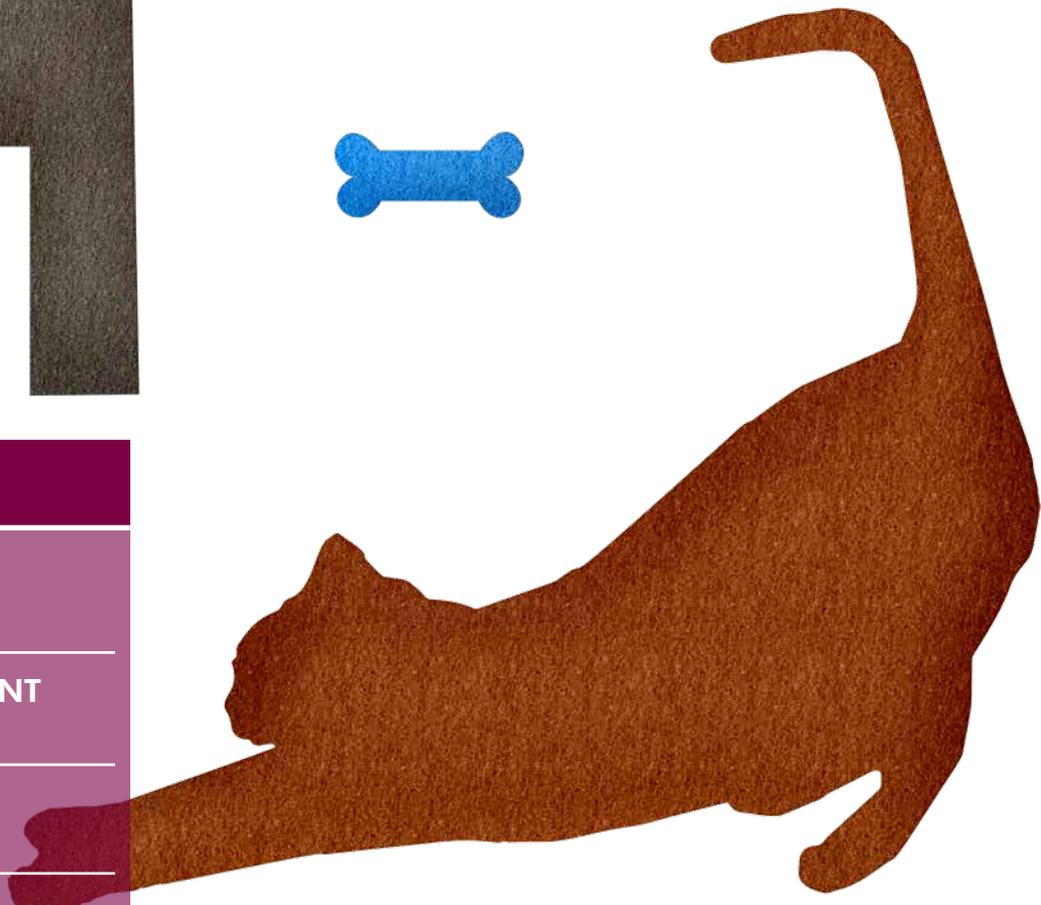


animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



AD  PT



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OBITUARY: HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

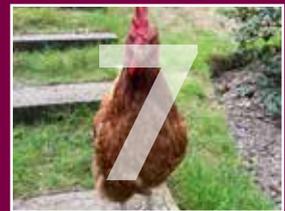
RISE IN PET ABANDONMENT
AND HOW TO HELP

WHY I ADOPT HENS

ANNUAL SERVICE FOR
ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY

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DORIS' DIARY

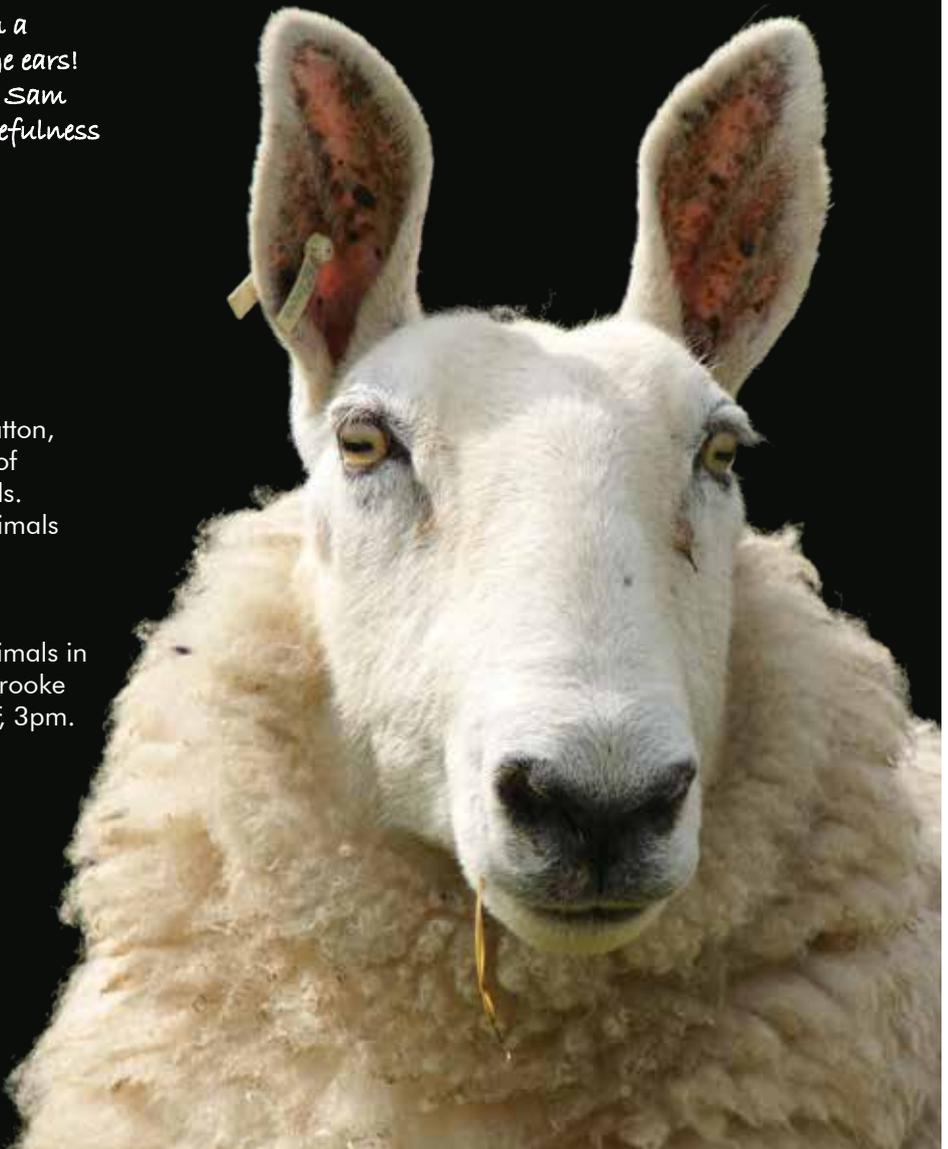
Hello! My name is Doris, and I am a Border Leicester ewe with very large ears! I was rescued by ASWA secretary Sam Chandler, as I had outlived my usefulness as a breeding ewe.

Below are some great events ewe may enjoy!

Sunday 2 October
Animal Welfare Sunday.

ASWA Annual Service, St Mary-at-Latton, Harlow, 3pm. This will be a service of thanksgiving with blessing of animals. Please do join us and bring your animals to be blessed.

Sunday 13 November
ASWA Remembrance Service for Animals in War, The Animals' War Memorial, Brooke Gate, Park Lane, London, W1K 7QF, 3pm.
Speaker: Jenny Seagrove.



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. In this issue, we focus on pet adoption.

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 upcoming 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 30th January 2023**.

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 4 new members who have joined since the publication of the summer issue.

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

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!



This year, we are offering a mixed pack featuring some of the most popular designs done for us by Thea Olrog. The cards are now available to order, either on-line via our website or by sending a cheque made payable to ASWA. The price for this year's cards is £5.50 for

a pack of 6 (including postage). Made from good-quality stiff card with high-quality envelopes, each card is printed with a Bible verse and has ASWA's details on the back. Sending an ASWA Christmas card is a great way to help raise the profile of ASWA and the work that we do.

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

A new life for 4000 dogs

According to an article published on the CNN website in July, 4,000 beagles being bred for medical research were to be rehomed and the breeding facility closed. The article states that a PETA investigation revealed that the dogs were being kept in substandard conditions. For these dogs, the rehoming is definitely good news, as they will be getting a new start in life in loving homes.

The full CNN article can be read at <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/07/27/opinions/dogs-animal-research-dogs-beagles-kaplan/index.html>.

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 2nd October at St Mary-at-Latton Church, Harlow, Essex. See the diary for more details.

Keeping in Touch

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Cattle zero grazing is a high profile ethical issue, but what about zero-grazed goats?

Goats have a bad image, partly or largely through misunderstanding of Matthew 25.32–33. The fact is that Jesus was using a metaphor, "as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats," referring to a practice at the time of sheltering sheep in a fold and goats in a cave out of sight.

The species' traits of inquisitiveness, independent-mindedness, 'waywardness', and avid appetites are, in fact, perfectly adapted to an inclement rocky and/or arid environment. This being so, and taking the Revd Andrew Linzey's point that God's creatures have an intrinsic value, can we accept the commercial mass production practice of 'yarding'?

This is a highly intelligent foraging and browsing animal whose need to browse freely, climb, and lead an active and agile life is denied in a shed and yard. The traditional field, trees, and shelter arrangement honoured the goats' needs and nature as part of the natural world while achieving self-sufficiency with a clear conscience.

Katherine Watson
Stockport

OBITUARY

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

Together with the nation we mourn the death of the late Queen Elizabeth II. The late Queen was a devout Christian with a deeply held faith, and a devoted servant of both God and her people. She was also an animal lover, seen primarily in the affection that she had for her many corgis. Her Late Majesty was also very fond of and knowledgeable about horses. Although her involvement in horse racing and country sports might be considered by some to be controversial, there is no denying that her love of animals was deep and genuine. She was patron of the RSPCA, who have announced they will be introducing a new award in the late Queen's name, and was also for 60 years a patron of the Battersea Dogs and Cats charity.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA

Update on battery cages and live exports



In the Summer 2022 *Animalwatch*, I mentioned that the Ministers for Agriculture of the States and Territories were considering the future of the battery cage system. After many years' deliberation considering the battery system of egg production, they came up with the decision that the battery system can remain until 2037. The reaction is as you can guess – extreme disappointment. We will not let this matter rest. This poor decision will result in more than fifty million more hens suffering in those miserable cages over the next 15 years.

Sheep are still going live to the Middle East, although the Federal Government did reduce numbers to some Middle East countries from June to September because they are particularly hot months. Fortunately, sheep numbers to that area are dropping. For instance, in 2016–2017, 1.8 million sheep were sent. By 2020–2021 this number had dropped to just over six hundred thousand. The Labor Party won the federal election a few months ago, and they did commit to banning live exports. No action yet, but it was a commitment. The 2022 Festival of Sacrifice took place in the Middle East and Africa, and Animals Australia and international colleagues investigated. In the Middle East, where Australia has regulations in place, evidence of breaches of regulations were obtained and legal complaints lodged.

The Australian summer is approaching and shark nets are being installed at 51 popular beaches in New South Wales, including Newcastle where I live, along 200km of coast. The trouble with nets is that it is not only sharks that are caught. So are turtles and rays and many other non-dangerous animals. The RSPCA only, "accepts the management of wild animals where it is justified, effective and humane. The killing of sharks does not meet these criteria."

So, after all that bad news, I will end on a high note: a bill has gone to the NSW Government from the Animal Justice Party to ban puppy farms in

NSW. Perhaps I will be able to let you know what happens in the next *Animalwatch*. The South Australian Government has banned jumps racing (steeplechasing). So now only the State of Victoria, where it still lingers, needs to come into line.

Olga Parkes

SWEDEN



Redlisted bird

The curlew used to be quite common in Sweden but has vanished from many areas. This is due to the change in agricultural management and also due to aggressive forestry where entire forests are completely chopped down. Marshes and woodlands are vanishing and thus also the habitat they provide for the curlew. Hunting of curlew is forbidden in many parts of Europe but unfortunately is still happening.

The birds arrive in Sweden in March–April and start to leave around Midsummer. The females leave first after leaving the young ones in the males' care. The males leave in July and the juveniles in August. They spend the winter season on the British Isles and on the coasts of Western Europe. These birds can live to be 30 years old or more. They are redlisted in Sweden and rarely seen. I am happy to say that I have had the fortune of being able to take some pictures of some of them this spring.



The county of Umeå has the curlew as their county bird. In their honour, there is a model over five metres high of a curlew covered in lights, lit as darkness falls to manifest the importance of the bird.

Sandra Kinley

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.

York

York is a wonderfully animal-friendly city. Many of the shops, pubs, and cafés are dog-friendly, there is a cat café, and even a 'cat trail' of cat statues on the outside of buildings that can be followed around the city. So it's not surprising that York also boasts several vegetarian and vegan restaurants, among them the vegan restaurant, Source.

We ate at Source twice, once for dinner and once for lunch. On both occasions, the food was delicious and plentiful. Almost too plentiful, in fact, as the shawarma I had at dinner was more than I could finish! On our lunch visit, one of us chose one of Source's salad bowls and the other went for a brunch option of smoked carrot slices and scrambled tofu on sourdough toast, with a glass of prosecco. Both were extremely good. The service on both our visits was friendly and efficient. Source also manages to create an atmosphere that is suitable for both a casual meal and for a special night out, and we would definitely be happy to go there again.

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.



RISE IN PET ABANDONMENT AND HOW TO HELP



As was widely reported, the purchase and adoption of pets skyrocketed during lockdown. People who were spending all their time at home wanted companionship, and pets offered that. There was a fear that, once working patterns returned to 'normal', many of these animals, especially dogs, would be abandoned because their owners wouldn't be able to spend time with them and care for them as they needed.

What wasn't anticipated as we emerged from the COVID-19 crisis was that it would be followed by a cost-of-living crisis. Now, animals are being abandoned in record numbers simply because people can no longer afford the cost of food and veterinary care. In May of this year, *The Guardian* reported that the RSPCA had recorded a 24% increase in the number of animals being surrendered or abandoned (see <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/aug/25/rspca-shelters-drowning-in-animals-amid-cost-of-living-crisis> for the full article).

It is hard to find fault with those who are giving up their pets. When a person or family isn't sure that they'll be able to afford to switch the heating on in the winter or to put food on the table, an extra mouth to feed just isn't supportable. And

the cost of veterinary care can be an unmanageable expense. No doubt choosing to give up a beloved pet is heart-wrenching for such families and individuals, just as much as it is traumatising for the animals involved, who will not understand what is happening or why their human family is sending them away. It must be especially devastating for those who live alone and are relinquishing their only companion.

This increase in pet surrenders and abandonments also impacts on shelters. Not only do they need to find the space to keep the animals that they rescue, they take on the costs of feeding those animals and providing their veterinary care. And shelters, too, are affected by the cost-of-living crisis. Although charities pay lower VAT on their energy bills than businesses or private homes, they are considered small businesses, and therefore are not included in the price cap on domestic energy bills. This means that animal shelters, like other small businesses, are seeing astronomical rises in their heating and electricity costs.

How can we all help? We are all going to feel the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, affecting as it does our gas and electricity bills and the cost of many food items. But, for those of us who are able, donations to animal

shelters to help them with their costs will make a big difference. If we can help families keep their pets, that, too will help. Supporting charities such as the Blue Cross and PDSA is one way to do this, as these charities provide free veterinary care for those who are in receipt of certain benefits. But they can only help those who qualify based on means-tested benefits. There may be families in your area who are not in receipt of benefits but are finding vet bills more than they can afford. Could your church create a pastoral fund for such people, and to which people could donate, that could provide financial support with vet bills? Many food banks accept donations of pet food, cat litter, and other pet supplies, to help families with pets to be able to keep their beloved animals in times of financial crisis. Consider including pet food or pet supplies in your next food bank donation.

Finally, giving animals already in shelters a forever home is one of the best ways to help. If you are thinking about getting a new pet, consider adopting rather than buying an animal. If you aren't in a position to provide a forever home but think you could have a pet on a temporary basis, consider fostering. This helps free up space in shelters, provides a safe haven for animals not suited to living in a shelter, and can help prepare animals for moving to their new forever families.

Jennifer Brown



WHY I ADOPT HENS



I have been adopting hens for about fifteen years and have found it to be one of the most rewarding and satisfying things to see them transform to their full potential and display their natural characteristics in quite a short time after living in confined conditions. The rescued hens I adopt normally come from the British Hen Welfare Trust (BHWT). The BHWT have collection stations in different parts of the country and are often also represented in animal welfare shelters, so anyone interested in hen adoption can look online to find their closest pick-up station. The hens are normally just over a year old when collected from various farms. These hens would otherwise go to slaughter as their egg production has slowed down. The farms are happy to let the BHWT collect a good number of hens. These hens will still provide you with eggs but more importantly make wonderful pets. The BHWT do request a donation from adopters and they offer lots of support and advice on hen keeping.

All our hens, like Sheila (pictured) have names. They are social creatures who like to live in a flock, so we normally keep about five hens. When I introduce new ones, however, they are separated for week or possibly longer, depending on their condition, as some may be featherless and bald in areas of their bodies which could make them vulnerable, especially as a new pecking order may be established. I have a large and small hen house a large enclosure and when they are well established, I let them roam in the whole garden, which they love. In their enclosure they can dust bathe which is a joy to watch. Dust baths help them keep cool and clean their feathers from any mites. They have a perch and branches as some do fly at a low height. A healthy diet of good quality is essential. Hens drink a lot of water, and they enjoy the occasional treat. Ours really enjoy the odd grape now and then. Our oldest hen, called Doris, is now five and still very lively and quite vocal at times when looking for attention. My hens visit our local vet when poorly. These days many vets are happy to treat hens as hen keeping is now popular.

There are millions of hens across the UK. Although there has been improvement in hen welfare there still needs to be higher hen welfare and compassion. Hens are sentient creatures who feel fear and pain. They are playful and inquisitive, they need stimulation and to be cared for and loved, and it's amazing how they can flourish when adopted into the right home.

If you would like any more information or offer a donation, please contact bhwt.org.uk.

Janet Murphy

THE BIBLE AND...

Animal adoption.

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

Romans 8.15–23

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Animal adoption is one of the subjects on which the Bible does not speak directly. But that does not mean that we cannot look to scripture for guidance on how we might think about this subject. The Bible does talk about adoption. Moses' life is saved when he is adopted by Pharaoh's daughter, for example. Esther, who became a saviour of her people, had also been adopted by a family member after the death of her parents. And in this passage from Romans, Paul says that

all Christians have "a spirit of adoption" that allows us to call God Father. We are, by adoption, true children of God.

Paul goes on to speak of the suffering of creation and that, "the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God." In other words, when our lives reflect our status as God's children, when humanity lives the life of God's household, acting according to the teaching and wishes and ethos of our Father, then creation will be liberated from its suffering. When we have matured into our adopted status, not just we, but the whole creation will benefit.

Adoption, therefore, is an important biblical motif, especially for Christians. And if God can adopt us into his family and household, if we can be co-heirs with Christ, although we are less than Christ (our origin is earthly, not heavenly), then it is surely right that we apply that same principle to the non-human creatures whom we have created and shaped for ourselves, through generations, sometimes millennia, of breeding.

Questions for Groups:

How important is the concept of adoption to your understanding of humanity's relationship with God?

Do you think it is possible to think of adopting an animal into a family as a means of showing God's love for creation?

Bible quotation from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition ©1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



BOOK REVIEWS

POPPY IN THE WILD

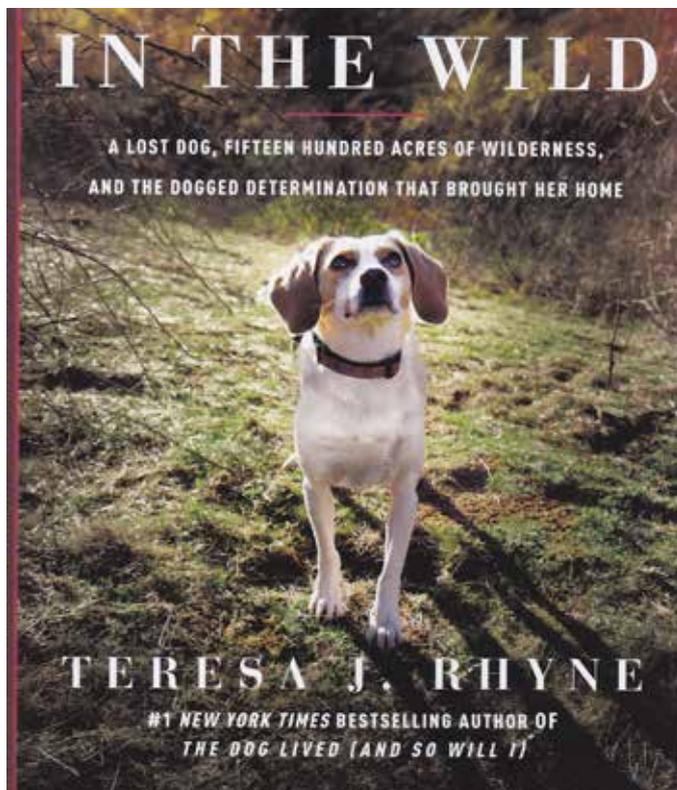
By Teresa J Rhyne

Publisher

ISBN 978-1-639-36205-9

293pp Paperback

Price £11.99



For anyone who has experienced a pet going missing, the events and emotions of this book will feel very familiar. The book is part autobiography, though mostly it is the story of the search for Poppy after she gets lost in a vast area of wilderness in California.

The chatty style might not appeal to everyone, but the story of Poppy's disappearance and the search to find her

is gripping. It is also uplifting, as we are told of the many friends, acquaintances, and even strangers who join in the search for this one little missing dog. There is real goodness in human nature that is revealed in this narrative, like that of the family who allow Teresa to sit out on their lawn overnight to watch, because Poppy had been sighted there (and even offered to leave their door unlocked so that she could use their loo, if needed – how many of us would do that for a complete stranger?).

As the story of the search for Poppy unfolds, we are told of the advice given by expert pet finders, most of which runs contrary to what instinct would tell us to do when searching for a missing pet. We are also introduced to several people who mean well, but are less helpful than they intend to be, such as the woman who goes to the spot where Poppy was lost and howls to her, and the many who point out that the wilderness area is full of coyotes.

Somewhat in the background but very much a part of the story is the amazing work done by the Beagle Rescue Foundation, who rescue dogs from the Asian meat trade, as Poppy was, and take in those who have been used in medical research labs in the US, like Poppy's fellow adoptee, Percival, and find them loving, caring homes where they can begin to recover from the trauma they've experienced in life. The book includes an appendix with advice about finding a missing dog, some of which is, unsurprisingly, given with an American context in mind, and therefore may not be appropriate for the UK. Much of it, however, such as what to put on a 'lost dog' poster, is likely to be helpful for anyone who finds themselves with a lost pet.

Christians might struggle with some of the ripe language and the 'thank Buddha' moments in the book and, as mentioned above, the writing style may not be to everyone's taste, but this is a wonderful story of the love that exists between humans and dogs, and the selflessness and generosity that can still be found in times of personal trouble and need.

Jennifer Brown

Notice to ASWA members and supporters: Apologies to any of our members and supporters who have been trying to reach ASWA on the usual telephone number – 01252 843093. The Secretary has been in the middle of moving house, so the number had to be temporarily disconnected. We are hoping it will be re-connected in the next couple of weeks.



ANNUAL SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY

Sunday 2nd October at 3.00pm



All welcome

A family friendly service for Animal Welfare Sunday
with Blessing of animals included

Please bring your companion animals along

PREACHER: REVD SAM CHANDLER - ASWA SECRETARY

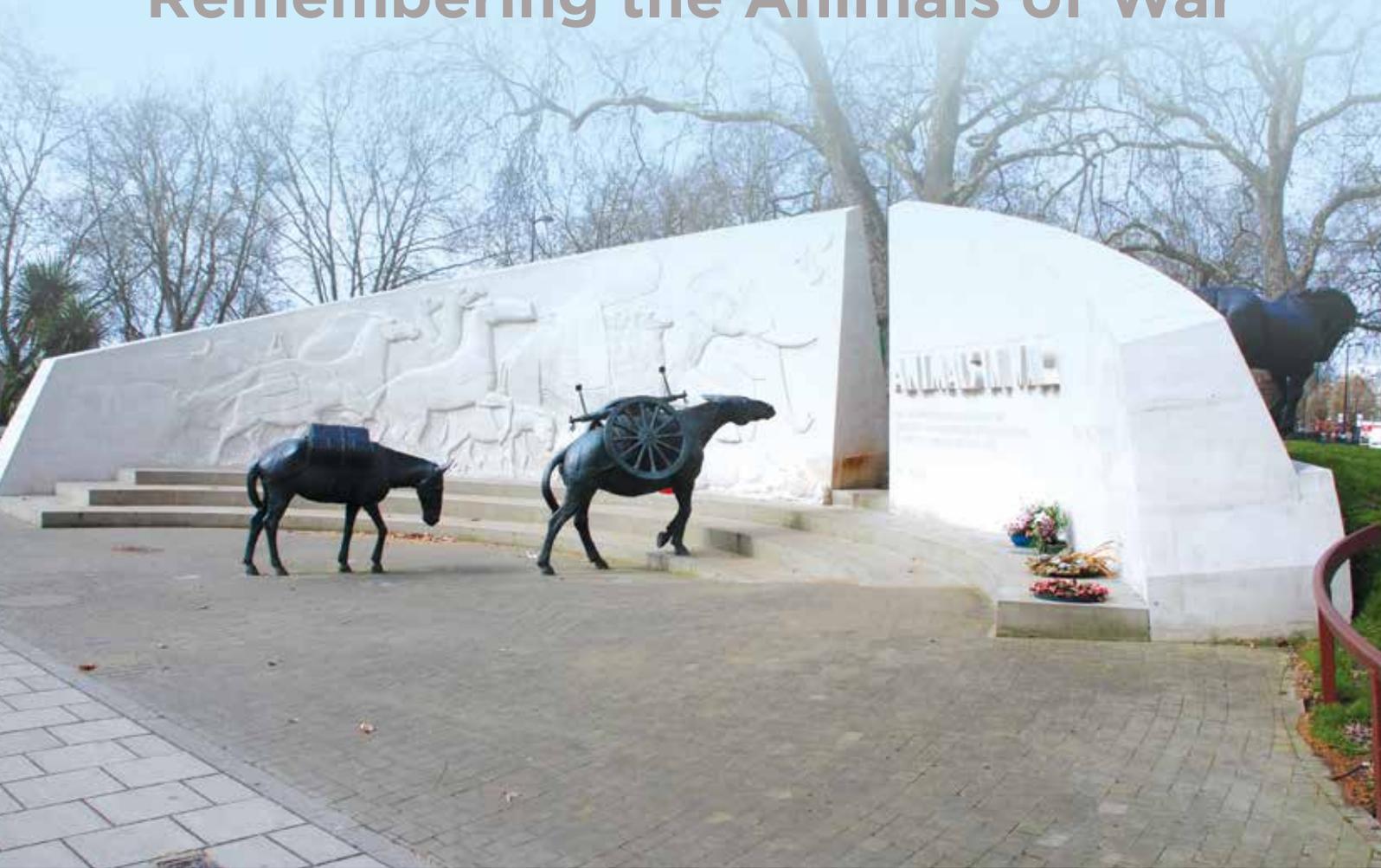


Venue: St Mary-at-Latton
The Gowers, Harlow, Essex
CM20 2JP



THEY ALSO SERVED

Remembering the Animals of War



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

Sunday 13th November – 3.00pm

Speaker: Jenny Seagrove

Actor and Founding Trustee of Mane Chance Sanctuary

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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