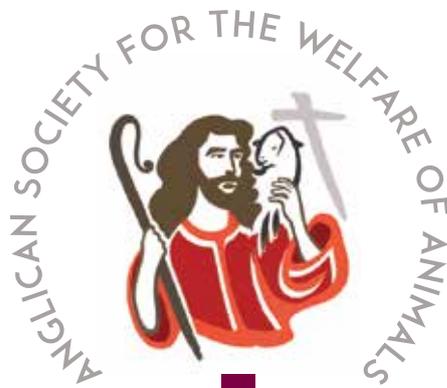


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Autumn 2023

Price £2 (free to members)



# animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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NEED HELP

ANIMAL FAIR ST ST. JAMES'  
CHURCH, PICCADILLY

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INTERVIEW WITH ANIMAL  
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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!*

### **Wednesday 13 September to Saturday 16 September**

Catholic Concern for Animals' Annual Retreat, Holland House, Cropthorne, Worcs., WR10 3NB. For further information and to book, please email Irene Casey ([irenecasey37@gmail.com](mailto:irenecasey37@gmail.com)).

### **Saturday 7 October**

Animal Blessing and Thanksgiving Service for Pets, St Martin's Church, Mortimer Road, Kensal Green, London NW10 5SN, 2pm. Service led by Revd Graham Noyce.

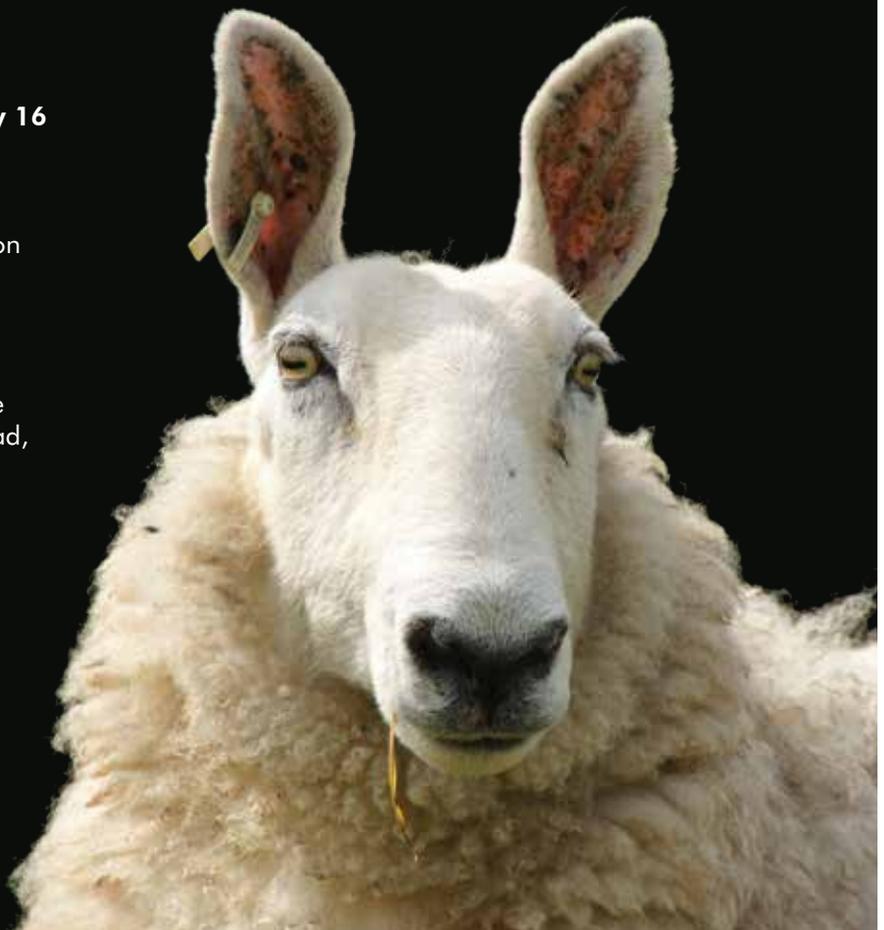
### **Sunday 8 October**

Animal Welfare Sunday.

ASWA Annual Service, St John's, Hartley Wintney, 10.45am. Preacher the Revd Dr Jennifer Brown.

### **Sunday 12 November**

ASWA Remembrance Service for Animals in War, The Animals' War Memorial, Brooke Gate, Park Lane, London, W1K 7QF, 3pm. Speaker to be confirmed.



# HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. In this issue, we look at the different ways in which animals need and receive our help, and we have the second of our interviews with our Animal Friendly Church winners.

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 Animal Welfare Sunday and our Annual Service.

Please send any items for consideration for *Animalwatch* to Revd Jennifer Brown, Editor, PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT. Email is even better – [animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk](mailto:animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk). Please note that, owing to space restrictions, it may not be possible to print all contributions. Please refer to the information about contributions to *Animalwatch* for further details and restrictions on submissions.

**Jennifer Brown, Editor**

The deadline for the Spring magazine is **Monday 29th January 2024**.

## 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 six 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!

Following its popularity in 2022, we are this year again offering a mixed pack featuring some of the most popular designs done for us by Thea Olog. 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), £2.00 each.

# GOOD NEWS

## The UK Really Is a Nation of Animal Lovers

The RSPCA's 2023 Animal Kindness Index, a survey of people's attitudes towards animals, showed that the British public strongly supports animal welfare and wants government to do more for animal welfare in the UK. Sadly, the cost-of-living crisis means that not everyone can live up to their intentions with regard to animal welfare, but it is good news that people still care and seem to support stronger government action to protect animals.

## NEWS & NOTICES

### Don't forget, you can follow ASWA on Twitter – @aswanews

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



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

### Animal-friendly Church award

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



### ASWA Annual Service

This year's annual service will be on Sunday 8th October at St John's, Hartley Wintney, 10.45am. See the diary for more details.

### Keeping in Touch

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

## OBITUARY

### PD (retired) Finn

We were saddened to hear of the death of retired Police Dog Finn on 28th July. Finn, who suffered serious stab wounds protecting his handler, recovered and went on to become a social media star after winning *Britain's Got Talent*. Finn's experience led to the creation of Finn's Law, making it a criminal offence in the UK to injure a service animal. Finn took part in two of ASWA's Remembrance Day Services at the Animals' War Memorial. Finn's owner, Dave, was with him at the end. Finn will be very much missed.

## ASWA NEWS

### ASWA takes part in animal charity fair

This summer, ASWA was represented at the animal charity fair hosted by St James' Church, Piccadilly, London. This was an opportunity to promote ASWA's work and to connect with other animal welfare charities. A longer article about the fair can be found on p. 6 of this issue.

## 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.*

We don't have a review from the Veggie Traveller in this issue. The Veggie Traveller is out exploring new places to eat and to stay and will provide a review for the next issue. If you are also a veggie traveller and have discovered a vegetarian and/or vegan-friendly place you'd like to share with other *Animalwatch* readers, please do send us a review. .

*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.*



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## AUSTRALIA



### Public attitudes towards animals

In previous issues of *Animalwatch* I have mentioned the Australian charity, Australian Alliance for Animals, comprising Animals Australia, Compassion in World Farming, Four Paws, Humane Society International Australia, Voiceless, and World Animal Protection. Collectively, these organisations represent over two million Australians.

I would like to tell you about a very recent on-line forum conducted by the Alliance. Research was commissioned and conducted by BehaviourWorks Australia, a leading behaviour change institute at Monash University. Part of the work they undertook was a nationally representative survey which explored Australian attitudes and beliefs about animal welfare policy. The survey showed that people overwhelmingly want animals to be treated decently. They believe animals are sentient beings.

This is a mammoth piece of work, and space does not allow me to expand. However, in a nutshell, the results were recorded in the form of a barometer which assessed Australia's performance in meeting community expectations of how animals should be treated. The barometer recorded Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent. Government policies which control the lives of animals in Australia dramatically fall short of community expectations as the barometer never got beyond Poor on any criterion. Sadly, not an unexpected result!

The current system is clearly broken, and the Alliance proposes a new comprehensive framework which includes, among other measures, creating state Ministers for Animal Welfare to remove conflicts of interest; establishing an Independent National Animal Welfare Commission; creating state Animal Welfare Authorities to ensure the interests of animals are upheld under law.

I believe that the ongoing work of the Alliance will result in change for animals in this country. The people involved have the experience, knowledge, skill, and determination to make this happen.

**Olga Parkes**

## SWEDEN



### Decision to shoot sea eagles in order to save a colony of eider.

A few successful measures have been taken in trying to help the colony of eider, also known as St Cuthbert's, duck (*Somateria mollissima*) in Långskär, Finland. Protective hunting of raven and crows has proven successful but, alas, the sea eagle seems to be the culprit now. The small chicks and not yet street-smart juveniles are falling prey to the hungry eagles. The colony of eider is believed to be threatened to such an extent that license to kill off five sea eagles has been given. The eider have a strong Christian symbolism, and they pluck their breast feathers as bedding in the nest of their young.

Ending on a more positive note: The European Union's Commission on Sweden's Nature 2000 has evaluated extensive research on wetlands and the importance of them and from the Swedish perspective it is imperative that at least 19 new wetlands need to be created. The fifteen that already exist need to be made larger in order to protect birds in marine areas.

**Sandra Kinley**



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## TALKING POINT

### Making a difference

What can I do? What is meant by that question is often indicated by the tone of voice in which it is asked. It can be a genuine offer of help or a statement of despair, expressing the sense that the problem is too big and there is nothing that the person speaking can do to make a difference. Sometimes, it feels like our contribution to solving a global problem, whether that's climate change, poverty, or animal cruelty, is just a drop in the ocean and doesn't really make a difference at all. But is that really true? Every act of kindness makes a difference. Every change in lifestyle that lessens one's impact on the planet, reduces one's contribution to animal exploitation, and prioritises the welfare of others – humans and animals – does matter. Many small changes can have a big impact. So, in what tone of voice are we asking, "What can I do?"

## THE WORLD'S ANIMALS NEED HELP

In August, it was reported that, as a result of melting ice in the Antarctic, thousands of penguin chicks died through drowning or freezing to death (being too young to have the waterproof feathers that allow penguins to swim). Some colonies had no surviving chicks. Animal lives have also been lost to the many wildfires raging around the world, and in 2022 thousands of animals died, including hundreds of elephants, zebras, and wildebeests, as a result of drought in Kenya.

It's clear that the world's animals need help. Climate change is having devastating impacts on many species. As Christians, we have a responsibility to take this seriously and to act in whatever ways we can to limit global temperature rise and to mitigate its impact. Genesis 1.26 tells us that God gave human beings dominion over the world's animals. That means God

delegated authority and responsibility for his creatures to us. It is our task to care for them and to exercise dominion, or rule, as God would – with compassion and concern for the wellbeing of all creatures.

Whatever we can do to contribute to limiting climate change, whether that's changing our diet, cycling or walking for local journeys rather than taking the car, or making our homes more environmentally friendly, can make a difference. Similarly, whatever we can do to help mitigate the impacts of climate change, whether that's contributing to charities that provide relief for humans and animals affected by natural disasters, or providing food and water for the wildlife that visits our gardens and planting wildlife-friendly garden plants, will also make a difference.

In Romans 8.19, Paul writes of creation waiting, "with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God." Through our baptism, Christians are children of God. We are revealed as such when we begin to live accordingly, to see the world through God's eyes, to love the creation as God loves, and to live out that love in our choices and actions. Creation cannot afford for us to wait.



## ANIMAL FAIR AT ST JAMES' CHURCH PICCADILLY

On Saturday 24th June 2023, I helped at a wonderful Animal Charity Fair, held in the courtyard at St James' Church Piccadilly, which is one of the churches that has won our Animal-friendly church award. ASWA were delighted to be invited to have a stand there, and the organiser, Marion Garnett, worked exceedingly hard to make this event a success. Marion also organises the Ealing Animal Fair, taking place on 2nd March 2024 (details at [ealinganimalsfair.london](http://ealinganimalsfair.london)).

It was good to talk with some familiar animal welfare charities, including Nowzad, founded by Pen Farthing, who has rescued many animals from war-torn countries, particularly Afghanistan and Ukraine. Nowzad ([nowzad.com](http://nowzad.com)) work to relieve the suffering of animals, including working equines, stray and abandoned cats and dogs, and all other animals in need of care and attention, and to provide and maintain animal rescue centres where possible. Ann and David Hill, supporters of Nowzad, and their adopted dog, Ewok, recently rescued from Afghanistan, were on the stand and it was lovely to meet them. Ewok was very popular.

Meeting Duncan McNair, founder and CEO of Save The Asian Elephants, ([www.stae.org](http://www.stae.org)) and hearing about his

charity was very inspiring. Duncan, who is a lawyer, has worked tirelessly over nine years for his charity and has drafted the first version of key legislation which is now going through Parliament as the Animals (Low-Welfare Activities Abroad) Bill. On 14th July 2023, at its Second Reading in the House of Lords, the Bill was approved without opposition or amendment. It now proceeds to Lords' Committee Stage – ever nearer to law. This Bill would prohibit the advertising or offering for sale in England and Northern Ireland of any activities or entertainments abroad where elephants and all other vertebrate species are abused in tourism (for more about the bill, see the article by Duncan in the Spring 2022 issue of *Animalwatch*–Editor). The test of whether the promotion is unlawful will be whether an activity happening abroad would, were it happening here, be unlawful.

The Bill would be a huge breakthrough in the history of animal welfare across the world. Millions of animals suffer extreme brutality for tourist entertainment worldwide. Many wild animals are taken from the wild when they are young or are bred in captivity. Baby Asian elephants are snatched from their forest homes, their protective mothers killed in front

of them, then isolated, starved, and beaten and ripped with iron bars and hooks to break them for easy use in tourism, often dying in the process. Their lives then are a tragic cycle of abuse, malnutrition, loneliness, and psychological distress. Other wild species used for tourism 'fun' include monkeys, tigers, lions, bears, camels, ostriches, and dolphins. Cruel methods are used to train these intelligent creatures including beating, separation from their mothers, and restraint with minimal movement.

"Shamefully the UK market plays a major part in promoting such tourism," says Duncan McNair. Save The Asian Elephants has so far identified over 1,200 UK-based travel companies advertising nearly 300 brutal Asian elephant venues alone.

Duncan adds, "This Bill, with millions of supporters in the UK alone, is a world-first for our nation. It raises a flag around which every nation, sickened by the ravaging of this planet's precious inheritance, can rally while time remains. We can pray, and also now really hope, for better times for our beleaguered brothers and sisters in nature."

**Janet Murphy**

# ANIMAL FRIENDLY CHURCH AND ANIMAL CHAPLAIN

At St Augustine's Church in Scaynes Hill, we have recently been accepted for registration with the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA) as an animal friendly church. This complements our silver award with the environmental organisation A Rocha.

Being an animal friendly church means that ASWA has recognised the value we give to the contribution and needs of animals, which is reflected in the life and witness of our church community including in worship and prayer. We positively welcome quiet, well-behaved dogs to attend services with their owners who are regular members of our congregation.

We aim to promote a compassionate attitude towards all God's creation and creatures. This is embedded within our Eco Church agenda which is at the heart of who we are/what we do. We believe that we have a duty of care as Christians to look after, nurture, protect and not exploit God's created order.

To lead our animal friendly programme, we have an animal chaplain. Maria was authorised as a local chaplain in Chichester Cathedral as part of the Authorised Lay Ministry initiative in the diocese and has since become our chaplain for people and their animals. Her role includes co-ordinating support for people undergoing the loss or bereavement of a pet or animal (horses included). Maria has undertaken additional training as part of her 'day job' as a manager for a local veterinary practice and holds the Blue Cross certificate in Pet Bereavement. She understands firsthand how the impact of the loss or death of a much-loved animal companion can be a very real and painful experience.

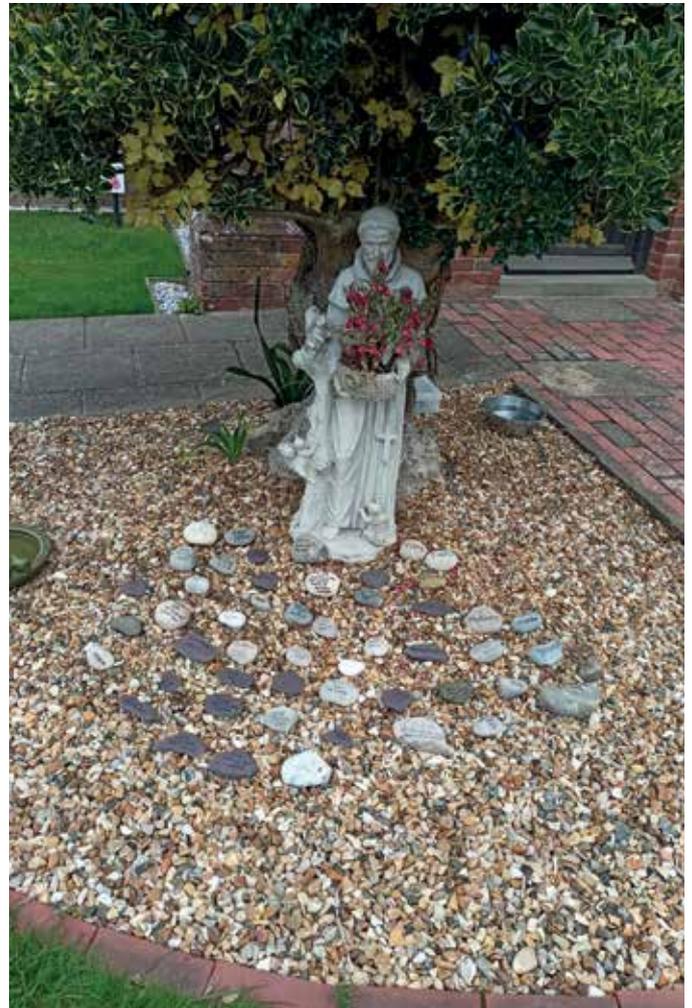
We have dedicated an area in the front of the church as a pet memorial garden which is available to everyone as a place to remember their beloved pet. People can write their pet's name on a pebble to leave near the statue of St Francis of Assisi. This part of the garden is looked after by our church family and all the names of the pets are remembered at our annual pet blessing service.

As part of our mission giving each year, we donate to an animal welfare or rescue society. This year we are supporting Raystede Animal Sanctuary with a collection at the annual pet service.

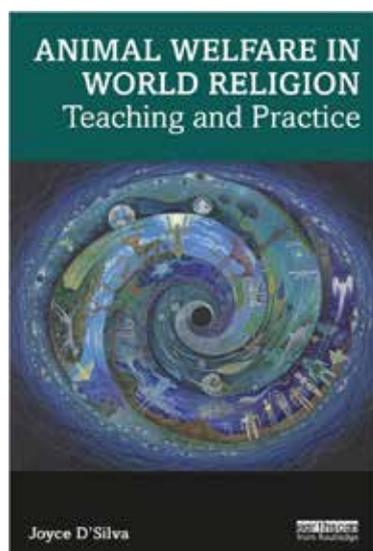
If you want to know more, please contact the parish office (open Wednesdays and Thursdays) who will direct your enquiry to Maria. sash.parihofice@gmail.com; tel. 01444 831013.

**Maria Brett**

**St Augustine's Church, Scaynes Hill**



## BOOK REVIEW



### **ANIMAL WELFARE IN WORLD RELIGION. TEACHING AND PRACTICE.**

**by Joyce D'Silva**

**Routledge**

**ISBN 978-1-032-27399-0**

**192pp**

**Paperback**

**Price £29.99**

Joyce D'Silva's new book covers the same sort of ground as two previous books, both excellent, dealing with the ways in which various religions engage with animal species other than our own. While Lisa Kemmer's, *Animals and World Religions* (2012) centres on the traditions within various faiths, and

Barbara Gardner's, *The Compassionate Animal: An interfaith guide to the extended circle of compassion* (revised edition 2014) very much centre on the good, the compassionate aspects which have flowed from the religious impulse, the emphasis of D'Silva's book is somewhat different.

Yes, indeed, the compassionate aspect is very much there and there have been major figures in all religions not least Judaism and Christianity, where the compassionate voice goes right back to the Hebrew Bible, but also in Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, but in practice practitioners of all these faiths have fallen far, far short of their ideals

to respect the earth and fellow creatures. Not only is meat consumed on a vast scale but often in factory farms where there is no possibility for pigs, poultry, and cattle to live anything like natural lives. Buddhist Japan and the Lutheran Faroes indulge in the bloody horrors of the dolphin hunt; Hindu India and Buddhist Thailand both claim to respect elephants and in India even to venerate them, but baby elephants are terrorised in training and live lives of drudgery for tourists. Even vegetarian Jainism (not for some reason included amongst world religions) is well represented in the Indian pharmaceutical industry. D'Silva unflinchingly puts the facts before us, demonstrating that the problem lies not with the divine but with humanity, and so reading chapter after chapter left me feeling increasingly depressed, and sometimes in tears at the vast scale of exploitation of other creatures in the world, even at the hands of people of supposed faith.

In many ways the First Nation peoples of America and Australia almost come off best because though they inevitably live by hunting they see the natural world as sacred, and do not over exploit the environment because

the divine is ever before them, but there is a coda at the end of the book like a ray of light breaking through the dark clouds, just three pages on Rastafarianism which is a twentieth century offshoot from normative Christianity, a product of 'black self-empowerment' from people who knew exactly what exploitation meant. D'Silva's comment that 'Rastafarianism offers an attractive alternative lifestyle' rings true to me. As a Christian I fervently hope that a radical 'Franciscan' approach, galvanised by this book and the others I have mentioned, as well as by Pope Francis's Encyclical *Laudato si'*, might help to turn the tide. Lip service to any is worse than useless unless our faith leads back to respect for the created order.

This is a very important book which deserves to be on all our shelves and I would like in my heart to think that a future edition would record an improving situation, though in my head I rather doubt it.

**Martin Henig**

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## HELP FOR DOG RESCUES NEEDED

Dog Rescue organisations are often lumped together in the same category but in truth they are not all alike. Although the dogs need us all, there is a vast diversity in ethos from the rescues who have always just rescued selected dogs (for example, specific breeds) right through to the ones like Doris Banham Dog Rescue who simply rescue according to the need of the dog regardless of age, breed, or veterinary condition.

These latter rescues have based their whole way of working on believing that every life is precious and that if you work harder – struggling never to let a dog down, staying up for days and nights until you have found a space or raised the funds needed etc – you will save the dogs who need you. It is not in their ethos to accept that you can't save them all (which they are constantly told) or that it is ok not to try with all their might. The dogs that they have failed to save, often through circumstances beyond their control, stay with them forever as the dogs that they let down, the dogs they say sorry to every time they see a picture of them.

The post-pandemic animal welfare crisis has overwhelmed such rescues

with their worst nightmare – so many dogs that saving them all is no longer possible. It has forced them to look at an ugly vision that is now reality – a hated reality that is alien to them. It has screwed their visions and broken their hearts and spirits. Some have had breakdowns. Some have closed down because they cannot cope. It is as if they are being taken down one by one as they succumb to a vicious enemy leaving fewer and fewer rescues with this pure ethos to fight for the dogs who need them most.

The long-term problem is that, as a result of the current crisis, the rescue organisations that remain may be those who have never felt the need to save them all. The rescue world has been left to sink or swim and there is a danger that the majority of those that swim could make the rescue world a spiritually much poorer place to be and a much more dangerous one for needy dogs into the future.

To avoid this, all the rescues that take any dog in need and that don't euthanise need help now to survive and to keep on saving as many dogs as possible before it is too late and whilst there is a vestige of their ethos

remaining to grab onto and climb into the light of a rescue world built on what is right and not on one that makes pragmatic business sense.

It is not too late yet, and we are so proud to work alongside so very many excellent rescues. But how long can we all hold out under this immense pressure? This fear was again reinforced the night before this article was written, when we received a message from a vet who has one week to save a beautiful, loving 3-year-old Cane Corso who needs veterinary treatment for his feet. Pre-crisis we would have had no doubts that he would live but now we simply do not know. We have 10 Cane Corsos in our care and too many dogs in total to be able to survive much longer but it is so morally wrong he should die. Will another rescue be able to step forward and save him? Are they still there to be able to do this? We honestly don't know any more and the anguish is unsustainable.

**Trudie James**

**Trustee and Founder, Doris Banham Dog Rescue**

# THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF ROUGE'S HEART TO THE ANGLICAN SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS FOR BEING THERE FOR HER IN HER HOUR OF NEED



Rouge's story is one of hope and compassion. Doris Banham Dog Rescue were contacted by the Vets For Pets veterinary surgery desperate to save 7-year-old Rouge's life. They had been rung by her owner to say that Rouge had been mated with a much larger bull breed and she believed that the puppies had died inside Rouge several days previously. She had been turned down by the RSPCA and the PDSA and had no funds to pay for the veterinary treatment which would be needed to save Rouge's life and the lives of any puppies who may have survived.

Rouge's life depended on an urgent intensive scan and then either a spay or a caesarean section if any of the puppies had survived. We turned to our amazing supporters to help us raise the funds needed to save Rouge's precious life. Her plight was beyond urgent and there was no time to hesitate. The scan revealed two large dead puppies who had been deceased for quite a while and posed a serious threat to Rouge's life. An emergency spay was immediately performed. Our brilliant supporters came to Rouge's aid. Once

they heard of her plight, the wonderful Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals donated an amazing £580 which fully covered the cost of her spay and other funds raised covered the rest of her veterinary treatment and care.

We asked the vets to get the owner to sign Rouge over to the charity as, for welfare reasons, it was imperative that Rouge should not be returned to the owner. Richard drove down from our Cottam kennels to pick Rouge up the evening of her operation because she had nowhere else to go and the surgery did not have overnight facilities. She has recuperated extremely well at our kennels and is a beautiful gentle girl who loves cuddles and kisses. We are now looking for a wonderful new loving home for her who will give her the devotion and care she always deserved.

Her new name is Remi – this was suggested by Frankie, one of the veterinary nurses at the surgery. The meaning of the name is "the Lord consoles me" which she thought was really appropriate for this little girl. We think it is too because what happened

with Remi has been inspirational to everyone. Together we made sure that her life counted. The world did not value her enough – her precious life was not worth the cost of the veterinary care. We all stood up and said that is not right and helped her. Dogs are ruthlessly bred for money and then considered not worth any money when the damage caused to them needs putting right. But love, compassion and generosity righted that wrong and made good triumph over evil. Together we made a difference and stopped the suffering and terrible death of an innocent betrayed creature who had no-one to help her but us.

We are so very proud and privileged to have the amazing support of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals and Remi would like to thank them from the bottom of her heart for her life and the chance of a wonderful future.

**Trudie James**

**Trustee and Founder, Doris Banham Dog Rescue**

## INTERVIEW WITH ANIMAL FRIENDLY CHURCH WINNER



We invited the two churches who were joint-winners of Animal Friendly Church 2022 to talk to us about winning the award. In the last issue, we shared with you the interview with All Saints and St Margaret's, Pakefield. Here we share the responses to our interview questions from Dr Coleen Jackson, Licensed Lay Minister at St Michael and All Angels, Chalton.

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

For a small rural church, the award has meant a great deal in our Benefice and the community. Our congregation is quite small but during the week and weekends we have many visitors including those with their four-legged friends.

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

Yes. We are trying to be inclusive and welcome congregation members along with their dogs to our services. Most of our congregation have a pet at home, which is especially important to those who live on their own.

**Has winning this award helped to raise the profile of animal welfare in your church? Has it had any impact on how your church is viewed in the community?**

In the community we are seen as a village church. Whilst not all those in the village attend the church they regard it as their church. They are very supportive of our fundraising activities which include concerts and talks. Our

annual pet service has definitely been one of those events in the calendar that the community comes together for. We have used the pet service to raise the importance of animal welfare not only in the church but in the wider community.

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

Apart from our annual pet service we provide snacks and water for our four-legged friends.

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

This is all about 'good practice' and being inclusive. Even reading through the application form can help a church to become more animal friendly.

**Does the church have any plans to expand what they do for animals?**

Not at the moment.

**Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your church?**

Part of our award was a wonderful hamper and the contents were used for the dogs visiting the church with their owners along with the edible products being used at our fund raising events. St Michael and All Angels is based in Chalton opposite the Red Lion pub (possibly the oldest pub in Hampshire). At the moment we are fund raising to get water access to the church so we can have a kitchen and toilet to help with our activities in the future. The church is based on the South Downs and is part of a pilgrim walk, we are always open so please come and visit.

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## NEW AWARD FOR CARE HOMES

ASWA were pleased to hear that an award has been established for care homes, hospices, and other care facilities that work to enable residents to keep their beloved companion animals with them. Following the experience of an elderly gentleman and his dog, who had to leave the care home where they lived in order to remain together after the home's policy on companion animals was changed, the Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS) and Fostering Compassion joined forces to create the Bob Harvey Award, named for the gentleman who had to leave the care home to keep his dog. This award is to recognise a care home, hospital, hospice, or other care facility that, in the words of SCAS and Fostering Compassion, "have gone above and beyond the call of duty to keep human and animal together and protect that all important bond." The winner of the award will be announced at the SCAS conference on 17th September.

# ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY 2023



## ASWA Annual Service

St John's Church, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire

Sunday 8th October 2023

10.45am

To include Blessing of animals

Speaker: Revd Dr Jennifer Brown

All welcome

For further details, please visit our website

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

or by post PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT, UK.

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

# ARE YOU AN ANIMAL FRIENDLY CHURCH?



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

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

Applicants will also be automatically entered into our annual '**ASWA Animal Friendly Church of the Year Award**'  
The Winner will receive a hamper full of ethical and useful goodies for your Church and a plaque to display on your wall.

For further details visit our website

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

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

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

## ANGLICAN SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS

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