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Autumn 2015

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animalwatch

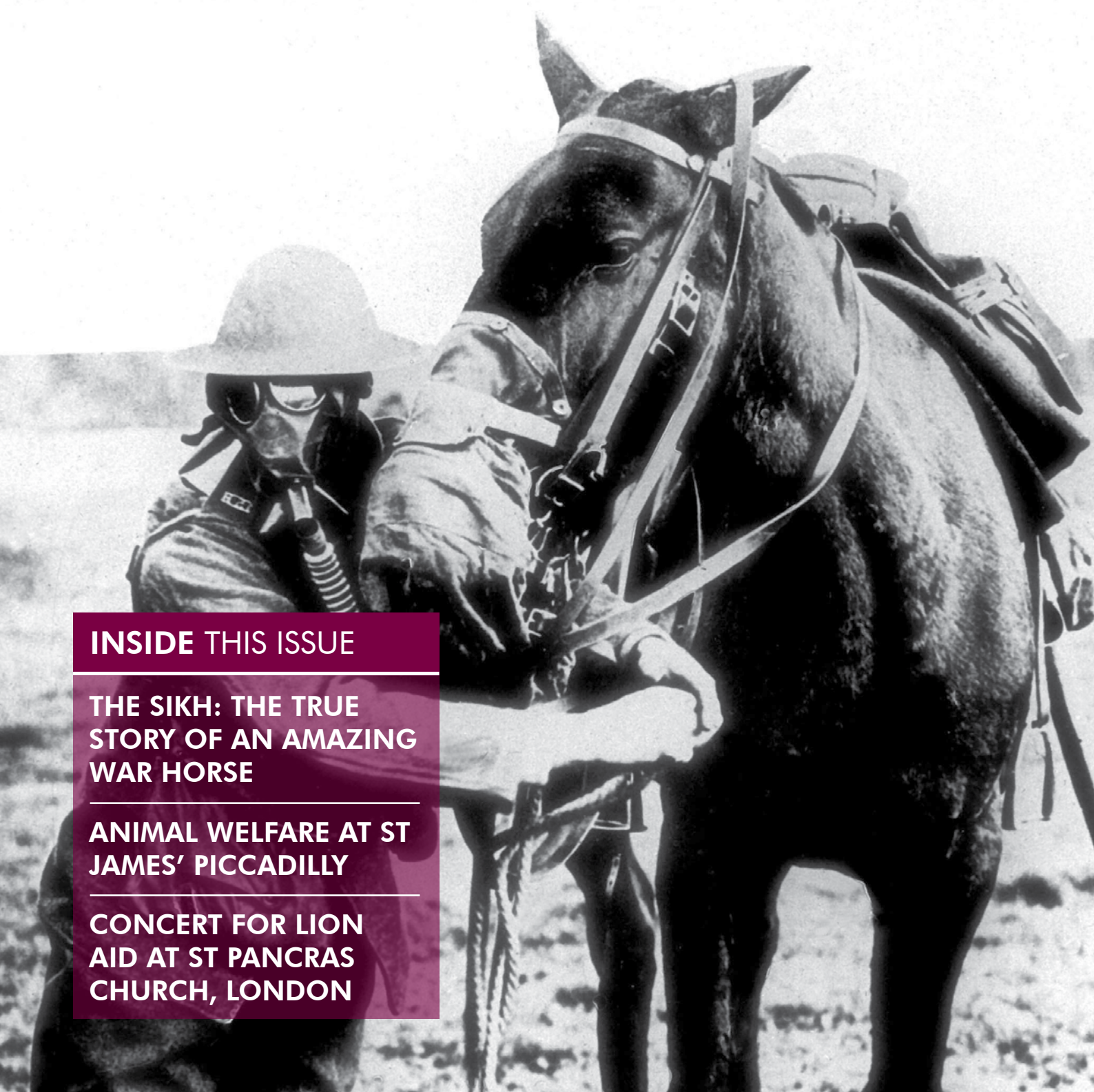
PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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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!

Saturday 3 October

Animal blessing and thanksgiving service for pets, St Martin's Church, Mortimer Road, Kensal Green, London, NW10 5SN, 2pm. Led by the Revd Graham Noyce. All well-behaved pets welcome. For further details of the service, please email: animalblessing@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07958-950137.

Sunday 4 October

Animal Welfare Sunday.

ASWA Annual Service, Newcastle Cathedral, 10am. Preacher: The Rt Revd James Jones, ASWA Patron and former Bishop of Liverpool. This is NOT an animal blessing service.

Animal Blessing Service, St Michael & All Angels, Lower Machen, Wales, NP10 8GU, 2pm.

Animal blessing service, St Andrew's United Church, Kirton in Lindsey, Lincolnshire, 3pm.

Annual pet service, Great Malvern Priory, 3pm. Contact Mary Weatherill, parish secretary, for more details (greatmalvernpriory@me.com).

Sunday 8 November

Service of remembrance for animals, at the 'Animals in War' memorial, Park Lane, London, 3pm. Special guest: Pen Farthing of Nowzad Dogs.

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



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. As we approach Remembrance Day, our focus in this issue is animals in war. We also have articles on some of the annual events in the ASWA calendar, such as the Prisons Wildlife Award and the annual ecumenical retreat.

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 make a note of the dates in Doris' Diary – especially the annual service in October and the Remembrance Service in November. 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 18th January 2016**.

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!

EMAIL ADDRESSES PLEASE!

ASWA is updating its membership records to include email addresses. This will keep the ASWA membership better informed of our activities and expand our influence to help animals.

Just put "ASWA email address (and your name)" in the subject line and send it to:

aswamembership@btinternet.com

Thank you to all those who have already done this in response to the appeal in previous issues.

ASWA Donation Envelopes



If you are planning an ASWA animal service, don't forget there are ASWA Donation Envelopes for you to give out at those services.

For more information please contact:
Tel/Fax: 01252 843093
Email: AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com

TALKING POINT

The killing of Cecil the lion this summer caused much comment and outrage across the world, and rightly so. Lions, as apex predators, are not only magnificent creatures essential to their ecosystems, like many other large predator species, their numbers are declining alarmingly. Trophy hunting is, of course, an absolutely unnecessary form of killing, but it is not the only threat to these and other creatures. Human–animal conflicts are becoming more common, especially in developing countries, as human populations grow and expand into previously wild areas. Often, this leads to the killing of predators who, as habitat and prey species are lost, turn to livestock as a food source. How can we protect the world's last, vital wild areas? Do we need to look more seriously at reigning in human population growth?

A Warm Welcome to our new members.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Helen Ball, Harrogate, North Yorkshire

A. M. Binns, Coltishall, Norwich

David Coleby, Snodland, Kent

Rosemary Empson, Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Angela Hogg, Mossley Hill, Liverpool

Alison Lawrence, Lewes, East Sussex

John Lawrence, Lewes, East Sussex

Philippa Lennox, Leeds, Yorkshire

Elizabeth Mallinson, Snodland, Kent

Margaret Pettingell, Bentley, Western Australia, Australia

Emma Stanford, Edgware, Middlesex

Jane Stanley, Birmingham

K Stephenson, Upper Cumberworth, Huddersfield

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

Pope Francis addresses the need to care for the Earth and its creatures

There has been much commentary on the Pope's encyclical, *Laudato Si*, much of which has focused on Pope Francis' comments on climate change. This encyclical, however, speaks about much more than climate change. It has a great deal to say about humanity's interactions with the non-human creation at many levels, including care for other animal species.

The encyclical speaks of our responsibility to recognise that other living creatures have God-given value, irrespective of their usefulness to human beings. For Pope Francis to state so clearly and boldly that human society (and, as he admits, the Church) has got our relationship with other creatures so badly wrong in the past and that this must change is very exciting, indeed. This has the potential to energise Catholics and other Christians across the world to see the world in a new way and to be more compassionate to one another and our fellow creatures. Further, the Pope's words help make clear that this

is mandated by scripture and part of our Christian mission.

As the Pope himself states, "The Bible has no place for a tyrannical anthropocentrism unconcerned for other creatures." The full text of *Laudato Si* is worth reading, and can be obtained from laudatosi.com. Our sister organisation, Catholic Concern for Animals, has produced an entire issue of their magazine, *The Ark*, dedicated to this papal encyclical, giving commentary and insights into the document.

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

Animal Welfare Sunday

Sunday 4th October 2015.

Resource packs are available to download from the ASWA website, or in hardcopy from the Secretary.

ASWA Annual Service

Sunday 5th October 2015, 10am

ASWA's annual service this year will take place at Newcastle Cathedral. The speaker will be the Rt Revd James Jones, ASWA patron and former bishop of Liverpool.

ASWA Committee nominations

Names of those wishing to stand for election to the Committee must reach the Secretary by Friday 8 January 2016.

Welcome

Welcome to the new assistant editor of *Animalwatch*, Ms Joanne Thorn. It is great to have her assistance on the production of the magazine, and we welcome her to the new role.

Animal-friendly Church awards

Is your church animal friendly? Earlier this year, ASWA launched the Animal-friendly Church awards. 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.

On-line animal memorial

Animals' Angels founder, the Revd Christa Blanke, has set up an on-line memorial page with photos of animals being transported. The hope is that this on-line memorial, as well as honouring the individuality and dignity of these creatures, will also help to raise awareness of the horrors of live transport. The memorial can be viewed at www.animalmemorial.org. The images are both haunting and beautiful. The goal is to get 100,000 hits on the site by Christmas 2015. Please do have a look.

ASWA Local groups

Don't forget that there are ASWA local groups in different areas.

- The Watford group meets monthly. Members come from as far as Tring, Milton Keynes and Chesham to this group. The contact for this group is Sarah Dunning (01923-467502).
- 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).

- The Revd David Austin is keen to start an ASWA prayer group in the Norwich area. The first meeting will be on Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm at St Luke's Church, 61 Aylsham Road, New Catton Norwich NR3 2HF. David's contact details are 01603-469112 or dsj.austin@hotmail.com. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend. Refreshments available and there is a free car park behind the church (next to British Legion Hall). We do hope that our members living in the Norwich area will be able to support this new local group and we very much look forward to hearing news of the first meeting.

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.

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we report the death of

Ms Elizabeth Anne Burnell, of North London. Ms Burnell was a life-long animal lover and a long-time supporter of ASWA. She saw animals as a valued part of God's creation in their own right. Ms Burnell died on May 30th of this year. Her funeral was held on June 18th at St Mary's, Harrow on the Hill, with her four dogs in attendance at the service. She will be very much missed by ASWA, the many other animal charities that she supported, and all who knew her.

NATIONAL OFFENDER MANAGEMENT SERVICE WILDLIFE AWARD 2015

For the sixth year, ASWA once again teamed up with Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA) to sponsor and present the Prisons Wildlife Award. This year it was won by HMP Hewell Grange in Redditch, Worcestershire.

ASWA Secretary, Samantha Chandler, made the trip to the prison for the awards ceremony, along with Pat Chalk from CCA. The prison's Governor, Nick Dann, welcomed everyone to Hewell Grange, and Samantha spoke on behalf of the co-sponsors. She spoke about the growing threat to wildlife and habitat as the demand for housing increases, and the importance of schemes like that at Hewell Grange.

The tour of the site was fascinating. We saw a honey bee project and large variety of different habitats to cater for a large number of birds, small mammals and invertebrates.

Prisoners were fully involved with the scheme and many of them joined us for lunch on the lawn afterwards. The prison also works with various wildlife agencies such as Worcestershire

Wildlife Trust and Worcestershire Bat Trust.

In all it was a fascinating day and thrilling to know that we remain part of this important project which benefits wildlife and offenders. On the way home, we dropped into Mucknell Abbey on the recommendation of our President, Bishop Dominic Walker. The brothers there had taken a huge amount of trouble to construct 'state of the art' bat accommodation but unfortunately it has not as yet attracted any bats. We must pray that some will find their way to the luxurious home that has been prepared for them.

Samantha Chandler



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

As a long-standing supporter of ASWA, I was pleased to read that you were not going to change *Animalwatch* too much, and look forward to some theological pieces, and I like the children's page too.

It was a shame that, after readers had made positive comments that *Animalwatch* was easy to read, the centre pages on 'News from around the world' were in quite small print, and more difficult to see. Having been a proof-reader and editor in the past I know it can be a thankless task, as you cannot keep everyone happy.

Jill Greenway

Dear Editor

I bought the book *The global guide to animal protection*, edited by Professor Andrew Linzey. The forward is by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. I was so impressed by his wise and compassionate words that I sent the book to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Since then, I have given Archbishop Tutu's words to two local Lent groups, a professor of environmental studies, several clergy, family, and many friends. In every case, the reaction is the same: first attention, then concentration and even awe, such is the power and authority of Archbishop Tutu's words.

Please can you reprint Archbishop Tutu's forward in *Animalwatch*?

Ann Moody

Unfortunately, because of copyright issues, we are unable to reprint the forward to the excellent book mentioned by Ms Moody, as she requests. The Archbishop's words are, as she says, powerful and compelling, and deserve to be read. The book itself is also an excellent resource. –Editor.

ASWA NEWS



Paw A Coffee Success in 2015

This year has been such a success for our Paw a Coffee fundraising initiative. I decided to have my coffee morning at home and invite friends old and new. This was supported by the ASWA fundraising pack, which contains ASWA literature and our personalised napkins. With a vintage theme, small gifts and homemade cakes, we had a great time raising funds for and awareness of ASWA.

I was not the only one to hold a Paw a Coffee event, and I would like

to say a special thank you to some of our Paw a Coffee supporters for 2015. Ros and David Steel held their musical ASWA tea party in the beautiful Brecon Beacons. There was plenty of tea, mountains of cake, and live music. It was a great success and they raised £250 in much needed funds and distributed ASWA literature, while having a great time. Heather and Stuart from Glasgow decided on having friends round for supper, to celebrate Paw a Coffee for ASWA – a wonderful idea. The United Reformed Church in Enfield held their own coffee morning within their Church, always a good way to introduce ASWA within a Church environment.

A special thank you to our overseas member Asta, from Australia, for joining our coffee morning event.

We have all made a difference for ASWA in 2015.

Janet Murphy

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



SOUTH AFRICA



Hope and help for feral cats

The organisation Cats of Durban grew out of an urgent need to deal with the sudden population explosion of stray and feral cats in the South African port city of Durban. The recent economic decline saw a huge increase in the number of abandoned pets, with the result that formal animal shelters were left with no alternative other than euthanasia on a massive scale.

"We could not bear to see so many happy and healthy cats being trapped, traumatised and then put to sleep," says Niki Moore, founder of Cats of Durban, "and so we have adopted trap, neuter, release as the most humane and effective way to deal with the cat overpopulation. I have been greatly encouraged by the dedication of our helpers and the receptiveness of people, both government and citizens, towards the project. Many citizens around the world have adopted their feral cat populations and have realised the benefits of healthy, managed cat colonies. Durban itself is in the process of doing the same."

Niki Moore continues, "We are currently running a Thousand Cat Campaign which is a drive to raise enough money to sterilise one thousand cats before this year's kitten season begins. Anyone who wishes to help can do so by visiting our website and making a donation to cover the cost of a sterilisation".

Cats of Durban is run entirely by volunteers who work tirelessly in their own time and at their own expense. More information can be found at <http://catsofdurban.wix.com/catsofdurban>.

Anne Hemmings with Niki Moore



AUSTRALIA

Advocating for animals in Australian Government

As I reported in my last piece, included in the Summer 2015 edition of *Animalwatch*, Mark Pearson, fearless advocate and activist for animals, was elected to the Upper House of the NSW Parliament at the end of March of this year. He will be there for eight years.

He is losing no time in getting down to business. He has been appointed to the Joint Select Committee on Companion Animal Breeding Practices in NSW. Puppy farms continue to be of great concern in Australia and we hope that the findings of the Committee will shine a light to indicate the way forward.

Mark has recently visited China to discuss that country's interest in importing kangaroo meat. There are many problems associated with the killing of these wild animals, cruelty and hygiene for example. Currently the Australian Federal Government is negotiating with China regarding the export of live cattle to that country. This is of major concern and, on a personal level, I cannot see that we will have much bargaining power in relation to animal welfare.

Also in Mark's sights is animal experimentation, most of which cannot be justified on any grounds as alternatives are readily available. In the course of his address to Parliament on this issue Mark read the First World War poem *Rags* by Edmund Vance Cooke. Those of you who are familiar with the poem will not be surprised that there was silence throughout.

Our diocesan newspaper noted the recent Papal Encyclical in which Pope Francis called upon all of us, Catholic or not, to take better care of the Earth and its inhabitants. He is quoted as saying, "To every person on Earth, be kind to animals."

To end on a happy note, our annual Animal Blessing Service, an ever joyous occasion, will take place in our cathedral on 4th October.

Olga Parkes



SWEDEN

Wildlife in forests and cities

This report is in relation to wild birds and other Swedish wildlife issues. The forestry industry in Sweden has aggressively chopped down vast areas of deciduous forest in order to plant pine trees for industrial use, with the result that there are now, sadly, only twelve white-backed woodpeckers remaining in the country, their habitat having been destroyed. Efforts are being undertaken to increase awareness of the situation and networks are being established to keep landowners informed.

For the second year running ornithologists have attempted to reintroduce peregrine falcons from the rooftop of a twenty-seven storey insurance building situated in the inner-city area of Stockholm. Last year's efforts produced a handful of chicks but disturbingly all but one of them were cruelly slaughtered by seagulls, necessitating a further attempt this year. The single chick that was fortunate enough to survive has since flown away to a safer haven. Since the year 2000 The Peregrine Project has introduced more than 200 fledglings which have increased the species population in Sweden. This is good news as in the 1970s peregrines were almost extinct. Hopefully next year's project will provide a peaceful environment for the young birds.

The Government of Sweden is abandoning the highly criticised committee formed to develop a political programme to deal with the 'wolf issue'. The Sames, an indigenous people from the north of the country, together with The National Federation of Hunters and other groups have declared that they will no longer participate in the committee. The main issue has been whether or not the culling of the wolf population was, from a political position, possible. The Sames maintain that the wolves attack and kill many of their reindeer and cause havoc among their herds. They are reimbursed by the government for every reindeer taken but they still find the 'wolf issue' problematic. Throughout Sweden the wolf still has mythological significance and in

many areas it is still referred to as 'old grey legs' and is considered to be in collusion with evil forces. As a result of this superstition the wolf gets a very rough deal.

Similarly treated is the lynx although its shyness enables it to survive, albeit barely. Unfortunately the lynx population in Sweden is about 1,000 individuals from about 172 families. Despite the low population the desire to track and kill lynx is great. Recently a sheep farmer was reported in the press as having claimed that lynx had killed some of his stock and he demanded the right to be able to track and kill any lynx in the area. As a result of the article there was an eruption of strong feeling and it was suggested that cameras be set up to record activity and thereby find a possible solution.

Last but not least, the Board of Agriculture has given the police a dispensation to continue to use the small cages that they have for their service dogs. These cages are used in police vehicles and in order to meet new standards about 500 cages would need to be replaced or rebuilt. The resulting cost for the provision of larger, more comfortable, cages is not regarded as a priority.

There is a need to reconnect with creation on a deeper level and to acknowledge the need for compassion to all sentient beings. Every effort, however small, to help our four-legged friends IS valuable and important. We need to remember that we do make a difference, even when we are overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges presented by animal welfare issues. If we can make a difference for just one animal our compassion shows.

Sandra Kinley



JAVA, INDONESIA



Making a difference for the cats of Bandung

There is a saying, "small is beautiful," and I link this concept to the well-known tale of the hundreds of stranded starfish on a beach, where a man picks up individuals and throws them back into the sea, saying of them, "it makes a difference to that one." Even a small difference can be meaningful.

Bandung is the location of The Whiskers Syndicate (TWS). TWS is probably the only cat sanctuary in a country with no animal protection laws, where extreme neglect and cruelty towards animals are the norm. Running this sanctuary for eighty cats single-handedly is Josephia Liem, often called Josie, a remarkable young woman. She is highly educated, very resourceful and cares passionately about the plight of abandoned cats on the streets of Bandung. In addition to caring for the eighty cats in her sanctuary Josie regularly feeds feral colonies in the streets.

Josephia is a Christian, a Catholic, in a largely Muslim country. She grew up in an animal-loving family in Japan. Rescuing animals has been a way of life for her since her formative years. It is very tough to be on a mission that few others in her city understand or respect and Josie finds herself isolated culturally, as well as because of her Christian faith, but still she perseveres.

The cats that Josie rescues are ill, abused, injured or malnourished. People regularly drop unwanted cats over her wall in sacks or boxes, often female cats with small kittens. Josie

has made it her calling in life to nurse these poor creatures back to good health. There are many heartbreaks along the way, but you will see from the photo that her cat family looks happy and healthy. Eastern world veterinary services are much more basic than in the West, and Josie assists the visiting vet with spaying and castration and other necessary surgeries and she is able to perform procedures, such as inserting intravenous drips, at the sanctuary. She works all day every day without assistance, caring for the cats, often going without herself if funds get tight, which they often do as her income is sometimes precarious and unpredictable. But she never loses faith. Artistic and creative, she sews cat toys and other items using ethical fabric scraps from the local clothing manufacturers. These products are for sale on the Whiscraft page of the Etsy website. She also freelances her journalistic and translating skills. All profits help to fund the sanctuary.

You can find Josie's website, blog and Facebook page at www.whiskerssyndicate.com. Do log on and browse a while and, if you are able, send her a donation, 'like' her on Facebook, promote her on Twitter and tell all of your friends and family about this amazing lady and her wonderful oasis of loving kindness. As fellow Christians, do let us support Josie in our prayers and in whatever practical ways we are able. Without doubt she talks the talk and walks the walk. Should you wish to offer support in a collective way please email me at sariael@googlemail.com.

Sarah Dunning

ANIMAL WELFARE AT ST JAMES' PICCADILLY

St James' Church Piccadilly is probably one of the most famous churches in London, among other things for having been designed by Sir Christopher Wren, for being the place where William Blake was baptised, and for being very close to Piccadilly Circus. It defines itself as an inclusive, adventurous and welcoming Christian community. We believe that in the Gospel is to be found a radical welcome, a great and generous invitation to share in the banquet of God's creation. We try our best to translate those words into daily practice.

For animal lovers, one of the first positive impacts when they join us in worship is that dogs are a welcome part of our gathered community, and surely they get a lot of attention at the end of the service. We are a very diverse community, and our dogs also come in all sizes and colours.

Nevertheless, despite the numerous groups already active at St James'

been to explore how to respond to our Christian calling through action in our society, animal welfare had so far remained a personal interest for many of us not represented by a formal group at the church. In May 2015, ten individuals came together to explore the possibility of setting up an animal welfare group at St James'. We agreed on a format of monthly meetings in which specific topics regarding animal welfare will be explored from a Christian point of view.

In the meanwhile, an article on Christianity and animal welfare has appeared on St James' website, www.sjp.org.uk, sharing some initial thoughts on why it is important for us to reflect and be active on this issue. Also, a link to the ASWA website is now present in our Faith+Action section.

Our first official meeting was in early June, focusing on the theology of animal welfare, and future sessions will look at all kinds of issues, from

farming to animal experiments, to vegetarianism / veganism / demitarianism, to church purchase policies. We will also interact with the St James' climate change group on the various issues of common interest. Vagabonds, a group of Christian spiritual enquirers that meets once a month in a pub after the Sunday service, hosted a session on animal welfare for their August meeting.

Some ideas have already been brought up on how to invite the whole community to be involved in some animal-friendly initiatives, but we are still in our early days. Watch this space and hopefully something interesting and useful, with deep roots in the Gospel, will come out of our work.

Adolfi Sansolini

ANIMAL WELFARE RETREAT 2015

What a joy and privilege once again to stay at Noddfa, in Penmaenmawr, North Wales for what is one of the most important events on our calendar: the annual animal welfare retreat. A big thank you is due to Irene Casey of Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA) for her excellent planning and organising. Our thanks also go to the sisters of Noddfa for looking after us so well during our stay. We were welcomed, not only by the sisters, but also by some friendly hens, guinea fowl, and an adorable cat named Dash (who rarely dashed anywhere!).

Our speakers were all excellent, both those we had had the pleasure of meeting last year and those joining us for the first time this year. They included the Revd Dr Martin Henig, Vice President of ASWA, David Clough, Senior Lecturer in Theology at the University of Chester, Chris

Fegan, General Secretary of CCA, Jenny Amphaeris, MA student at Bangor University, and Dr Richard Ryder, Scientific Advisor to CCA. Many topics and issues were spoken about and discussed, one of the most important being the possible repeal of the Act banning hunting with dogs. We all earnestly prayed that this would not happen and agreed that we must all write to influential people on the subject expressing our strongest objections. Other subjects covered included Christian stewardship, the questions of why churches are generally so negative with regard to animals, God's deliverance for animals, both future belief and present challenge, animal welfare work in Malta, the language of animals, and the lessons to be learned from play in the animal kingdom.

A very welcome newcomer to the retreat this year was Margaret Pilder.

For several years, Margaret has had a passionate dream. She longs for the creation of a special national day for 'animals in need' in the same way that we already have 'Children in Need'. She has been in touch with a number of influential people without, it must be said, a lot of success. If any readers feel inspired to help make this dream a reality, Margaret would be thrilled to hear from you. Her contact details can be obtained through CCA.

We do hope that those reading this will be inspired to come to the retreat next year. We believe you will find the programme and whole experience very encouraging, stimulating and worthwhile.

Wendy and John Brayshaw

THE SIKH: THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMAZING WAR HORSE



The story of The Sikh and Lt Vicary has struck a chord around the world over the last few months. It is a story that shows the link between a British officer and his horse, which tells of bravery, loyalty and luck, and serves as an example of the scale of the first truly global conflict.

In 1913, the 2nd Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, were sent to Tientsin, China, as part of a multinational force. Upon arrival, one officer, Lt A C Vicary, purchased a horse from an officer in the Regiment being replaced, the 36th Sikh Regiment. The horse, bred in Australia, taken to India and then to China, was named The Sikh in honour of her previous regiment. The following year war was declared and the 2nd Battalion were ordered to return to Europe. Vicary sought special permission for The Sikh to come with him, which was granted. Interestingly, The Sikh was the only horse permitted to make the long and arduous journey.

The voyage lasted for eight weeks. The Sikh was accommodated in a makeshift box on the open deck and whilst the soldiers were banned from sleeping on deck because of atrocious weather, the horse was left out in the elements and only allowed to stretch her legs when officers went ashore at Hong Kong, Singapore, Port Said and Gibraltar. The journey was perilous, with the constant threat of contact with the enemy. Upon arrival in England, the Battalion swiftly moved to the Western Front, initially to the Ypres Salient.

The Sikh travelled with Vicary's regiment throughout the war, through the campaign on the Western Front, to Salonika, Serbia, Bulgaria and eventually into Southern Russia, delivering supplies to troops on the front lines through the thunder of grenades and shellfire as well as being used by Vicary throughout. The Sikh was viewed by many of the men she encountered as an omen of good luck.

Horses were a key component of the war, used to pull heavy guns, transport the wounded and supplies, and for cavalry charges as well as allowing officers to move quickly around the men under their command. More than 1 million horses accompanied the British Forces to the front line, and most were killed. Only 67,000 are thought to have survived the War, making the story of The Sikh even more remarkable. Many perished due to artillery fire and other war-related causes, including exhaustion and harsh winter conditions on the Front. Within the first year of WWI, Britain emptied its own borders of horses needed for the effort, requisitioning beloved riding ponies and shire horses from farms and families across the country. As the war dragged on, the United States supported the Allies by delivering approximately 1,000 horses a day, by ship, between the years of 1914 and 1917. The Sikh, however, managed to survive, and as the war ended, was still with Vicary, by now a Lt Colonel, in the republics of Southern Russia.

Eventually, The Sikh, along with Vicary and the rest of the 2nd Battalion, returned to England, by foot, rail and ship through Turkey, Greece, Italy and France, and this remarkable animal was retired and lived out the rest of her life in tranquillity on Vicary's land in Devon. Vicary himself was a remarkable man, serving with distinction, awarded the DSO and Bar and MC, Mentioned in Despatches five times and ending up as Colonel of the Regiment, but that is a story for another time.

Chris Chatterton

Director, Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum



ANIMALS AND WAR

War, both past and present, seems to dominate the news. At this time of year, as we approach Remembrance Day, we turn our thoughts to those who have served their country in military service, and the ASWA Remembrance Service remembers those animals who have served us in war. Wars inevitably have a terrible effect on those who live through them, soldiers and civilians alike. It is important that we not lose sight of the human suffering that war causes. Unfortunately, what often gets lost or overlooked, despite events like the ASWA Remembrance Service, is the extreme suffering of the non-human populations of war zones.

Last year and this, several events have been held to commemorate the start of and significant moments in the First World War. The book *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo (and the film and play based on it) has done much to highlight the plight of the animals used in war. Although horses have been replaced by mechanised vehicles in battle, dogs are still commonly used by armies for a variety of purposes, such as bomb detection and as guard-dogs. These animals, like their human counter-parts, work on the battlefield and face the very real threat of injury

and death in service. They are, however, respected, well looked after by their handlers, and cared for. The same cannot always be said of the 'civilian' animal populations caught up in war and conflict. Just like humans, animals are maimed and killed in bomb attacks, they become homeless and displaced. When the human population flees from an area, it is often impossible for them to take their animals (whether pets or farm animals) with them. The animals have to survive on their own.

A recent Google search for 'animals affected by war in Syria' turned up surprisingly few hits. The news agency Reuters has an on-line slide show of images of animals made homeless by the war in Syria, some of which are heart-rending. Another item turned up by this Google search was a New York Daily News article from 2013, which described the deaths of livestock, pets and wildlife, allegedly from a gas attack on a suburb of Damascus. The web site onegreenplanet.org posted a somewhat more optimistic story in 2014, about an ambulance driver who was feeding the homeless cats in one area of the Syrian city of Aleppo. My Google search turned up no news stories dated 2015 relating to the plight of animals

in Syria. There are several reasons why this might be. First, it is now very difficult to get information about what's happening on the ground in Syria, so news organisations might simply have no information. Or it may be that in the face of such overwhelming human suffering, it is hard to think beyond the human crisis to anything else.

This is not an argument against caring for and about the many thousands of human refugees fleeing from areas of war and conflict. Quite the opposite. As Christians, we should care passionately about the well-being of all life, human and non-human alike. As people who care deeply about animal welfare, it is incumbent upon us to press our leaders to work for peace and stability across the globe. A human community at peace doesn't guarantee safety and well-being for non-human animals (as we see all too often), but most animals certainly cannot thrive in conflict zones, any more than can human beings. And how can we ever begin to hope to see widespread compassion towards non-human animals until we learn to show compassion, mercy and kindness to one another?

Jennifer Brown

CONCERT FOR LION AID AT ST PANCRAS CHURCH, LONDON

On the evening of Saturday 22nd August, a group of ASWA committee members attended the concert in aid of Lion Aid, held at St Pancras Church in London.

Longstanding ASWA member and supporter Revd Lynne Chitty had helped to organise this event along with other members of the Lion Aid team headed up by its founders Chris Macsween and Dr Pieter Kat.

Lion Aid is a UK charity working globally to save lions and end the decline of wild lion populations. They carry out world-leading research and engage directly with politicians and decision makers in the UK, Europe, Africa and globally. They are at the forefront of highlighting the true plight of lion populations, canned/captive hunting and the trophy hunting trade. They work directly with local tribes-people in Africa and their leaders.

With the recent outrage and massive press coverage following the death

of Cecil, the beautiful male lion killed illegally in his prime in Zimbabwe by an American dentist, Lion Aid has received much publicity. Although a terrible tragedy, Cecil's death has highlighted the hideous industry of trophy hunting. Quite rightly, people all over the world have expressed their disgust and there are calls for an immediate end to this so-called sport. Airlines and carriers have been targeted and pressure put on them to refuse to carry wildlife 'trophies'. Many celebrities have joined the howls of protest including Ricky Gervais, Peter Egan and TV vet Marc Abraham.

The evening concert was an inspiring event. There was a variety of musical acts and speakers including an excellent closing speech by Dominic Dyer (Badger Trust, Care for the Wild and Born Free Foundation). We were so pleased to have been part of it.

ASWA totally condemns all forms of 'sport', 'trophy' or 'canned' hunting. We do not believe there is any



justification for any of it whatsoever. Indeed we would go further to say that, as Christians, we see the hunting of wild animals for enjoyment or trophies as an abomination against the Creator.

We would urge all of our members to support Lion Aid and the Born Free Foundation who are leading the way in the fight against trophy and canned hunting.

Samantha Chandler

ASWA MERCHANDISE

ASWA 2015 CHRISTMAS CARD

Once again, this year's beautiful Christmas card has been designed exclusively for ASWA by Thea Olrog. Cards cost £5.00 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 are available from the Secretary. Please order via the website or send a cheque payable to ASWA to ASWA, PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT.



ALSO 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 POSTCARDS

2 designs sold together in a pack of 6. £4 per pack.

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.

ASWA HOODIES

available in small, medium, and large. £24.95 each.

ASWA T-SHIRTS

available in both ladies' and unisex styles in a range of sizes. £16.95 each.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

From Linda Bodicoat

Animal Welfare Prayer Cards, hymn leaflets and price list available directly from Linda J Bodicoat, Rose Cottage, 51, Highfield Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, LE9 7HS Or by email – linjbrosecottage@aol.com. Please use "ASWA/Prayer Cards" as a subject heading if using email.

Animal Welfare Prayer Cards & Hymn Leaflets are also available from the ASWA website.

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A SERVICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

at St Nicholas Cathedral Newcastle

Sunday 4th October 2015

10:00am Eucharist

All Welcome

Speaker: The Rt Revd James Jones
former Bishop of Liverpool

Further enquiries:

Samantha Chandler

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Please note this is not an Animal Blessing Service

