

83

Spring 2013

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

IS A FUTURE WITHOUT
ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS
IN MEDICAL RESEARCH
POSSIBLE?

ASWA COMMITTEE
ELECTIONS



IN THIS ISSUE

A WARM WELCOME	2
ASWA REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE	4
IS A FUTURE WITHOUT ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH POSSIBLE?	5
ANNUAL ECUMENICAL ANIMAL WELFARE RETREAT	7
AWSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS	8
ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES	10
ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES CONTINUED	11



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. In this issue, we look at the issue of animal research. We also have a report on the Annual Service that took place at Chelmsford Cathedral in October.

Don't forget that our next issue will include our Young Members' Page. If you know of any young people interested in animal welfare, do encourage them to submit stories, poems, artwork or reports of animal welfare activities in which they are involved.

We hope that you enjoy keeping up-to-date with news and information on our website. Do check regularly for resources and information about upcoming events. Please do make a note of the dates in Doris' Diary – especially the AGM taking place in May. 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 13th May 2013**.

ASWA NEWS

Meat-free Lent

ASWA is once again supporting the 'give up meat for Lent' campaign. Fasting by abstaining from meat during Lent is both a spiritual discipline and a witness to our concern for our fellow creatures. If you are having a meat-free Lent, please let us know about your experience.

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 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!

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 we may enjoy!

Sunday 6 October
Animal Welfare Sunday

ASWA Annual Service, Truro Cathedral, 10am
The preacher will be ASWA Committee Member the Revd Hugh Broadbent. Please note this is not an animal blessing service.

Sunday 10 November
ASWA service of Remembrance at the Animals' War Memorial, Park Lane, London, 3pm. Led by Revd George Ochola.

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

Monday 13– Friday 17 May
Ecumenical Animal Welfare Retreat.
Holland House, Cropthorne, Nr Pershore, Worcs. Contact Mrs Irene Casey (01925-657890) for more information.

Saturday 18 May
ASWA AGM, St Michael's Church, Chester Square, London SW1, 11am.
Our guest speaker this year will be from the Bat Conservation Trust.

Sunday 9 June
Animal Blessing Service,
Criagiebuckler Church Hall, Aberdeen, 3pm

Sunday 16 June
Animal Blessing Service, St Michael and All Angels, Watford, 3pm
Speaker: TBA



Paw a Coffee for ASWA
Come to our purrfect Coffee Morning in support of ASWA
With your support we can continue our mission: "Putting Animals on the Agenda of the Christian Church".
Would you like to hold a "PAW A COFFEE FOR ASWA" (During the months of April to August 2013)
A Coffee Morning is a simple way to raise funds and awareness for ASWA. You may wish to hold one in your own home or ask your church to hold a Coffee Morning as a way to promote and advertise ASWA, we also have publications and merchandise that you could display.
For more information please contact Janet Murphy 07793 748 634 janji1@ntlworld.com
Please find enclosed 1 invitation for you to give to a friend or neighbour and if you wish to send more invitations we have supplied a sheet for you to copy.
It would be appreciated if you could send any monies raised from the coffee morning by the end of September 2013, indicating that it is for Paw a Coffee for ASWA to The Treasurer, ASWA, P.O. Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8GT.
Thank you Janet Murphy.

A Warm Welcome to our new members.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jenny Barrington - Bromley, Kent

Chas Bayfield - London

Sandra Bigley - Lytham St Annes, Fylde

Patricia Chandler - Manningtree, Essex

Val and Doug Constable - Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire

Canon Jane Hedges - Westminster

Michael J. Hennessey - London

Joanne Hill - London

Revd John Paul Hoskins - Gloucester

A. Merryweather-Clarke - North Leigh, Oxfordshire

Rev Alan Munday- Beckenham, Kent

Revd Adele Phillips - Gateshead, Tyne and Wear

Elisabeth Read - Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Timothy Satterly - Indianapolis, Indiana, United States

Revd Carrie Thompson - Gosport, Hampshire

Revd H.J.M Turner - Frinton-on-Sea, Essex

Michael Wentz - Spokane, Washington, US

Revd Darlene E Weston - Walcott, Lincolnshire

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

Chimpanzees to have a new life

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) have announced that as many as 400 chimpanzees that have been used in medical research are to get a new life. Following a report commissioned by the NIH, they have decided not to fund future research on chimpanzees, and to release the chimpanzees currently used in NIH research to a suitable wildlife reserve. In addition, the report has stated that any chimps that are kept for on-going research need to be housed in a suitable habitat, with access to the outdoors, and allowed to live in social groups as they would in the wild. This is surely a great step forward.



ASWA REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE



On Sunday 11th November 2012, ASWA held its second Remembrance Service for Animals at the Animals' War Memorial in Park Lane, London.

We had increased numbers this year which was lovely and we were also thrilled to be joined by Pen Farthing of Nowzad Dogs who gave a short talk about his work. Pen remarked that he very much enjoyed being there and has said that he will try to join us next year. He had been in London anyway with his former Marine colleagues at the Cenotaph in the morning so just stayed on a bit longer to join us in the afternoon.

We also had some canine friends join us in the form of Elizabeth Burnell's very well behaved trio. Revd George Ochola led the service and we sang some hymns and observed a 2-minute silence.

Please come and support us again this year if you can make the trip to London. The service will be on Sunday 10th November at 3.00pm. Do feel free to bring your own wreaths or flowers if you wish to do so.

Samantha Chandler

TALKING POINT

Are we entitled to cheap food? Many of us have grown used to inexpensive food readily available in supermarkets. But cheap food is not without cost. To produce cheap food in large quantities requires intensive farming – whether of animals, with its associated suffering, or devoting several acres to a single crop, which has a negative impact on wildlife. Cheap food makes life easier for many, but knowing the detrimental effect it has on our fellow creatures, is it our right?

Obituaries

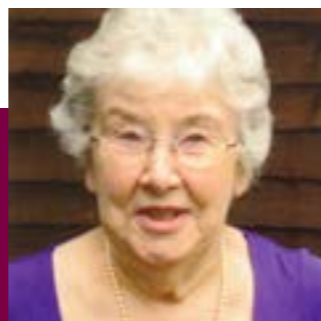
Dorothy Adams
September 1930–September 2012

In September I attended the funeral of my dear friend Dorothy Adams who taught me so much in my early 20's about the animal welfare movement. She was a huge inspiration to me for her sheer fearlessness – she always spoke out – appearing once on Question Time. She wrote endless letters and spent many hours in her local shopping centre with her petitions urging people to care about our fellow creatures. She will be very much missed.

Samantha Chandler

Ivy Wild

Mrs Ivy Wild, a long-standing supporter of ASWA, aged 99.



IS A FUTURE WITHOUT ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH POSSIBLE?

The use of animals in medical research is a difficult subject. Those who support the use of animals in research often claim that such research is necessary to safeguard human safety, and that it leads to new drugs and new medical procedures that save both human and animal lives. For those opposed, however, the benefits simply don't justify the suffering and loss of life involved. Although all facilities in the UK using animals in research must have a 'Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer', and those caring for the animals do have a genuine concern for them,^{1,2} there is no escaping the fact that many procedures do cause suffering, and many animals have to be killed for researchers to evaluate the results of the tests conducted.

In a perfect world, we would continue to develop new drugs, medical devices and procedures safely and without the use of animals in research. But is such a world possible?

Although data for 2012 are not yet available, figures from 2011 show that huge numbers of animals continue to be used for medical research, with over 3.5 million procedures carried out on animals in the UK in that year (a 2% increase from 2010).³ Not all of the news is bad, however. In the USA, the National Institutes for Health (NIH) recently announced that they are retiring as many as 400 of the chimpanzees that have been used for NIH research (see Good News), and have accepted the findings of a report that concluded that, "Most current use of chimpanzees for biomedical research is unnecessary."⁴ In the UK, new legislation that came into effect on the 1st of January this year designates all cephalopods (squid, octopuses, etc) as protected species, limiting their use in research.⁵

In the UK, two prominent charitable organisations, the Dr Hadwen Trust and FRAME, work towards developing

alternatives to animal experiments in medical research. According to their web site, "FRAME's long-term goal is the total elimination of the need for any laboratory animal procedures, through the development, validation and acceptance of replacement alternative methods."⁶ Such alternatives are not just wishful thinking. Since its creation in 1970, the Dr Hadwen Trust has funded more than 140 projects, including the use of cell cultures, to replace animal research.⁷

Cell cultures, according to Professor John Morris of the Oxford University Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics can be more useful, in some circumstances, than animal models, as the use of cell cultures allows the experimenter to limit the variables that will affect the outcome of the experiment. According to FRAME, the use of human tissues can be more accurate than the use of animal models, as the physiologies of species differ, which can lead to results in animal models that are not relevant to humans.⁸ This means that, in the long-run, moving away from animal testing will lead to improved human safety.

Other recent developments are also providing alternatives to the use of animal models. The recent change in the law from the Anatomy Act to the Human Tissues Act for the first time made it allowable, with the appropriate consent, to trial new surgical procedures on human bodies donated for medical research. This allows the feasibility of a new procedure to be assessed without the use of an animal model, and for new techniques to be refined before moving to the animal model, thus reducing both the number of animals needed and the risk of suffering to the animals that are used. More and more human bodies bequeathed to Oxford University's anatomy department are being used for this

purpose and, according to Professor Morris, this trend is likely to continue. Unfortunately, although for some procedures, it might be possible to go directly to clinical application, for many this won't be possible, as the use of a cadaver does not provide any means of evaluating the effects of the surgery on a living individual. For now, the animal model will continue to be used for that purpose.

In new drug research, the use of microdosing – giving very low doses of a new drug to human patients – may provide a possible alternative to animal-based safety and toxicity studies.^{5,7} Microdosing can reduce the number of animals needed for toxicity studies, and may provide more reliable data on the potential safety and effectiveness of new drugs.^{5,9} The use of non-invasive imaging techniques, such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) have allowed research into brain function and disease to be conducted on human patients and healthy volunteers, allowing scientists to, in effect, watch the brain at work. These types of procedures continue to be refined and improved, and are proving highly valuable in medical and psychological research. For example, research into human pain can make use of fMRI and other imaging techniques to develop an understanding of how the human body experiences and responds to pain.¹⁰

Unfortunately, animal research is likely to remain with us for some time to come. But there is real hope for a future without it, as more and better alternatives continue to be developed and as medical science looks for techniques that will provide more accurate data on the impact and effect of drugs, devices and procedures on the human body.

Jennifer Brown

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

March 2013 should be a watershed in the move against vivisection because a European Union-wide ban on the sale of items tested on animals should come into force. Incredibly, in the 21st century, L'Oreal (which bought the Body Shop) is leading a lobby movement to postpone the ban indefinitely so that they may sell products that have been tested on animals in countries outside the European Union.

Naturewatch publishes the Compassionate Shopping Guide (£4), listing makers who are cruelty-free and their subsidiaries: www.naturewatch.org.

Iris Pyves, Bexleyheath, Kent

Dear Editor

I agree with the letters on animal experiments by Elizabeth Allison and Iris Pyves in the last Animal Watch. Testing medical drugs on animals can give unreliable results because animals react differently to humans to many

substances. 'The Safer Medicines Campaign' calls for evaluation of the testing of medical drugs. In the last few years alone many medical drugs have had to be withdrawn because of their dangerous side-effects on patients. These have included causing heart defects and strokes. The antidepressant drug Seroxat had to be banned for the under-18s as it was causing suicidal tendencies. Social Audit reported that at least 10,000 UK hospital beds a year are occupied by people damaged by prescribed medical drugs.

Many breakthroughs were delayed because animal tests gave misleading results for humans. Sophisticated tests are available now: computer imaging, using discarded human tissue after surgical operations and stem cell tissue from umbilical cords which are usually just thrown away after birth. Also, I do not think it is ethical to test harsh chemical cleaning products, such as bleach, on animals or to test war weapons on innocent sensitive creatures who feel pain and fear.

Ann Wills, Ruislip, Middlesex

Dear Editor

We want to thank those who prayed about the issue of live animal exportation on 16th November 2012.

As soon as the ban on live exports was lifted in October, a convoy of seven lorries arrived at Ramsgate Port, each lorry crammed to capacity, in this case with sheep. A large articulated lorry can hold about 300 animals. As there is not room for all of these lorries to be carried on one crossing to France, some have to wait at the holding centre until the next shipment. The cruelty is appalling. They are exhausted, hungry, thirsty and terrified. It is a most heinous trade.

But our Lord Jesus Christ has heard our prayers. He is with every sheep aboard on every crossing. With our grateful thanks to those who prayed on that day.

Sheila Irving & Helen Wallage,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA:



Churches urged to oppose live animal exports

Australian news has reported that the activist Philip Wollen has urged churches and other religious groups to take a stand against the export of live animals. Calling these exports an "abomination", he said that churches should condemn the practice. In response, the Roman Catholic Vicar-General of the Adelaide Archdiocese said that Christians are called to speak up on behalf of all living creatures. The National President of the Australian Baptist Churches, though believing that it is right to use animals for meat, said that the processes involved should be "done fairly".

Let us hope that churches will heed this call to oppose live exports.

Olga Parkes

SOUTH AFRICA:



Incredible survivor

The poaching situation in South Africa is getting desperate. We are losing far too many of our majestic rhinos to poachers, as this story makes clear.

A two month-old rhino was attacked and seriously wounded by poachers who killed her mother. The baby rhino, who has been named Ntombi, which means pretty little girl, was found with eighteen deep slashes, probably made by axes and machetes, across her face and head. It is thought that she tried to return to her mother as poachers were removing the horn. Fortunately, Ntombi was found in time to provide veterinary treatment, and is now being cared for at a special rhino orphanage.

Rhino horn continues to be sold on the black market because of the

mistaken belief that it has medicinal properties. Until such myths are dispelled, our beautiful rhinos will continue to be at risk.

Anne Hemmings



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

NEWS & NOTICES

Don't forget, you can follow ASWA on Twitter – [aswanews](https://twitter.com/aswanews)



preacher will be ASWA's own Revd Hugh Broadbent.

ASWA Local groups

Don't forget that there are ASWA local groups in different areas: Oxford (contact, Martin Henig; martin.henig@arch.ox.ac.uk), Surrey/South London (contact, Janice Hoyle; 01372-842884), Watford (contact, Sarah Dunning; 01923-467502). In addition, 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 (contact, Helen Hall; 01633-677775 or helen.hall123@ntlworld.com).

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

ASWA AGM

Saturday 18th May 2013, 11am

The AGM will be held at St Michael's, Chester Square, London SW1. Please do join us if you can.

Animal Welfare Sunday Sunday 6th October 2013

This year we will focus on endangered species. Animal Welfare Sunday resources will be available from the Secretary or via the web site later this year.

ASWA Annual Service

Sunday 6th October 2013, 11am

ASWA's annual service this year will take place at Truro Cathedral. The

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.

New Book

We are very pleased to be able to offer the Children's book 'The Great Cage Escape' by Louise van der Merwe (see book reviews) for sale on the ASWA website at £5.00.

Do take a minute to look up the website of Humane Education – they are doing some amazing work in South Africa, including publication of this delightful and moving story about a pet shop and the animals who live there and their dream of heaven.

This book is not usually available in the UK but Louise has sent us a small supply for sale on our website.

ANNUAL ECUMENICAL ANIMAL WELFARE RETREAT

The annual ecumenical animal welfare retreat for 2012 was held in September. This retreat is organised by ASWA's sister organisation, Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA).

Once again the retreat was held in the beautiful surroundings of Holland House, a retreat house in the lovely Worcestershire village of Crophorne. Four different speakers covered a range of topics. CCA's General Secretary, Deborah Jones, gave a talk on John Henry Newman and his views on animals. Martin Henig, Vice President of ASWA, spoke about birds in the Bible. ASWA committee member Helen Hall gave a talk on the portrayal of animals in children's literature, and Jennifer Brown, editor of *Animalwatch* gave two talks, one on the demonisation of animals in western culture and the other on using animals as analogies for elements of God's character. All of the talks were well received and prompted further thinking about Christianity's relationship with animals.

There was also plenty of time for catching up and renewing friendships, as people shared conversations over meals, and during the social event on the second night of the retreat.

The 2013 retreat will be held from 13-17 May. For further details or to book a place on the retreat, please contact Mrs Irene Casey, Catholic Concern for Animals (01925 657 890).



ASWA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

It is that time again – time to elect members of ASWA’s committee. There is, however, no postal voting form inside this issue of *Animalwatch*. This is because at the time of going to press, there were only three candidates for four vacancies. The three candidates are Keith Cottrell, Sarah Dunning and George Ochola.

The role of the committee is to manage the day-to-day running of ASWA, including the planning of ASWA services, commissioning and producing informational material, managing the budget, organising fund-raising events and the production of *Animalwatch*, to name but a few. You will find information about the candidates below.



Keith Cottrell

Keith read economics and then worked both overseas and in the UK in the public and private sectors before retiring in 2009 as a director of The Royal Mint. A lifelong passion for animal welfare started as a child in Singapore. He joined ASWA some fifteen years ago and now that he has more time he is striving to further God’s Kingdom through discipleship and service, particularly with regards to animals. He hopes to be able to contribute in planning, organisation and fundraising. He is a Trustee of two Christian charities, a voluntary librarian and occasional speaker for the British and Royal Numismatic Societies and lives happily near Bristol with his wife, two cats, dog and daughter when she is home from university.

Sarah Dunning

Sarah Dunning is a retired primary school teacher, married to a retired teacher, with two grown-up children. For several years she has attended St Michael and All Angels’ Church in Watford, where she



organises an annual animal blessing service, is a member of the choir and sometimes helps in the Sunday School.

Sarah co-ordinates the regional ASWA groups and runs ASWA Watford from her own home. She is ASWA’s representative to the Week of Prayer for World Peace group and has helped with organising and promoting the ASWA Remembrance Sunday Service at the Animals in War Memorial in London. She also helps regularly with the Animal Aid Christmas Fayre in Kensington.

George Ochola



George was born and ordained in Kenya and worked in Church Ministry in the Diocese of Maseno South [ACK] for ten years. He moved to England where he now works as Team Chaplain of West Hertfordshire hospitals NHS Trust, as well as his role as a priest in the Benefice of St Michael and All Angels Parish within the Diocese of St Albans.

George leads the annual ASWA Remembrance Service at the Animals’ War Memorial in Park Lane, London.

Please note that the position of Secretary was also due for re-election. As there was only one candidate – the existing Secretary, Samantha Chandler, we are delighted to announce that she is duly elected for a term of three years until 2016.

The position of Chairman also becomes vacant in May 2013 when our present Chairman, the Rt Revd Richard Llewellyn retires.

Any ASWA member who is interested in standing for election to the ASWA committee next year (2014) should contact the Secretary by the end of December 2013. Candidates must be willing to attend three committee meetings a year which are held in London.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE GREAT CAGE ESCAPE
by Louise van der Merwe

Available through Humane Education of South Africa:
www.humane-education.org.za
ISBN: 9780986972157
Paperback

Price R65.14 (approx £4.67)

This children’s book is a real little gem. I sat and read it in about half an hour one afternoon. It had been sent to me by our ASWA South African Representative, Anne Hemmings.



It is published by and available from an organisation called ‘Humane Education’ in South Africa, and ASWA has a few copies available for sale through our web site.

If you want to give a child a book with a real moral message about an animal’s perspective on life then this is the book for you! The forward to the book is written by animal scientist and behaviourist Jonathan Balcombe. As he says “Animals’ lives matter to them. Their most precious possession is their freedom.”

The book is written by Louise van der Merwe – a remarkable woman who works tirelessly for animal rights in South Africa. I first discovered her

when I read her first book *Goosie’s Story* about a battery hen a few years ago.

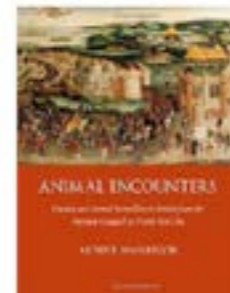
Do think about buying this delightful and moving story about a pet shop and the animals who live there and their dream of heaven.

Samantha Chandler

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS
Human and Animal Interaction in Britain from the Norman Conquest to World War One
By Arthur MacGregor

Published by Reaktion Books
ISBN : 978-1-86189-849-4
Price: £40.00

This is a heavy book in every respect, but absolutely essential reading for anyone interested in the ways we have treated animals and reacted with them over the past millennium. Arthur MacGregor is an archaeologist, an historian and antiquary of great distinction and he writes lucidly, factually and dispassionately with commendable thoroughness; in this he is assisted by some 160 well-chosen illustrations.



As one might have expected much of the evidence is negative, and as far as wild animals is concerned a great deal of the evidence from the Middle Ages onwards is concerned with hunting of various kinds. Forests and forest laws provided protection of a sort to deer and other game when they were not being hunted and horses, dogs and the birds of prey used for falconry would be well cared for, but there was little appreciation that animals were created other than as instruments for the service of man. And that attitude has continued in some quarters as we know to our own time. ‘Sports’ included bear-, badger- and bull-baiting, cock-fighting and, of course, birding and fishing were as much about recreation as to fill the larder.

But food was of course a major way in which animals were used, and

sometimes managed. The Mute Swan, a near ubiquitous and highly decorative waterfowl was in demand for the great feasts of royalty, nobility and City merchants and a system of marking was devised so that birds belonging to one owner or another could be recognised. Rabbits were introduced as an aristocratic food item by the Normans and warrens were built for them, and fish-ponds were constructed and stocked.

Attention is also given to farm animals, as beasts of burden and food. But at least the book ends before the advent of Factory farming, though there could have been a section on vivisection which goes back to the 17th century and over which John Henry Newman and John Ruskin fulminated in the 19th. MacGregor claims we as a society are more compassionate now because ‘one consequence of the distancing of the animal world from everyday human life has been the transfer of our responses to animals to a largely abstract plane’. Perhaps, but despite all our legislation (which he rightly says began before we had any legislation against the abuse of children), I am not sure there is not more animal suffering now than ever. Britain is a Christian society on trial. After hearing all the evidence, what of the verdict: ‘Guilty m’lud!’

Martin Henig

THE BEAUTY IN THE BEAST
Britain’s favourite creatures and the people who love them.
By Hugh Warwick

Published by Simon & Schuster
ISBN: 978-0-85720-395-3
320pp
Hardback

Price £14.99

This very engaging book celebrates two of Britain’s great treasures: its wildlife and its eccentrics. The book is the result of the author’s participation in a project called Extlnked, in which an artist sought volunteers to be tattooed with one of one-hundred of Britain’s wild species. Warwick is passionate about hedgehogs, and is now the proud bearer of a hedgehog on his leg.



The experience caused him to wonder if there were others

out there who were as passionate about some other species as he is about hedgehogs. The search was on to find someone who could convince him not only of the importance of their species of choice, but convince him to the extent that he would get a second animal to join the hedgehog on his leg.

The result of this quest is fifteen chapters on some of Britain’s most impressive species. Each chapter focuses on one species as presented by one passionate advocate. These chapters chronicle Warwick’s meetings with these advocates and, when he gets lucky, encounters with the animals to which they are devoted.

The reader is introduced to both some amazing facts and some amazing characters in these chapters. For example, despite being a resident of Oxfordshire myself, I hadn’t realised before reading this book that in one small area of the county, Shotover, 99 separate species of bees have been identified. Nor did I know, until I read this book, that water voles are fond of potatoes. The individual advocates for the different species are a mix of professional and amateur scientists. All are clearly experts on their species of choice, and all are quirky in their own way, none more so than Gordon MacLellan, toad expert and Shaman. Each of the advocates is full of enthusiasm that comes through on the page, and that enthusiasm has clearly rubbed off on the author. For anyone interested in learning more about some of Britain’s most captivating animal species, this is a must read. In addition to the stories that will make you fall in love with these creatures, at the end of the book there is a list of conservation societies that can provide further information. Information on where to get an animal tattoo is also thoughtfully provided.

While *The beauty in the beast* celebrates Britain’s wildlife, it is also a timely reminder of the threats facing many of our species, not least loss of habitat. We owe it to these creatures and to ourselves to become passionate about them and their survival.

So, what animal ended up taking pride of place along with the hedgehog on Warwick’s leg? Sorry. That would be giving it away.

Jennifer Brown

ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES

ASWA'S ANNUAL SERVICE

In 2012, we held our annual service at Chelmsford Cathedral. Our Patron, the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, preached a very thought-provoking sermon which took us through the story of Balaam and his donkey and then asked what animals would say to us about their treatment if they could talk. "... it is not the mouths of animals that need to be opened, but, as with Balaam, the eyes of human beings. We need to see the danger that is in our path if we continue to misuse creation and exploit the animals with whom we share this planet. How we treat animals speaks volumes about how we view ourselves," said Bishop Stephen.

The Order of Service was beautifully written as usual by our very own Hugh Broadbent. It included a reading about Greyfriars Bobby – the little Skye Terrier who kept a vigil at his master's grave up until his own death and was held up as an example of loyalty.

The service was well attended both by the usual congregation at Chelmsford and also some faithful ASWA members who had been able to make the journey to Chelmsford. The beautiful piece 'Gabriel's Oboe' which has almost become the 'ASWA theme tune' was played by Pascale Pooran. The tradition of playing this lovely piece of music at our services

was started by May Tripp who always used to play it at the services she organised up in Leeds. It is a fitting tribute to the years of dedicated work by May that we continue to include this in our services.

We would like to thank all the staff at Chelmsford Cathedral for all their support and for inviting us to be guests at their usual Eucharist Service.

The ASWA service in 2013 will take place on Sunday 6th October. I hope that you will be able to join us then.

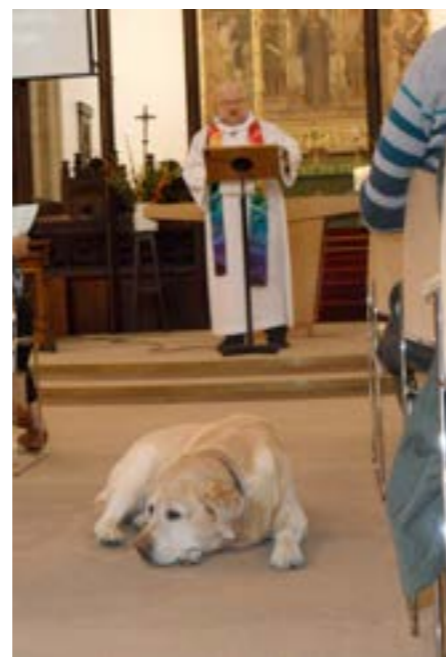
Samantha Chandler

All Saints' Church, All Hallows, Mealsgate, Cumbria

We had a fantastic day, and I mean day. We started with a lovely service in church led by our Team Rector, the Revd Tricia Rogers and the Bishop of Carlisle, the Rt Revd James Newcome (an ASWA member) who was our guest speaker. We had lovely hymns and prayers remembering all animals and Bishop James gave an inspiring talk about companion animals, especially cats and dogs. He then lifted to the Lord all the animals whose pictures were in church. Afterwards we went up to the local Community Centre for a 'bring and share' lunch. We had made the little cat and dog hats from the Raining Cats and Dogs booklet and as you will see from the photo

our clergy, including Bishop James, had fun wearing them! We then had a puppet show telling the story of Noah's Ark with the children being the puppeteers and adults doing the voices. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and we were pleased to send ASWA a donation from the event.

Helen Wallage



St Martin's, Kensal Rise, London

Despite some concerns leading up to this year's service, it went off well and was the best attended animal blessing service St. Martin's has held. The service has grown in popularity over the years, due in no small part to the energetic support and encouragement provided by the vicar of St. Martin's, the Revd Graham Noyce.

There were people from across London and, as always, the animals were well behaved without a hint of friction or tension between the species. The service's star attraction was the Labrador who plonked himself in the middle of the aisle when he arrived and then had a snooze for most of the proceedings that followed. The service this year was dedicated to the nuns of the Orthodox Convent of the Nativity of the Virgin in the Kaluga region of Russia in recognition of their

animal welfare work and I gave a talk about their work during the service. A retiring collection was held to support the convent in its work on behalf of animals in need and this raised a splendid £301.60.

James Hogan

Woodham and Sheerwater

Animals are "living souls", a translation of the Hebrew phrase *nephesh chaya*. This was the theme of the sermon for St Francis' Day, preached by author and ASWA committee member Barry Miles at the shared Parish Churches of All Saints, Woodham and St. Michael's Ecumenical Church, Sheerwater.

ASWA banners were displayed in the church, along with ornamental representations of all forms of animal life in the church, even down to the humble bee without whom much of our food supply would dwindle. A local, small-scale, ethical farmer, who recently featured in the current edition of the publication by the charity Compassion in World Farming, was also present, representing the farming community.

In his sermon, Barry spoke about the Christian response to animals as being mainly threefold: Christians



should campaign peacefully for animals; Christians should give financially to support animal charities and campaign groups because animal charities are not given grants and rely solely on voluntary giving which amounts to only about three per cent of total charitable donating; and importantly, Christians should pray for animals both personally and corporately.

During the evening Blessing the Animals service at St. Michael's, Barry took part in a litany for animals.

All donations from the services were given to ASWA. Literature and merchandise were available after the services as was time for meaningful dialogue.

Barry Miles was the guest of The Rev. Iain Forbes (All Saints) and The Rev. Jean Robinson (St. Michael's) to whom go many thanks for helping to enable this event to happen.

Jennie Higgins



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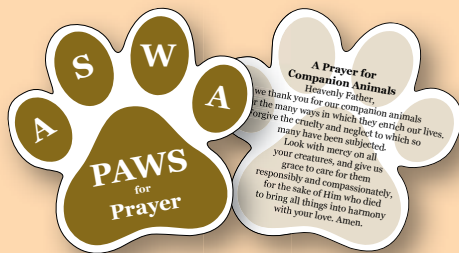
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A selection of ASWA merchandise

PAWS for Prayer card



Originally produced for the service at Chelmsford Cathedral, these little cards feature a prayer for Companion Animals printed on one side.

Price: £0.35 each
(minimum quantity 10)

Egg Cards



Great for handing to people in your Church or leaving out in your Church at Easter time!

Price: £0.35 each
(minimum quantity 10)

Pack of Mixed ASWA Postcards (2 designs)

Six postcards in a pack with envelopes

Price: £4.00 per pack



ASWA Cotton Bags

Price: £4.00 each

(All these prices are inclusive of postage)

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