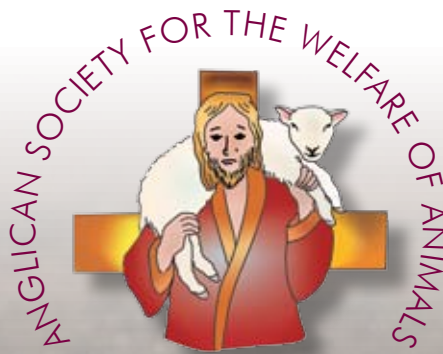


81

Autumn 2012

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**BATS AND CHURCHES
- WELCOME RESIDENTS
OR CHALLENGING
SQUATTERS?**

**BISHOPS REFLECT
ON THEIR MEAT-
FREE LENT**

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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 5 – Friday 7 September

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

Sunday 30 September

A Christian Approach to Animal Abuse and Animal Offenders

Choral Evensong with an address by the Revd Professor Andrew Linzey. St Alban's Cathedral, 6.30pm.

Service of thanksgiving for pets and animals, St Giles Church, Oxford, 3pm.

Sunday 7 October

Animal Welfare Sunday

Annual ASWA Service with Eucharist, Chelmsford Cathedral, 11.15am. The preacher will be ASWA Patron and

Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell. please note this is NOT an animal blessing service.

Animal blessing service, All Saints, Wokingham, Berkshire, 3pm. Speaker: Revd Julie Ramsbottom.

Animal blessing service, St John Vianney Church, Wantage, 3pm. Speaker: Dr Deborah Jones.

Animal blessing service, St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street, Leicester, 3pm. Service will include a musical performance by the Whetstone Badgerbrook Primary School Choir.

Saturday 27 October

West Midlands Vegan Festival 2012

The Wolves Civic Centre, North Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ, 11.00am – 6.00pm.

£1 Entry

Lots of stalls and cookery demonstrations.

For information contact: 01527-458395 or www.midlandsveganfestival.org.uk

Sunday 11 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



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. In this issue, we take a look back at what has happened this year: we report on how the bishops handled their meat-free Lent, we have a report from the ASWA AGM, and find out who won the Prisons Wildlife Award in 2012.

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 on 7th October and the Animal Welfare Service at Chelmsford Cathedral.

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 14th January 2013.

ASWA NEWS

At this year's Annual General Meeting, the Rt Revd Richard Llewellyn announced that he would be retiring as ASWA Chairman next year. We are very grateful for all that Bishop Richard has brought to ASWA and the Committee.

We are now looking for someone to be the next Chairman – ideally another bishop or other senior clergy-person who is passionate about animal welfare.

A Warm Welcome to our new members.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Hannah Baker -
Gillingham, Dorset

Victoria Finlay -
Shoscombe, Bath

The Revd Charles Fraser -
Great Eversden, Cambridgeshire

Claire George -
Devoran, Truro, Cornwall

Denise Hockley -
Stantonbury, Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire

Barry John King -
Sanderstead, Surrey

Cheryl Kay Lowe -
Bloxwich, West Midlands

The Revd Carol Morrison -
Bexley Heath, Kent

Dom Kenneth OSB -
Salisbury, Wiltshire

Anne-Marie Ruske -
Birmingham, West Midlands

Peter Sheridan -
Ruislip, Middlesex

The Revd Pam Shinkins -
Inverasdale, Ross shire

Mrs Lorna Jane Thompson -
Guyhirn, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire

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.

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!

ASWA MERCHANDISE

ASWA 2012 Christmas Card

Our new Christmas card this year is a Nativity scene by popular ASWA artist, Thea Olog, focusing on the donkeys. The painting is exclusive to ASWA. Cards are for sale at £3 per pack of 6. Price includes packaging and postage. All feature words from Ephesians 1 v9-10. Made from good quality stiff card with high quality envelopes. Please order via the website or alternatively send a cheque made out to ASWA and sent to ASWA, PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT.

We have only had a limited number printed so order soon to avoid disappointment.



NATIONAL OFFENDER MANAGEMENT SERVICE WILDLIFE AWARD 2012

For the third 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 Maidstone in Kent.

Maidstone Prison has a lovely chapel where we all met before being taken on the tour of the project. We were then taken around the beautifully kept gardens which contain both flowers and vegetables. Bird, bat and insect boxes were being made which were donated to the Kent Wildlife Trust and there were many nest boxes around the site – all in use. We were all given a wildlife quiz to complete as we walked round. The prison works closely with Kent Eco-Schools and Justin Scott, the Gardens Officer, visits schools and encourages children to be proactive in environmental issues.

Many of the prisoners who had been involved in the scheme were there to answer questions and CCA's representative Judy and I were also offered radishes from the garden, which were delicious.

Later at the award ceremony, Michael Spurr (CEO National offender management service) said, "this scheme is a win-win scheme." How true!

The Archdeacon of Maidstone, The Venerable Stephen Taylor also said a few words and movingly explained how the three large paintings in the Chapel, which all depicted the lead up to the Crucifixion, had all been painted by an ex-prisoner who had cast his own face in the role of Judas Iscariot. I do hope that he went onto make his peace with God and himself.

The Prisons project is all about rehabilitation, biodiversity and conservation. Projects encourage prisoners to think about others, about wildlife and the world around them. ASWA is pleased to be able to be involved in this valuable project.

Samantha Chandler



The Mayor of Maidstone; Mr Justin Scott, Gardens Officer; Mr Michael Spurr of NOMS; Mr Andy Bell, Prison Governor.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM LINDA BODICOAT

Help Promote Christian Animal Welfare in Your Local Area!

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.

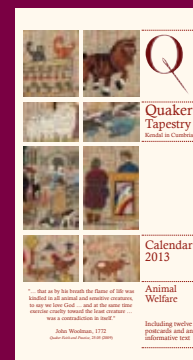
10 x FREE 'Animal Welfare Sunday' Prayer Cards with Orders of £5 & Over

Animal welfare prayer cards & hymn leaflets are also available from the ASWA website.

GOOD NEWS

Animal Welfare features as theme for 2013 Quaker Tapestry Calendar

ASWA member Jill Greenway, who is also a member of Quaker Concern for Animals (QCA), has developed the 2013 Quaker Tapestry calendar, focusing on animal welfare. It was in 2007 that Jill came up with the idea of focusing on the theme of animal welfare for a future Quaker Tapestry calendar, following a week spent as a volunteer at the Quaker Tapestry Exhibition Centre in Kendal in 1997 with her late husband Richard, also a member of ASWA. At a visit later that year to the tapestry panels on-tour at Worcester Cathedral, she read that the Publications Committee were always looking for new themes for future calendars, so Jill suggested Animals. Bridget Guest, the Manager of the exhibition welcomed her suggestion, and after the idea was approved, asked her whether she would like to write the text. The Quaker Tapestry Exhibition is very animal-friendly as it includes the Meeting House Café, which offers vegetarian-only meals, and is a member of the Vegetarian Society's Food and Drink Guild.



Drawing on themes which appear in the panels and which show that there has been a consistent strand of concern for animals among Quakers over centuries, Jill selected relevant images from the panels and wrote the text for each month. The research and writing up took more than 4 years, rather longer than she expected, but it has now finally come to fruition.

Attractively illustrated with images from the panels, topics covered over the twelve months include: farming, humane research, animals in war, the work of the poet UA Fanthorpe (lately patron of QCA), whaling, Kathleen Jannaway (an early keen environmentalist), slavery and Anna Sewell.

Any one interested in knowing more about the Quaker Tapestry or wishing to purchase a copy of the calendar (priced £5.95 plus p&p) should visit the Quaker Tapestry web site (www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk). To find the calendar, click on shop and then on calendars under product categories.

MUSICAL SOIRÉE A GREAT SUCCESS!

This was a wonderful evening on Sunday 27th May 2012 at St Mary's Church, Chesham, Buckinghamshire. The concert's aim was to promote the work of ASWA and raise funds. It was also decided that half the proceeds of the Soirée would go to Hillside Animal Sanctuary, who at present are coming to the aid of other animal sanctuaries in this country who have had to close due to financial difficulties. Hillside is also reaching out to Romania supporting the dog shelter and bringing many dogs to the UK to re-home. This is an expensive, bold and remarkable operation. So Hillside needs extra funds to continue their vital work. If you wish to find out more visit their website at www.hillside.org.uk.

We were blessed by a fantastic production performed by highly professional musicians, Mandy Watsham Dunstall – Soprano, Clive Dunstall – Pianist, Daniel de-Fry – Harpist, Rebecca Leyton – Cellist, Mike Smith – Drums and Stuart Corkindale – Clarinet. The music had a mainly classical and animal theme.

We had a painting donated for the evening by a local artist, Diana Copland, which was purchased during a silent auction by a local ASWA member for £1,000.

I would like to thank all those from ASWA who came on the night to support the concert, which helped raise a grand total of £2,330.

Janet Murphy



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Whenever I read about the cruel procedures inflicted on animals for scientific research I am sickened. Some argue that research is necessary to find cures for human diseases. However I was alarmed to read reports about experiments carried out on animals to find 'cures' for self-inflicted human conditions.

A 'flab-jab' is on the horizon which allows people to gorge on junk food and keep slim. Another drug is intended to provide all the benefits of exercise without moving a muscle. Animals are being injected with alcohol equivalent to a human drinking 15–20 beers in two hours to test a drug which will sober-up drunks. Animals are also being used to find an anti-smoking vaccination. Animals do not drink alcohol. Animals do not eat junk food. Animals are not obese couch potatoes (unless they are

overfed pets). Animals do not smoke. Why should they suffer for human lack of self-control or poor choices? To add insult to injury, Professor Darren Griffin warned that what worked in animals did not always work in man. A 2011 issue of *World Pharma* states, "Using animal models is not producing efficacious human medicines".

What a waste of innocent lives.

Elizabeth Allison, Leicester

Dear Editor,

In all of the concern about organ replacement, it is a relief to hear that growing one's own organs from stem cells already exists, in the early stages of research. How sad, then, to learn that apparently the only way that a 'scaffold' on which the cells can grow and multiply may be achieved in

future developments is by stripping an animal's equivalent organ of its living cells and replacing them with those of the human in need.

The Dr Hadwen Trust for Humane Research tells me that European Directive 20/10/63/EU states, "if an alternative to an animal experiment exists, it must be used and the ultimate goal must be to replace the use of animal experiments altogether." This directive should come into force by 2013. Undoubtedly, the European Union will keep this whole development under review.

Let us pray for the discovery of some non-animal-based 'scaffold', perhaps composed of a form of gum or silicone derivative so that the tender bodies of animals are not, once again, fallen back upon in what should be a time of merciful advancement.

Iris Pyves, Bexleyheath, Kent

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA:



Looking forward

The past few months have been quiet here with regard to animal welfare. We are looking forward to the annual Thanksgiving for Creation and Animal Blessing service that will be held in Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, NSW, on 16th September, 2012 at which animals will be very welcome.

Olga Parkes

SOUTH AFRICA:



Inspired by St Francis

My son Jonathan, who always celebrated St Francis' Day with us at the local Anglican Cathedral, drew the accompanying sketch entitled *Compassion*. His motivation

is thought-provoking: "I watched an extremely powerful documentary called *Earthlings*, a hard-hitting, no-holds-barred exposé which expansively covers all areas of human exploitation of other species, from factory farming to circuses to vivisection laboratories. I began to wonder how things had come to this point, where we, supposedly the highest beings on the pyramid of life on Earth, could behave with such brutish barbarism towards life forms that feel the same emotions that we do – pain, fear, love, affection and the desire for freedom.

The crucial element I found lacking in humanity was compassion, the theme of this design. The baby orangutan represents the gentleness of the animal kingdom, while the panther

extends to the other end of the spectrum – ferocity and dynamism. The face of St Francis captures the anguish and heart-rending sadness felt by someone who deeply empathises with the pain of others."

As we commemorate the birth of St Francis on October 4, may we focus on his courage and beauty of spirit that led so many to an awareness of God, and to peace and purity.

Anne Hemmings

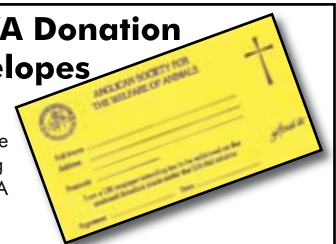


ASWA Donation Envelopes

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](#)



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

Animal Welfare Sunday Sunday 7th October 2012

This year we will focus on the welfare of dogs and cats and the increasing numbers of unwanted companion animals being destroyed. Animal Welfare Sunday resources are now available from the Secretary or via the website.

ASWA Annual Service

Our annual service this year will be on Sunday 7th October at Chelmsford Cathedral (see Doris' Diary). We look forward to the sermon being given by the Bishop of Chelmsford and ASWA patron, the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell.

ASWA Local groups

Don't forget that there are ASWA local groups in different areas. The Oxford group meets quarterly in different locations around the Oxford diocese. The contact for the group is Revd Martin Henig (martin.henig@arch.ox.ac.uk). The Surrey/South London group meets monthly and alternates between a Monday, Tuesday or

Wednesday evening. The contact for this group is Janice Hoyle (01372-842884). 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). 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. The contact for the ecumenical group is the Revd Helen Hall (01633-677775 or helen.hall123@ntlworld.com).

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

Once again, we met at St Michael's, Chester Square and we were looked after very well by Andy the Verger.

During his annual report, the Chairman announced that he would be retiring next September (on his 75th birthday). Therefore the search is on for a new Chairman. Bishop Richard will be very difficult to replace and ideally we would like another Bishop or a senior clergyman and of course someone who is sympathetic to animal welfare issues.

He also paid tribute to our membership secretary, Keith Plumridge, who although not officially on the ASWA committee, works tirelessly for the society, keeping up the database and providing endless reports – often at very short notice!

Reports were given by the Treasurer and the Editor of *Animalwatch*. There will now be three issues of *Animalwatch* per year and the Summer issue will feature a page for children and youth.

There had been no postal ballot as the number of candidates was equal to the vacant posts available. Therefore, the three candidates, Revd Hugh Broadbent, Mr Barry Miles and Mr Simon July, were all re-elected.

Our guest speaker was Paul Davis of Doris Banham Dog Rescue who gave an incredibly moving talk and showed a film about the life of a pound dog in the UK – there was hardly a dry eye in the meeting. The talk was linked to our theme for Animal Welfare Sunday this year, which is dogs and cats and in particular the welfare issues surrounded strays and the many unwanted animals put to sleep each year.



BISHOPS REFLECT ON THEIR MEAT-FREE LENT

Earlier this year, we asked four bishops with connections to ASWA to give up meat for Lent. Here, all four reflect on their experience of having a meat-free Lent, and describe the impact it has had on them.

Giving up meat for Lent really was not that difficult because we eat very little meat at home, which provides for quite a healthy diet and saves money. The only difficulty was when I was invited out to meals and forgot to tell my hosts, but they were happy to let me just eat the vegetables.

For me the prime purpose of the Lenten observance is as a spiritual discipline so when I give up alcohol, caffeine or chocolate during Lent it does not mean that I give it up for ever although I gave up sugar in tea and coffee one Lent and milk the following Lent and now prefer to drink them black!

I am always mindful about eating meat and animal welfare, so I would not eat anything that I know to be intensively farmed or eggs that are not free range. I would encourage people to consider giving up meat for Lent and perhaps having some meat-free days each week because we all need to cut our meat consumption as the world cannot sustain the growing demand for meat, and it forces meat producers into cruel and unnatural methods of husbandry.

Rt Revd Dominic Walker
Bishop of Monmouth
President of ASWA

You cannot be a member of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals for very long without discovering two things which most people do not want to know about. The first is that intensive farming of livestock, which is increasingly widespread in our country, means that the animals being farmed in this way live unnatural lives and often experience distress and even pain. The second is that the slaughtering of animals in our abattoirs is very often a gruesome and cruel business. There is no getting away from it!

So, I was very glad to respond to the invitation of the Committee to give up eating meat for Lent. I realised that, in doing so, this 'giving up' would probably alter my eating habits on a longer-term basis. It has.

I have now become what I can only describe as a 'domestic vegetarian'. By that I mean that, normally speaking (there have been just one or two exceptions) I do not eat meat at home, though I do still eat fish. When my wife, Jennifer, and I are invited out to a meal in someone else's home, I eat what is set before me. We have agreed that it can give our host simply too much 'aggro' to refuse meat if that is what they have prepared as part of the meal.

So, not a great leap forward, but one small step in response to my concern for the animal kingdom, and my protest at factory farming and the awful conditions in many of our abattoirs.

Rt Revd Richard Llewellyn
Former Bishop of Dover & Bishop at Lambeth
Chairman of ASWA

Along with a few other bishops I gave up meat for Lent. I have to confess that I don't think I would have done it at all if I wasn't cajoled into it by ASWA's campaign. But armed with some slightly un-orthodox Lenten reading – Hugh Fearnley Wittingstall's vegetarian cookbook – it all went astonishingly well. I like cooking, and I like Asian food, and I soon found lots of lovely things I could do with spices and beans and lentils and mushrooms, and after a week I think I felt better as well as finding meat not as difficult to live without as I had imagined. I also rediscovered a great love for risotto: fun to make, slow and contemplative, and gorgeous to eat.

I took a traditional approach to Lent. I ate fish each Friday. Also on refreshment Sunday, mid-Lent, we ate beef. But that apart, it was a trouble-free, meat-free Lent.

I have gone back to meat. But I think my attitude to meat has shifted. I don't need

it or want it each day. Feasting really is better after a bit of fasting. Vegetarian food can be fantastic. I am trying now to buy less meat and to make sure I buy local. A meat-free Lent has led to a better balance in all my eating.

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell
Bishop of Chelmsford
ASWA Patron

I didn't find giving up meat for Lent very hard. Not that I'm a natural vegetarian – I enjoy meat very much. However, I ate some splendid vegetarian meals (and some excruciating ones from the supermarket!) and would not be unduly put out if I went vegetarian again.

However I was glad to come off the zero-meat diet. I enjoy the balance of food which a "normal" diet offers but I was glad to have the opportunity to draw attention to our global over consumption of meat. It's well known that this over consumption is being undertaken at the expense of arable farming. This is exhausting the earth, depriving poorer families of sufficient staple foods and driving up prices. With the projected huge increase in the world's population to over nine billion before we know it, it's very important that meat consumption is moderated.

In May I lived for five days on a pound a day for food and drink. This meant that my five-day consumption of food and drink could have been taken up entirely by two cups of coffee at Starbucks! The effect of meatless Lent and my five days on a pound a day has been to raise my awareness of food as a moral and spiritual issue as well as an economic one. I hope I will be a more responsible eater.

Rt Revd John Pritchard
Bishop of Oxford
ASWA Patron

BOOK REVIEWS

A STREET CAT NAMED BOB

By James Bowen

Published by Hodder & Stoughton

ISBN 978-1-444-73709-7

279 pages Hardback

Price £14.99

Bob, a ginger tom cat, has made a remarkable journey from obscurity to fame. No-one knows how he started in life, but his story begins with him being discovered as a homeless, bedraggled stray cat in London, and finishes with him achieving global fame on the internet site, YouTube.

The story of how James and Bob discovered one another, and how their relationship developed is a moving

one. James Bowen

describes his journey from being part of a middle-class family to getting into drugs, becoming distanced from his family and ending up living on the streets. By the time he met Bob, he was in a treatment programme to overcome his drug habit and living in a small flat in London. As he himself describes it, bringing Bob into his life gave him a reason to be responsible – he now had someone other than himself to care for. Bob inspires James to move further away from drugs, and to begin to rebuild other relationships in his life.

That not all is smooth sailing for James and Bob becomes clear as James tells their story. James relates instances of losing Bob, and his description of his feelings on these occasions triggered in me a strong feeling of empathy. I knew that it must turn out ok, or the book wouldn't have been written, and yet I couldn't help sharing in the anxiety that James describes, worrying about Bob's wellbeing.

Reading this book will almost certainly teach you more than you want to know about the life of the people we encounter on the streets of our towns and cities: buskers, *Big Issue* sellers and beggars. If you are

one who doubts the value of human-animal relationships, this book is sure to change your mind. Bob's devotion to James, James' desire to care for Bob and provide him with a safe home, and their affection for each other is inspirational.

An added bonus – if you buy a signed copy, you get not only James' signature, but also Bob's.

Jennifer Brown

WHO STOLE MY RELIGION?

Revitalizing Judaism and applying Jewish values to help heal our imperilled planet

By Richard H Schwartz

Published by Lulu Press, Inc

ISBN 978-1-105-33646-1

xxviii + 357 pages Paperback

Price £12.99

This is a stimulating and encouraging book, even though only a quarter of it is directly related to ASWA's aims. Here Dr Schwartz reveals that care for animals and for all creation is central to his faith, and has firm roots in Biblical and later Jewish tradition. In some ways (for instance in the rabbis' strong disapproval of hunting) Judaism has been further ahead of Christian practice, on the grounds that killing God's creation for pleasure is inevitably wrong.

English readers with an interest in such matters should have known this and other aspects of Jewish

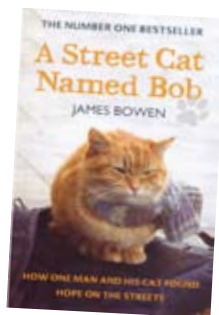
concern for creation already from Rabbi Cohn-Sherbok's contribution to Andrew Linzey and Dan Cohn-Sherbok's *After Noah. Animals and the Liberation of Theology* (Mowbray, London 1997) which surprisingly is not in the bibliography, and Schwartz covers much of the same ground. Needless to say the Jewish perspective is entirely relevant to us as we share the same scriptures, and Jesus was of

course immersed in them and in the Judaism of his time.

Schwartz writes from the position of Orthodox Judaism whereas Cohn-Sherbok is a Liberal Jew, and all too often those with a stricter approach to faith and morals – Christians as well as Jews – tend to be driven back on themselves and worry more about the expression of faith in Church or Synagogue than in its wider application. That need not be so. For Schwartz, care for social, economic and political justice go hand in hand with environmental sensitivity and care for creation. So his very Orthodoxy leads him to demand peace in Israel, justice for the Palestinians, understanding of Islam, a more equal and harmonious society, and an acceptance of animal rights which embraces his own vegan life-style. Yes, animals are our fellow creatures, made by God and we have duties towards them. Modern methods of animal husbandry (notably factory farming) and the pain caused in slaughtering animals cannot be kosher, and his doubts about animal experimentation are equally searching.

How often does one encounter in church circles (as Schwartz does in Synagogue) the criticism that one cares for animals more than people? In fact all these issues are interrelated, and part and parcel of what should be the Judeo-Christian ethical code. Of course readers of the book must make due allowance for the fact that it is written largely for American Jews, hence the amount of attention devoted to Israel and to the somewhat more right-wing nature of Republican American politics than, for the most part, we find here. However, just as Schwartz challenges his own community to re-affirm the humane values that their faith proclaims, so this campaigning book calls us to focus on our own values, which include the same duty to be kind to animals enshrined in the same Bible which Schwartz affirms, and which for me, are re-invigorated and reinforced by Jesus' Gospel of love. How often, when I see churches quarrelling about inessentials, do I start thinking that someone has stolen my own religion too!

Martin Henig



BATS AND CHURCHES: WELCOME RESIDENTS OR CHALLENGING SQUATTERS?

Earlier this year, a programme featured on both Radio 4 and the BBC News website reported on a situation at St Hilda's in North Yorkshire, where the population of bats was causing problems. The Churchwarden who was interviewed said that the smell of the bat urine and droppings had meant that there had not been a wedding held at the church for several years and that the congregation was declining. The bat urine in particular was also damaging the furnishings and woodwork. The 1,000 year old listed church is small, with seating for 80, and is home to 250 bats of four different species including brown long-eared and Natterer's. St Hilda's is what is called a 'maternity roost' which means that the bats arrive in May and stay until September to raise their young. The church has attempted to entice the bats to other nearby sites including a nearby barn and a lych-gate which they fitted with a heater. However the bats have not been tempted to move.

This dilemma is not unique. As many as 6,400 parish churches in England may be inhabited by bats for at least part of the year¹ and about 60% of pre-16th Century churches contain bat roosts.² Churches have been a stable feature of the British landscape for centuries, and this makes them attractive to bats. As bats' natural habitats have been reduced by human activity, namely deforestation, they have adapted to roost in churches and other buildings. According to the Bat Conservation Trust, "The way churches are used, their locations,

design and features make them ideal hosts for bats and many have provided valuable roosting sites for generations of bats, particularly in areas where alternative roosts are scarce."²

There are 18 species of bats in the UK, of which at least eight are known to roost in churches, including common and soprano pipistrelles, brown long-eared bats, Natterer's bats and serotines.² Bats usually return to the same roosts year after year², and are vulnerable to being disturbed, excluded or entombed if work is carried out without first having a building inspected for evidence of bat occupation. Bats are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and by regulations on conservation of habitats. It is an offence for anyone intentionally to kill, injure or take (handle) a bat, to disturb a roosting bat or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter.³

Not all churches with bats in residence see this as an unwelcome problem. Some have managed to find ways to deal with the challenges bats pose and have devised ways of working with the bats. At many churches there is already a protective attitude towards the bats sheltered within the building. A sympathetic approach and tolerance are invaluable for the conservation of these vulnerable animals.

One such example is Holy Trinity in Tattershall, Lincolnshire – a very large church dating from 1500 and home to over 600 bats – again of various species. Like St Hilda's, Holy Trinity is a maternity roost. The difference with Holy Trinity, however, is that they have found ways of managing the problem. Indeed, they have even made the bats a feature of the church by holding two 'bat nights' each summer with the help

and support of the local bat group. The Churchwarden at Holy Trinity told us that they had a good working relationship with a representative from the local bat group. Each night, the altar and nave area was covered over with plastic sheeting to protect it. They did not find the droppings a particular problem as they were easily swept up. The urine however was more problematic – hence the plastic sheeting.

St Mary's in Haddenham, Buckinghamshire is another church hosting bats. Two years ago St Mary's were all set to repair their chancel and side chapel roof when they realised that they had not had an inspection to check for bats. According to the Vicar of St Mary's, the Revd Margot Hodson, "The 'bat man' came along one afternoon, full of enthusiasm for his task. He was very excited to find two droppings of a long eared bat. It was not so easy for us practically as we had to stop the schedule for our work and wait until the bats left for hibernation elsewhere. Long eared bats are less common than some, and we did not know much about them. We have St Tiggywinkles wildlife hospital in our village and it was great to find a long eared bat as a patient there and have the opportunity to understand them a bit more." Armed with a cuddly-toy long eared bat, Margot used it for a primary school assembly on caring for God's creation. She has since discovered that there is a similar situation in another church in her team, St Nicholas, Kingsey. Here pipistrelle bats have taken up residence. Margot recalls, "At the end of our Maundy Thursday service we stripped the Communion Table and put out all the lights but for one candle. At this very moving end of the service, the bats started to fly. It reminded us that God so loved his whole cosmos that he gave his Son for us. As we await a faculty for Kingsey's roof, we also again wait for the bats to leave for hibernation."

Anyone experiencing bat challenges in their own churches or those wanting to know more about their bat populations should initially contact the Bat Conservation Trust (www.bats.org.uk) Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane, London, SE11 5ED. Helpline –



0845-1300 228. Natural England (www.naturalengland.org.uk) run a bat warden scheme to help churches coping with bat populations. They can be contacted on 0845 600 3078. The Church Care web site also provides guidance on dealing with bats in church (<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/BATS.pdf>).

1 <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint/taking-action/wildlife/bats>. Accessed 12 August 2012.

2 Bat Conservation Trust. 2012. Bats in churches and how you can help them.

3 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

For more on bats, visit the ASWA web site.

At ASWA we would love to know about your bats! Do you have bats in your church? If so, what species do you have? How does your church manage your bat population? Do write and tell us.

**Samantha Chandler &
Jennifer Brown**

ASWA MEMBERSHIP

Regular readers of *Animalwatch* will have noticed that we now regularly include a membership form with each copy of the magazine. Keen-eyed readers will also have noticed that, starting with our summer issue this year, we have introduced different membership categories. In addition to the annual subscription, it is now possible to purchase a lifetime subscription for £250. We have also introduced a youth subscription (£10/year) for under-18s.

Why do we include a membership form with your magazine? Many ASWA members lend their copies of *Animalwatch* to friends and fellow-Christians with an interest in animal welfare. We also hand out complimentary copies of *Animalwatch* at various events at which ASWA has a presence. Having a membership form included with the magazine makes it easy for people who wish to join to do so.

If you are already an ASWA member, there is no need for you to complete a new membership form, unless you wish to change your membership category or use it as a gift-aid form to accompany an additional donation towards ASWA's work. Existing members with an annual subscription paid by cheque rather than standing order will receive notification when they need to renew their membership.

If you have any questions about ASWA membership, please contact aswamembership@btinternet.com.

TALKING POINT

Is there a conflict between keeping pets and being concerned for animal welfare? Most of us who care deeply for our pets would say, "No, of course not." But for most who have dogs and all who have cats, caring for their pets includes feeding them meat – and in most cases probably meat produced without much concern for the welfare of the animals destined to become food for our pets. For those who profess a concern for animal welfare, especially vegetarians and vegans, is this morally right? What steps can be taken to encourage more pet food manufacturers to put animal welfare first?

ANGLICAN SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS

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A Special Service for Animal Welfare Sunday

Chelmsford Cathedral

Sunday 7th October 2012

(Eucharist - 11.15am)

Preacher:

The Bishop of Chelmsford

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell



CHELMSFORD
CATHEDRAL

- ALL WELCOME

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