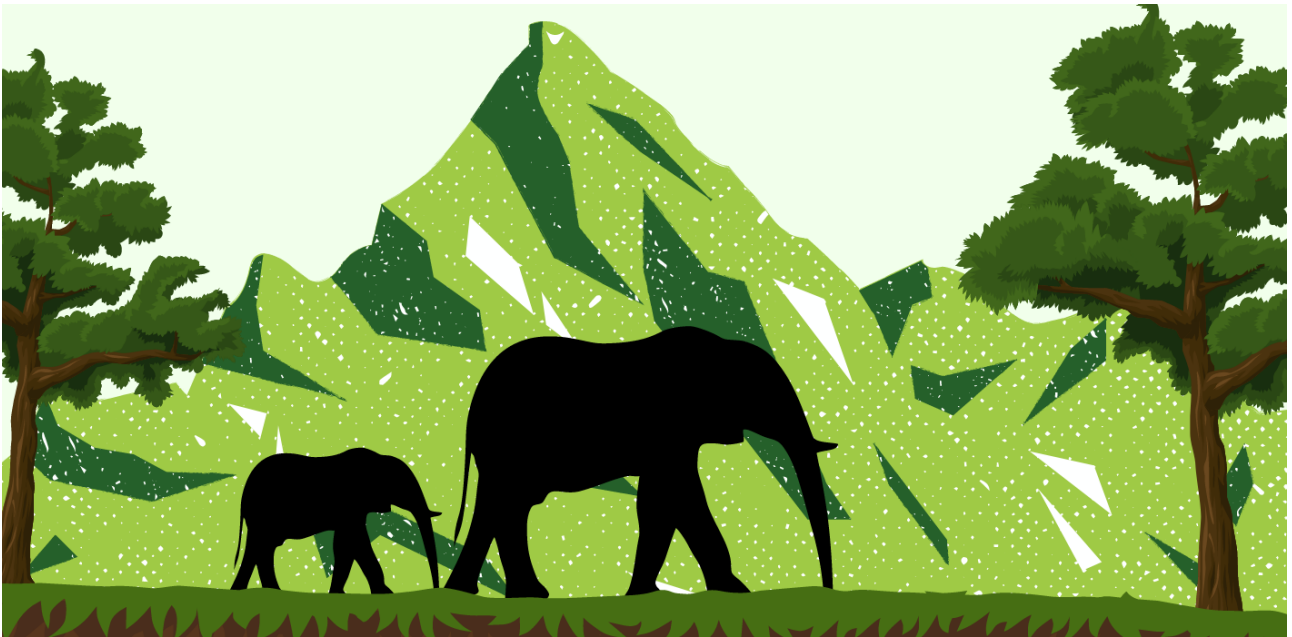




# Celebration of Animals

*Do not be afraid*

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**



**Inclusive  
Church**

Welcome to this service. Please join in with the words in **bold**.

If you have an animal with you please keep it on a lead or in its container.

We have water bowls near the entrance and cleaning products should there be any accidents. Your animals remain your responsibility throughout the service. Please don't worry if they are noisy, they are very welcome.

If you have children with you and they get restless during the service please don't worry, we won't. We do have a children's corner with toys, crafts and books you are welcome to use if you'd find that helpful.

The left side aisle is reserved this morning for anyone who finds being near animals difficult for any reason. Please don't bring your animals there.

### *Getting to know each other*

*Whilst waiting for the service to start take some time to introduce yourself to those who you are sitting near. You might like to talk about these questions;*

- Do you have any pets? Who are they, why are they special?
- What animals do you find the most fascinating?
- What concerns do you have for animals in the world today?

### *Welcome*

*We remain seated as we receive words of welcome, concluding with these responses, inspired by Psalm 148<sup>1</sup>.*

One: All God's family, come and praise our Creator!

**Many: We come with eyes to see, and ears to flap and hear,**

One: All creatures lift your voices in singing, mewing and barking.

**Many: We come to celebrate God's marvelous creation!**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://worshipwords.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Blessing-of-Animal-service-Leaders-Sheets-1.pdf>

One: With dogs and cats, hamsters and snakes

**Many: We come to thank the Giver of all life!**

One: All creatures that crawl, all sea serpents that swim and  
feathered friends that fly

**Many: We come to praise our Creator!**

*Opening Hymn: All creatures of our God and King*

*We stand as able to sing Common Praise number 250 verses 1,2,4,5 and 7*

*Are animals scary?*

*We sit for a time of interactive reflection.*

*Reading: Mark 1:12-13*

*We remain seated as we listen to the reading.*

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

*Reflection: Who are the wild beasts?*

*We remain seated to listen to the reflection and ponder*

*Song: All things wild and beautiful*

*We stand as able to sing*

*All things wild and beautiful*

*All creatures great and small*

*All things wise and not so wise*

*The lord God made them all*

The dromedary camel

So many different snakes

Nine of them are venomous

All things our God creates

The ravens in abundance

Thrive in the desert too

They screech and caw all evening

Roar like a lion too

The Geckos and rock lizards

They too command their place

The Desert wolves and leopards

God gave them all their space

Some animals look scary

But our God made them all

The best of all creations

God's kingdom for us all.

*Words by Ian Dickinson*

## *Reflection: What fear do animals experience?*

*We sit to listen.*

### *Confession*

*We remain seated or kneel to say sorry to God;*

One: For the times we have hurt or teased animals in our care

**Many: God forgive us and help us.**

One: For the times we have forgotten or neglected to look after the animals that depend on us.

**Many: God forgive us and help us.**

One: For the times we have failed to protect the environment in which animals live, here and across the world

**Many: God forgive us and help us.**

### *Absolution*

*We are given assurance of God's forgiveness with these words;*

One: May the God of love and power  
forgive *us* and free *us* from *our* sins,  
heal and strengthen *us* by his Spirit,  
and raise *us* to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Many: Amen**

### *Song: All the animals*

*We stand as able to sing*

All the animals that I have ever seen,  
Big ones, little ones, and others in between,  
Four Legs, two legs,  
Some no legs at all;  
I like them all.

All the animals that like your strokes and pats,  
Dogs and hamster, gerbils, guinea pigs and cats,  
Mice and tortoises,  
Rabbits in the hutch;  
I like so much.

All the animals that fly up in the sky,  
Robins, wrens, and butterflies that flutter by,  
Magpies, dragonflies,  
and the bumble bee;  
I like to see.

All the animals I only see at night,  
Hedgehog, nightingale and owl with eyes so bright,  
Fox and badger,  
Mothe and bat and shrew;  
I like them too.

All the animals that live beneath the sea,  
Shrimps and prawns and jellyfish that tickle me,  
Starfish, anemonies,  
Crabs beneath my feet!  
I like to meet.

There are animals I'll never see at all,  
Some live overseas, and some are just to mall,  
All God's animals,  
Need the care we give  
If they're to live.

*Words and music: Simon Fitter*

## *Blessings, Remembrance and Action*

*There is now an opportunity to receive a personal blessing for your pet. Please bring your pet, or a picture of your pet forward when instructed to do so. Each pet will receive a certificate.*

*If you'd like to remember a pet you loved who has died you are invited to the Remembrance corner to light a candle for them, remembering the light they shone in your life. You may also want to write their name on a paw and attach it to the board.*

*There is also an opportunity to engage in action to help animals. Friends of the earth are campaigning for UK laws to better protect forest, the home for many creatures. You can sign their petitions here*  
*<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/latest/actions>*



*There are also a few printed copies of this information on the table by the sound desk if you don't have access to a smartphone.*

*If you need to connect to our wifi these are the details:*

Network: BT-Q9C22K

Password: Hilda680

*We listen to Ps104 Project Africa, who sing these words...*

Praise the Lord, O my soul  
for his great works.

He wraps himself in light

He stretches heavens like a tent

He makes the clouds his chariot

He rides on the wings of the wind

He makes the flames his servants

He set the foundation of the earth

It can never be moved, be moved

You cause the earth to tremble at your sight

The mountains smoke at your touch

You make the winds your messengers

You set a place for oceans  
They cannot cross their boundaries. Hhummmm  
Praise the Lord, O my soul  
for his great works.  
He makes the springs to pour water  
into the ravines constantly  
They flow between the mountains  
They give waters to animals  
the antelopes and all the beast  
The flying birds can nest around  
and sing among the branches  
He waters mountains from above  
The earth is satisfied by his work  
He makes the grass to grow for the cows  
and plants for man to cultivate  
and forth his food to bring from the earth  
The wine to gladden his heart  
And oil to make his face shine  
and bread that sustains his life. Hhummmm

Praise the Lord, O my soul  
He who made all things  
The sun knows when to go down  
The moon shows us the seasons  
You make darkness to be light  
You watch the animals of the field  
The lions roaring for a prey  
You made the rivers and the sea  
The creatures living in the sea  
They look to you to provide  
You feed them in the proper time  
When you provide for them they receive  
But when you hide your face, hide your face,  
You terrify them all, terrify  
And when their breath you take, take away,



They all return to dust, return to dust. Hhummmm!

Come and praise the Lord  
for his great works.  
May your glory endure forever  
May you rejoice in your works  
I will sing to the Lord all my life  
I'll praise him all my life, all my life  
May I please with you with my thoughts  
As I rejoice in the Lord  
But may the sinners vanish  
The wicked be no more, no more.  
O praise the Lord, O my soul  
His works are wonderful, wonderful Hhummmm!

### *Prayers of Intercession*

*We sit or kneel as we are led in prayer. At the end of each bidding;*

One: Lord of Creation

**Many: Hear our prayer**

*We conclude our prayers with The Lord's Prayer*

One: As our Saviour taught us, so we pray in whatever form  
or language comes most naturally;

**Our Father  
in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today  
our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Our Father,  
Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day  
our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us**

**Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**And lead us not into temptation.  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine  
is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Or you may like to use this version by Steven Shakespeare:*

**Divine mother, divine father: to be in you is to be in heaven.  
May we hear the wonder that echoes in your name.  
May we accept no rule but the rule of love.  
May we never tolerate the evil of hunger.  
May the hurts we cause be forgiven  
and the hurts we receive be healed.  
May we remember that we are fragile  
and cherish the life we share with all.  
For all love, and life and power, is the gift of the Spirit. Amen.**

## *Notices*

*We remain seated as we listen to any family news and notices.*

## *Offertory Hymn: God, creation comes from you*

*We stand as able to sing.. During the hymn a collection for the mission and ministry of the church will be taken. You can also give through the contactless card-reader on exit.*

God, creation comes from you,  
praise and glory are your due;  
through your Son all things were made  
and your splendour is displayed.  
thank you for the nights and days,  
for the stars on which we gaze,

sun to warm and give us light,  
moon to keep earth's rhythms right.

Earth proclaims your mighty hand  
in the air and sea and land -  
deserts, forests, rivers, streams,  
snowflakes, rain and sunlight beams;  
for the life-forms that abound,  
for the joys of light and sound,  
for the wonders that amaze  
we now bring our heartfelt praise.

For the apes and yaks and hares,  
horses, donkeys, polar bears;  
for the goats, the sheep, the whales,  
and the monkeys with their tails;  
for the camel and the sow,  
for the chicken, bee and cow,  
for the sparrow, eagle, dove,  
for the dogs and cats we love.

For the animals, our friends,  
on whom much of life depends,  
for the fish within the sea,  
birds of beauty flying free.  
You created humankind,  
gave us body, spirit, mind,  
breathed in us your living breath,  
promised life instead of death.

Lord, forgive us for our sin;  
we have harmed the world we're in,

teach us all your gifts to share  
that the poor may not despair.  
then, as children of new birth,  
in new heavens and new earth  
we will worship, hearts ablaze,  
joining in creation's praise,  
joining in creation's praise.

*Michael Baughen (b. 1930)*

*© Michael Baughen, administered by The Jubilate Group*

### *Blessing and Dismissal*

*We remain standing to receive God's blessing.*

One: The love of the Creator be all around you.  
The love of the Saviour be above and beneath you,  
The love of the Holy Spirit be within you;  
And the blessing of God, The Creator, The Redeemer  
and The Sustainer,  
Be with you and those you love today and forever.

**Amen.**

One: Friends, go in the peace and gentle wisdom of God, to  
care for all God's creatures, with feathers, paws, tails or  
fur, with a grateful heart and loving hands. Let the  
people say...

**Many: Amen! Thanks be to God.**

*Angela will play 'Imagine animals' by Lionel Blackman. We are  
encouraged to imagine different creatures as we listen to the music.*

*Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served after the service (treats for  
animals too!) Do stay if you can.*

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

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### **UPCOMING SERVICES**

Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> September 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 10:30am:	Holy Communion

### **SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

This week's flowers are the gift of the Guides.

### **PCC TREASURER NEEDED – URGENT**

We urgently need someone to take on the role of Treasurer. This is an important role in the life of the church. You do not need to be an expert in finances, just a willingness to learn and compute literacy. Terry Daniels, our interim treasurer will work with you to ensure a handover and you will have the support of the Wardens and PCC. As a PCC member you will need to complete some Safeguarding modules and have an enhanced DBS. Please speak to Jenni or Terry if you think you may be able to take on this role.

### **VOLUNTEER NEEDED: PARISH SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR (PSC)**

After over a decade in this role Anne Harris intends to step down at the next APCM. We are seeking to recruit in time for a smooth handover from Anne and for the next PSC to work alongside Mike Baynham as part of a team.

This role is; to work with the incumbent and PCC in promoting safeguarding within the parish, and to ensure that church leaders are implementing the Church of England's safeguarding guidance. The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is the key link person between the parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

This role requires an enhanced DBS and completion of several training modules offered by the Diocese. Good computer literacy is essential for this as it includes working with a database.

If you think this might be something you would be interested in and God is calling you to consider it, please speak to Anne Harris or Jenni Crewes. We can offer you a more detailed role description. Please pray for the right person to be recruited for this essential aspect of parish life.

### **HOLY COMMUNION SERVER(S) NEEDED**

We are seeking a new member (or perhaps members!) to join our team of Holy Communion servers. This role includes assisting with the preparation of the altar, helping with the distribution of Holy Communion and clearing at the end of the service. Due to the nature of our building Servers need to be able to use stairs. Full training will be given, including Basic Awareness Safeguarding which is imperative for any volunteer role in the church. Please speak to Jenni or Ian if this interests you.

### **ECO LIFESTYLE TIP FOR SEPTEMBER**

The **Season of Creation** (1 September - 4 October) is dedicated to God as the creator and sustainer of all life. During this period of the church calendar, many churches celebrate Harvest, thanking God for His provision through the land and food that is grown. It's a time when churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it, and to pray for our world. Explore A Rocha UK's season of creation resources at: [www.arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation](http://www.arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation)

### **CONSERVATOIRE CONCERTS**

We have a full programme of concerts by students of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, with lunchtime concerts at 1.00pm on the second Friday of the month, and evening concerts at 7.30pm on the fourth Saturday of the month. The programme this quarter is;

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 7:30pm

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 1pm

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 7:30pm

Light refreshments are available after each concert, and there is usually an opportunity to talk with the performer(s). The concerts are free, but donations for church funds are welcome. Why not come along and join

us, and please spread the information to anyone else who may be interested? More details are available from [sthildasconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:sthildasconcerts@gmail.com)  
Angela, Terry and Marian.

### **TIDYING THE GARDEN AT THE FRONT OF CHURCH**

The last date of the season for our monthly Saturday morning session to tidy the church front garden has been changed from 4th October to 18th October, between 10.00 am - 12.00 noon, weather permitting.

If you are free, your help would be appreciated at any time during that morning. Experienced and inexperienced gardeners are all welcome. If you have any queries, please speak to Rob Eaton or Anne Harris.

### **PONDERING FAITH**

Pondering returns this autumn, an opportunity to learn together over hot drinks and pastries as we consider what it means to follow Jesus. The next two sessions will focus on Confirmation and everyone is invited whether you've preparing for Confirmation or not. Those who have been confirmed are encouraged to come too as we learn together. The dates are 27<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> October both from 10:30am until about 11:45am in the choir vestry.

### **CREATIONTIDE GARDEN PILGRIMAGE – SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September between 9:30am and 6pm there will be various prayer and reflection stations set up around the church garden. All are welcome to drop in at any point to journey with God in our beautiful grounds as part of the season of Creationtide.

### **DIANE'S ORDINATION AND WELCOME**

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 11am at Birmingham Cathedral Diane Reeves will be ordained Deacon and come to serve us as our Curate. We have some tickets for the service. If you would like one please ask Jenni. They will be given on a first come first served basis.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October we will welcome Diane in our morning service which will be followed by a bring and share lunch in the hall. Please keep this date free and pray for her and she prepares to join us.

### **This week please pray for;**

- For our Youth group which restarts this week.
- Diane as she prepares for her ordination as Deacon.
- For our urgent volunteer vacancies to be filled.
- For the various groups that meet in our church hall.

### **Useful Contacts**

Rev'd. Jenni Crewes	Vicar (day off Monday)	07377363915 or 0121 429 1384 <a href="mailto:revjennicrewes@gmail.com">revjennicrewes@gmail.com</a>
Mrs Julie Batham	Churchwarden	07931133951, <a href="mailto:juliebatham60@gmail.com">juliebatham60@gmail.com</a>
Mr Ian Dickinson	Churchwarden	07950666654, <a href="mailto:ian_fatbudgie@hotmail.com">ian_fatbudgie@hotmail.com</a>
Mrs Fran Ellis	Reader	0121 429 6267
Liz and Jon	CAMEO	<a href="mailto:sthildascameo@gmail.com">sthildascameo@gmail.com</a>
James Atkinson	Eco Church PEC	<a href="mailto:jda85@hotmail.com">jda85@hotmail.com</a>
Enquires about hiring hall or church		<a href="mailto:sthildasbooking@gmail.com">sthildasbooking@gmail.com</a>
Safeguarding Team		07946 147 703 <a href="https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding">https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding</a>
<b><u>Safeguarding information</u></b> 1. Never promise to keep a secret. 2. Assure the person that what they say will be taken seriously. 3. You might say "I will have to talk about what you have told me to the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Vicar or the Bishop's Safeguarding Advisor, and this will be with as much confidentiality as is possible". <a href="http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGLIARDING.html">http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGLIARDING.html</a>		

To use our church wifi connect to BT-Q9C22K. Password is 'Hilda680'  
Please take this pewsheets home with you and when you're finished with it recycle it.

### **Acknowledgements**

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