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'I now pronounce you dog and dog' - pets marry on World Animal Day

Last updated at 22:33pm on 6th October 2007

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A canary, a goldfish, a guinea pig, a handful of cats and more than two dozen dogs received blessings from a Catholic priest in church to mark World Animal Day.

In a ceremony that was sometimes touching and often comical, Rev. Pierre Valkering led his congregation in songs and prayers - frequently interrupted by meowing and yapping from the pews - before the blessing took place.

The event event featured a weddings zone for pets to tie the knot.

"Animals go through life with us, and that can be a great comfort," he said. A dog barked loudly in seeming approval, to the delight of many children in attendance. "Sometimes they make us laugh, and that's a blessing too."

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[Why Absolutely Fabulous star Julia Sawalha and her water gypsy lover drifted apart](#)

It is two years since former Absolutely Fabulous star Julia Sawalha turned her back on life as a successful actress and moved into a canal narrowboat with a hippy and his dog. But her relationship with 'water gypsy' Rich Annetts is now over



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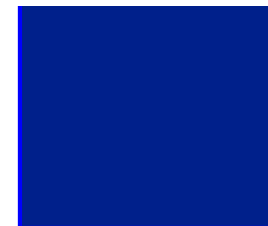
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A doggy groom enjoying his big day

I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! star Gemma Atkinson has only been in the jungle for two weeks and she's already losing weight

- [Jungle agony aunt Anna Ryder Richardson voted off I'm A Celebrity](#)



Guess who? Robbie Williams goes undercover with a bushy beard - and grey hair

At first glimpse, it looks like a middle-aged Dutchman covering up during a chilly winter evening in Amsterdam. However, upon closer inspection, it appears to be Britain's king of pop Robbie Williams



Lily Allen: I slimmed down after doctors told me I had a heart murmur

Lily Allen has revealed her recent dramatic weight loss came after doctors ordered her to get fit when they discovered she had a heart murmur. She sparked concern when she shed 19lbs and dropped from a

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The goldfish went first and appeared very much in its element as Valkering sprinkled it with holy water.

Amadeus, a Cocker Spaniel, attempted to drink it. His owner, Luba Fedossova, an immigrant from Russia, said later, "They wouldn't allow animals into churches back home."

But in the Netherlands it is routine, at least in Valkering's church, Our Dear Lady, Queen of Peace Church. He said some of his flock have brought pets to regular services, and "we've never had any trouble with that."

St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals on whose feast day World Animal Day

size 12 to an eight in just six weeks



Viewers outrage as GMTV show pole dancing before 9am

It was enough to have viewers choking on their cereal. When GMTV's Lorraine Kelly announced a feature on tights, viewers were scandalised to see three pole dancers complete with portable pole - and, of course, tights



Serena Williams has a tights malfunction - on a night out with her new man

Tennis champ Serena Williams obviously didn't plan on being caught by the snapper's lens, or she probably wouldn't have chosen to be photographed while wearing a ropey old laddered pair of tights



is held, was the inspiration for the Oct. 4 service - a seven-year-old tradition in Amsterdam.

Some of the congregation brought photos of pets that could not attend. They, too, were blessed. One boy brought his teddy bear. It, too, was blessed.

"May you be the happiest toy in the whole world," Valkering said.

Helena, Cecilia and Nina Bekhof hurried in a little late, carrying the family bird, Vogy, a 14-year-old canary.

"May you be happy in your cage," Valkering said. "You, too, are blessed."

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Are you trying to seduce me? Why so many middle-aged women are turning into Mrs Robinson

Their children are horrified. Their parents say they should know better. So what possesses so many middle aged women to become modern Mrs Robinsons? We asked three who have dated toyboys

DON'T MISS...



Amy Winehouse covers her face (and her nose) from even more scrutiny

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The singer's strange behaviour continued when she was seen covering her face early this morning



Girl power out in full force as Mel B battles for Dancing With The Stars crown

The Spice Girls cheered from the front row as Mel B competed in the final of the hit U.S. TV show



The mane event: Brendan Fraser's hair makes a surprise comeback

The actor appears to have gone to extraordinary lengths to regain his once full head of tousled brown hair



Pint-sized Connie Talbot races Spice Girls to top of charts

The Britain's Got Talent star takes on the Spice Girls and Leona Lewis in a race to the top of the Christmas charts



Billie Piper goes back in time to rejoin Dr Who

Billie Piper will reprise her award-winning role as Rose Tyler to make a surprise comeback in the next series of Dr Who



Penelope Keith and Peter Bowles reunite for Christmas special of 'To the Manor Born'

It's been 26 years since their love-hate relationship first enthralled viewers



Cerys vows 'I'll never marry again' after jungle pals plan I'm A Celeb wedding

Cerys Matthews has vowed she will never marry again - despite her interest in Marc Bannerman



Jungle agony aunt Anna Ryder Richardson voted off I'm A Celebrity

The sixth celeb to be voted out the jungle admitted it was a struggle living with Janice Dickinson



Bump ahead! Blooming Helena Bonham Carter gets ready for baby

There's only one thing bigger than Helena Bonham Carter's nest of wild hair - her enormous baby bump



Property of Ashley: Cheryl tattoos herself Mrs Cole

Cheryl Cole has taken wifely devotion to the max with an ebony tattoo spelling out Mrs Cole. Girls Aloud squeezed into their raciest party clothes

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