

This is an excerpt from the September Edition of Parish Pump - an On-line resource for people who write Church Magazines, Newsletters, Pewsheets and Bulletins.

Editor: 4 October is World Animal Day. Your church or your magazine may wish to celebrate the day in some way.

1. Hold a full-blown Pet Service. Or include photographs of pets in your Oct mag.
 2. Invite someone from your local animal rescue centre to speak for five minutes or so during the Sunday service, to tell people of the local need to care for animals. Or ask that person to write an article on the subject for your October magazine.
 3. Your church might choose to 'adopt' a pet at a local home for the coming year. Or use your October magazine to 'introduce' three possible pets for adoption, and ask for response from your readers.
 4. Invite five children in your church to write a few paragraphs about their favourite pet.
 5. Invite your readers (in your Sept mag) to send in funny/touching stories about animals they have encountered over the years.(for the Oct mag)
- You may wish to use the following article as a starter, and then talk to your minister about what plans he/she has for the day.
For more information, visit: www.worldanimalday.org.uk – there are further ideas on there.

World Animal Day – 4 October 2008 – get involved!

If you love animals, why not do something about it early next month?

World Animal Day is on 4 October, and the need to protect animals is as great as it was back in 1931, when ecologists at a conference in Florence nominated 4 October (the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals) as an ideal way of highlighting the plight of endangered species. Since then World Animal Day has evolved to encompass all animals and is celebrated in many countries. The World Animal Day website encourages animal lovers to celebrate the numerous ways in which animals enrich our lives.

World Animal Day is not linked to any one individual, organisation or campaign, but belongs to everyone and that means **YOU!**

www.worldanimalday.org.uk offers ideas of how to organise a successful World Animal Day event. The website also features an event listing facility to provide free publicity to any group or individual who is doing something special connected with animals on or around 4th October. You don't have to be an animal welfare campaigner or even a pet-owner to get involved - you just have to care.

**