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Animal church service promises loads of fun

Thursday, October 02, 2008, 12:00

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ALL CREATURES great and small will be blessed at an unusual service to be held at St Margaret the Queen Church in Buxted.

The Buxted Church Animal Thanksgiving service is to be held on World Animal Day on Sunday and will take place in Buxted Park with the help of a live orchestra.

The event has been running for four years, with the collection after this year's service being donated to the Uckfield based International Animal Rescue (IAR).

Reverend John Challis, who will conduct the service, described it as a very social occasion.

He said: "We normally have a congregation of about 60 dogs, as well as cats, ducks, chickens, one or two donkeys and horses, and even the occasional pig. The service is fairly short to cater to the animals' attention span."

He added: "In the past we've been very lucky with the weather and I have taken the service outside, which enables everyone to mingle and get to know each other."

Representatives from IAR will attend and will speak to the congregation about the work of the organisation, primarily the rescue and rehabilitation of dancing bears in India.

The Buxted Church Animal Thanksgiving Service will take place at 3pm and refreshments will be available afterwards. All members of the public and their pets are welcome to attend.

Rev Challis added: "It is a memorable and fun way to celebrate World Animal Day."

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