

St James News: Thought for the day – Tuesday 17th November 2020

A Meow Out for Animals – Revd Kit Gunasekera

Yesterday, Jill showed me a 15 mins video called 73 cows, about 73 cows! It was so moving, and it reminded me what a blessing animals are.

There are positive references to animals through out the bible.

In Genesis 1, we read how on 'days' 5 and 6, God created animals, birds, fish etc...At the end God looks and says it is **Good**.

Balham's donkey saw an angelic messenger which his master could not.

God communicates with them - 1 Kings 17:4-6

God causes grass to grow for the cattle - Psalm 104:14

Jesus used birds as an example to teach about being His follower and trusting God. He also indicated God cares about them where human beings may not.

[Isaiah 11:6-9](#) looks forward to the day when all creation will be reconciled.

Jesus' time in the wilderness, is possibly the beginning of that reconciliation, where He is said to have been **with** the wild animals. - Mark 1:12-13

What other references can you think of?

A constant delight being in church is seeing 4 legged friends wonder in, followed by a harassed looking owner! The other day, even a fox popped its head through the door!

Nearer to home, for those of us who like pets, they can bring such joy and comfort. They can be companions, they seem to know when one is feeling low. Do you have pets? How would you describe what they mean to you? or meant to you? To loose a loved pet is so hard, and do not feel bad about feeling sad, my old vicar said its like loosing your right arm, that is so true.

Whatever heaven is, would pets, animals be there? This is just my view...**YESSSS!**

Thank you Lord for the gift of animals.

Let's make sure they are looked after and treated with dignity.

Amen.