

We ask you to bless + these pets
and those who love and care for them.
By the power of your love
enable us always to give you thanks for all creation
and so live to honour your holy name
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Bless O God, this your creature - *Susanne and Peter*
and all who are involved
in its care and protection.

May God, the Creator of all that is, - *Susanne*
God the Redeemer of all Creation,
and God the life giving Spirit,
bless you and your pets,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Treat time for all and games for pets
(at least for pets that are game!)

YOUR DONATIONS WILL GO TO THE **RSPCA**



For all creatures great and small.

Thank you.

Blessing of Pets



Welcome - *Rev Peter Gador-Whyte*

Welcome to our annual pet service
this year we have tried to craft a service
that is more pet friendly than last year
and involves going for a walk together
where we will stop at various spots to read
a short passage, to pray
and reflect on the place of pets in our lives
So there will be no songs, hymns or other music
except the barking and maybe
meowing or braying of animals,
in which their praise of God is expressed.
There may be an opportunity for some throwing of balls
and retrieving of such after the final blessing,
and the giving of treats to dogs and humans
though not necessarily the same kind of treats.

Prayer - *Rev Susanne Chambers*

Heavenly Father,
our ties with our friends of other species
is a wonderful and special gift from You.
We thank you for our pets and for all they mean to us
and ask your blessing upon them.
Give us new understanding of our responsibilities
to these creatures of yours.

Reading: Genesis 2:18-19 - Reader

Then the Lord God said,
“It is not good that the man should be alone;
I will make him a helper as his partner.”
So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field
and every bird of the air,
and brought them to the man to see what he would call them;
and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

Comment: - Peter

From the very beginning
there has been a close relationship
between humans and animals.
Animals have shared our lives,
given us the wool from their back,
the eggs from their nest,
their milk to drink as well
as their song and their companionship.
So let us walk together

Walk

Reflection - Susanne

Throughout the Bible we hear stories about animals.
Some of the most important animals
to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
were the sheep and goats and camels they kept.
When the ancient seers wrote about God
one of the significant metaphors they used
was that of the Shepherd who cares for his sheep.
It is a metaphor for how we all are invited
to look after those in our care – including our pets.
So let's show them now what we think of them
in the way you know best...

Walk

Story about St Francis: - Kate Lord

Father Francis and his companions
were making a trip through the Spoleto Valley
near the town of Bevagna.
Suddenly, Francis spotted a great number of birds of all varieties.
There were doves, crows and all sorts of birds.
Swept up in the moment,
Francis left his friends in the road
and ran after the birds, who patiently waited for him.

He greeted them in his usual way,
expecting them to scurry off into the air as he spoke,
but they didn't move.
Filled with a sense of wonder
Francis asked them if they would stay awhile
and listen to the Word of God.
He said to them: “My brother and sister birds,
you should praise your Creator and always love him:
He gave you feathers for clothes,
wings to fly
and all other things that you need.
It is God who made you noble among all creatures,
making your home in thin, pure air.
Without sowing or reaping,
you receive God's guidance and protection.”
At this the birds began to spread their wings,
stretch their necks and gaze at Francis,
rejoicing and praising God in a wonderful way
according to their nature.
Francis then walked right through the middle of them,
turned around and came back,
touching their heads and bodies with his tunic.

Walk

Reflection “What my pet means to me”

Walk

Blessing of Pets - Susanne

Lets get all our pets together into a circle
for the blessing.

There is a wonderful old hymn
that expresses our praise to God for our world:

All things bright and beautiful

All creatures great and small

All things wise and wonderful

The Lord God made them all.

Blessed are you,
Lord God maker of all living creatures
You called forth fish in the sea,
Birds in the air
and animals on the land.
You inspired St Francis
to call all of them his brothers and sisters.