



4 DAYS

WITH GOD'S CREATURES

Lent Guide

Creatively exploring Christian
perceptions of animals



Lent: A Time for Exploration and Discovery

During Lent, millions of Christians around the world aim to draw closer to the heart of God and celebrate the redemption of the world in Jesus Christ at Easter.

Lent presents an opportunity for introspection, reflection and recapturing a sense of wonder.

What better time to discover how faith in Christ shapes our perceptions of animals and how the Gospel message affects all of God's creatures?





Connecting mainstream Christianity and animals can sometimes feel like fitting a square peg in a round hole.

Whilst the vast majority of Christians love animals and have a passionate concern for their wellbeing, animals are rarely thought of as a faith issue to be addressed in our churches.

We confess faith in Jesus Christ; and we love animals. But we don't usually put the two together.

Yet was this divide always present in the Christian tradition? Does the God of the Bible offer good news for humanity alone or for all of His creatures?

Bridging

the Gap



Between
Faith and
Animals

Consider Animals Through the Eyes of Faith

Available via a free and easy-to-use app, the *40 Days With God's Creatures* Lent guide offers you the chance to reflect theologically and creatively about animals and animal issues.

This interactive, daily guide will take you on an explorative journey, including the use of biblical and theological readings, art, videos, music, photography and poetry.

Tackling a different theme each week, we will identify, critique and move beyond human-centred cultural assumptions about animals towards a deeper, more profound sense of wonder for the other creatures with whom we share this planet.





Space to Explore the Big Issues

Each day will provide a fresh opportunity to engage intellectually, spiritually and practically with pressing theological questions and contemporary animal concerns.

Take time to consider and reach your own conclusions on the issues that matter to you.

What does the Bible say about animals?

Why should Christians care about animals?

What does "dominion" mean?

What are God's intentions for animals?

Are Christians Good News for animals?

What might Jesus say about factory farming?

How might Christians protest against animal cruelty?

Special Contributors:

Carol J. Adams - Feminist writer, activist, and independent scholar.

Professor David Clough - Professor of Theological Ethics at Chester University.

Dr Allison Covey - Assistant Teaching Professor in Ethics at Villanova University, Pennsylvania.

Professor Celia Deane-Drummond - Director of the Laudato Si' Research Institute, Campion Hall.

Professor Michael Gilmour - Professor of English and Biblical Literature at Providence University College.

Professor Matthew C. Halteman - Professor of Philosophy and Applied Ethics at Calvin College.

Dr Simon Kittle - Philosopher and researcher at the University of Leeds.

The Revd Tim Mascara - Pastor at StoneBridge Church Community in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Tomi Makanjuola - Published author, food blogger and professional chef.

Ginny Messina RD - Registered dietitian and author on nutrition and dietetics.

Drs Philip and Miriam Sampson - Lecturers and authors on animals and animal ethics.

The Revd Christopher Steck, S.J - Professor in the Department of Theology at Georgetown University.

Bonus Features:

- Guest Blogs
- Weekly Challenges
- Prayer Collection
- Art Gallery
- Resources Guide



A photograph showing a woman with long brown hair, wearing a white knit sweater, holding a small black and white kitten. A priest with white hair and glasses, wearing a white clerical shirt and a blue sash, is looking down at the kitten. The background shows a church interior with other people seated in pews.

What Are Church Leaders Saying?

"Covid-19 is one of a long list of viruses that have jumped from animals to humans, often facilitated by the ways we have treated other living beings. Unless we change our relationships with the rest of God's Creation, recognising it as crucial to our survival, we face future viruses. The timing of this Lenten series is apt, helping us to explore what it means to preach the Good news to the whole of Creation."

The Most Revd Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town and Primate of South Africa

"This timely app is superbly conceived. Its varied, imaginative approach will engage our hearts, stretch our minds and enrich our lives as it enables us to explore God's all-embracing love for all of creation. Lent will be well spent if we are accompanied by this very creative resource."

The Rt Revd John Pritchard, former Anglican Bishop of Oxford

"We should be grateful that there is a growing understanding of the delicate and complex interconnectedness within creation. We need to be increasingly aware of our obligations and responsibilities towards God's creatures and in caring for our common home. This resource helps us in our understanding of animals and how we might practically respond to the issues that involve them."

The Rt Revd John Arnold, Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford

"Jesus taught us that God cares about every sparrow, every wildflower growing in the field. But too few of us join God in that care. This daily e-resource can help you recalibrate your faith to stop ignoring your fellow creatures so you can join God in loving them, caring for them, and enjoying them in all their glory."

The Revd Dr Brian McLaren, Evangelical Pastor, Speaker and Theologian

"Reconsidering my relationship with the natural world - which led me to, among others things, a vegan lifestyle - has been one of the major shifts of my life. And of course, a shift that significant left me in search of resources for the journey. So I was very excited to learn of the new Lent Guide app. I'm really looking forward to the chance to explore further the idea that our relationship with animals is actually an issue central to our faith."

The Revd Tim Nash, Methodist Minister and Broadcaster

"St Kevin began Lent by kneeling and praying at an open window with outstretched arms when a blackbird came and nested in his hand. The Celtic legend says that Kevin held the nest until her young were hatched. We have an opportunity to reflect this beautiful story of love and trust by using this Lent guide to think deeply upon animal issues. God trusts us with the care of animals, the sustainability of the planet and choices about the food we eat - such things are in our hands and show our love."

The Rt Revd Dominic Walker, former Anglican Bishop of Monmouth

"Animal issues, far from being marginal, are integral to Christian discipleship and living a life of justice and compassion towards the whole of creation. I am excited to hear of this unique resource - a wonderful opportunity to explore these issues in more depth and to hear from a diverse range of faith perspectives."

The Revd Steve Chalke MBE, Senior Baptist Minister, Oasis Church, Waterloo

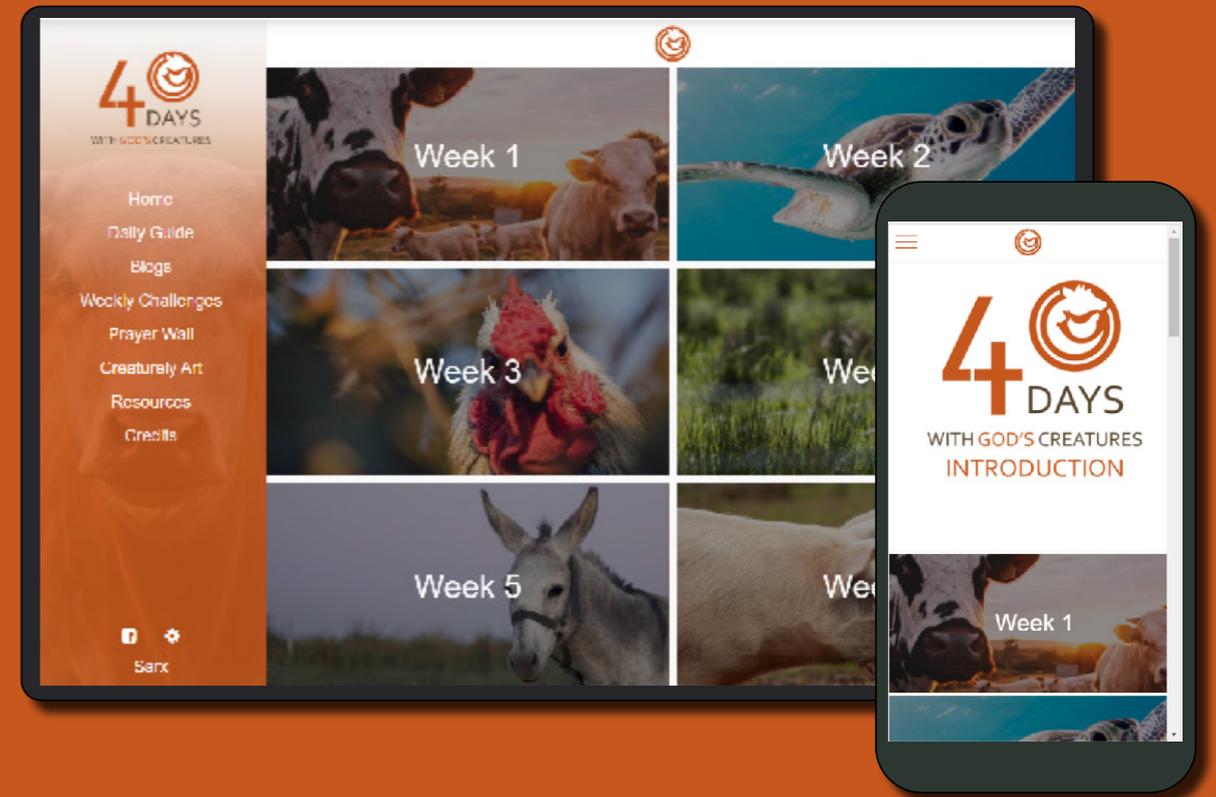
"God calls us to full and abundant living as disciples - living in partnership and compassion with all of God's creation. As we re-think our place on the planet and how we share it, particularly with other creatures, this resource is timely and welcomed in this season of Lent."

The Very Revd Karen Lund, Archdeacon of Manchester

Download and start exploring!



Watch the video trailer!



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www.sarx.org.uk/lent/40daysguide



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