

Free Press

freepressseries.co.uk

Dear Friends,

Talk to the animals! What does that remind you of?

Yes, you've got it. If you are of a certain age you will say Doctor Dolittle. And as I am writing this, the Andersens and the Harveys are preparing to go and enjoy this wonderful musical at the New Theatre in Cardiff as a half-term treat for 'the terrible two' (read grandchildren) and as a birthday treat for my beloved.

Prior to that, we are today heading to Bristol Zoo, and I have already told the grandchildren that the monkey cage will be opening the doors to two new inhabitants.

So, yes, this week is very much about animals, and you might say that follows on well from last month's Thought about Noah's Ark.

Animals play a significant part in all our lives, as they did in biblical times, and especially in the life and ministry of our Lord.

Who can forget Jesus' joke about the difficulty in getting a camel through the eye of a needle (!), but

more important, who can forget Mary and Joseph using a donkey to get them to Bethlehem for the birth of the Son of Man, and Jesus himself using the same means to enter the city of Jerusalem, as King and victim at the same time.

He prepared to give His people a new sense of Freedom by sacrificing His own life for them — and for us — by starting the journey on a donkey of all animals.

Kings never entered a city on a donkey, but on a white horse more likely. Kings never rode among their people in humility but in victory and loving all the praise thrown at them.

Kings never entered any city prepared to sacrifice themselves for his people, for us. Only Jesus did that.

And the donkey carried the load, the sum total of our sins, in and through that one man and divine being.

For me the humble donkey will always stand out as I remember how it carried our Lord where no one else could go and helped the Son of God to conquer fear and sin, indeed OUR fear and sin, for ever.

Thought for
the weak



with the Rev Preben
Andersen

Rev Preben Andersen