

Christians Against All Animal Abuse

WINTER 2005

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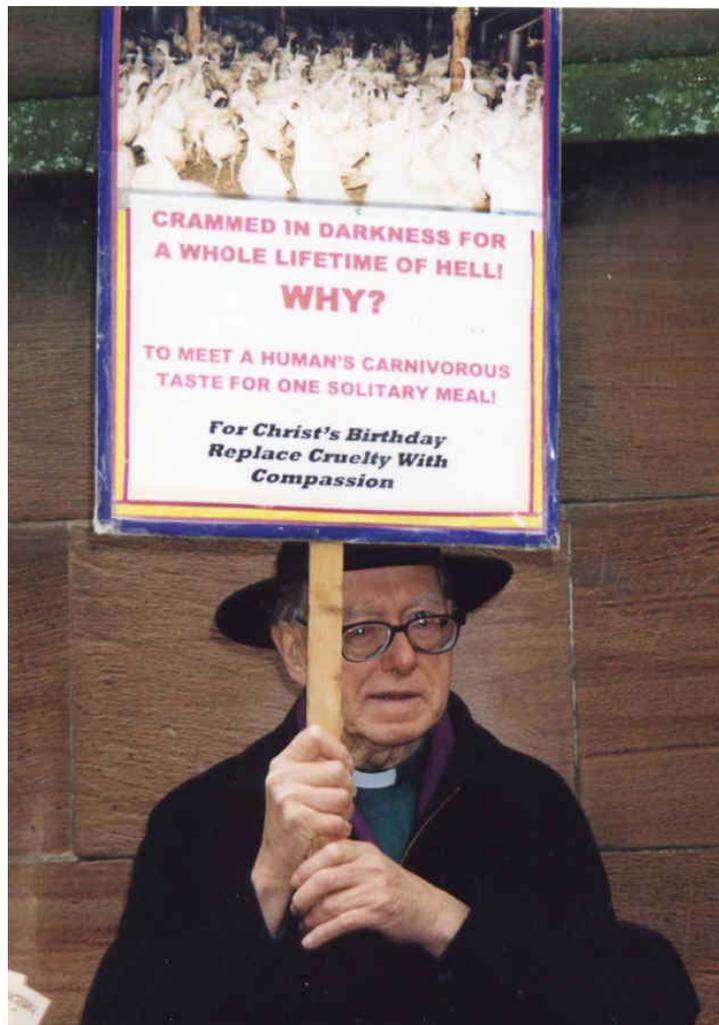
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Sow Evil & Reap An Epidemic!

When one considers the appalling state in which birds are kept, then is there any wonder that we should have a threatened world epidemic of Asian Flu? I refer not to the third world countries, nor to those that lack a Christian foundation but to those in which the vast majority were initiated in to a branch of Christendom via child baptism.

On one hand one has the Latin countries in mind; civilisations nurtured in to Catholicism's ethics. While elsewhere we have the older Orthodox brand of Christian teaching. Yes, while in the New World we have the teaching of what the original Pilgrim Fathers taught and exemplified. Well, there seems to have been quite a moral lapse within passing centuries.



Photos By Doreen Thompson

Christians Against All Animal Abuse

WINTER 2005

Yes, and at no time more marked than in Britain's agricultural heritage with its rapid integration and diversion in to factory farming during the latter part of the last century! For, whereas, there are still parts of Britain surrounded by spacious fields, one will frequently find them deserted; and meanwhile fowl are confined to foul sheds that, more often than not, reek to high heaven. Yes, and nearby one may well have found the culprits who run such animal hellholes running a local church or chapel.

The majority of those who claim to be followers of the Good Shepherd - and delight to sing hymns such as the 23rd Psalm to the delightful tune Crimond! - have become as far removed from a biblical shepherd's compassion towards vulnerable life as was a priest and Levite who passed by an abused victim on the Jerusalem to Jericho Road.

Christ's Nativity Versus A Pagan Festival

The original Pagan festival of the Roman Saturnalia - the name of which was later changed after Constantine's ilk in to Christ('s)mass, following on from his conversion to Orthodox Christianity, became far from orthodox! As centuries past the persecuted minorities of Christians were replaced by the persecuting majority of Pagans who - to court imperial privileges - lined up to be baptized with little change of heart. Yes, and bringing their old Pagan feasts of debauchery drunkenness and carnivorous lust with them. Indeed, how many of us realise that the two most prominent festivals of the churches calendar, Christmas and Easter (name given to the goddess of the dawn!); are the cruellest for the animals? On these two Pagan festivals which - thanks to a church calendar! - have become intertwined with the birth, or death and resurrection of Jesus - more animals are heartlessly slaughtered in Britain than at any other season. Consequently, it is strange, indeed, that many animal activists who have turned their backs on Christianity should proudly affirm themselves as Pagans. Obviously, they haven't gone far back in to the history of such a religion! But then, no more are these new Pagans consistent than are those animal activists who claim to follow the religious practices of the American Indians. These may well put up their dream catchers above their beds; but if they are to be consistent then they will need to revive gruesome methods of ritual slaughter. Well, God forbid!

'Don't Knock The Church!' Well, I've Good Support:

Those opening words were addressed to me at Dover by a Methodist minister's wife. Well, it all depends on what you mean by church! Indeed, it is the Latin Church which gave us a calendar in which Christ was supposedly born at the time of the return of the sun God; and who broke out of the tomb at the time of the festival of Ishta. Indeed, these were events, amongst others, to which the original Church of Britain refused to submit until, following the Council Of Whitby, they were compelled to do so. Indeed, it is not surprising that - up to the later part of the last century - one would find little if any observance of either Christmas or Easter being given within

Christians Against All Animal Abuse

WINTER 2005

the Free Churches of England and Wales; and even lesser reference still to these two festivals within the national and highly influential Church Of Scotland. ‘by law established’. Quite inconsistently, the Scottish, deprived of a carnivorous carousal at Christmas, have made up for things at the advent of the New Year. Christmas is still, very much, low key. Yes, but they certainly know how to give vent to their basic instincts once the year has ended and a new secular year has arrived.. Thankfully, however, the birds do not suffer the same as at Christmas and Easter as alcoholic beverages become first priority accompanied by (quite wrongly termed) ‘mince’ pies!

Well, I will continue to knock any branch of the Christian church while ever it distorts and corrupts the compassionate teaching and example of Jesus Of Nazareth; because, more and more, what the churches stand for appear to become, more and more divorced from all that Jesus came to impart. Indeed, I’m not alone here, as I see in the newly elected Archbishop Of York a cleric of similar opinion. Here are just a few of his words concerning the Anglican church of which he is now second in command: ***‘We’ve had our reports, our commissions, our conferences, seminars, missions, synodical reviews, liturgical reforms – the lot! But little question has been given to the question: who is Jesus? And what does He mean for those who put their trust in Him? ‘Why have we in England turned this glorious gospel of life in the Spirit in to a cumbersome organisation that repels, and whose people are dull, complacent, judgmental and moralising?’*** Would to God that Canterbury or Rome spoke like this!

It is Christ whom we must always seek to obey; and when any churches teaching conflicts with His, as revealed in Scripture, then we do right to knock it. Yes, and no more so than when any branch of Christendom plays down or excludes the animals from the Good Shepherd’s care, from a place in His church or, indeed, a place in Heaven. Sadly - from the very beginning! – the human body of Christ has let Him down. He, traditionally, fell 3 times on the Via Dolorosa, necessitating a Cyrenian to carry His cross. And this mystical ‘body of Christ’ – the church – continues to abysmally fail Him. Consequently, He must be our example at all times; and He is the One whose Father chose that He be born between two abused types of animals; be laid to rest in their feeding trough (a manger); that animal carers (shepherds) be singled out to witness an apparition of angels above the fields of Bethlehem. Yes, and that not only would this infant Jesus later model His compassion on extant animal carers (prepared to lay down their lives for sheep); but His first act of militancy would be one of liberating both birds and animals from ritual slaughter. (See John 2:14-16)

Here We Are In Protest, Within Chester .



‘Smiling After The Heavens Had Opened!’

Christians Against All Animal Abuse

WINTER 2005

Robbie Burns said: 'It's an ill wind that blows no good'; and I've a feeling that much good – most of all for the birds! – may well come out of this threatened Asian bird flu epidemic. I do know this: it is a grand opportunity not only to expose the appalling evils of intensive factory farming but it is an ideal time to advocate the blessings of both veganism as well as vegetarianism. Indeed, if the vast majority will not oppose evil for what it is to the birds and animals then they may well do it for fear of their own demise from Asian bird flu. Such, indeed, was the gist of our most recent vigil.

Doreen and I truly love a nut roast, and especially at Christmas. Yet, so many chefs or restaurants are afraid to advertise it because of the assumed danger of nuts. I find it strange that under the heading of fish and birds that similar small writing does not warn of the danger of small bones. If such menus are not a little slanted then I'll be anxious to know the answer. I know this: that with every year that comes, more and more delicious vegan and vegetarian options come on the market. Indeed, I sense that more and more delightful activists – quite behind the scenes – are making their voices heard if not their letters! Yes, only last week I visited Wetherspoons; and there – on the top of the inside menu- were these words: 'All eggs served by us are Free Range'. Well, I don't know about you, but I congratulate them. And, as there is no time like the present, and as 'procrastination is the thief of time' I temporarily put the rest of this Newsletter to one side until I have sent them a letter to heartily commend them.

The Depths Some Folk Stoop For Publicity

Jamie Oliver who has done a good job introducing health awareness to school dinners, is a typical prodigy of this 21st century. In one way he does a lot of good, while in another way he succumbs to the life style of the masses of unregenerate carnivores. Boiling alive lobsters has not only been one practice of which he apparently approves. Last month's programme 'Jamies Great Escape' revealed yet a further willingness to pander to the practices of desensitised 'human' chauvinists. The programme showed a lamb being selected from a flock, taken in to a barn, and its throat slit. Yes, all in full view of the nation's viewers who were tuned in to channel 4. Need one wonder that the country in which this occurred was Italy: the home of Roman Catholicism? Indeed, it is the Latin countries that have condoned such kinds of evil towards animals. Yes, and all an outcome of a Medieval based theology that has, repeatedly, denied rights to the animal creation. Surely a system, I very much feel, which – while it has kept its laity, up to recent decades, very much subservient through fear of future consequences - has taught that not only may we mistreat animals in this life ('if it's for human benefit?'), but that these poor creatures do not even possess a life in the hereafter. Well I'm glad to say that enlightened Catholics are now thinking otherwise!

There Can Be Worse Evils Than Even An Abortion!

I learned, first hand, about a fellow in my past parish who had no qualms whatsoever about eating intensive factory reared meat, fowl and eggs. He had no qualms about eating frogs legs or lobster. Not unnaturally, he enjoyed hare coursing, greyhound

Christians Against All Animal Abuse

WINTER 2005

racing and – whenever in Spain – bullfighting. Indeed, you couldn't blame him for the priests whom he revered out of conditioning were avid participants of such things. He was a loyal adherent of his church. Hence – much against medical advice – he had a large family as birth control - apart from a so-called rhythm period, was out! Well, before long, his dear wife, who was well and truly worn out for her age, was again expecting. And this time the outcome was put to him by deeply disturbed medics. "We cannot save both of them this time. Is it to be your wife – the mother of your young family – or the unborn foetus she carries?" Well, the man did the worst thing imaginable – though he thought it was the best! – He asked his parish priest. You can imagine the outcome. Another child was born; to be reared motherless with the others.

The man was never the same again. All sparkle went out of his life; and two years later, mounting his motorbike, he went out on a spin; and then, nearing a bridge he accelerated and took himself over the edge of the same. Yes, according to his sister – a convert to my Scottish Episcopal church – he simply could not live with his conscience. Thankfully, his sister became not only a regular communicant but also an avid supporter of ones animal activist endeavours throughout the parish.

Well, whereas the demand for abortion 'as a woman's right' may well and truly have gone well over the top, there are occasional grounds when it is surely the lesser of two evils. We have the examples of rape, or of that of a retarded girl taken advantage of. Not to mention factors such as incest; and the abnormality of a future birth! Indeed, to forbid a termination in situations like these is, in my mind, not only evil but diabolic.

The strangest of contradictions appears to confront that branch of Christendom which – while it states, categorically, that an unbaptised life can never enter Heaven but is destined for Limbo – it equally fights for the rights of the unborn! Yes, putting such a pre.birth existence before the precious life of the one who carries it. Well, I sense that Jesuitical casuistry will seek to rationalise it; but how justifiably so is another matter!

But What About Christmas & The Church Of England?



'Here Are Some Of Us Near Chester Cathedral!'

Christians Against All Animal Abuse

WINTER 2005

For myself, I no more believe that Christ was born on the 25th of December than that He rose on a specific Easter Sunday! As mentioned, it was the Latin branch of Christendom that largely used pre-existing pagan festivals as an opportunity to give them a Christian baptism. The aim being to outwardly transform previous pagan celebrations in to Christian festivals and to dove-tail them in to a church calendar covering sequenced events in the earthly life of Jesus. However, that said, the Anglican Church took over a simpler form of the same calendar; and today even the Free Churches have to a lesser extent followed suit. Consequently, with the biblical event of the birth of Christ being singled out to animal caring shepherds in Bethlehem, we also have all the pagan connotations of a carnivorous feast appended. The Nativity story becomes, once again, entwined with all the debaucheries of a pre-Christian pagan feast associated with what was termed the Roman Saturnalia.

Nevertheless, after centuries of ‘a Christ orientated celebration’ of Christmas in Britain, it is expected that the Primate of our English Church ‘by law established’ should forcefully speak out against further erosion of the festal message of the Nativity! But it is now obvious that we must look to York for a true militancy, rather than compromises towards minority groups as, seemingly, advocated by Canterbury!.



‘And Here We’d Been Singing In The Rain!’

‘A Review’ Of One’s Early Autobiography

YOUNG SPIRITUAL TRAMP – truth stranger than fiction!

296 pages & 20 illustrations

Christians Against All Animal Abuse

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" James Thompson is certainly well known and admired as the Animal Padre. However, little has been known about his early life. 'Young Spiritual Tramp' is written with honesty, sincerity and great humour. As a sensitive young fellow he suffered at the hand of bullies and turned for refuge in religion as a youth. But such a youngster was hardly to keep on the straight and narrow himself when even a deacon who denounced drink from the 'set fawr' is to be found with a crate of ale in the back of his car! And then when a welsh lay preacher, with fiery fervour from the pulpit, preaches on his own, hither to, secret temptation then not only are sedate ladies and young girls shocked to the core; the author himself ceases to be pious and fluctuates between differing lifestyles. Much - much - more is to follow; including eye opening escapades in Ulster, and not least his breath taking elopement to Scotland as a Baptist minister in 1954. This author appears as intensely sincere, irresistibly humorous and incredibly revealing. Yes, and also increasingly heart touching. There are parts in this book when one can laugh out loud, and others when one could almost weep. "

Avril Burrell, Editor Of URC Magazine 'COMMON INTEREST'

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From Pastor James Direct: £7.99 postage free & Copies personally signed if requested

Cheques to be made out to: James Thompson. Address as on front of Newsletter

*A Veggie Merry Christmas To Each Supporter & Reader From Pastor
James & Doreen*