

BBC: Blessing of Pets Resource

Cathedral holds first blessing service for pets.

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A cathedral has held its first service specifically for pets.

Salisbury Cathedral opened its doors on Saturday for the All Creatures Great And Small service.

The event was designed to give thanks to animals and the bonds they have with their owners.

Canon Precentor Anna Macham said: "Pets can be very important to our lives, offering comfort and companionship.

"We hope this service was an uplifting and enjoyable afternoon, celebrating the bond many of us have with our animals."

The service featured readings, music and prayers on the theme of creation and care for animals.

Although mostly dog owners attended, one tortoise was brought along as well.

Afterwards, Canon Macham blessed every animal in attendance.

Bobby Mackie took along his friend's dog, a Labrador retriever named Bruce.

"At the start it was quite noisy, there were around 100 dogs there," he said.

"It was a unique experience but a happy one and all the owners wanted it to happen.

"I would definitely go back in the future."

Bruce also reportedly enjoyed the service, as Mr Mackie said he went through quite a few treats in order to stop him being distracted by the other dogs.