



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Charlie the python and other special guests, will be joining the Animal Service at Ely Cathedral this Sunday**

**Curly the tarantula, Charlie the Royal Python and Tinky Winky, one of the largest breeds of tortoise in Europe, will all be making a special appearance at the annual Animal Service at Ely Cathedral on Sunday.**

For over 30 years, this special service dedicated to animals, takes place inside the Cathedral and Ely was one of the first Cathedrals to do so. This very special event is dedicated to celebrating all animals including those in service such as guide dogs, military dogs and therapy dogs, as well as the joy and pleasure we experience from our own pets. There will be a special focus on rescue and rehoming animals. The Animal Experience are a local organisation who take on, and care for, the more unusual unwanted pet like Charlie the Python and Curly the Tarantula. They will share the stories behind these wonderful creatures and talk about the work they do with them, taking them into schools and other events to teach about their conservation and welfare.

Canon James Reveley who will be taking the service says “The annual Animal Service at Ely Cathedral is always a joyful and heartwarming event. Our pets play such an important part in our lives, and this is a perfect chance to bring them to the Cathedral as we bless then animals and give thanks for all they mean to us. All creatures and critters great and small are welcome”.

Alongside Curly, Charlie and Tinky Winky the Cathedral team are looking forward to welcoming numerous pets including dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, tortoises, and our favourite donkey, Marley. This informal family service also recognises the work of local branches of animal charities, some of whom will be present at the event including Therapy Dogs Nationwide and Cats Protection. As animal welfare is a

key part of caring for our pets, the Cathedral asks owners not to bring any pet or animal that may be made anxious by the experience.

This very special service, which has previously been featured on BBC's Songs of Praise and ITV This Morning program, takes place at Ely Cathedral next Sunday, 28 September at 2.00pm. The music for the service will be performed by the Ely Imps, Ely Cathedral's voluntary children's choir. Everyone, plus their furry or not so furry, friends and family members are very welcome !

**ENDS**

Images: - Sent by WeTransfer in separate email. - Credit Keith Heppel.

For further information please contact Lesley Ann Thompson, Director of Communications 07930 918885