

HOLY TRINITY (OLD ST CLEMENTS) BLACKTOFT NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2023



The mysterious carved stone gateposts of Yokefleet

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Blacktoft Church October services -

Harvest Festival 6.30pm Friday 6th – Revd James

09.30am Sunday 29th – morning prayers – Stewart

From Reverend James Little

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,"

Alfred Lord Tennyson – Morte d'Arthur

At the time of writing, the Church of England is observing Generosity Week. It comes after a period of reflection in the Church of England. On Thursday 28 September, the local Deanery met at Howden Minster to bring that period of reflection to a close. For a long time, our churches have been subsidised from central funds, and the Diocese of York (that part of Yorkshire between the A1 and the coast), has been running a deficit budget to allow this to happen. But you can only run a deficit budget for so long, and all our churches will need seriously to increase our funding to avoid the clergy becoming ever more thinly spread.

In response, the church in Blacktoft has set out the following aims—

- To share God's love to all, regardless of belief or Church affiliation.
- To share the Gospel – the good news – that Christ died for our sins, was buried and that He rose from the dead.
- To share fellowship and experience the presence of God in worship.
- To share friendship and care both within the community and to those who visit.
- To serve our community in a spirit of humility.
- To promote Christian values - concern for others, forgiveness, reconciliation, truth and integrity.
- To promote Christian education in the Bible and it's teaching.
- To recognise that in the sharing of all these aims we ourselves often fall short in their implementation.

Blacktoft Parish Council News

The next meeting after the September one will be Monday 20 November 2023 BUT it is hoped there will be a different kind of parish council meeting during October 2023 when members of the public can attend a presentation/question and answer session with National Grid regarding a second line of pylons.

Monday 20 November 2023 7 pm The Old School, Blacktoft when next year's budget will be looked at. There should also be one casual vacancy to be filled by co-option.

Sue Nicholson
Clerk to Blacktoft Parish Council

Food Bank Harvest Collection

Store cupboard items for the food bank in Goole can be left in the Old School in Blacktoft from 6 to 31 October 2023.

Stewart's observations

This month's front cover photo is of the Yokefleet Hall ancient carved stone gateposts. I have passed these posts for 35 years and always thought that someone had excellent taste, skill and 8 large pieces of stone.

At the very top of the gateposts is a carving of a Saracen tent enclosing a Maltese cross [see back page].

These are the primary elements of the Yokefleet Empson's coat of arms which also decorate the Hall and iron estate fencing, silver, etc. Running the length of the gate post on all sides is a cross within a circle topped and bottomed with a fleur de lis. English kings used the fleur de lis symbol on their coat of arms to emphasize their claim to the French throne.

The inscription is the family motto in Latin - Corona Mea Christus = Christ is my Crown. Incidentally, another branch of the Empson family used the same motto but a different coat of arms across the river at Ousefleet.

The history of the Empson coat of arms is not particularly old, being mid-1800s. Following a boom in agricultural prices during the early 19th century the

Empson's, like other landed gentry, had enough excess cash to build a bigish house, Yokefleet Hall and a series of substantial farmhouses, including Staddlethorpe House. The money allowed them to go through the expensive process of applying for a coat of arms for the family from the Royal College of Arms.

It is not known why they chose a Saracen tent and Maltese cross. As far as it is known they had absolutely no connection to the eastern Mediterranean. Maybe the tent, cross and the uprights with the fleur de lis all signify some religious meaning as in the crusades and the inscription of Christ is my crown. Major A Empson was also a church warden and the Empson coat of arms can be seen in Blacktoft Church.

In the last two Sundays I have managed a Crathie Church visit at Balmoral where the King, Queen, William and Kate, Princess Ann, Andrew, Edward and Sophie attended ... and a Catholic Mass at St Jean Cap Ferrat church near Monaco. Both were so different. Nice hymns, sermon and readings at Crathie. Singing and chants by the Catholic Priest (a great baritone) but no hymns and all in French. Both congregations were about 35 strong.

Recipe – Sue's apple turnovers

If one thing grows well in our parish it is Bramley Apples. This seasonal dish is an excellent way to present the crisp, tangy and local Bramley. They can be stored in a cool place in cardboard boxes with newspaper until well after Christmas.

Ingredients

- 2 cups small diced pieces of apple with skins on
- 1 Tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 Tablespoon of butter
- lemon juice
- frozen puff or shortcrust pastry. Let 2 sheets thaw out (or make your own)
- an egg beaten
- sugar for dusting

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C / 400°F. Line two baking trays with baking paper
2. Stir together the apples, brown sugar, butter and lemon juice and heat until the apples fall. Use a pan on the hob or a microwave.

3. Prepare the puff pastry sheets and cut each sheet into 8 squares. Roll out on a floured surface.
 4. Place a portion of the apples into the centre of each puff pastry square then fold the pastry to form triangles. Wet the edges with milk. Crimp the edges together with a fork and place on baking tray.
 5. Put a couple of cuts in the tops of each turnover then brush them with egg. Sprinkle the turnovers with the sugar.
 6. Bake for 17 to 20 minutes or until they're golden brown and puffed up.
 7. Various flavours can be added at the heating of the apples stage to suit your taste, such as Cinnamon, vanilla or orange or lemon zest.
- Great with a cup of tea.

Gardening tips for October

- Remove fallen autumn leaves from around plants
- Collect any others leaves and put into black plastic bags.
- Make a few holes in the sides and bottom and tie up and put in a shady place. After a year use the leaf mould.
- Control fungal leaf spots on pansies. Pick off infected leaves or spray foliage with a suitable fungicide.

- Plant up your winter baskets and pots.

- Remove dead, diseased and dying branches from ornamental trees.
- Reduce blackspot on roses by removing leaves that fall around the base of plants.
- Protect newly planted evergreens and shrubs from strong winds.
- Tie in stems of climbers before wind damage.

- keep off the lawn after a frost or damage could occur.

- Potatoes need lifting as soon as possible. Lift on a sunny day and let them dry off on the soil for an hour before storing in newspaper or ventilated trays.
- Inspect stored fruit or vegetables, removing any that are going rotten
- Divide rhubarb. Lift with a spade then split up, ensuring that each has one good bud.
- Tidy up blackberries.
- Control peach leaf disease on apricots and peaches by spraying trees with a copper-based fungicide before the leaves fall.

Local history - Robert

Hired farm labour

The parish of Blacktoft has only had water on tap since 1940, when the water mains were first laid. Until then all water had to be got or pumped out of wells. For general households who had a communal well nearby, it was something they just did, and thought nothing more of it.

Farms until then were all mixed. Besides having a herd of cattle, they had Shire horses to do the work, kept 3 or 4 cows for milking, a few pigs for ham and bacon, and chickens and ducks for eggs. As livestock constantly need water, farms would have a couple of stationery pumps on site.

As regular workers were not around during the night, each farm would perhaps have a couple of hired labourers, who would live in the farmhouse and enjoyed free board and lodgings for a whole year. They slept in a room that was separate from the rest of the house with its own staircase, but shared the kitchen with the farmer and his family.

They would get up each morning at 5 am, lay the kitchen fire ready for lighting, then feed all the animals, making sure they had plenty of water. This meant having to do a heck of lot of pumping, with pumps which required both hands, and bucketing the water to the animal troughs. All very exhausting work, especially in warm weather when the animals would drink the water as fast as it could be pumped. Then they had the cows to milk, and by 7.30 am having got these jobs done, they came in for breakfast. After breakfast they were joined by the regular workers, and did whatever work needed doing that day. In the late afternoon the regular workers helped out feeding the animals etc, before going home. But at 10pm the animals had to be checked to see if they had enough water for the night, -again more pump! pump! pump! pump! before going to bed. In wintertime the pumps had to be kept covered up with straw loggins and tarpaulin between usage, so they didn't freeze.

Every Martinmas (23 November) their year was up, and usually they were each paid, just one gold sovereign for their year's work. A pittance it would seem (only £400 in today's money), but it was the amount of money they had agreed to work for, when they were taken on at the previous year's Hirings fair at Howden. They could stay on if they wanted to, but prior to the Hirings fair most gave notice of leaving, and went on to be regular farmworkers elsewhere. At

the Hirings fair there'd be any number of young men, or lads that had left school keen on getting farm work (in 1863 there were as many as 700), and so they undercut one another with their asking prices, and obviously the farmers took the cheapest ones.

After water was laid on in 1940, water was piped to the animal troughs, where a ballcock valve kept them full automatically. By then there was motorized transport, and milk deliveries had started, so cows were no longer needed. And with horses now starting to be replaced by tractors, the days of hired labour were over.

Biblical sayings – what a big impact the bible has had and is still there in day-to-day sayings.

Let there be light
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust
Am I my brother's keeper?
An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth
Put words in one's mouth
By the skin of your teeth
Spare the rod, spoil the child
Pride comes before a fall
There's nothing new under the sun
Fly in the ointment
A little birdie told me
Four corners of the earth
No rest for the wicked
Writing is on the wall
Go the extra mile
A house divided against itself cannot stand
The blind leading the blind
Many are called, but few are chosen
He who lives by the sword, dies by the sword
Better to give than receive
Reap what you sow
The love of money is the root of all evil

Robert's brainteasers

Last months answers

A) What do you get from **Skin matches** ?

Take aways **Sams kitchen**

B) What do you get from **Listing seed bracelets** ?

meats & pastries **Gilberts Delicatessen**

This month's anagrams

A) What do you get from **Hilarious noon dates** ?

B) " " " " " **Peacefully grizzled kip** ?

