

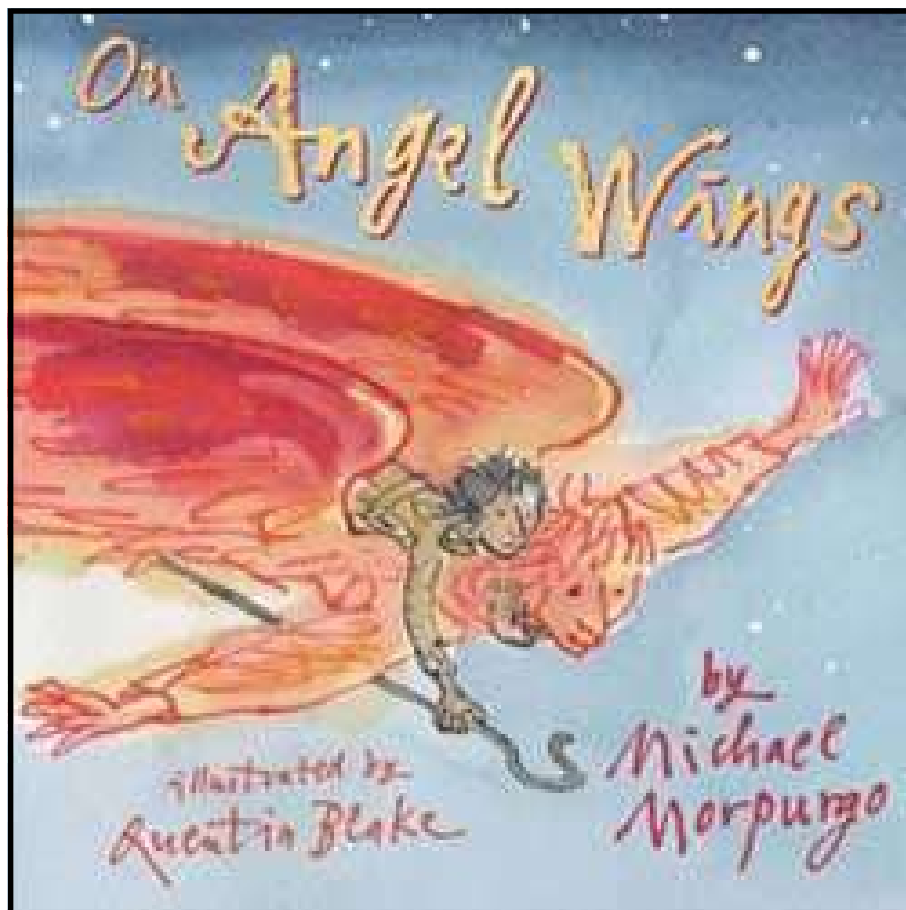
Nativity Pageant Important Announcement!!

Due to a range of unforeseen circumstances (don't you just love euphemisms!!) including our rather unfortunate lack of an Inn at the moment, we have decided to make some changes to the Nativity Pageant this year.

Fortunately, we have a fabulous group of enthusiastic children (of all ages) who are prepared to stage a new and really exciting Christmas play based on a lovely Christmas story written by the amazing children's author **Michael Morpurgo**. We are very lucky that he has given us special permission to turn his book into a play.

The thing that most people have loved most about the pageant since Margaret Woolley and Christine Norton set us on the road all those years ago is the incredible Christmas atmosphere and village spirit that go with it. We hope that this year's play will be just the same and that you will all join us - it really does promise to be very exciting and we'd love to see as many of you there as possible!

Hickling Nativity Pageant



www.michaelmorpurgo.org
buy Michael's books via this website for the best prices
and a donation from every sale goes to his charity
Farms for City Children

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We want to make sure that as many children as possible can visit our farms. To this end we need to raise around £300,000 every year, just to subsidise the true cost of each child's place. We must also raise money to maintain the three historic farm properties that we are so lucky to have.

We greatly depend on the support and donations given to us by charitable trusts, foundations and businesses.

We are also indebted to our many individual supporters who give donations.



If you haven't had chance to read a Michael Morpurgo book yet, then I can really recommend that you start at the earliest opportunity!! Apart from 'On Angel Wings' he has also written a beautiful book about the First World War Christmas truce that is guaranteed to bring both a smile and tears to your eyes.

Many of his stories feature historical events brought brilliantly to life in a modern context—from the little girl who saves her father's farm with the help of the ghost of Sir Walter Raleigh to the little blind boy who finally restores King Arthur's sword to its rightful place. The farm and the rural landscape are integral to his message and Michael Morpurgo and his wife have made a reality of this angle through their charity 'Farms for City Children' which introduces thousands of children a year to the reality (and pleasure) of the rural life we all take for granted in Hickling.

We will be giving half of the collection taken at the performance of his story 'On Angel Wings' to this charity.

Please give generously on the night!

And if you can't be with us; please pass a donation through to Stephanie or donate direct via the website.



farms for city children

Patron: HRH Princess Royal Founding President: Ted Hughes OM Life President: Clare Morpurgo MBE



Children's writer Michael Morpurgo and his wife Clare founded farms for city children in 1976 at **Nethercott Farm**, deep in Devon river country. We now operate three working farms: **Treginnis Isaf** on the Pembrokeshire coast opened twenty years ago and **Wick Court** in Gloucestershire opened in 1997. We aim to expand the horizons of children from towns and cities all over the country by offering them a week in the countryside living together on one of our farms.



Working together in teams, the children get involved in everything necessary to keep the farm going. It is an unforgettable experience, stretching them physically, intellectually and emotionally. For some, it is the first time they have seen a sky full of stars or a horizon that is not man made. For all of them, the project addresses such basic issues as where our food comes from, the importance of conservation, sustainability and good citizenship.



How it happens

Over 3,000 children and their teachers visit our farms each year. They come in groups of 36-40 and stay for seven days. Their work on the farm ranges from milking and mucking out, lambing and calving, feeding and grooming, to apple pressing and cheese making.



"Farms for City Children provides the most challenging, stimulating educational experience available for children. It provides a purposeful, multi-faceted learning environment"

Teacher from Mansfield Green School, Birmingham

Learning

The experience relates directly to many areas of the National Curriculum and to vital environmental and conservation issues. We have links with writers and artists, going right back to our Founding President, the late Ted Hughes, and founding Director, Michael Morpurgo. We believe that creating and making are an essential part of learning and we provide an opportunity for the children to work with writers, artists and makers during their stay, reflecting on their many new experiences on the farms.



Registered charity no 325120

The Children of Hickling
are pleased to present a wonderful new
Christmas Play
based on the bestselling story
by Michael Morpurgo

5.30pm Sunday
December 16th 2007

**It's funny, it's beautiful, it's sad
& it's all about Christmas!!!**

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*We are incredibly lucky to have been given special permission by the author, Michael Morpurgo, to turn his beautiful Christmas story in to a play.*  
**The action will begin in the Churchyard at 5.30pm, move in to Church and then back outside where we will finish with refreshments around the braziers.**  
*Prepare yourself for lots of singing and prepare to be amazed! To laugh! And, maybe, even shed a tear!*