

## Shipton Churchyard

In order to keep the churchyard looking as neat as possible it is intended that a petition for a faculty be made to the Oxford Diocese to permit the Church to deal with some untended graves that are in excess of fifty years old.



Those, with headstones only, are not a problem. Those with kerbs cause difficulties to contractors mowing the churchyard. Where the kerbs have no writing on them the faculty will ask for permission to remove them, to give mowers and strimmers a clear run that

will not injure either the operators or the machinery. The headstones will remain, of course, along with the few kerbs that carry identifying and memorial text. It is recognised that simply taking away something a family may have struggled to afford many years ago may cause offence and distress to any relatives of the occupant of the grave. If you have a relative or friend from many years ago buried in Shipton Churchyard to whom this may apply and you are against the notion of any changes to that person's grave, please let me know in writing; Peter Hills, Court Cottage, Plum Lane, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxon OX7 6DZ as soon as you can.

This is the first announcement of this intention and it will be advertised widely before any faculty is sought.

**Peter Hills**

## How Did 'Tothill' Get That Name?

'Tothill' is the name usually given to a small hill, on very low lying ground. Certainly that does not apply to Tothill in Shipton!

It was the name of the farm where Grace Calvertt spent her childhood with a lovely small tothill at Withern in Lincolnshire.

In 1875 the Calvertt family moved to Fairspear Farm at Leafield and in 1892 Grace married

Frederick William Powell Matthews of Fifield who, with his father, founded the flour mill in Shipton. In the summer of 1897 a new house was built for FWP Matthews, his wife Grace and their three



children. Grace Matthews said that the social life was better in Shipton than in Fifield! They called the house, which stands up the drive opposite the Red Horse, Tothill Villa after her home in Lincolnshire. Grace Matthews died in 1904 after the birth of her 5th child, and the family returned to The Manor in Fifield.

The next owners changed the name to Holmwood, it then became Cromwell

House and then once again Holmwood. The land adjoining the house was sold for development and the name of Tothill was given to the estate!

**Anne Matthews**