



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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Topical activity

More about tree planting



These are some further thoughts from Walter Storey who has been very involved in tree planting:

- Have in mind somewhere to plant the trees. To grow seeds and then have nowhere to put them is heartbreaking. Remember they will eventually be BIG. In the Wakefield/Pontefract area there are derelict former coalpit sites that have been turned into 'nature reserves'. These sites were, a long time ago, like most of England, oak woodland. We are helping to bring that back.
- Trees that are about two years old are called 'whips'. If you want to buy some 'whips', be careful; some garden centres charge a lot of money. We bought ours from Castle Howard Estates Ltd, Nr York, YO60 7DA, (they have a website) and they were both cheap and efficient. Meeting going off to plant trees is fun.
- If you are growing from acorns, if you want three trees, plant 6 acorns. Only plant hundreds of acorns if you have a place and time to plant hundreds of trees. (A fantastic idea!)
- Plant the acorns in pots, any soil will do, once used potting compost is good. When the shoots are about two to three inches tall, (5 to 8cms) transplant into a bigger pot. The bigger pot needs to be about 25cm deep for root growth - the plastic pots supermarkets use for flowers are ideal, put drainage holes in the bottom. You could plant the shoot into a garden, but the plot must be kept weed free. Again, any decent soil will do. If you have planted in pots, keep the pots outside and remember to water them.
- After two years your trees will be ready to plant in their permanent position. After 40 years you will have a decent tree.
- There are lots of wonderful stories about oak trees, some of which are a thousand years old. Most trees though last about 80 to 90 years. That means that many trees planted in 1920, and there were lots of trees planted in memory of soldiers who died in the First World War, are now having to be chopped down and could be replaced.

