



### WE ARE BACK!

The return of the Whitfield Village News I hope will be greeted with a positive reaction. Some of you may remember I previously had written and produced this newsletter. This all started in April 2004 when we took over the job. Sadly, COVID appeared and stopped publication after the Spring 2020 issue was produced. The newsletter team have been resting but we are now back, and we hope that from this Winter issue we will gain enough support from our readers and local businesses to continue to grow the newsletter back to its former glory.

If you know any businesses who may wish to advertise in the newsletter, please pass our details on. We have made a great start, and I must thank the advertisers so far who have made this issue possible.

So, what has happened over the past 3 years? Well, a lot actually. The new school has been built and opened, this featured on the front page of the last newsletter as a building project. The fast-track bus route has been created and now in the process of being built, we have seen large scale housing development spring up around our once smallish village and absolutely nothing has been done to improve our infrastructure.

This is and has been a constant frustration to many of us residents but the story of unfulfilled promises and changing priorities has left us wondering what the future holds for our community.

I welcome our new residents to Whitfield, the village I grew up in and hope that this proves a happy home for you all. I have seen major changes here and those senior to me have seen even more, but that is progress and with development comes a degree of hope that new people in our community will bring fresh life to our village.

Both the Parish Council and the School are on the lookout for new councillors and Governors. Dover Rotary Club meets in Whitfield and would love to welcome new Rotarians to the club. If any of these have ever been of interest do contact me as I am involved in them all.

Working with the Parish Council and Reverend Sean Sheffield, I have decided to work on recreating the Village Fete. We have formed a working committee, and we pencilled in Saturday, September 21st on the recreation ground. So, please watch this space as full details will be published in the Spring Issue. If anyone has any good connections to mobile attractions, fun fair type stalls, clubs or groups who perform, at this sort of event please let me know.

I would like to create initially a fun day and if successful will be supported by the village it can grow into something very special which links our entire community.

Well enough from me, Thank you for reading, until next time, have a great Christmas and a prosperous 2024... RK

### A-Z of CHRISTMAS

**A is for Advent Calendar:** an exercise in restraint if you can manage one chocolate per day!

**B is for Bells:** from the peal of Church Bells on Christmas morning to the jingling percussion that accompanies every Christmas song

**C is for Christ Child in whom Christmas began:** He was born in a stable in Bethlehem and laid in a lowly manger.

**D is for Dasher, Dancer & Donner:** 3 of Father Christmas' reindeer. 'Donner' comes from the German word meaning Thunder.

**E is for Eggnog:** a creamy boozy concoction made with eggs, cream, milk and sugar - also known as the British piña colada.

**F is for Father Christmas:** whose legend began with a pagan tradition. If you treated 'King Winter' with kindness, a milder season would be given.

**G is for Giving:** which in the Netherlands is on 5th December, in Switzerland it's 24th December and in Spain more gifts are given on 6th January, the date on which the 3 Kings visited the Christ Child.

**H is for Ho Ho Ho!** Father Christmas' jolly laugh

**I is for Ice Skating:** in 1715-16, the Thames froze over and crowds (including Royalty) spent hours 'whirling themselves dizzy'.

**J is for Joy to the World:** a carol written by an English minister in 1719 to cheer up a 'dull' psalm.

**K is for Kisses Under the Mistletoe:** the decorative plant is actually a parasite, attaching itself to a host tree to survive.

**L is for Lights:** If you walk around the village there are some very impressive displays to be found!

**M is for Mince Pies:** In years past the treat was more savoury than sweet, using lamb to represent the shepherds and spice for the Kings from the East.

**N is for The Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky:** the world's best known ballet and a true Christmas classic.

**O is for O'Tannenbaum (or O Christmas Tree to you and me):** the modern lyrics refer to the fir's evergreen quality symbolising constancy and faithfulness.

**P is for Christmas Pudding:** Using 13 ingredients to represent Christ and the 12 apostles, each family member should stir it in turn from east to west to honour the Kings and their journey.

**Q is for Queen's Speech:** A Christmas tradition which we heard from our late Monarch every year from 1952 until 2021 (excluding 1969 a year, she felt, the Royal Family had had enough publicity).

**R is for Rudolph:** Who has even appeared in 'Dr Who' and was parked with a key and has his nose switched off like a headlight.

**S is for Scrooge:** An adjective which was added to the Oxford English Dictionary in 1982 to describe anyone unable to abide in the Christmas spirit.

**T is for Turkey:** The Georgian Christmas recipe of 'Turkducken' involved putting a pigeon in a partridge, the partridge in a goose and the goose in a turkey which was then surrounded by a pie crust.

**U is for Ugly Jumpers:** There will always be one wearing one at some point during the festive season.

**V is for Visitors:** Christmas time means the door is always open, the fire is always lit and a drink is always waiting, ready to be poured.

**W is for White Christmas:** the idyll we all dream of until the blanket of white becomes an obstacle course of treacherous grey sludge.

**X is for Xylophone:** and all the other noisy toys that no parent would ever put on their Christmas list.

**Y is for Yule Logs:** burned by European pagans to ward off darkness through the longest night of the year.

**Z is for ZZZZs...** when all is said, sung, given, gulped, enjoyed and out of sight... happy Christmas to all and to all a good night.

*Adapted from 'Country Life' Nov 23 by A M Knight.*

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The children from Whitfield Aspen also enjoy being part of the local community and beyond. The Farmers' market is a popular destination on a Thursday morning for some children to learn about money, and the village hall provides the stage for our large school choir, who have also performed at the O2 in London. And of course, the boys and girls football teams are always determined to win matches against other local schools.

The children who leave Whitfield Aspen school are independent thinkers and resilient learners. They are compassionate, thoughtful, and are the ambassadors of the future for inclusion and kindness.

### ST. PETER'S CHURCH

One of the things that Vicars, like me, spend a lot of time doing, as you might expect, is thinking about Christmas!

Believe it or not, I usually start thinking about it around the middle of January as I cast my thoughts back to the busy, joyful period and reflect on what went well the previous year and what we might need to tweak or change for the Christmas to come.

It then completely drops off the radar for a few months as preparations begin for Easter. But of course, when things calm down again over the summer we spend our idle moments, sometimes on the beach, trying to remember what we had decided back in January and coming up with wildly creative and completely impractical ideas for things we could do in the winter to come.

Generally, those wildly creative ideas never make it off the drawing board, and we end up doing more or less the same as usual. Some of us even, (and I'll let you in on a trade secret here) re-use the odd sermon if they're confident that the congregation had indulged in enough pre-service sherry or mulled wine to have forgotten our deeply profound and meaningful reflections the previous year.

Of course, these past few years have been quite a challenge for us all in terms of planning our Christmas. And quite aside from Covid, and the disruption of fuel, energy, and food prices, there is much that has meant that many of our plans have had to change at the last minute. And, this uncertainty of our disrupted Christmases, has given me a new perspective on the Christmas story itself. Because the more I reflect on these years of disruption, the more I realise how disrupting the events of that first Christmas were for those involved.

Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married, they no doubt had their plans for what their lives would look like, until the angel Gabriel turned up and sent all their plans out the window. Then, just as they were getting used to the idea that they would have a baby, the emperor ordered a census, so they had to set off away from home on the long journey to Bethlehem. Not what they had planned at all.

Or what about the shepherds, sat happily in their fields just doing their job, possibly moaning about the poor pay, or that Jerusalem FC had just been beaten in the World Cup quarter final, until the angels appeared and sent them running into the village to find the new-born King Jesus.

And then there were those wise men, who embarked on a perilous journey to a far-off land because of the appearance of a new star in the sky.

None of these people could have predicted or planned what would happen to them, but when the disruption came, they went with it, faced it, embraced it, and in doing so they met God face to face.

We all approach Christmas with our own sets of expectations and hopes, rituals and traditions, and after all we've been through it might be easy for us to easily forget the disruptions of Christmas past.

But perhaps this Christmas, let's look back at those strange and difficult Christmases and rather than being heartbroken or regretful, perhaps we should consider the disorientation and disruption experienced as something to remember.

The disruption that perhaps means we have an opportunity to learn anew from Mary and Joseph, the wise men, and the shepherds, and to allow the strange turn our lives often take, to lead us closer to the God who is always with us.

So, yes enjoy this Christmas without the disruptions of those Covid years, (and perhaps some of the others) but let's not forget too easily the ones that were disrupted, lest we miss a chance to encounter God himself, face to face.  
*Be blessed this Christmas! Revd. Sean*

### WHITFIELD COUNCILLORS

I start with our thanks for reinstalling Cllr Jim Back for what will be another 4 years, making 16 years as your representative, and my first 4-year term as Cllr.

We have taken up our various roles serving our community and I must say it is quite an involved job indeed. I now serve with Jim on the Planning committee, which has proved useful as we do get to have a say on the developments that are being proposed here in Whitfield. We can't stop them, that opportunity passed by years ago, but we can try to ensure that they are sympathetic to our village and do deliver on past promises. We have already worked with a number of residents on planning issues.

Jim serves on the Licensing, Planning, and the Joint Transportation Advisory Board, I serve on the Licensing, Planning, Governance and Scrutiny Committees, so you will see we are covering quite an extensive range of local government areas between us, hopefully we will be able to represent you the way we would want to be represented.

Early days for me, but I am enjoying the challenge, if you have anything you need help with Jim, and I are very pleased to help if we can.

Season's Greetings *Cllrs' Jim Back & Roger Knight Whitfield Ward*



### WHITFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

This has been another busy year for Whitfield Parish Council, and I would like to Thank the Parish Council Staff and Councillors for all their work and support over the past year.

We have 3 new Councillors, with more vacancies for anyone who wishes to join us. It is a painless process and can be an enjoyable and rewarding way to spend a few hours each month!

**Over the Past Year the Parish Council have:**

- Improved and maintained the Recreation Ground, Play and Gym equipment and other facilities, adding some new play equipment, and providing Whitfield Juniors Football Club with facilities for their matches and training
- Provided Dog bins and Poo bags on the Rec. We financed the new bin on the footpath from Archer's Court Road to the New School, and are looking at ways of increasing the number of Litter and Dog bins in the Village
- Through our Parish Highways Improvement Plan, we finally obtained KCC consent for extension of the 30mph speed limit out of the Village, past Bowman's Place and Linwood Green
- Provided the Speed Indicator signs around Whitfield
- Serviced and maintained the Parish's defibrillators at the One Stop Shop; Whitfield Village Hall; Recreation ground Pavilion; and Saxon House, Willingdon Road

The Council made donations to; Whitfield Juniors, St Peter's Church, Whitfield Village Hall, Litter Picking Group, Village Garage Safari, Residents Wildlife Group, Royal British Legion, KSS Air Ambulance Trust, Sea Cadets, and Pegasus Play Scheme.

Finally, I should like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

*Cllr Jeff Goodsell - Chairman Whitfield Parish Council*

### WHITFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Whitfield Aspen is a fun, creative and inspiring school for the children of Whitfield. It is a place where they learn, play, sing and sign together.

Learning not only happens inside the classrooms, but also outside in the forest school, sensory gardens and sensory play areas. Playtimes are enhanced by creative lunchtime teachers on each site, who ensure that all the children are included in activities such as kite making, gardening and a wide range of sports.

The teachers bring learning to life for the children by organising a range of special events and activities throughout the year. They have the opportunity to learn from a variety of sources and experts, such as; being inspired by hearing from athletes who have overcome barriers to become Paralympians, or becoming scientists and conservationists for the day with Safari Pete and his animal friends in Science week. They have also enjoyed performances from a travelling theatre group to celebrate World Theatre Day.



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**St. Peter's Church**

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 4.00pm | Carol Service

**Christmas Eve**  
 3.30pm | Christingle & Nativity  
 11.30pm | Midnight Communion Service

Do join us any Sunday at 10.30am for our morning service of worship through December. Watch out on FB for details of where these services are as we meet in church and in Whitfield School some Sunday mornings.

**For more information contact:**  
**Revd. Sean Sheffield**  
[vica@seanboroughparish.org](mailto:vica@seanboroughparish.org)  
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