

## **The Cholwell Mummers Play as written 2002**

### **Cast**

Father Christmas  
Mother Dolly  
Saint George  
Turkeysnipe  
Old Woman  
The Doctor

Extra parts if needed:

The King of Egypt's Daughter  
A Doctor's assistant  
Belsie Bug to end the play

### **Text**

Father Christmas: In comes I Father Christmas  
Welcome here or welcome not  
I hope old Father Christmas  
Will never be forgot  
Christmas comes but once a year  
And when he comes he brings good cheer  
All you people mind what I say  
Come Mother Dolly and clear the way

Dame Dolly: In comes I Dame Dolly  
Drinking gin is all my folly  
Before I begin I likes to make room  
I'll sweep it away with my little broom

Room room! Brave gallants all!  
Pray give us room to rhyme!  
We come to show you activity  
This merry Christmas time

Ladies and gentlemen I beg your kind permission  
We are going to entertain you with a grand exhibition  
So stir up the fire and make a light  
For in this room there will be a fight!  
Mummers now at the door do stand  
They will walk in with drawn sword in hand  
If you don't believe in what I've got to say  
Let St George walk in and boldly lead the way

St George: In comes I St George, that valiant knight  
I'll spill my blood for old England's right  
I fought the fiery dragon and drove him to the slaughter  
And by that I won the King of Egypt's daughter  
But now I'm come to understand  
That some proud Turkeysnipe has set his foot on English land  
Fight him will I, if I'm sure to be slain  
As long as I've one drop of blood to circulate in any vein

Turkeysnipe: In comes I that Turkeysnipe  
Come I to England for to fight  
Fight thee St George though man of courage bold  
And if thy blood is hot, soon will I fetch it cold

St George: To whom, to whom and you that saucy challenge give?

Turkeysnipe: To thee, to thee, thou English dog, no longer shalt thou live  
Draw out thy sword and fight, pull out thy purse and pay  
For satisfaction will I have before I go away

St George: No satisfaction shalt thou have  
No satisfaction shalt thou crave  
For in ten minutes time I'll make you England's slave  
So now prepare  
Draw forth thy sword and see who gets the victory

*They fight. Turkeysnipe is overthrown.*

Old Woman: Oh St George, St George what have you done!  
Thou hast killed and slain my only son, my only heir  
How can'st thou stand to see him bleeding there?

St George: Why he challenged me out to fight so why should I deny?

Old Woman: Oh is there a doctor to be found  
To cure this man of his deep and deadly wound?

Doctor: In comes I old Doctor Brown  
The best old Doctor in this town  
My fair assistant following me  
Will help in deed as you shall see

Old Woman: What makes you a Doctor?

Doctor: My travels

Old Woman: Pray tell me some of them

Doctor: From the door to the larder  
Larder to the fireplace  
Fireplace to bed

Old Woman: Very short travels indeed Doctor  
Pray give me some of your longer ones

Doctor: I've travelled through England  
Ireland, Scotland, Flanders, France and Spain  
And by good luck I returned to Old England again

Old Woman: What is your fee?

Doctor: Ten guineas is my fee and I'll take a hot roll from thee

Doctors Assistant: and me!

Old Woman: Take it then. What can you cure?

Doctor: A broken leg or arm I soon can cure the pain  
If you break your neck I can quickly set it on again  
I can cure the itch, pitch, palsy or the gout  
And if the devil's in I can soon fetch him out

*He attends to the patient*

Ladies and gentlemen I've a bottle of medicine  
That goes by the name of virtue and fame  
One drop on this knight's tongue and one on his crown  
If he's alive he'll rise and fight again

St George: Arise! Arise! Thou cowardly dog!  
Now that your lesson is told  
Go and tell what champions bold  
Do in fair England Dwell!

*Turkysnipe prepares to fight again*

Father Christmas: Come now my sons put away thy swords  
For tis the time of year  
To set aside our fears and frights  
And all be of good cheer

Dame Dolly: Ladies and Gentlemen our sports are all ended  
Prepare for the box which is highly commended  
One mug of Christmas Ale will make us merry and sing  
Some money in our pockets will be a fine thing  
So ladies and gentlemen all at your ease  
Please give to charity just what you please  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new Year  
Plenty of luck, and lots of good cheer!

End with singing Rule Britannia.