

# The Holly and the Ivy

Collected by Cecil Sharp 13-Jan-1909

Sung by Mrs Mary Ann Clayton (64)  
of Chipping Campden, Glos



The holly hath the berry as red as any blood  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to do poor sinners good.

*Chorus* The rising of the sun and the running of the deer  
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir

The holly hath a prickle as sharp as any thorn  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn.

*Chorus*

The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown,  
But of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown.

*Chorus*

*Song for Singing prepared by GlosSongs*

*Source: Sharp manuscript ref FT2068, transposed down to F. Words from a typed page by Sharp FW1923*

- Notes:*
- 1. The Carol is an exact copy of the transcription noted by Sharp, except the tune is transposed lower.*
  - 2. When Sharp published this Carol, which has become well known, he did not use the exact words from Mary Clayton and extended the verses. Hence these words may seem strange when first sung. The common first verse as sung today is 'And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ' and we have put this in the singing copy. However Mary Clayton's words 'And merry rose sweet Jesus Christ' seems just as appealing – your choice*

*Audit* Transcription prepared by VL Aug 2011/HT Oct 2011/Checked tbc