

# The Twelve Apostles (as collected)

Recorded by Gwilym Davies Oct-1980

Sung by Richard Chidlaw and learnt from  
Cameron Riley Johnson of Yorkley Slade

1  
5 2 I can sing a one. What is your one? One by one lies all a-lone and ev-er more be seen-o.  
8 I can sing a two. What is your two? 3 Two by two with a li-ly white shoe,  
One by one lies all a-lone and ev-er more be seen-o. I can sing a three. What is your three?  
12  
Three by three, the tri-bal lee, Two by two, the li-ly white shoe, One by one lies all a-lone and  
15 4  
ev er more be seen -o. I can sing a four. what is your four? Four for the gos-pel ma-ker,  
19  
Three by three, the tri-bal lee, Two by two, the li-ly white shoe, One by one lies all a-lone and  
22 5 etc.  
ev - er more be seen - o. I can sing a five. what is your five?  
25  
Five for the in - doors of my breast, Four..etc.

I can sing a six. What is your six? Six for the six broad makers.  
I can sing a seven. What is your seven? Seven for the seven bright stars of heaven.  
I can sing an eight. What is your eight? Eight (for) the Gabriel wine-o.  
I can sing a nine. What is your nine? Nine for the lights so shine-o.  
I can sing a ten. What is your ten? Ten for the Ten Commandments.  
I can sing an eleven. What is your eleven? 'leven for the eleven bright angels of heaven.  
I can sing a twelve. What is your twelve? Twelve for the Twelve Apostles

Song as recorded by Gwilym Davies and sung by Richard Chidlaw

Source: Davies recording of Richard Chidlaw introducing song and singing it as learnt from Cameron Riley Johnson of Yorkley Slade.

- Notes:
1. Chidlaw says – ‘This song was sung by Mr Cameron Riley Johnson of Greendale, Johnsons Way, Yorkley Slade near Lydney on 4-Oct-1975. He was then aged about 90, and he said he had learnt from two boys who used to sing it at Christmas time in that place. It stopped about the early 1900s apparently’
  2. In the recording the singer is not always singing ‘the’ on some repeated lines. This is only to be expected with such a long song
- Audit Transcription prepared by VL Nov 2011/HT Nov 2011/Checked GD Nov 2011

### ***Same words – but presented differently***

I can sing a one. What is your one?  
One by one lies all alone and ever more be seen oh.

I can sing a two, what is your two?  
Two by two the lily white shoe  
One by one lies all alone and ever more be seen oh

I can sing a three, what is your three, etc.  
Three by three the tribal lea (possibly lee)  
Two by two the lily white shoe  
One by one lies all alone and ever more be seen oh.

Four for the gospel maker

Five for the indoors of my breast

Six for the six broad maker

Seven for the seven bright stars of heaven

Eight (for) the Gabriel wine-o

Nine the lights so shine-o

Ten for the ten commandments

‘leven for the eleven bright angels of heaven

Twelve for the twelve apostles  
‘leven for the eleven bright angels of heaven

*And* Ten for the ten commandments

Nine the lights so shine-o

Eight for the Gabriel wine-o

Seven for the seven bright stars of heaven

*And* Six for the six broad maker?

Five for the indoors of my breast

*And* Four for the gospel maker

Three by three the tribal lea?

Two by two the lily white shoe

One by one lies all alone and ever more be seen oh.