

# The Cherry Tree – Winchcombe, Mary Roberts (as collected)

Collected by Cecil Sharp 8-Apr-1909

Sung by Mrs Mary Anne Roberts (81)  
at Winchcombe Union, Glos

Then up spoke\_ the lit - tle babe In his own mo - ther's womb Bow\_

5  
down\_ you sweet\_ cher - ry tree And\_ give my mo - ther some.

Mary and Joseph together did go  
Down in the garden together did go  
And there they saw a cherry tree  
Both red white and green.

Then up spake Mary so meek and so mild:  
'Gather me cherries Joseph for I am with child.'

Then up speaks Joseph with his words so unkind:  
'Let them gather the cherries that brought thee with child.'

Then up speaks the little child in his own mother's womb:  
'Bow down, you sweet cherry tree and give my mother some.'

Then the top spray of the cherry tree bowed down to her knee:  
'And now you see Joseph there are cherries for me.'

*Song as collected by Cecil Sharp. Use this copy also for singing.*

*Source: Sharp manuscript ref FT2151 for tune and FW2018 for typed words*

- Notes:
1. Singer age was noted by Sharp
  2. It is unusually notated because the collected tune uses the words shown in the tune, but Sharps words show this as the fourth verse and with 2 word differences.
  3. The first 4 lines above are as Sharp typed them, but are difficult to fit to the music without edit. We have left it to the singer to interpret how they wish to sing it. One option is to omit most of line 2.
  4. These words were also used by Sharp in his Carol Book 1911 with the tune he collected from Mary Ann Clayton from Chipping Campden. Sharp says in that Carol 'The remaining stanzas were sung to me by Mrs. Anne Roberts at Winchcombe (Gloucestershire) to a different tune. The words in the text have not been altered'. This is not strictly true. There are some very minor differences to FW2018

Audit Transcription prepared by VL Nov 2011/HT Nov 2011/Checked tbc