

On Christmas Time (as collected)

Collected by Cecil Sharp 7-April-1909

Sung by William Bayliss (63)
of Laverton near Buckland, Glos



3 On Christ - mas time all Christ- tians_ sing To_

6 hear what news those an- gels bring; News of great joy news

of great mirth, News of our Sav iour's own King's birth.

On Christmas time all Christians sing
To hear what news those Christians(*angels*)* bring; (* tune say 'Christians',
News of great joy, news of great mirth, (word transcript has 'angels')
News of our Saviour's own King's birth.
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our Saviour's own King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad
When from sin he set us free
All for to gain our liberty.

Now sin depart this **oldest* life (* Sharps transcription underlines 'old'
Everlasting life comes in its place and has ? in margin)
And soon we shall its terror see,
Poor and rich must conquered be.

Then out of darkness we see light,
Which makes all angels to sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men
Both now and ever ever more. Amen.

Song as collected by Cecil Sharp 7 April 1909(see FT2131) or possibly 6 April 1909 (see FW2010).

Source: Sharp, manuscript copy ref FT2131 & FW2010

Notes:

1. Age of singer from Sharp manuscript
2. Some publications of this tune call the song 'On Christmas Night'. The Carol is also known as On Christmas Night True Christians Sing; On Christmas Night All Christians Sing; The Sussex Carol
3. Sharp in 1911 'English Folk Carols' says 'No alteration has been made in the words. The carol, set to a modern tune, is published in Bramley and Stainer's collection [On Christmas Night - Version 5]; while three traditional versions are printed in The Folk-Song Society's Journal (II, pp. 126-7). The words are on a broadside by Batchelar

Audit Transcription prepared by VL Nov 2012/HT Nov 2012/Checked tbc