

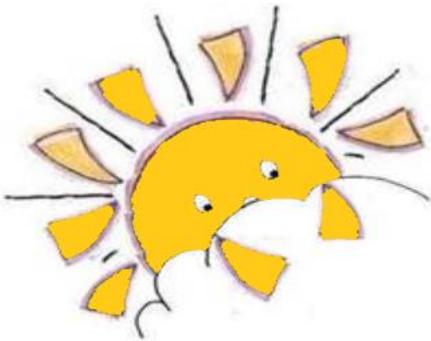
The holly and the ivy

<https://riverofsong.uk/>

The holly and the Ivy is a traditional English Christmas Carol, which is sung to several tunes. Sometimes called the Hertfordshire Carol this one (Roud Number 514) was familiar in the 1970s from the recording of Steeleye Span and is still sung in folk clubs around the land. Find out more at: <https://mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=42010>

Oh, the hol - ly and the i - vy, When they are both full grown, Of
all the trees that are in the wood, The hol - ly tree bears the crown. Oh, the
ris - ing of the sun And the run - ing of the deer, The
play - ing of the mer - ry or - gan, Sweet sing - ing all in the choir.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, D7, G, D7, G, C, G, D7, G, G, D7, G, C, G, D7, G.



Oh, the holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly tree bears the crown.

*Chorus: Oh, the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing all in the choir.*

Oh, the holly tree bears a blossom,
As white as lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour. *Chorus*

Oh, the holly tree bears a berry
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good. *Chorus*

Oh, the holly tree bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn. *Chorus*

Oh, the holly tree bears a bark
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all. *Chorus*

Oh, the holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly tree bears the crown. *Chorus*