

The Holly and the Ivy

1. The ho - lly and the i - vy, when they are both full grown, of
Chorus
all the trees that are in the wood, the ho - lly bears the crown. — The run-ning of the
deer, the com-ing of the year. The play-ing of the me-rry or-gan sweet sing-ing of the choir.

2. The holly bears the berry as red as any blood,
As Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.
3. The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.
4. The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.
5. The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

Source: Harold Boucher (81) of Staunton. Collected by Gwilym Davies in Churchdown in January 1989.
Notes: Verse 1 and chorus from Mr Boucher. Remainder from another version.