

The Pilgrims' Way: A Kentish Carol

Words (c) copyright John Brooks April 2000. Sung to the tune: The Farmer's Boy

mf

Heartily:- not too fast

1.(ALL) Christ - mas - tide is here once more, a time of joy and
 mirth. A - - mid the fea - - ting let's be sure to ac -
 -claim our Sa - - viour's birth: Let us sing and shout, let the
 bells ring out from tow'rs and stee - ples all a - bout in
 an - - cient towns, be - - side the Downs, a - - long the Pil - - grims'
 Way a - - long the Pil - - grims' Way.

LAST VERSE ONLY *Rit ando to end*

(6) Way, and seek the Pil - grims' Way!

2. (MEN) Men of Kent all year have raised

Their apples sheep and crops;
 By Autumn too (The Lord be praised!)
 A bumper yield of hops.

(ALL) Our faith is evergreen you know
 Which we symbolise with holly, mistletoe,
 For which we go, to where they grow:
 Along the Pil-grims' Way. (2x)

3. (ALL) All are welcomed in the Waits

Be they nightingales or croakers;
 Our carols soon will rock your gates
 Be ye farmers or stockbrokers.
 Our choirs are trained by their magisters
 Who hope we'll sing like larks, not hagisters,
 In churches filled, across The Weald,
 And by the Pilgrims' Way. (2x)

4.(LADIES) Long ago a blazing star

Brought light to this dark Earth,
 And Wise Men marked it from afar
 As the sign of Jesus' birth.

(MEN) Came Melchior, and old Caspar
 And not forgetting Balthazar
 They gladly trod to see their God,
 Along a Pilgrims' Way. (2x)

5.(ALL) Christ-mas ta-bles creak and groan

'Neath turkeys, wine and meats,
 And very soon the creaks and groans
 Are transferred unto our seats;
 Let us spare a thought for those with naught
 And spread our bounty through the County
 And let each Went, each lane of Kent,
 Become a Pilgrims' Way. (2x)

6.(ALL) Merry Christmas to you all

And a prosperous New ear;
 May happiness now bless us all
 And those whom we hold dear.
 Wishing Peace on Earth, Goodwill t'ward all,
 Let the cheer and song echo through the hall.
 The goodwill here, let's keep all year!
 And seek the Pilgrims' Way. (2x)

