While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, mind; line,

*Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you,*

*The angel of the Lord came down and stood in the midst of them,*

*And all the people will see this sign,*

*This sign shall be the sign, and they shall know that it is the Lord who is coming.*

*The angel of the Lord came down and said to Mary,*

*And the Lord shall give you a sign by this:*
Sherbyrn Tune

Begin and never cease.'

Good will henceforth from heaven to men
And to the earth be peace;

All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
To human view displayed,

The heavenly Babe you there shall find
Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith

And in a manger laid.'

Addressed their joyful song.

Of angels praising God, who thus
Appeared a shining throng

Christ Lord

Glad

Glad tidings of great
A Sav-iour which is

The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone a-round.

'These are the joyful tidings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.'

A Sav-iour which is Christ the Lord and this shall be the sign.

'The heavens and the earth shall praise your name forever.'

We praise you, we bless you,

A Sav-iour which is Christ the Lord and this shall be the sign.

The Welsh text has been given as well as the more familiar Tate & Brady words. HTI 4622a.

Mae swn cerbydau ’r Jubil fwyn ar mil blynyd ’r hed
ymron a dod y gyraed clyw merch seion wael eu gwed.

Sherbyrn comes from a post-1815 Welsh ms book, now owned by Sheila and Edwin Macadam. It is a variant of Sherburne, by Daniel Read of Connecticut, first published in 'The American Singing Book', in 1785, and is one of four tunes by Read in the ms book. Read set the tune to While Shepherds Watched, and with very few exceptions, this text has been set with the tune in over 100 publications in America up to 1820.

The Welsh text has been given as well as the more familiar Tate & Brady words. HTI 4622a.