



Songs for the Orchard

'Childgrove' / 'On us all...?'

'Childgrove' is a very old tune and these words perhaps at first seem a little bit 'Lark Rise to Hobbishire': twee, summoning up a picture of (maybe mythical) pre-industrial, less complex country life...

However, they may also be deeply progressive and radical...

The environment of a predictable prevailing wind direction, regular rainfall (not drought or deluge) and readily beaming sun (not burning or scorching), perhaps represent ideal conditions for growing fruit and crops, for work and play. The radical bit maybe comes with the phrase 'on us all'. Who we define as 'us', could be the most critical issue in a world where what is often referred to as 'identity' politics dominates much public and private discourse.

Do we want to interpret 'us' in a narrow, sectarian, exclusive (and excluding) way – or do we wish to embrace the 'us' of either our common humanity, or even the widest 'us' we can imagine – all life, universal, interconnected and mutually dependent?

The tune 'Childgrove' has an 'A' and 'B' format and these words were written to fit with the 'B' part of the tune.

- 1) When the wind's Sou'westerly,
Rain falls reg'larly, Sun beams readily
On us all.
Then we'll blossom and grow,
Our hearts aglow,
On the land we call the Orchard.

- 2) When the wind's Sou'westerly,
Rain falls reg'larly, Sun beams readily
On us all.
Then we'll smile when we meet
And drink and eat
From the land we call the Orchard.

- 3) When the wind's Sou'westerly,
Rain falls reg'larly, Sun beams
readily
On us all.
Let the music ring,
We will dance and sing
On the land we call the Orchard.