

## The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL Irregular with refrain

English carol  
Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

English carol, 17th century

1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the  
 3. And by the light of that same star, Three wise men  
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west; O'er Beth - le -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay a - keep - ing their  
 east be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave great  
 came from coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in -  
 hem it took its rest; And there it did both stop and

Refrain\*  
 sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night. Now - ell, Now -  
 tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 stay, Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

\*Refrain may be omitted except after final stanza.

5. Then entered in those wise men three,  
Fell reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence,  
Their gold, and myrrh, and  
frankincense.  
(Refrain)
6. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of  
nought,  
And with His blood our life hath bought.  
(Refrain)

Arr. Healey Willan, 1926

*Alternate refrain*

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

Born is the King of Is - ra - el.