

# The Ilminster Thorn

Lyrics  
James Simpson

Melody Ginny Barrett  
arr. Tim Ravalde

$\text{♩} = 85$

GRAFFHAM CM

The haw - thorn is a bawn - ing tree that bloss - oms bright in May but  
when our meek - ling babe ap - pears it flowers on Christ - mas day. The fox was first with  
down soft brow, then ox with steam - ing side and all the beasts from  
near and far came to our Christ's bed - side. For Christ was born 'mongst  
dai - ry straw with crea - tures hudd - led round the Dor - set ewes and  
spright jack - daw the stub - ble hare and hound. When snow is drift - ing

*mf* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *mf*

27

piled hedge high, be - fore sweet Christ - mas morn, we'll dance a - long those

31

snow - packed heights to the dair - y soft and warm. We'll go ga - th'ring - milk and cream the

36

night that Christ is born, Oh we'll go gath - 'ring milk and cream with the

40

flow - 'ring of the thorn. Now each and ev - 'ry - Christ - mas night they stir in flock and

45

sty and jour - ney quiet to Christ's thorn tree 'cross - drifts and kind - ling sky. So

50

'Glori - a in ex - cel - sis' this night when light is born, from co - ckle wren to

55

sev'n tine stag at the flow - 'ring of the thorn.