**Candlemas carol – tune now the green blade**

Em A Em

Down with the rosemary and bays,  
A D Em

Down with the mistletoe;  
 Em A Em

Instead of holly, now up-raise  
 A D Em

The greener box, for show.

***Refrain:***  
 C Am D

Thus times and seasons shift;

Em A B7

each thing his turn doth hold;  
 Em A Em

In God new thoughts and things succeed,

A D Em

as former things grow old.

The holly hitherto did sway;  
Let box now domineer  
Until the dancing Easter day,  
Or Easter's eve appear. ***Refrain***

Then youthful box which now hath grace  
Your houses to renew;  
Grown old, surrender must his place  
Unto the crisped yew. ***Refrain***

When yew is out, then birch comes in,  
And many flowers beside;  
Both of a fresh and fragrant kin  
To honour Whitsuntide. ***Refrain***

Green rushes, then, and sweetest bents,  
With cooler oaken boughs,  
Come in for comely ornaments  
To re-adorn the house. ***Refrain***

*C16th Robert Herrick*