The Ballad of John Noyes - To the trad tune of Willy’o’Winsbury © 2018 Tony Winn

It is decreed by Queen Mary

Her loyal subjects all

The Catholic Sacrament shall take

Or heretic be called

And any that deny that faith

This punishment shall take

To be burned alive in the name of god

Tied to a wooden stake

Now one John Noyes a shoemaker

Who in Laxfield town did bide

Would not accept that the body of Christ

In a wafer could reside

When challenged by the Sheriffs men

To accept the sacrament

In stubborn faith he did refuse

And to prison swift was sent

They sent him off to Norwich jail

And again to the dungeon at Eye

But he steadfastly denied the Pope

And was condemned to die

They built a stake on Laxfield green

And for a flame enquired

But the sympathetic villagers

Had quelled each homely fire

But sadly from a chimney near

Some smoke came into sight

They broke the door and took the flame

And set John Noyes alight

Strange to tell one single foot

Unburnt in it’s hose was found

So they buried that with his ashes

In a pit there in the ground

John Noyes was burned for his high belief

Down from which he would not climb

He met his death with dignity

And his god before his time.