

## They're Moving Father's Grave

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the song "They're Moving Father's Grave". The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a repeat sign followed by a melody line with notes and rests. Chords G, D7, and C are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with notes and rests, and chords G, C, G, and C are indicated above. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the final two measures of this staff. The third staff begins with a second ending bracket labeled '2 Last verse' and contains notes and rests with chords C, G, D7, C, and G indicated above. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

1. They're moving father's grave to build a sewer  
They're moving it regardless of expense.  
They are shifting his remains  
To put in nine-inch drains  
To irrigate some posh bloke's residence.
2. Now what's the use of having a religion?  
If when you're dead your troubles never cease  
If some posh city chap  
Wants a pipeline to his privy  
And moves you from your place of rest and peace.
3. Now father in his life was not a quitter  
And I'm sure that he'll not be a quitter now.  
For when that job's complete,  
He'll be on that privy seat  
And he'll only let 'em sit when he'll allow.
4. Now won't there be some bleedin' constipation,  
And won't those city chappies rant and rave!  
But it's no more than they deserve,  
To have the bleedin' nerve  
To muck about a British workman's grave.

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The tune for this is "Galway Bay".

"They're moving Father's grave to build a sewer" is a classic music hall song. The origin seems to be unknown but was revived by the Clancy Brothers. It was a favorite of Frank Muir's, well before the Brothers' time, who sang it many times on BBC Radio 4. Except for the bathroom humor, it's not nearly a truly bawdy song. I can't find any background yet.

I learned this from The Clancy Brothers.