

Growing Orchard Communities

COMMUNITY ORCHARD TOOLKIT



Visiting Wassail song – from Wren Trust

Visiting Wassail
Traditional from William John Trennery, Redruth
Arr. Paul Wilson

Vigorous, not too fast $\text{♩} = \text{around } 80$

Verse

Tune

The Mis - tress and Mas - ter our Was - sail be - gin Pray o - pen your door and

Lower Part

The Mis - tress and Mas - ter our Was - sail be - gin Pray o - pen your door and

Chorus

let us come in With our Was - sail Was - sail Was - sail Was -

let us come in With our Was - sail Was - sail Was - sail Was -

sail And joy come to our jol - ly Was - sail

sail And joy come to our jol - ly Was - sail

**The mistress and master our Wassail begin
Pray open your door and let us come in
Chorus
With our Wassail, Wassail, Wassail, Wassail
And joy come to our jolly Wassail**

**The mistress and master sitting down by the fire
While we poor Wassailers are travelling in the mire
Chorus**

**Now we poor Wassailers growing weary and old
Drop a small bit of silver into our bowl
Chorus**

**I wish you a blessing and a long time to live
Since you've been so free and willing to give
Chorus**

The appeal of this song is increased enormously if you USE it to visit someone with your group of singers. Traditionally this would be someone's home of a winter evening, where you might receive food, a drink or some money. Great day-time substitutes are to visit a cafe, school canteen or even staff room. Don't forget to prime the ones you are visiting beforehand and explain the whole ceremony need not last longer than 2 minutes. It's also real fun to act things out a bit; choose someone from the group to knock the door and someone else to collect the "money"!

"Wassail" is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning literally "be healthy" or "good health"
Traditionally the main Wassail dates are Old Christmas Day (6th January) and Old Twelfth Night (17th January)

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