

# Cold Ash Parish Greening Campaign

## Wassail 2014



### Programme

Cold Ash Mummers – Plough Play  
Singing led by St Mark's Choir  
Wassailing of the Apple Trees

Hot soup for all, warm cider punch for adults,  
juice for children

### Here we come a-Wassailing

Here we come a-wassailing  
Among the leaves so green,  
Here we come a-wand'ring  
So fair to be seen.

**CHORUS:** Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail, too,  
And God bless you, and send you  
A Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.

We are not daily beggars  
That beg from door to door,  
But we are neighbours' children  
Whom you have seen before

**CHORUS:**

Good master and good mistress,  
As you sit beside the fire,  
Pray think of us poor children  
Who wander in the mire.

**CHORUS**

We have a little purse  
Made of ratching leather skin;  
We want some of your small change

To line it well within.  
**CHORUS**

Bring us out a table  
And spread it with a cloth;  
Bring us out a cheese,  
And of your Christmas loaf.  
Love and joy come to you,  
**CHORUS**

God bless the master of this house,  
Likewise the mistress too;  
And all the little children  
That round the table go.  
**CHORUS**

All sound off bells, whistles, drums, clapping, shouting etc.

Choosing of Wassail Leader  
ALL move the largest tree in the Orchard

**ALL chant: Young apple tree, we Wassail thee,  
and hope that thou will bear  
For the Lord doth know,  
where we shall be in apples another year,  
To bear well and to share well and merry let us be.**

All make as much noise as they can. Bread and cider is place in  
the branches of the largest tree by the Wassail Party.

**Wassail Leader and ALL chant:  
Here's to thee, young apple tree,  
That blooms well, bears well.  
Hats full, caps full,  
Three bushel bags full,  
An' all under one tree.  
Hurray! Hurray!"**

Then place bread and cider in the tree. ALL shout 'Wassail!'

## SONGS for ALL to join in

### Green Grow the Rushes O!

1. I'll sing you one, O  
Green grow the rushes, O  
What is your one, O?  
One is one and all alone  
And evermore shall be so.
2. I'll sing you two, O  
Green grow the rushes, O  
What are your two, O?  
Two, two, lily-white boys,  
Clothed all in green, O  
One is one and all alone  
And evermore shall be so.
3. I'll sing you three, O  
Green grow the rushes, O  
What are your three, O?  
Three, three, the rivals,  
Two, two, lily-white boys,  
Clothed all in green, O  
One is one and all alone  
And evermore shall be so.
4. Four for the Gospel makers,
5. Five for the symbols at your door
6. Six for the six proud walkers
7. Seven for the seven stars in the sky
8. Eight for the eight bold rangers
9. Nine for the nine bright shiners
10. Ten for the ten commandments
11. Eleven for the eleven who went to heaven
12. Twelve for the twelve Apostles.

### Oh! No John!

On yonder hill there stands a creature,  
Who she is I do not know  
I will court her for her beauty,  
She must answer yes or no  
Oh no John, No John, No John, No!

My father was a Spanish Captain,  
Went to sea a month ago  
First he kissed me, then he left me,  
Bid me always answer no  
Oh no John, No John, No John, No!

Oh madam in your face is beauty,  
On your lips red roses grow  
Will you take me for your lover,  
Madam answer yes or no  
Oh no John, No John, No John, No!

Oh madam I will give you jewels,  
I will make you rich and free  
I will give you silken dresses,  
Madam will you marry me?  
Oh no John, No John, No John, No!

Oh madam since you are so cruel,  
And that you do scorn me so  
If I may not be your lover,  
Madam will you let me go?  
Oh no John, No John, No John, No!

Then I will stay with you forever,  
If you will not be unkind  
Madam I have vowed to love you,  
Would you have me change my mind?  
Oh no John, No John, No John, No!

Oh hark, I hear the church bells ringing,  
Will you come and be my wife?

Or dear madam, have you settled,  
To live single all your life?  
Oh no John, No John, No John, No!

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### About wassailing

'Wassail' comes from the old English 'Waes Hail' which means 'Good health' as well as the drink wassail, a hot mulled cider traditionally drunk as an integral part of the wassail ceremony.

In Southern England (mainly the cider counties) wassailing is a traditional ceremony that involves singing and drinking the health of trees in the hopes that they give a good crop. The ceremony is supposed to waken the apple trees and scare away evil spirits. A wassail King and Queen lead the song and/or a processional tune to be played/sung from one orchard to the next, the wassail Queen will then be lifted up into the boughs of the tree where she will place toast soaked in cider as a gift to the tree.

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### The Cold Ash Parish Greening Group

Climate change and probable energy shortages threaten us. But we can all make a realistic contribution to reducing these. We promote Green Issues within our community. Join us. See:  
<http://http://www.capgg.org.uk/>