Gloucestershire Wassail – lyrics 2026

Words William Bayliss & Isaac Bennet, collected by Cecil Sharp 1910-11
Music transcription/arrangement after R Vaughan Williams & Cecil Sharp, by Gordon Ashman

Intro: 1 instrumental verse AND a 4 bar interlude (the last line repeated)

Verse 1
Wassail, wassail, all over the town!
Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown,
Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree,
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.
4 bar interlude

Verse 2
And here is to Dobbin and to his right eye,
Pray God send our master a good Christmas pie,
And a good Christmas pie that may we all see,
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.
4 bar interlude

Verse 3
And here is to Fillpail and to her left ear,
Pray God send our master a happy New Year,
And a happy New Year as e'er he did see,
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.
4 bar interlude

Verse 4
Then here's to the maid in the lily-white smock,
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the lock,
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin,
For to let these jolly wassailers in.
For to let these jolly wassailers in **(sung during the final 4 bar interlude)**