



# **SDFS**

# **Carol Songbook**

[Deck the Hall](#)

[God Rest ye Merry, Gentleman](#)

[The Holly and the Ivy](#)

[The Holly Bears a Berry \(Sans Day Carol\)](#)

[The Moon Shone Bright](#)

[Sussex Carol](#)

[Sussex Mummers' Carol \(Righteous Joseph\)](#)

[Wassail Wassail](#)

[We Wish You a Merry Christmas](#)

# Deck the Hall

(Traditional Welsh)

**F# starting note**

**B key**

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,  
*fa la la la la, la la la la.*

'Tis the season to be jolly,  
*fa la la la la, la la la la.*

Fill the mead cup, drain the barrel,  
*fa la la, la la la, la la la.*

Troll the ancient Christmas carol,  
*fa la la la la, la la la la.*

W

W

M

M

A

A

A

A

See the flowing bowl before us,  
*fa la la la la, la la la la.*

Strike the harp and join the chorus,  
*fa la la la la, la la la la.*

Follow me in merry measure,  
*fa la la, la la la, la la la.*

While I sing of beauty's treasure,  
*fa la la la la, la la la la.*

(same all verses)

Fast away the old year passes,  
*fa la la la la, la la la la.*

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,  
*fa la la la la, la la la la.*

Laughing, quaffing, all together,  
*fa la la, la la la, la la la.*

Heedless of the wind and weather,  
*fa la la la la, la la la la.*

# God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

**C** starting note      **Cm** key

ALL

1. God rest ye merry, gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy.\**

WOMEN

2. In Bethlehem in Israel  
This blessèd Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessèd morn.  
For which His mother Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, ...*

MEN

3. From God our Heavenly Father  
A blessèd Angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, ...*

WOMEN

4. "Fear not then," said the Angel,  
"Let nothing you affright,  
This day is born a Saviour  
Of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in Him  
From Satan's power and might."  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, ...*

MEN

5. The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoicèd much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding  
In tempest, storm and wind†:  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
The Son of God to find.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, ...*

\* hold for three beats on 'joy' (all verses)

† rhymes with 'mind'

WOMEN

6. And when they came to Bethlehem  
Where our dear Saviour lay,  
They found Him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling down,  
Unto the Lord did pray.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, ...*

ALL

7. Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All other doth efface.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, ...*

► **All choruses sung by all**

# The Holly and the Ivy

(Traditional English)

**C** starting note      **C** key

The holly and the ivy  
When they are both full-grown  
Of all the trees that are in the wood  
The Holly bears the crown.  
    *The rising of the sun*  
    *And the running of the deer*  
    *The playing of the merry organ*  
    *Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears the blossom  
As white-as-the lily flow'r  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To be our sweet saviour.  
    *The rising of the sun ...*

The holly bears a berry  
As red as any blood\*  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To do poor sinners good.  
    *The rising of the sun ...*

The holly bears a prickle  
As sharp as any thorn  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn.  
    *The rising of the sun ...*

The holly bears a bark  
As bitter as any gall  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to redeem us all.  
    *The rising of the sun ...*

►harmonies on the last two lines of each verse

\* rhymes with 'good'

## The Holly bears a Berry (Sans Day Carol)

**B** starting note      **B** key

Now the holly bears a berry  
As white as the milk  
And Mary bore Jesus  
Who was wrapped up in silk.

*And Mary bore Jesus, our saviour for to be  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly, holly,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.*

Now the holly bears a berry  
As green as the grass  
And Mary bore Jesus  
Who died on the cross.

*And Mary bore Jesus, ....*

Now the holly bears a berry  
As black as the coal  
And Mary bore Jesus  
Who died for us all.

*And Mary bore Jesus, ....*

Now the holly bears a berry  
As blood is it red  
Then trust we our saviour  
Who rose from the dead.

*And Mary bore Jesus, ....*

# The Moon Shone Bright

**B $\flat$  starting note**                      **key**

▶ **women only**

The moon shone bright and the stars gave a light,  
A little before it was day,  
When the Lord our God He called upon us all,  
And he bade us awake and pray!

Awake, Awake! good people all,  
Awake and you shall hear,  
How Christ our Lord, he died upon the cross,  
And for us whom he loved so dear.

So dear, so dear as Christ loved us,  
And for our sakes he was slain  
We must leave off all our wicked wickedness,  
And turn to the Lord again.

Our song is done and we must be gone,  
we can tarry no longer here;  
So God bless you all, both little, great and small,  
And God send you a happy new year!

So God bless you all, both little, great and small,  
And God send you a happy new year!

# Sussex Carol

**G starting note   C key**

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

*all verses*

M

M

W

W

A - with harmonies

A - with harmonies

Then why should men on earth be so sad  
Since our Redeemer made us glad  
Then why should men on earth be so sad  
Since our Redeemer made us glad  
When from our sin He set us free  
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace  
Then life and health come in its place.  
When sin departs before His grace  
Then life and health come in its place.  
Angels and men with joy may sing  
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light  
Which made the angels sing this night.  
All out of darkness we have light  
Which made the angels sing this night.  
"Glory to God and peace to men  
Now and forever more, Amen!"

## Sussex Mummers' Carol (Righteous Joseph)

**G** starting note      **key**

When righteous Joseph wedded was  
Unto a virgin maid;  
A glorious angel from Heaven came  
Unto that virgin said.

*(repeat last two lines)*

Oh blessèd Mary full of truth  
And happy now shall be;  
You will conceive and bear a son  
Our saviour for to be.

*(repeat last two lines)*

O mortal man, remember well  
When Christ our Lord was born;  
He was crucified betwixt two thieves,  
And crownèd with the thorn.

*(repeat last two lines)*

O mortal man, remember well  
When Christ died on the rood;  
He died for our sins and wickedness  
Christ shed his precious blood.

*(repeat last two lines)*

O mortal man, remember well  
When Christ was laid in clay  
He was buried in some sepulchre  
Where no man ever lay.

*(repeat last two lines)*

\*\*

Our song it is sung and we must be gone  
No longer to tarry here  
God bless you all both great and small  
And God send you a happy new year!

*(repeat last two lines)*

***LAST VERSE SUNG AS ROUND ...  
(see below)***

*harmonies on repeated couplet*

---

*\*\* Additional two verses if desired (add in before last verse - "Our song it is sung ....")*

God bless the master of this house  
And send him long to reign;  
And many a happy Christmas may  
He live to see again.

*(repeat last two lines)*

God bless your house, your children too,  
Your cattle all in store;  
May the Lord increase them day by day,  
And bless you evermore.

*(repeat last two lines)*

### **ROUND:**

sing last verse four times through, in two parts;  
at the end, leading group sings very last line twice so all finish together.



## Wassail Wassail (The Gloucestershire Wassail)

**A** starting note

**D** key

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 a wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.  
    ▶ *repeat this verse as chorus after each verse.*

2. So here's to our horse, and to his right ear,  
May God send our master a happy new year:  
A happy new year as e'er he did see,  
With a wassailing bowl I'll drink to thee.

3. So here is to Cherry and to his right cheek  
May God send our master a good piece of beef  
And a good piece of beef that may we all see  
With a wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.

4. And here is to Dobbin and to his right eye,  
May God send our master a good Christmas pie,  
And the best Christmas pie that e'er we did see;  
With a wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

5. So here's to Broad Mary and to her broad horn  
May God send our master a good crop of corn  
And a good crop of corn that may we all see  
With a wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.

6. And here is to Fillpail and to her left ear  
May God grant our master a happy New Year  
And a happy New Year that may we all see  
With a wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.

7. And here's to our cow, and to her long tail,  
May God send our master us never may fail  
Of a cup of good beer: I pray you draw near,  
And our jolly wassail it's then you shall hear.

8. Come butler, come fill us a bowl of the best  
Then we hope that your soul in heaven may rest  
But if you do draw us a bowl of the small  
Then down shall go butler, bowl and all.

9. Be here any maids? I suppose here be some;  
Sure they'll not let young men stand on the cold stone!  
Sing hey O, maids! Come troll back the pin,  
And the fairest maid in the house let us all in.

10. Then here's to the maid in the lily white smock  
Who tripped to the door and slipped back the lock  
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin  
For to let these jolly wassailers in.

▶ words spread over two notes are underlined.

2013 - we will sing the verses that are boxed: 1, 4, 5, 6, 10. Shout "Wassail!" after song end.

We sung verses 1, 4 and 6 in 2012 - but there are many more (plus some not shown here). Harmonies on last line of each verse.

The old custom of wassail singing still survives in parts of England, though it is fast dying out. Indeed, wassailing songs are among the most popular of the secular holiday songs of Christmas. However, it is in fact a post-Christmas tradition, being performed on January 5, ie the eve of Epiphany. Of Saxon origin, the word "wassail" (accent on the last syllable) means "be of good health" from the Anglo-Saxon "wes" = be, and "hal" = whole or hale. The bowl "made of the white maple tree" refers to the period when all common domestic vessels were made of wood. In early times, there was an ecclesiastical edict against the use of wooden vessels for the Holy Communion.

The Wassail Song is among the best known of the traditional wassail songs, and was well-known throughout England by the mid-19th century although its roots go back even further. The tradition of wassailers going door-to-door, singing and drinking to the health of those whom they visit, goes back to pre-Christian fertility rites where the villagers went through orchards at midwinter singing and shouting loudly to drive out evil spirits, and pouring cider on the roots of trees to encourage fertility.

More notes on wassailing here:

[http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns\\_and\\_Carols/Notes\\_On\\_Carols/wassailing.htm](http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns_and_Carols/Notes_On_Carols/wassailing.htm)

# We Wish You a Merry Christmas

**B starting note    E key**

We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year!

*Glad tidings we bring  
To you and your kin  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year!*

We'd all like some figgy pudding  
We'd all like some figgy pudding  
We'd all like some figgy pudding  
So bring some out here!

*Glad tidings we bring ...*

And we won't go until we've got some  
We won't go until we've got some  
We won't go until we've got some  
So bring some out here!

*Glad tidings we bring ...*

We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year!

} faster  
} slower again