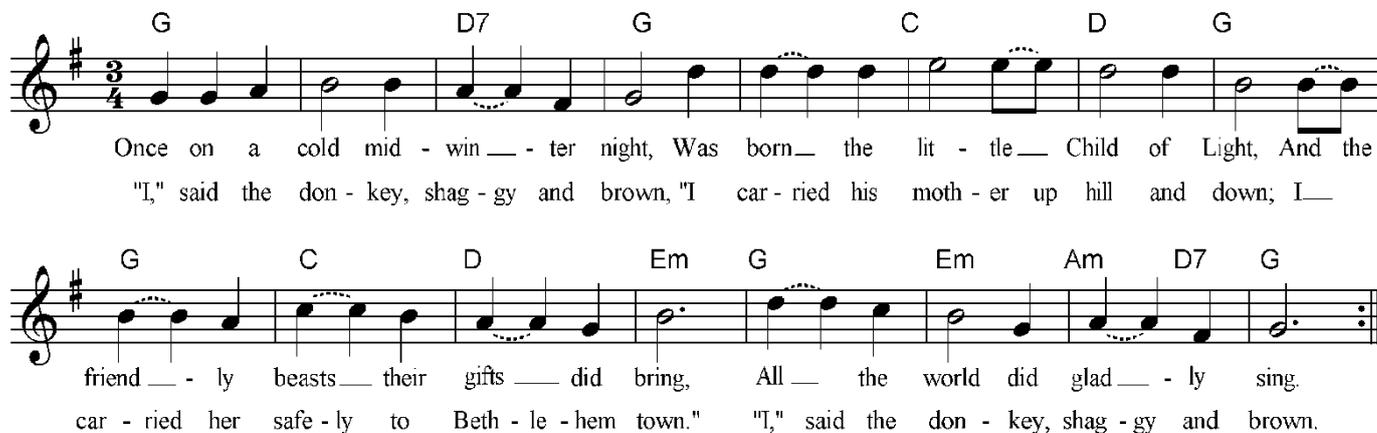


The friendly beasts

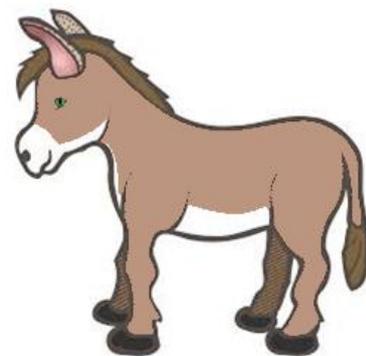
<https://riverofsong.uk/>

A traditional carol that encapsulates kindness, giving and hospitality. Possibly from 12th Century France, the English words were written by Robert Davis in the 1920s. The first verse here was adapted by N.Foster.



Once on a cold mid - win - ter night, Was born the lit - tle Child of Light, And the
"I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown, "I car - ried his moth - er up hill and down; I
friend - ly beasts their gifts did bring, All the world did glad - ly sing.
car - ried her safe - ly to Beth - le - hem town." "I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.

Once on a cold midwinter night,
Was born the little Child of Light,
And the friendly beasts their gifts did bring,
All the world did gladly sing.



"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
I carried his mother uphill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem Town,
I, said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red,
I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him my hay to pillow his head,
I, said the cow, all white and red.



"I," said the sheep, with curly horn,
I gave him my wool for his blanket so warm,
He wore my coat on Christmas morn,
I, said the sheep, with curly horn.

"I," said the dove from the rafters so high,
I coo'd him to sleep, that he should not cry,
We coo'd him to sleep, my love and I,
"I," said the dove, from the rafters so high.



Thus every beast, by some good spell, In the stable dark, was glad to tell,
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel, The gift he gave Emmanuel.