

# Advent Calendar 11th December

This popped into my sidebar while I was looking for something completely different, and nothing to do with either Christmas or this website. I believe it is called serendipity.

Alison Krauss singing the Wexford Carol (I know of her from her collaboration with Robert Plant), accompanied by Yo-Yo Ma on cello (I have heard of him as well). According to the comments the fiddle player is a Canadian, Natalie MacMaster who isn't properly credited. Neither are the drummer or the piper. I couldn't see that they have been recognised or named, which is a shame as every musician on this is excellent.

This is an old Irish Carol. It may not be as old as some say but who knows how deep the roots of traditional music go. Obviously the original words are Irish, but this is one English translation.

Good people all, this Christmas time,  
Consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done  
In sending his beloved son  
With Mary holy we should pray,  
To God with love this Christmas Day  
In Bethlehem upon that morn,  
There was a blessed Messiah born.

The night before that happy tide,  
The noble Virgin and her guide  
Were long time seeking up and down  
To find a lodging in the town.  
But mark how all things came to pass  
From every door repelled, alas,  
As was foretold, their refuge all  
Was but a humble ox's stall.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep  
To whom God's angels did appear  
Which put the shepherds in great fear  
Prepare and go, the angels said  
To Bethlehem, be not afraid  
For there you'll find, this happy morn  
A princely babe, sweet Jesus, born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind  
The shepherds went the babe to find  
And as God's angel had foretold  
They did our Saviour Christ behold  
Within a manger he was laid  
And by his side the virgin maid  
Attending on the Lord of Life  
Who came on earth to end all strife.

There were three wise men from afar  
Directed by a glorious star  
And on they wandered night and day  
Until they came where Jesus lay  
And when they came unto that place  
Where our beloved Messiah lay  
They humbly cast them at his feet  
With gifts of gold and incense sweet.