

back in the day

by [Carl Winderl](#) in the [December 2023](#) issue

when the shepherds who
tended their flocks
by night
took that night off whence

to visit My Newborn Son
and me, I was put in

the mind of how they hand

-led their birthing
process, especially when

a newborn lamb who
just dropped just died.

to comfort
the bereaved & grieving
ewe
they'd strip the

dead lamb's skin
to make
a *vellum* shirt for
some other lamb, a
twin or a triplet
to wear

to replace
the dead one for the

childless mom

to nuzzle
in place of her
dear departed one.

in a perfect world
the mother'd accept the
substitute offspring.

but My Son and I
lived in an

imperfect one