

'Behold the Lamb of God'
St John's Kidlington - Sunday 19th Jan 2014

The Epiphany question, 'Who is Jesus?' is answered differently each week of the season. Wise men recognised him as king, God and sacrifice. This week John the Baptist proclaims him as the Lamb of God.

Zurbaran's picture of the slaughtered lamb painted in 1635-40 remains an iconic portrayal of Christ and now hangs in the San Diego Museum of Art



Genesis 22.8: *"God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."*

It was no accident that the male lamb was in the thicket. God provided the sacrifice.

John 1. 29 *"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This is the one of whom, I said 'after me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me' "*

Rev. 5. 6,7 *"Then I saw... a lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered... He went and took the scroll..."* He alone in all of heaven and earth was found worthy to open it and the heavenly host bow down to worship.

Through all ages God works in the same way: he does for us what we cannot do ourselves. God in Christ comes as teacher, healer, friend, rabbi, prophet, high priest, king, and redeeming sacrifice.

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world grant us peace.**