



A vibrant selection of blues weave throughout (*folio 32v*) and feature in Christ's robe and on the **peacocks** that stand on either side of his shoulders.

For a long time, the colour blue that appears in the Book of Kells was thought to have come from the mineral lapis lazuli, which was considered a very precious mineral pigment in medieval times due to the inaccessibility of its main source in Afghanistan.

However, the Conservation team at Trinity discovered that the blues in the Book of Kells were made from a **flowering plant** known as **woad**, which was cultivated in Ireland around the time of the Book of Kells' creation.



*Woad is dried, powdered and fermented to create an indigo dye.*

**Indigo** is a versatile pigment, as it can be mixed with white to make **light blue** or mixed with glossy substances to make more translucent, **deep blues**.

It also mixes well with yellow to produce **green shades**, and that is why we have such an incredible range of blue tones across the manuscript.

The blues in the canon table (*folio 5r*) include both translucent and deep blue tones.

