

April 14<sup>th</sup>

Memory verse for the week:

**Teach me to do thy will;** for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. Psalm 143:10

Something to make

Today is Cuckoo Day, that is, the day when cuckoos are supposed to return from Africa where they have spent the winter. Of course, they do **not** all return at once on that day. People who live in the countryside listen out for the first cuckoo and are very glad whatever day they hear it. Find a recording of a cuckoo to listen to its song.<sup>1</sup> People sometimes think they have heard a cuckoo calling as early as February but that is most unlikely. Sometimes the song of a collared dove is mistaken for a cuckoo. If you find a recording of a collared dove you will understand why.<sup>2</sup>

Don't worry if you don't live in the country or can't go out listening for the first cuckoo. You can make yourself a model cuckoo *clock*.

For the body of the clock you need a cardboard box. Two cereal boxes back to back might do. If you turn them inside out and glue them together then you will have a nice grey surface to paint or colour. You will need to get at the inside of the box so don't fix the top down yet.

For the clock face a small paper plate is good or you can just draw round a tea plate to get a circle of white paper or card. You need to write the numbers on the clock face. You can use Roman numerals if you like: I II III IV V VI VII VIII (should be IIX really but clock makers almost always use VIII) IX X XI XII. It makes it easier to get the numbers placed round the clock face if you write 12 first. Then write 6. Now put in 3 and 9. Fill in the other numbers in the gaps.

The best way to decorate your clock is to just lay the face down on it and draw a light pencil line round it. Then remove the face again. Now you can put whatever scrolls and swirls you like on the clock or you can make it look like a little house (we'll do the "roof" last). You can cut out pictures of flowers and animals from old birthday cards or magazines to decorate the clock like a collage if you like. There are some ideas on the optional resources page. Don't forget to cut a little door for the cuckoo. Draw the door shape first then cut round three sides and fold to open. Stick a piece of card behind the door to fill the opening. You will have to reach into the box to do this. The door will have to fasten shut so you will need to rig up some sort of catch. If you have some brass paper fasteners you could use one of those. Otherwise you could make a little slit in the clock by the door and glue a paper tab onto the door that can be slotted into the slit. Now you can stick the top of the box shut.

Now make your cuckoo. It does not have to look like a real cuckoo; any tiny bird shape will be fine. It does not have to be three dimensional; just a flat cut out shape. You can make a proper paper spring by following the directions on the file in today's optional resources<sup>3</sup> or just fold a strip of paper into a zigzag. Stick your cuckoo on the end of the paper spring and stick the other end onto the card you glued behind the door. Now you can shut the door. When you open it the cuckoo should pop out! I'm sorry he will not sing "cuckoo": you will have to do that for him.

Cut a nice big piece of cardboard into a triangle shape the right size



<sup>1</sup> You can hear what it sounds like here, for instance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTY26k0CA0I>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.british-birdsongs.uk/collared-dove> is a good example.

<sup>3</sup> By kind permission of Paula Krieg who recommends this video for a slightly easier method for younger children: <https://youtu.be/iK9dyeN5eTw>

to stick on the top of the box. It just has to stick up with a point at the front – you do not need to make a full three dimensional roof. Decorate it to match the rest of the clock.

Stick on the clock face and make a pair of cardboard hands. If you have a brass paper fastener you will be able to fix the hands with that to make hands that can be moved. Otherwise you will have to choose a time and stick the hands in place. Now you can stick the top of the box shut.



If you are able to hang the clock up (or stand it on the very edge of a windowsill) you might like to make a couple of fir cone “weights” to hang down from the bottom of the clock. If you have some real fir cones that would be excellent otherwise you can make flat ones out of card. Hang them from the bottom on two pieces of string or yarn which you can fix to the bottom of the clock with sellotape. Here is a cardboard clock I once made. It is not a cuckoo clock. Maybe you can just read the words I put on it. They are from Psalm 31 verse 15. You might be able to put them on your clock too.

### Something to listen to

Cuckoo's often make an appearance in music. One of the best known examples is Handel's *Cuckoo and the Nightingale*. Try to find a recording to listen to. You will have to wait quite a long time for the cuckoo though.<sup>4</sup> Louis-Claude Daquin's harpsichord suite, *Pièces de clavecin, Troisième Suite* (1735) has a famous movement called *le coucou* which cuckoos all the way through and it is generally played as if it is the fastest cuckoo on the planet! Find a recording to listen to.<sup>5</sup>

---

4 An example would be: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tdo8Ai9THGA>

5 You can hear it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dA6I8oRPmc>

### Something to read aloud

What else happened today?

On 14<sup>th</sup> April 1912 the Titanic sank on her maiden (first) voyage.

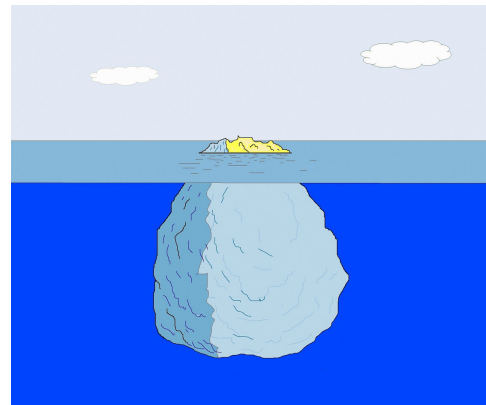
Many of you will know the story of the great ship the Titanic, built with airtight compartments making it (as people thought) unsinkable. What is less well known is the story of one of the passengers, John Harper (1872-1912).

John Harper was a widower and he had with him on the voyage his six year old daughter, Nina, and her Auntie Jessie, his sister. He was the minister of Walworth Road Baptist church in London although he was originally from Scotland. John Harper had been converted as a lad of 14 and began preaching when only 18, supporting himself by labouring in a mill as he came from a poor family. Now he was nearly 40 and was travelling to New York to speak at the meetings held by the American preacher D L Moody.

When the Titanic hit the iceberg John Harper wrapped little Nina in a blanket and made sure that she and Jessie were in a lifeboat. He then busied himself preaching the gospel to everyone he could speak to on the ship. He gave his life jacket to someone who did not have one. Eventually he had to jump into the water. He still spoke to others who were in the water. Some survivors recalled him saying to them, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." another survivor who was eventually picked up from the water says he called out to him, "Are you saved?" and when the man replied "no," he told him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Something to observe

This picture shows you that most of an iceberg is below the water. This makes icebergs very dangerous to shipping. You can see this effect if you put some ice cubes in a glass of water. Nowadays the shipping lanes of the world are closely monitored for icebergs. You can read about the International Ice Patrol, established after the Titanic disaster in today's optional resources files.<sup>6</sup>



---

<sup>6</sup> Permission sought from U.S. COAST GUARD NAVIGATION CENTER 16.02.21