4th April

Memory verse for the week:

The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Psalm 19:1

Very little ones can learn the words in **bold** only. More about learning this verse tomorrow.

A character from history[1]

Sir Francis Drake (1540-1596), the scourge of the Spanish Armada,[2] was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I on April 4th 1581 on board his ship *the Golden Hind* at Deptford. The picture on the right shows a replica of this famous ship. So popular was Drake with the crowds at that time that, in the words of a contemporary, "his name and fame was in all places, the people swarming daily in the streets to behold him." Drake's knighthood was bestowed on him for his great achievement of circumnavigating the globe of which you can read a detailed account in the lesson for 17th June.

A Spanish captain told a friend in a letter of his meeting with Sir Francis in 1579, also on 4th April:

I sailed out of Acapulco on the 23rd March and navigated until the fourth of April, on which date, half an hour before dawn, we saw by moonlight a ship very close to ours. Our steersman shouted that she was to get out of the way and not come alongside of us. To this they made no answer, pretending to be asleep. The steersman then shouted louder, asking them where their ship hailed from.

Suddenly, in a moment, she crossed our poop, ordering us to "strike sail" and shooting seven or eight arquebus shots at us.

On our part there was no resistance, nor had we more than six of our men awake on the whole boat, so they entered our ship with as little risk to themselves as though they were our friends. They did no personal harm to anyone, beyond seizing the swords and keys of the passengers. Having informed themselves as to who were on board the ship, they ordered me to go in their boat to where their general was.

I found him promenading on deck and, on approaching him, I kissed his hands. He received me with a show of kindness, and took me to his cabin where he bade me be seated and said: "I am a friend of those who tell me the truth, but with those who do not I get out of humour. Therefore you must tell me, how much silver and gold does your ship carry?" I answered: "None, only some small plates that I use and some cups – that is all that is in her."

This general of the Englishmen is a nephew of John Hawkins, and is the same who, about five years back, took the port of Nombre de Dios. He is called Francisco Drac, and is a man of about 35 years of age, low of stature, with a fair beard, and is one of the greatest mariners that sail the seas, both as a navigator and as a commander.

This galleon of his carries about thirty heavy pieces of artillery and a great quantity of firearms with

1 Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today?* Book 2 available on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive https://motherscompanion.weebly.com/

2 See the lesson for 18th May.

the requisite ammunition and lead. He dines and sups to the music of viols. He carries trained carpenters and artisans, so as to be able to careen the ship at any time. I understood that all the men he carries with him receive wages, because, when our ship was sacked, no man dared take anything without his orders. He has no favourite.

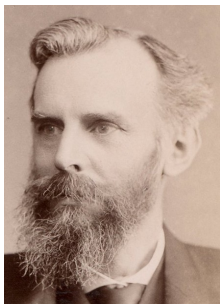
He also carries with him painters who paint for him pictures of the coast in its exact colours...

Use your dictionary to find the meaning of the words highlighted. Can you find Nombre de Dios in your atlas? How far is it from Deptford? Acapulco is in Mexico. Find it in your Atlas.

Something to listen to

See if you can find a recording of some music played by viols.[3] Then you will know what Drake enjoyed listening to while he ate his dinner on board ship.

Some maths and a sad story[4]



On 4th of March 1923 a gentleman died who had made a great contribution to the study of mathematics. His name was John Venn (1834-1923) and he came from a Christian family where he had a very privileged upbringing. His parents were most concerned that their children should come to know Jesus Christ as their own Saviour. They were members of a group of Christian families associated originally with William Wilberforce,[5] including Thomas Macaulay's parents about whom we read in the lesson for 28th December. In these lessons we often read about scientists, mathematicians and other explorers or pioneers who were Christians and whose discoveries about the marvels of God's handiwork world grew out of their faith in God's Word. John Venn's important discovery was the importance of a certain type of diagram – one which now bears his name.

Have you ever been asked to draw a Venn Diagram? Such a diagram is a very useful way of representing data about sets. It is a simple concept. Suppose you want to consider the books in your collection. The "universe" you are considering, then, might be called "my books". You can draw a large box on a piece of paper and head it "My Books".

You have some books that are fiction. Perhaps you have, *Robinson Crusoe, Heidi, Little Women* and *The Tale of Peter Rabbit.* You could draw a circle inside your big box and write the heading "Fiction" in it. Under that you could list *Robinson Crusoe, Heidi, Little Women* and *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* inside the circle. This is a *set* of fiction books.

Some of your books may be paper backs. Perhaps you have paperback copies of *The Microscope and How to Use It, The Life of John Wesley,* and *The Shorter Oxford Dictionary.* You draw another circle, label it "Paperback" and write the names of those books inside it. Then you notice that your copy of *Heidi* is a paperback too. It belongs inside both circles and is in both sets. How can you put the same book in two different circles? The answer is to make the circles *overlap* and write "Paperback fiction" in the space which falls inside *both* circles. I have drawn this diagram for you on the next page. Can you work out where you might put a circle for non-fiction books? Would it overlap either of the other circles – or both?

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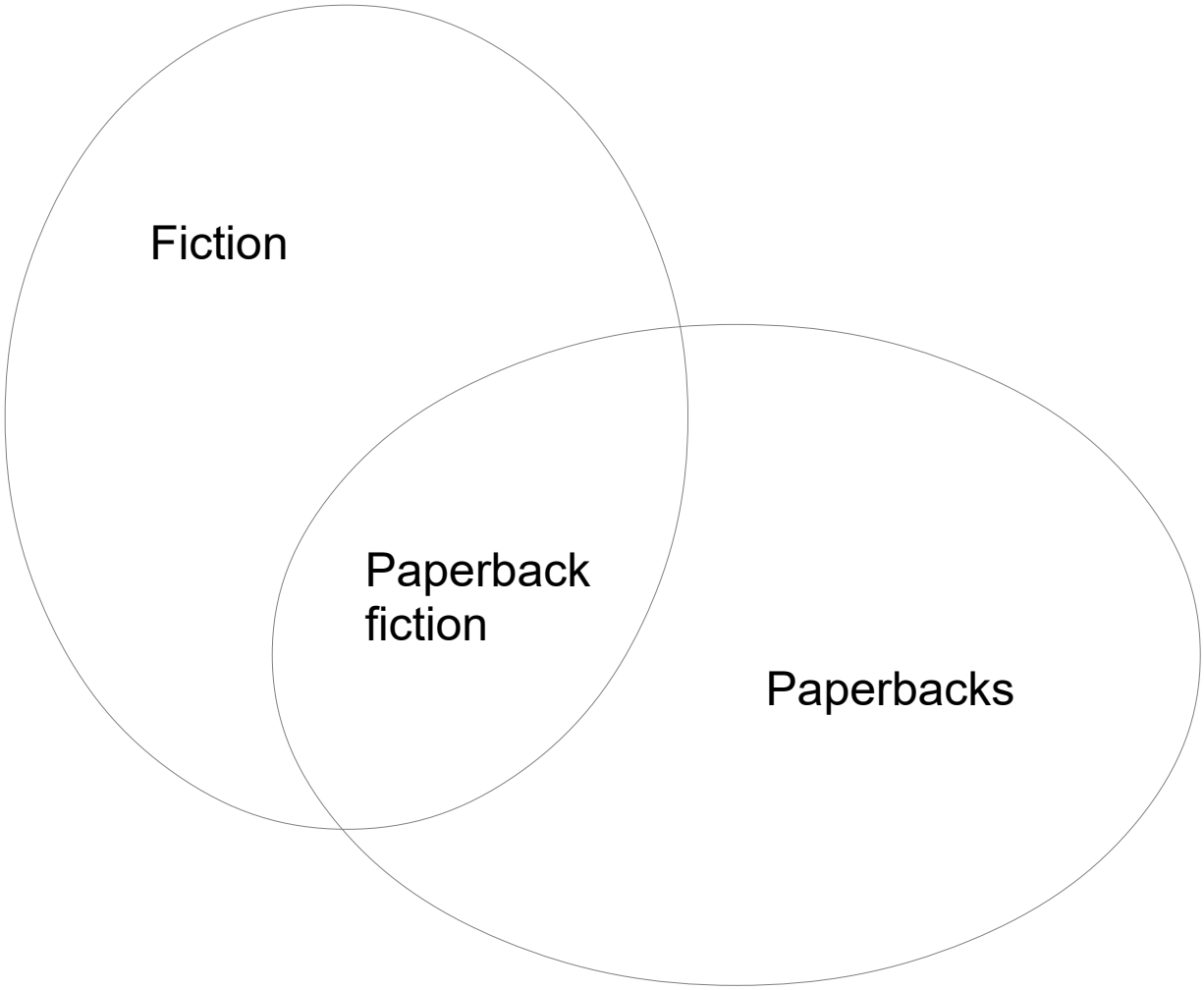
3 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgYeFtMT2mE for instance.

4 Information from Michelle (Ellie) Clewlow, MA (Oxon.), MA (Lond.) *Intersecting Sets: John Venn, Church and University, 1834-1923* PhD Thesis 2007 and other sources.

5 William Wilberforce is a name that comes up again and again in our lessons because he was such a remarkable Christian man. We read about him in connection with the prevention of cruelty to animals on 16th June, India on 23rd June and the abolition of the slave trade on 26th July and May 11th.

My Books



You can use Venn diagrams to illustrate all sorts of different sets and their relationship to one another. How would you draw the set of hot meals, the set of pasta dishes and the set of sweet foods inside the universe of foods?

But what about John Venn who discovered how useful these diagrams are? I am sorry to have to tell you that although he grew up in a Christian home, John Venn was not one of those Christian mathematicians and scientists I mentioned earlier. He loved his father dearly and respected him. His mother had died when he was young and his father did his best to give John and his siblings a happy childhood and a good education. Above all he was careful about their souls.

John accepted what his father taught him from the Bible without question and, as it turned out, without thinking very hard about it for himself either. He went off to Cambridge University to study and train to be a Church of England parson. His father was delighted; John would be the fourth generation of the Venn family to be in the Church of England ministry.

John did not read much as a youngster, quite the opposite of Thomas Macaulay, and when he got to Cambridge he began reading seriously for the first time. It was at this time that certain books were being published that threw doubt on the truth of what we find written in the Bible. Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* was published in 1859, popularising the idea that living things were not created, as the Bible describes, but had evolved. John read this book but it was another book published the following year and much less well known today, *Essays and Reviews,* that really made him begin to doubt the things that he had been taught at home.

Essays and Reviews was a collection of seven essays about the Bible. It sold 22,000 copies in its first two years, an immense number which shows just how much interest there was in theological issues at the time. One of the essays was about the Old Testament prophecies. It said these were not really predictions of things that we read in the New Testament. Another was about the miracles of the Bible. It said that they did not really happen. Another essay threw doubt on the idea that Hell is eternal. Another pointed out that it was not possible to harmonise what the geologists of the time were saying about the age of the earth with what was written in the Book of Genesis. This was true but the book did not draw the conclusion that there must therefore be something wrong with the geologists' conclusions. The final essay urged the reader to read (and criticise) the Bible "like any other book".

The ideas found in *Essays and Reviews* have all been carefully answered in detail many times over – now. In John Venn's day they were, or at least seemed, very new. He did not have the benefit that we have of a library of excellent books refuting these ideas. He read *Essays and Reviews* carefully. Then he began an examination. He did not examine whether what the book said was true. He examined the teaching of the Bible and decided whether he really believed it or not.

The first thing that he decided he did not really believe, although he had been taught it, was that Sunday, the Lord's Day, should be set aside as a special day to worship God in line with the fourth commandment. He classified this teaching as an "accretion", something stuck onto Christianity afterwards. Then he began to look for other "accretions".

After that he moved on to other Bible teachings which he called "outworks". By "outworks" he meant, things that were not essential to Christianity. Under this heading he included such things as the inspiration of the words of Scripture by God and the truth of the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. He found that he did not believe these things either although he had been taught them by his father. On he went with his examination. It was only a matter of time before he discovered that he did not believe that Jesus Christ died as the substitute for sinners.

By this time John Venn was a Church of England curate, serving alongside a parson in a local parish. He was preaching sermons. He was speaking on behalf of the Church Missionary Society and writing articles for the *Christian Observer* magazine. He later wrote of this time, "...much of what I said in public was only held by tradition or from respect for those I reverenced; not from rational conviction." In other words he was saying things he did not really believe because he did not want to create trouble. He was afraid of what his father would think if he made an open declaration of his new disbeliefs. In fact his father, Henry Venn, died without ever knowing that his son had rejected the truths which he (Henry Venn) held to be so precious.

The things which John Venn discovered about mathematics were true and useful. Non Christians often make such discoveries. When they do so, although they do not realise it, they are borrowing a Christian world-view. John Venn's story shows us clearly that however good our parents are and however much they endeavour to bring us to the truth, Christianity does not just run in families like hair colour or a liking for certain foods. Those of us, young and old, who come from Christian families should earnestly pray to the Lord to be brought to know the truth as it is in Jesus[6] and to be kept in it.[7]

Something to make

Today is the anniversary of the discovery of Vitamin C by Professor C. Glen King of the University of Pittsburgh, USA. It was on 4th April 1932 that the professor isolated the crystalline substance which is very useful in preventing the disease of scurvy and in helping the body's defences against infections. He used thousands of lemons in his experiments before he succeeded. Here is a very easy recipe for a drink which is packed with vitamin C. The recipe comes from my mother's old cookbook and is simple and delicious. Be patient though, if you start making it today you can't drink it until tomorrow!

Ingredients:
3 lemons
850 ml. (pint and a half) boiling water
120g (4 oz.) granulated sugar

Halve the lemons and squeeze out the juice. Reserve the juice and put the lemon halves, pips etc. in a basin with the sugar. Pour the boiling water over the lemons and stir to dissolve the sugar.

Leave until cold or (best) overnight. Strain into a jug and stir in the lemon juice. Chill well. Serve over ice.

Some arithmetic

An average lemon contains around 30mg of vitamin C. The daily requirement of vitamin C for an average adult is around 40mg. How much of this lemonade would you need to drink to get your daily requirement? (Assume that *all* the vitamin C in the lemon goes into the lemonade for this calculation although that may not be the case in reality.)[8]

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6 Ephesians 4:21.
7 The lesson for 9th January (yet to come) covers a related topic.
8 I make it 212.5 mls or 3/8 pint.