

6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

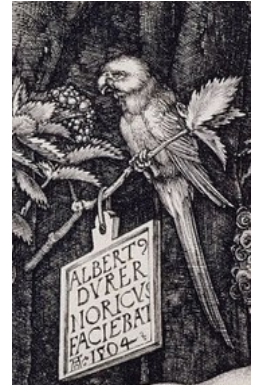
**Memory verse for the week:**

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

**Something to read aloud**

Two very great artists died on this day, their deaths separated by only eight years, Dürer and Raphael.

On **April 6<sup>th</sup>** 1528, Albrecht Dürer, the German painter and engraver, died in Nuremberg, which was also his birth-place, in 1471. Dürer lived at the time of the Reformation and was an older contemporary of the great German reformer Martin Luther (1483-1546). Luther was the man raised up by God to call people back to the Bible and its teaching. The discoveries, writing, teaching and preaching of Martin Luther had a great effect on Dürer's life.



Dürer grew up in a large family and his father, recognising his artistic abilities sent him to train in an artist's workshop. Here he not only learned the skills of painting and drawing but also of designing woodcuts. A woodcut is a picture cut into the surface of a block of wood. Ink can then be rubbed across the surface and the block pressed down onto a piece of paper. This was an important technique because the art of printing had recently been invented. Woodcuts could be used to put pictures into printed books.

After travelling to Italy to learn more about painting and drawing, Dürer set up his own shop in Nuremberg. He made prints of his pictures and these were sold by agents in fairs and markets. Before this technique was developed artists had to depend on rich customers ordering individual paintings. Dürer's pictures were mostly on subjects from the Bible. He was a brilliant observer of nature and put many accurately observed animals, birds and plants into his work. The parrot above is a very small detail from his picture of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. The sign hanging on the branch is in Latin it means "Albrecht Dürer of Nuremberg made this. 1504." If you look carefully at the bottom left corner of the little notice you will just make out this sign: It is an A and a D for Albrecht Dürer. You can find this sign somewhere in most of his pictures.



The same preacher, Johann von Staupitz, who had helped Luther to find salvation in Jesus Christ helped Dürer also to find peace in the Lord Jesus. At the bottom of a painting for the Nuremberg City Council he put:

*"All worldly rulers in these dangerous times should give good heed that they receive not human misguidance instead of the Word of God, for God will have nothing added to His Word nor taken away from it..."*

Dürer was telling the councillors to be sure that whatever they did was in line with what God tells us in his word. This is good advice for anyone in authority – and for all of us too.

At one time when Martin Luther had to hide from his enemies, Dürer thought he might be dead. He prayed:

*... if we have lost this man, who has written more clearly than any that has lived for 140 years, and to whom Thou hast given such a spirit of the Gospel, we pray Thee, O Heavenly Father, that Thou wouldst again give Thy Holy Spirit to another . . . O God, if Luther is*

*dead, who will henceforth deliver the Holy Gospel to us with such clearness?*

How happy Dürer must have been when he found out that his friend was still alive!

### Something to do

Here is Dürer's beautifully detailed picture of a hare. It's fur looks so real that you could almost stroke it! Can you see the artist's initials? The date is there too. The optional resources that go with this lesson show you how to draw a rabbit. When you have finished your drawing you can put your initials on it too, perhaps set out in a special way like those of Dürer, and don't forget the date!

You can make prints that work a little bit like woodcuts if you have some poster paints and some potatoes!<sup>1</sup> Cut a potato in half and cut your own designs directly on to the surface but be careful not to cut yourself! The design should be a simple shape. Mark it out on the potato surface and then cut away the surplus potato round it to leave a raised area in the shape you want. Then you can dip the surface of the potato in poster paint and press it onto paper to make a print.



Here is Dürer's picture of his wife. You might like to colour it in with water colours or coloured pencils if you are able to print out this page. I wonder what she is thinking about! Can you see the initials again? The words by it say "my Agnes" in German.

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<sup>1</sup>This video shows you how to use pastry cutters to make the designs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xhHCqigPpE>

Something to look at

Raphael was born in 1483 so he was younger than Dürer. He lived in Italy. Here is his picture of George and the Dragon.



Raphael was not aiming at the same kind of realism in this picture as Dürer was in his painting of a hare. I think Raphael's horse looks as if he is having a bit of a laugh at the whole business! Compare the tail of the horse with Dürer's treatment of the hare's fur. What do you notice?