April 8th

Memory verse for the week:

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

Something to think about

On April 8th 1530 the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V convened the Diet of Augsburg. This was during the Reformation and the Diet led to one of the most important documents that the Reformation produced. This was the *Confession of Augsburg* written by Philip Melanchthon, Martin Luther's friend and successor as leader of the Protestant cause in Germany. In this document Melanchthon set out Luther's great discovery from the Bible that salvation is by faith alone. He pointed out that the teaching that you had to confess your sins to a priest, attend Mass, fast, and observe of special days to be saved was inconsistent with the teaching of the Bible. If we trust in Jesus as our Saviour from sin he will forgive us because he paid the penalty we deserve when he died on the cross.

Something to read aloud

After lunch on April 8th 1941, Gerry Sayer, chief test pilot of the Gloster Aircraft Company, climbed into the cockpit of an experimental monoplane, the Gloster E.28. He taxied down the runway, turned into the wind, increased his engine speed and released his brakes.
The aeroplane moved forward, lurched once or twice, then left the ground, travelling for 200 yards before landing again.

Spectators on the aerodrome who knew nothing about the E.28 gasped with amazement and an American mechanic working nearby on the wing of a Stirling bomber, nearly fell off in surprise. For this aeroplane now taxiing back to the end of the runway before repeating the performance, had no propeller!

They did not realize that they were witnessing the first flight of a British jet plane and the climax to years of hard work and hard thinking by Frank Whittle, who had built the engine.
A few weeks later, on the 15th May, again with Gerry Sayer at the controls, the E.28 made its first official flight, disappearing into a bank of clouds and circling the aerodrome before landing. He reached a speed of 370 mph in level flight, much faster than the famous Spitfire. The jet age had begun.

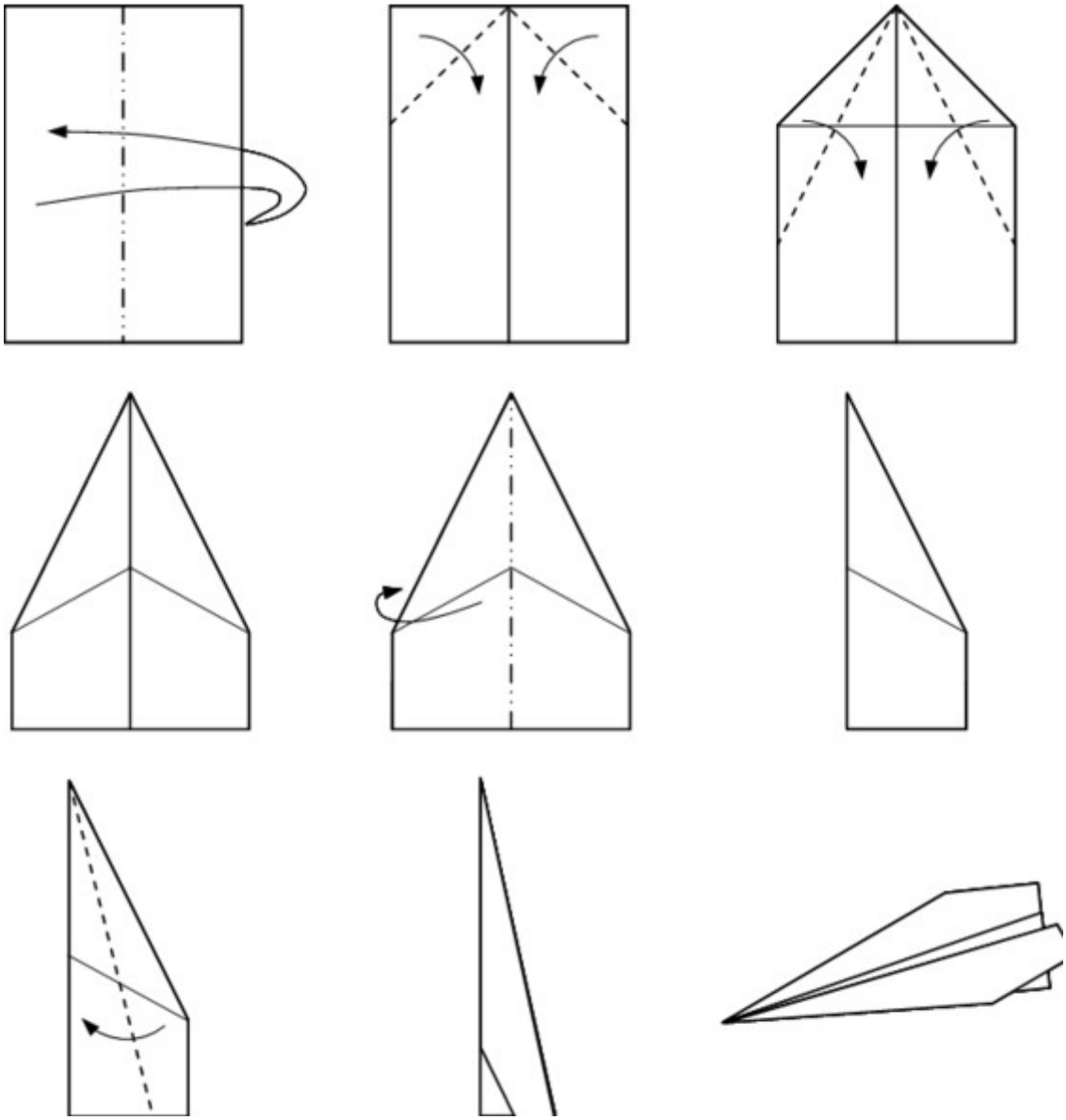
Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle, OM, KBE, CB, FRS, FRAeS (1907-1996) did not do very well at school. Perhaps this was because he spent all his spare time studying books on science and engineering. He wanted to join the Royal Air Force when he was 15 but was rejected because at 5 foot, he was too short.
Undaunted, he put himself through an exercise programme, grew three inches, applied again and was accepted. He studied at the RAF College at Cranwell and began work on jet propulsion after

submitting an essay on the subject.[1]

The illustration above shows the memorial to Frank Whittle in the middle of a roundabout just south of Lutterworth. It is a full sized replica of the Gloster E.28/39, the engine of which was produced in Lutterworth.

Something to make

Make your own paper aeroplanes. Instructions for folding an A4 sheet of paper can be found below. Used paper is fine especially for practice attempts. These planes fly best on a still day (dry, of course) outside. If you use them indoors be careful not to break things!



1You can watch the plane fly here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2YtL123Sik

Something to find out about

Another first for flight engineers happened on 8th April. The Gemini I space craft was launched on this date in 1964 on an unmanned orbital test flight.[2] The remarkable way in which God has designed birds to fly is the inspiration for flight engineers.[3] Engineers often imitate God's designs in this way and this field of engineering is called *biomimetics*.

Something to sing

Great Thomas the door closer of Oxford renovated April 8, 1680 in the reign of Charles II. Deacon John, the Bishop of Oxford and sub-Deacon give thanks for the knowledge of Henry Smith and the care and workmanship of Christopher Hodson.

Thus reads the inscription on a very famous bell, Great Tom, housed in the octagonal Tom Tower over the gatehouse to Christ's Church College, Oxford. Great Tom is the loudest bell in Oxford. It is rung at five past nine every evening 101 times. It used to be the signal for the colleges to lock their gates for the night. The bell weighs six and a quarter tons. There is a round associated with the bell which you will enjoy singing. There is a copy in today's Optional Resources files and an audio file which will give you a rough idea of how it goes.[4]

2https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXTQRutb54Y tells you all about it.
3Older children will enjoy reading about Professor Stuart Burgess here: https://creation.com/stuart-burgess-interview-biomimetics
4 You can hear and see the bell in action here: https://youtu.be/Ce3UR8PLbsU