

29th June

Memory verse

**One generation shall praise thy works to another,
and shall declare thy mighty acts.** Psalm 145:4

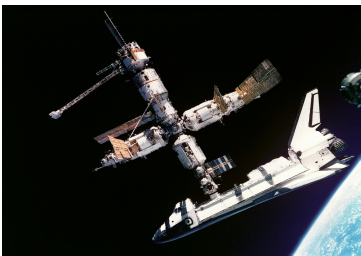
Something to look at

The Flemish artist Sir Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) was born on 29th June. He received his knighthood from Charles I to whom he was sent as an ambassador by Philip II of Spain in 1630. He was commissioned to paint the ceiling of the banqueting hall of Whitehall Palace, the sumptuous building designed by Inigo Jones as a royal palace for Charles I.¹

One of his most attractive paintings was not made to be sold. Rubens kept it himself, perhaps to use in teaching the apprentices (remember Caxton 25th June – more links with him below) he employed in his Antwerp studio. The old woman shields the candle flame while the lad on the left lights his own candle from hers. Rubens has painted a very natural everyday scene every detail of which is carefully observed. He has created a face so full of interest that in its own way it is as beautiful as that of the Mona Lisa at which we looked in the lesson on 15th April. Unlike the Mona Lisa who looks calmly out of the picture at us, the old lady and her grandson (?) do not know that we are watching them. She looks away from the candle to protect her weak eyes; he looks up at her. The painting might be seen as a beautiful illustration of this week's memory verse – although perhaps Rubens did not realise it!



If you would like to do some portrait art yourself there are some instructions in the lesson for 15th April that might be helpful.



Space history

On 29th June 1995, the US Space Shuttle Atlantis docked with the Russian space station Mir. Led by Commander Hoot Gibson, Mission STS-71 lasted until 4 Jul 1995 and included the exchange of Russian crew members. The mission tested a module designed to link shuttles with the international space station which was not yet completed.

Together, the shuttle and the MIR station were the largest man-made satellite ever to orbit the Earth.²

1 You can see the huge canvasses which were installed in 1630 here: <https://www.hrp.org.uk/banqueting-house/whats-on/rubens-ceiling/#gs.8ikupb>.

2 You can watch a clip from the docking here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gk8hsEBktrs>

Something to think about.³

On **29th June** 1850 Robert Peel (1788-1850) died after being thrown from his horse in Hyde Park. He had entered the government in 1822, the son of a wealthy cotton manufacturer and an able Tory politician. Becoming Home Secretary in 1823 Peel introduced a number of measures designed to alleviate the suffering of the poor. This was a time of much hunger and distress in the country as bread prices were high. There had been riots and the government was afraid of violent revolution. Peel revised the whole penal system, simplifying and softening harsh laws in relation to prison discipline and transportation, and removing the death penalty for more than one hundred offences. He created the Metropolitan Police Force in 1829, a much needed improvement on the previous state of affairs which relied on the City Watch to catch criminals. Peel knew that the certainty of detection was a better deterrent to crime than over harsh punishment – which would not be carried out if the criminal was not caught. Peel did not want his police officers to look like soldiers so he had the men wear long blue coats and top hats. They were allowed no weapons except truncheons. Resented at first they were called Peelers, and then Bobbies after their inventor.

In Britain we have a system of justice which has grown up over hundreds of years. As Christian influences grew strong in the country the system improved. Robert Peel's police were separate from the judicial system which decided whether or not a person who had been arrested was guilty of breaking the law. For serious offences the person charged was tried by a jury made up of twelve ordinary people called up to serve as jurors. The justice system in turn was separated from the government who could not interfere with the appointment of judges or selection of juries. This helped to prevent people being imprisoned for opposing the government. The police still cannot put a person in prison without a trial to decide whether they have broken the law today. This is not the case in many parts of the world where the government can do what it likes without opposition. In China, for instance, there are no such checks to stop the government imprisoning Christians in its attempts to crush Christianity – on made up charges. In Britain, as Christian influence wanes, the systems no longer work as well as they once did, but we can be thankful for the degree of protection we still have from injustice.



Something to make

According to some on-line date lists, on **29th June** 1285 Westminster Abbey was completed. I can find no reference to this date in any of the sources I consulted that give the history of the Abbey but it is a good excuse to look at some of the history and features of one of London's most famous buildings.

Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) built an Abbey building on the site and it was consecrated in 1065. This was embellished by William the conqueror who was the first king to be crowned in the building. This building was almost completely pulled down by Henry III (1216-1272) who built a new Abbey which mostly remains today. This work was carried on by his successor Edward I (1272-1307). Alterations, additions and repairs have continued down to the present day; a new stained glass window marking the long reign of our late Queen, Elizabeth II, has recently been installed. The Abbey has lost much early stained glass. A great deal of the loss was sustained during the



³ Adapted from *The Story of God's Dealings with our Nation* Volume 2 which is available here: <https://www.creationresearchstore.com/s/search?q=The%20Story%20of%20Gods%20Dealings%20with%20our%20Nation> and Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today* Volume 2, available on the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive. <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>.

Second World War. The two spectacular rose (round stained glass) windows survived the bombing.⁴ If you would like to make your own rose window design you can do so with greaseproof paper and felt tip pens. If you want to cut out an outline in black paper to put on top of the greaseproof paper you could try using the snowflake instructions in the lesson for June 11th. Cut the shape out of a circle of paper instead of a square. Unless you want to, there is no need to do the difficult six fold of the paper. Eight would do just as well for a window. If you leave a border of paper at the bottom you will get a round window shape with patterns inside. If you cut off the point of the folded paper you will get a design with a hole in the middle. Experiment first on some scrap paper. When you have a good shape stick it onto some greaseproof paper and cut round the edge. Now you can fill in the “glass” with colours using felt tip pens.

Something to bake

Stained glass window biscuits

50g butter, 50g caster sugar, 140g plain flour, 1 medium egg, 1tsp vanilla essence, some clear hard boiled sweets.

Combine all ingredients except the sweets until you have a rollable dough. Roll this out and cut into shapes with biscuit or pastry cutters. Now make a small hole in the centre of each shape. Fill each hole with one crushed sweet.

Bake at 190C/170C Fan/Gas 5 for eight minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

Something to colour

Here is an inspiring rose window design. There is an outline rose window on the following page which you could colour in if you have a printer available.



⁴ You can see them here: <https://shop.westminster-abbey.org/inside-stories/post/rose-window>.

