

18th May

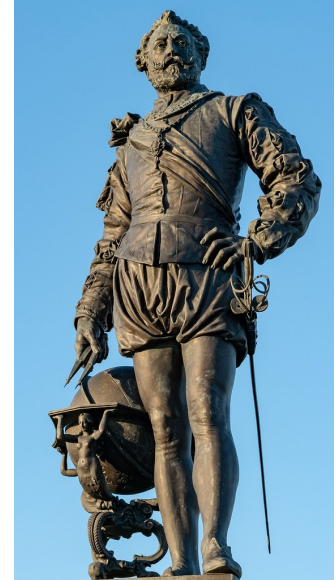
Memory Verse

What manner of man is this, that **even the winds and the sea obey him!** Matthew 8:27

When Jesus calmed the storm at sea his disciples were amazed and this is what they said. You will understand why I chose this text for a memory verse this week when you read the story below. It is a good reminder that God is still in charge of the elements and that he takes care of his people. Little ones can say the words in bold and understand that “him” is Jesus.

This story is called *God Blew With His Winds and They Were Scattered*¹

Do you remember Phillip II of Spain from the lesson on April 16th about William the Silent? He was William's enemy and he wanted to completely exterminate “that cursed vermin the Protestants” from the world. He hated Queen Elizabeth I of England and wanted England for himself. He prepared a great fleet, the Armada, to invade England but it was destroyed in the harbour in **Cadiz** in Spain by the daring of that great navigator, Sir Francis Drake. Drake sent fire ships right into the harbour where the Spanish vessels were moored and the fleet was burnt up.² “I have singed the King of Spain's beard!” said Drake.



Drake's bold action delayed the Armada for a year. During this time Elizabeth was able to make her preparations for defence. Preparation was certainly needed. On **18th May** 1588 the Spanish fleet set sail. It consisted of 132 ships with 10,000 sailors and 20,000 soldiers on board. Its orders were to sail up the Channel and join forces with the Duke of Parma in the Netherlands where a further 30,000 Spanish troops would be added. It would then sail to England for the invasion. You will remember from the story of William the Silent, that at this time the Spanish were fighting in the Netherlands against the Netherlanders who wanted to be free from persecuting Spanish rule.

The English fleet was quite different. It consisted of 34 ships of the Royal Navy supplemented with about 150 merchant and private ships which had been converted into fighting ships. Unlike the Spanish ships, the English ships were not crowded with soldiers. This made them easier to manage. The English sailors were more experienced than the Spanish and their ships were quicker and easier to manoeuvre. Their guns had a longer range than those of the Spanish and the English ships, being lower in the water, could fire into the sides of the Spanish ships while the Spanish shots passed over them.

The English vessels were divided into two forces. One to guard the western part of the **English Channel** against the approaching Spanish, and the other to guard the eastern part of the Channel where The Duke of Parma was waiting. The idea was to prevent the Spanish ships from meeting up with the Duke of Parma and his men.

It was the **18th of May** when the Armada left the harbour of Cadiz but it was July before it reached the entrance to the English Channel. When it reached **Plymouth** the English could not sail out of harbour because the wind was a south-westerly gale. Drake warped³ out his ships from the harbour

1 Elizabeth had this inscription in Latin (*Flavit Deus et dissipati sunt*) placed on a medal to commemorate the Defeat of the Armada.

2 Fire ships were vessels deliberately set alight and sent in among the enemy's ships to set them on fire.

3 Sailing ships could be manoeuvred by being towed by rowing vessels if the wind was unfavourable. This was called warping.

and got them to windward⁴ of the Armada. Then he attacked with his guns. The Spanish were driven along the Channel for the next seven days while they fought a running battle with the English ships. They anchored in Calais Roads but on the next day they saw eight English fire ships coming towards them. The Spanish quickly cut their anchor cables and fled from the destruction of the fire ships. A strong north west wind now put them at the mercy of the English ships. The English ships were able to completely defeat the Spanish by their quick manoeuvring and strong guns. By this time the Spanish were exhausted and their supplies were low. They did not dare to sail back down the Channel to return to Spain. Drake would be waiting for them! Instead they tried to sail round the coast of England, Scotland and Ireland to reach home. Only 53 of the Spanish ships reached Spain. They had lost four or five in the battle. The rest were wrecked on the treacherous rocks round the British coast. The English, who had not lost one ship in the battle, chased them until they ran out of powder for their guns. They then left the Spanish to founder on the rocks.⁵

Map work

There is more map work coming up later but for now you might like to look at a map of Europe to see where the Armada started from, and the route it was forced to take home. I have marked some places for you to look up in **green** above.

As part of the preparations to defeat the Armada a great chain of beacons was prepared to spread the news of the Armada's approach as soon as it was sighted. Some of these sites, such as the one at Alderley Edge in Cheshire are still known today.

Something to read aloud

Here is a poem about the Armada Beacons by Thomas Babington Macaulay. You can enjoy reading it aloud as you did the speeches last week. Before you practice reading the poem aloud, break it down into paragraphs and mark a pause before each. Remember to follow the punctuation *not the line breaks* as you read. And do *not* emphasise the beat of the lines like this:

It was a-bout the love-ly close of a warm sum-mer day,

Just read the words as *if it were prose*, the poetry will come out better! If the poem talks about hurrying, speed up a little; if it talks of something happening slowly (like the banner unfurling lines 30-33), read more slowly. Read the commands beginning “ho!” like a commanding officer! I think this is a difficult poem to end when reading aloud because the ending is not a dramatic event like the defeat of the Armada – just the message reaching Carlisle. The point is that the *whole* country was united and waiting to defend our islands. I think I would speed the pace slightly towards the end where the beacon message is flashing further north and then slow down for the last line when Carlisle is reached and the whole country is finally at action stations.

Attend, all ye who list⁶ to hear our noble England's praise;
I tell of the thrice famous deeds she wrought in ancient days,
When that great fleet invincible against her bore in vain
The richest spoils of Mexico⁷, the stoutest hearts of Spain.
It was about the lovely close of a warm summer day,
There came a gallant merchant-ship full sail to Plymouth Bay;
Her crew had seen Castile's black fleet beyond **Aurigny**⁸'s isle,

5

4 The direction from which the wind is coming is windward.

5 Adapted from *The Story of God's Dealings with our Nation* Volume 1 which is available here: <https://blogaboutbritain.co.uk/product-category/history>.

6 want

7 The money that paid for the Armada came from the silver mines in the New World.

8 Guernsey.

At earliest twilight, on the waves lie heaving many a mile.
 At sunrise she escaped their van, by God's especial grace,
 And the tall *Pinta*, till the noon, had held her close in chase. 10
 Forthwith a guard at every gun was placed along the wall;
 The beacon blazed upon the roof of **Edgumbe**⁹'s lofty hall;
 Many a light fishing-bark put out to pry along the coast,
 And with loose rein and bloody spur rode inland many a post,
 With his white hair, unbonneted, the stout old sheriff comes; 15
 Behind him march the halberdiers; before him sound the drums;
 His yeomen round the market cross make clear an ample space;
 For there behoves him to set up the standard of Her Grace¹⁰.
 And haughtily the trumpets peal, and gaily dance the bells,
 As slow upon the labouring wind the royal blazon swells, 20
 Look how the Lion of the sea lifts up his ancient crown,
 And underneath his deadly paw treads the gay lilies down.
 So stalked he when he turned to flight, on that famed Picard field,
 Bohemia's plume, and Genoa's bow, and Caesar's eagle shield¹¹.
 So glared he when at Agincourt in wrath he turned to bay, 25
 And crushed and torn beneath his claws the princely hunters lay.
 Ho! strike the flagstaff deep, sir Knight: ho! scatter flowers, fair maids:
 Ho! gunners, fire a loud salute: ho! gallants, draw your blades:
 Thou sun, shine on her joyously; ye breezes, waft her wide;
 Our glorious *semper eadem*, the banner of our pride¹². 30
 The freshening breeze of eve unfurled that banner's massy fold;
 The parting gleam of sunshine kissed that haughty scroll of gold:
 Night sank upon the dusky beach, and on the purple sea,
 Such night in England ne'er had been, nor e'er again shall be.
 From **Eddystone** to **Berwick**¹³ bounds, from **Lynn**¹⁴ to **Milford Bay**¹⁵, 35
 That time of slumber was as bright and busy as the day;
 For swift to east and swift to west the ghastly war-flame spread,
 High on **St. Michael's Mount** it shone: it shone on **Beachy Head**¹⁶.
 Far on the deep the Spaniard saw, along each southern shire, 40
 Cape beyond cape, in endless range, those twinkling points of fire.
 The fisher left his skiff to rock on **Tamar**'s glittering waves:
 The rugged miners poured to war from **Mendip**'s sunless caves:
 O'er **Longleat**'s towers, o'er **Cranbourne**'s oaks, the fiery herald flew
 And roused the shepherds of **Stonehenge**, the rangers of **Beaulieu**.
 Right sharp and quick the bells all night rang out from **Bristol** town, 45
 And ere the day three hundred horse had met on **Clifton** down;
 The sentinel on **Whitehall** gate looked forth into the night,
 And saw o'erhanging **Richmond Hill** that streak of blood-red light.
 Then bugle's note and cannon's roar the death-like silence broke,
 And with one start, and with one cry, the royal city woke. 50

9 Mount Edgumbe House near Plymouth.

10 The Queen.

11 I think this refers to the Battle of Crécy.

12 The royal coat of arms included a crowned lion at the top with lilies include in the emblems further down. The words *semper eadem* "always the same" was around the bottom.

13 Berwick on Tweed on the Scottish borders (bounds).

14 King's Lynn, Norfolk

15 Milford Haven. The four places in this line mark out a cross from South to North and from East to West of England with Wales.

16 This line is marked by two places; they are the at the west and east end of the southern shore of Britain.

At once on all her stately gates arose the answering fires;
 At once the wild alarm clashed from all her reeling spires;
 From all the batteries of the Tower pealed loud the voice of fear;
 And all the thousand masts of Thames sent back a louder cheer;
 And from the farthest wards was heard the rush of hurrying feet, 55
 And the broad streams of pikes and flags rushed down each roaring
 street;
 And broader still became the blaze, and louder still the din,
 As fast from every village round the horse came spurring in;
 And eastward straight from wild **Blackheath** the warlike errand went,
 And roused in many an ancient hall the gallant squires of **Kent**. 60
 Southward from **Surrey**'s pleasant hills flew those bright couriers forth;
 High on bleak **Hampstead**'s swarthy moor they started for the north;
 And on, and on, without a pause, untired they bounded still:
 All night from tower to tower they sprang; they sprang from hill to hill:
 Till the proud **Peak** unfurled the flag o'er **Darwin**¹⁷'s rocky dales 65
 Till like volcanoes flared to heaven the stormy hills of Wales¹⁸,
 Till twelve fair counties saw the blaze on **Malvern**'s lonely height,
 Till streamed in crimson on the wind the **Wrekin**'s crest of light,
 Till broad and fierce the star came forth on **Ely**'s stately fane,
 And tower and hamlet rose in arms o'er all the boundless plain; 70
 Till **Belvoir**'s¹⁹ lordly terraces the sign to **Lincoln** sent,
 And Lincoln sped the message on o'er the wide vale of **Trent**;
 Till **Skiddaw** saw the fire that burned on **Gaunt**'s²⁰ embattled pile,
 And the red glare on Skiddaw roused the burghers of **Carlisle**.

More map work

I have marked the beacons in **green** and the places from which the soldiers and sailors came in answer in **purple**. You should be able to find them all. The poem does not exactly trace the route of the beacon messages but gives an impression of the message flashing all over the countryside. Is there an Armada beacon near where you live? There were many more than those listed in the poem and the places are often still marked by a plaque or sign.

Something to write

Imagine you lived at the time of the Armada. Write a diary entry saying how you saw the beacon and what the people of your town or village did in response.

Make a picture

Do you enjoy those picture books with tabs to pull that make things move or pop up? I certainly do! Here is a very simple moving picture you can make yourself. You will need a picture of a galleon (how to draw one is here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUtWsaCRulw> I recommend watching with the sound muted and the pause button to hand) and an A4 or larger piece of card. If you can get a blue piece of card, so much the better for making sea and sky. The front of a cereal box would do but if you want to make a whole Armada, not just one galleon, you will need a very big piece of card! Some paints, felt tip pens or pencils or crayons and sellotape are also required.

¹⁷ Darwen in the Lancashire moors.

¹⁸ The Brecon Beacons.

¹⁹ Pronounced "beaver"

²⁰ Hill in the middle of Lancaster.

Take your piece of card and, using it in landscape rather than portrait fashion, draw a horizon about one third of the way down. Now fill in the picture with sea below and sky above. Use your paints and be creative, waves, sea birds, fish, sun, clouds – anything you can think of. Now draw your galleon on a separate piece of lightish weight card (back of an old birthday card might do), colour it and cut it out.

In the middle of the sea, make a horizontal, wavy slit with a craft knife (careful!) or scissors (even more careful!) a little longer than the hull of your galleon. Now, with sellotape, stick a strip of card on the back of the galleon long enough for it to project below the bottom of the seascape when the galleon is sitting in the slot. This will form the tab to enable the galleon to be rocked gently at anchor.

Sit the galleon in the slot. On the back of the whole thing you should now see the bottom of the hull with the tab hanging down. Stick another strip of card on the back of the picture near the bottom at right angles to the tab strip. Fasten it at each end only. Slip the tab through it and it will form a kind of buffer to stop the tab moving too far in either direction.

I have put my rough and ready version on the optional resources file for today so that you can see how it works – you will be able to do a much more artistic job. What I have given you is a very basic outline. You can add rocks in the foreground, turn the whole thing into a collage, add more galleons and so on if you wish. You may even be able to adjust the slot and tab so that if pulled down gently the galleon sinks below the waves!

Maths

132 ships. 10,000 sailors. 20,000 soldiers. Approximately how many people on each ship? As far as I can find out a 500 ton galleon would be 160 feet (about 49 metres) long by 32 feet (10 metres) wide. You may be able to pace that out next time you are in the park or you may be able to measure and compare it in terms of your own house. Bear in mind that a galleon is not a rectangle, it's well, it's boat shaped! Would a galleon shape give a larger "floor" area than a rectangle of those dimensions or smaller?

Would they have had:

- plenty of space
- been a bit cramped
- been very squashed

in accommodation of that size?

Drake had 34 ships. How many more had the Spanish than Drake?

Was the ratio of Spanish to English ships closer to 1:4 or 1:3?

Something to think about

Why? Why did God so order the winds and waves that the Armada could not reach its objective and was defeated and broken up by storms as it tried to round the British Isles? Was it because England was a "Protestant" nation and Spain a Catholic one? I think we might think a little more deeply than that.

What would have happened if the Armada had had very favourable conditions and Drake and his men had been completely out manoeuvred? Let's imagine for a moment that Phillip II achieved his aim and conquered England. To imagine what he would have done next we have to go back a little in history.

Before Elizabeth became Queen of England, her sister Mary Tudor had been on the throne. Mary had been married to... Phillip II of Spain! Mary's reign had been marked by intense persecution. It was she who had had godly men such as Ridley, Latimer, Cranmer, and a host of others great and

small burnt at the stake for refusing to abandon their faith. Under Elizabeth and her successors things were different. Persecution did not stop overnight but a long, long process began which eventually led to freedom of worship. The process was slow and uneven with many reverses. Throughout it all there flowered an outpouring of literature – Puritan literature we would call it – that gave us Baxter and Bunyan, Manton and Milton, Owen and Law, Flavel, Perkins, Watkins, Sibbes... Their books are spiritual treasures that have refreshed Christians down the ages both in England and the New World.

If Phillip's iron hand had crushed English Puritanism in its cradle and reduced England to a spiritual desert like that of Spain, none of this literature would have existed. Indeed the Puritan settlement in the New World may never even have happened. Instead, Phillip would have had an excellent base in England from which to carry on his war against the Netherlands and perhaps have defeated the Netherlanders.

“Thus you see,” wrote Puritan John Flavel, “when wicked men have contrived and are ready to execute their wickedness, Providence claps on its manacles²¹ 'so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise.' (Job 5:12) ”

“Be of good cheer, master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle in England, as I trust, by God's grace, shall never be put out,” said Latimer when he and Ridley were sent by Mary to be burnt in 1555. His trust was not misplaced; God had a whole interconnecting chain of His Providence to unfold – so 1588 He blew with His winds...

Something to investigate²²

On **May 18th**, 1889, at the Queen's College sports in Belfast, the cycle race was won by a man named William Hume. It was an unexpected victory, for Hume was not one of the best riders competing and his appearance on the track had produced jeers and rude remarks from the spectators. Instead of the usual solid tyres, his machine was fitted with bulky, blown up rubber tyres. They looked very clumsy and the crowd were surprised when Hume not only held his own but sailed to the front to win easily. For the first time ever the pneumatic tyre was used on a race track and proved greatly superior to its solid competitors. But why do tyres filled with air work better than solid ones? Perhaps if you have ever had the annoyance of a bicycle tyre puncture you will have wondered why bikes don't have solid tyres! Inflated rubber tyres have a lower rolling resistance to the road surface than solid tyres. Not only do they make your ride more comfortable so that you do not feel all the jolts, they also means less wasted energy, making your bicycle more efficient to ride. That is why Hume won the race! The moral of this tale is to keep an eye on your bike's tyres. Make sure they are always pumped up to the correct pressure. If the pressure is too low riding will be harder work. If you want to understand more about rolling resistance there is an excellent explanation here: <https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/1341-rolling-resistance>.



21 Something like handcuffs!

22 Adapted from Owen, Evan *What Happened Today* Volume 2 which is included in the *Mothers' Companion* compendium of Home Education resources available here: <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>