

19<sup>th</sup> May

### Memory Verse

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

### Something to look out for

In mid May we are on the edge of summer, and on this day in 1711, Jonathan Swift wrote in his journal; “Do you know that about our town we are mowing already and making hay, and it smells so sweet as we walk through the flowery meads.”

The town was London and he would have to travel a long way from the centre of the city today before he could walk in flowery meadows and watch the hay making. Yet even in our modern industrial towns there are many signs of summer for those who know where to look and what to look for. Most of the birds that visit us every summer have arrived and many of them already have their nests filled with hungry young fledglings.



House-martins and swallows are sweeping through the air in their search for food and you may see a swift, a tiny speck wheeling and diving high up in the sky above the house-tops.<sup>1</sup>

### Something to read

In May 1792 Royal Navy Commander George Vancouver and the officers of HMS *Discovery* were charting the inlets of Puget Sound at Point Lawton, near present-day **Seattle** in the USA. They were surveying the northern Pacific Ocean coast of America as part of an expedition that had left **England** in April of the previous year. The expedition was tasked with exploring the Pacific and they had already been to **Cape Town, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Hawaii**. Wherever they went they had surveyed coast lines and collected botanical samples. As



his ship passed the mouth of the Columbia River on **19<sup>th</sup> May**, Vancouver noted a magnificent mountain some 100 miles in land. Vancouver and his men had the job of making maps of places where no maps had previously existed and this meant that they often had to give names to geographical features that had not had names before – at least not names that people from England knew anything about! Vancouver often chose the names of officers on the ship or of his friends back in England to name what he saw and later he assigned the name *Mount St Helens* to this mountain, after his friend Baron St Helens.



Mount St Helens is a volcano and on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1980, the day before the 188<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vancouver's discovery, it erupted in a spectacular outburst that killed fifty-seven people and changed our ideas of how fast geological features can appear forever. Features previously thought to take long ages to form were observed being laid down in days. Scientists who believe the Bible had long been arguing that the geological features we see around us date from the flood of Noah's day when the “fountains of the great deep” were broken up (Genesis 7:11). Now everyone could see the evidence for this with their own eyes.

<sup>1</sup> 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>

### Something to study

Watch the footage from the eruption here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYla6q3is6w> and then study the implications here:

<https://creation.com/lessons-from-mount-st-helens>. This is a long article but older children would benefit from reading it and an adult could read aloud parts of it if that was more suitable.

### Map Work

Trace Captain Vancouver's journey by looking up the places highlighted in **green** above in a map of the world or a globe. You may be able to work out how many miles he had come since setting out in April 1791.

### Experiment

How to make your own volcano!

You can make a volcano “working model” using salt dough to form the cone around a container such as a small pop bottle; and vinegar, washing up liquid, food colouring and bicarbonate of soda to make it erupt.

First make some salt dough using whatever method you usually use or the recipe below:

Ingredients:

6 cups flour

2 cups salt

2 cups water

4 tablespoons cooking oil

2 cups water

Method:

Mix all in a large bowl. Stir the flour, salt, and oil together first and then mix in the water, adding more if needed for a firm, smooth dough.

Now stand your pop bottle on a baking tray, or any surface where a mess will not matter, and mould the dough round the bottle into a cone shaped “Mount St Helens”. Be sure to leave the opening of the bottle clear of dough as you will need to pour in some ingredients later. If you are very patient and are keen for a realistic effect you can wait for the salt dough to dry and then paint it. You will not be able to erupt the volcano today though.

Now for the eruption! Get your geologists ready with their seismographs!

First, pour warm water into the volcano (i.e. into the hidden bottle) until it is about half to three quarters full and add a few drops of red, orange or yellow food colouring. Then add a squirt of washing up liquid. This will help the “lava” foam up and flow nicely. Next, add about two teaspoons of bicarbonate of soda. Now everything is ready. The final ingredient will cause the volcano to erupt. This is the vinegar. If you don't have any, lemon juice or orange juice would do. Stand by and add a little carefully.

How does it work? Of course, not like a real volcano which is caused by pressure building up under the earth's surface and being released at a weak point in the earth's crust. In your volcano the bicarbonate of soda, which is an alkali reacts with the vinegar which is an acid to produce the gas carbon-dioxide.<sup>2</sup> Carbon-dioxide gas is heavier than air so it flows down the sides of your volcano, trapped in the water bubbles by the detergent.

If you want your volcano to erupt a second time you can add more bi-carbonate of soda and then more vinegar. Note that your “volcano” erupts upwards, as many volcanos do. At Mount St Helens the force of the blast blew away the side of the mountain.

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<sup>2</sup> Older children who want to know more about acids and alkalis can watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmhOttroIrw>

### A story from history – found in an old church record book<sup>3</sup>

Have you ever been in a situation where you cannot go to church? During the Covid scare many of us could not go and we all looked forward to the happy day when we could go to church together again. “I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'”, wrote the Psalmist and at that time we realised that the opposite is true also. But how would you feel if the government had put your minister into prison; if there were spies watching to catch anyone going to church or meeting together quietly for services and not temporarily because of an illness but, in the government's intention at any rate, *for ever*?

This is what happened on **19<sup>th</sup> May** 1662 when the Act of Uniformity was passed. The chronicler who wrote down the experiences of the little congregation in Axminster, Devon noted:

*...on that one day, that black and dismal day never to be forgotten, were many hundreds of eminent, pious, learned, faithful ministers of the gospel in the land put to silence... Now some weeks before this edict was to be put into execution, Mr Bartholomew Ashwood, pastor of this church, on a Lord's day in the morning, was apprehended by soldiers, carried before a magistrate, who there refusing such oaths as were imposed on him was sent to the common gaol in Exeter...*

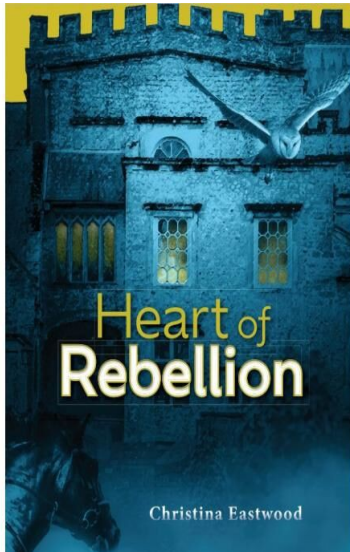
*There was... one Nicholas Lowring who...had... been very ready to open his door for the congregation to meet in his house. And now the Lord stirred up his heart in such a day as this to prepare a place for them to assemble together in a secret lonesome place, having wisely contrived it so that it could not be suspected any people could get under the covert that was over it, it being beneath a bank of the earth.... ... the church being assembled in this desert place, according to appointment, celebrated that great and sacred ordinance of the Lord's Supper; and it was a night much to be remembered for the wonderful protection the Lord gave his people in such a dangerous day, when bands of rude soldiers were in divers places round about them... And the Lord made this a feasting season to them, and, which must not be omitted, notwithstanding the dolour and dismalness of that day, there was this night a member more added to this church.*

Notice that the zealous officials clapped poor Mr Ashwood into prison before the act was even in force! Can you imagine meeting in a secret lonesome place, under a “covert” beneath a bank of earth to go to church? No one knows now where that hiding place was although many have looked for it over the years. There are no natural caves in the Axminster area so it was probably not a natural cave. Perhaps it was an old mine or mineral working. Axminster is not a tin or lead mining area like other parts of the West Country but there were clay and mineral extraction pits. I can picture the congregation silently wending their way through the woods in ones and twos. How quiet the little ones must have to be! Then the covert (brambles perhaps) is pushed aside on a steep bank and one by one they slip into the hole. It must be dark inside of course and probably no lanterns can be used in case they give the game away. It does not matter though; the minister can remember many passages of scripture and so can the congregation. Quietly, he preaches his sermon; they dare not sing but he recites a psalm for them. Are the children afraid of the dark? Perhaps they feel safe with their parents' arms round them in the blackness and the words they hear are familiar and comforting, even though the place is strange and dark.

Yesterday we learned about Drake and the Armada and how the process of gaining freedom to worship in Britain was slow and uneven with many reverses. **19<sup>th</sup> May** 1662 was one of the great reverses. Not until William of Orange, grandson of William the Silent, about whom we learned on 16<sup>th</sup> April, became king in 1689 did the little church at Axminster, and others like it, fully gain its freedom.

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<sup>3</sup> You can get a copy of the old book here: <http://mcbs.springroad.org.uk/mayflower-classics-after-the-puritans/> It is very interesting to read.



I was so interested in the story of those times when I read the old church record book that I used them as a background for a story, *Heart of Rebellion*. It is published by John Ritchie of Kilmarnock and you should be able to order a copy through your local Christian bookshop.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> In case of difficulty you can order from the publisher direct here:  
<https://www.ritchiechristianmedia.co.uk/product/heart-rebellion>