

5th November

Memory Verse

There is a river,

the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God,
the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Psalm 46:4

Tiny children could learn the words in bold and understand that the river is God's supply of everything his children need. More about today's memory verse in the lesson for 8th November.

So many interesting things seem to have happened today that either this will be a very long lesson or you had better choose the things that suit you best and leave the rest for another year!

Remember Remember ¹

To begin with, it is Guy Fawkes Night!

Remember remember

*The **fifth of November***

Gunpowder treason and plot.

I see no reason

Why gunpowder treason

Should ever be forgot!

These boys and girls pictured at Chirk in Wales in 1954 are certainly getting ready for a good blaze! We learned something of the origin of Guy Fawkes Night in 31st October's lesson.² More today!

There is a Guy Fawkes word search in today's optional resources files and also H E Marshall's excellent retelling of the story of the Gunpowder Plot.



As I expect you know, Guy Fawkes tried to blow up Parliament on this day in 1605. Here is an extract from a letter written a few days after the attempt, in which Sir Edward Hoby (1560-1617) tells the story in his own words:

On the 5th day of November we began our parliament, to which the King should have come in person, but refrained, through a **practice** but that morning discovered. The plot was to have blown up the king at such time as he should be set in his royal throne, accompanied by his children, Nobility and Commons, and with all Bishops, Judges and Doctors. At once instance and blast to have ruined the whole estate and kingdom of England. And for the **effecting** of this there was placed under the parliament house, where the king should sit, some 30 barrels of gunpowder, with great store of wood, **faggots** and bars of iron.

1 Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today?* Book 3 available on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com/>

2 There is more information about Guy Fawkes in the lesson for March 3rd.

In a vault under the parliament chamber, one Johnson³ was found with one of those close lanterns preparing the train against the next morrow, who, being after brought into the galleries of the court, and there demanded if he were not sorry for his so foul and heinous a treason, answered that he was sorry for nothing but that the act was not performed. Being replied unto him that no doubt there had been a number in that place of his own religion, how in conscience he could do them hurt, he answered a few might well perish to have the rest taken away.

When he was brought into the King's presence, the King asked him how he could conspire so hideous a treason against his children and so many innocent souls which never offended him? He answered it was true, but a dangerous disease required a desperate remedy. He told some of the Scots that his intent was to have blown them back into Scotland.

Do you know what the highlighted words mean? Some are unusual and some have changed their meaning a little since they were written. Use your dictionary to find out. I've carried on highlighting some words in the rest of today's lesson for you to tackle with your dictionary if you don't already know them.

Something to do⁴

Anna Maria Schürman (1607-1678), one of the most brilliant women that ever lived, was born on 5th November. On the right you can see her self-portrait. The Latin words on the scroll mean:

No pride or beauty prompted me to engrave my features in eternal copper; But if my unpractised graver was not yet capable of producing good work, I would not risk a more weighty task the first time.



Anna Maria was a polymath, who excelled in art, music, and literature, and became proficient in fourteen languages, including Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac, Aramaic, and Ethiopic, as well as various contemporary European languages. She was also accomplished in mathematics, geography and astronomy. Her childhood education was provided at home by her father who educated her alongside his sons, something that was unusual at the time. She also learned by corresponding with the learned men of her day and by talking to a neighbour who was a university professor. She was the first woman to study, though she did so unofficially, at a Dutch university.

Anna Maria was also a devoted Christian from her childhood. In her Latin book, *Eukleria* she relates,

As a child of scarcely four years old I sat with my nurse on the banks of a stream. She repeated to me the words, "I am not my own but belong to my truest Saviour, Jesus Christ."⁵ I was filled with such an inward sense of love to Christ that in all my following years nothing has ever been able to erase the vivid remembrance of that moment.

As she grew, Anna Maria's fame as a learned woman and an artist spread. Her home became a meeting place for intellectuals and artists and she became known as the "Star of Utrecht." She herself was careful not to take the credit for her abilities, saying she had been "immensely gifted by God in the arts."

Anna Maria was one of a group of baptist Christians in the Netherlands who wanted to see further reforms in the church and, like the Quakers in England, emphasised the "inner light". She wrote:

³ When Guy Fawkes was arrested he gave his name as John Johnson.

⁴ Image: permission sought from info@museummartena.nl 05/10/22

⁵ From the opening question of the Heidelberg Catechism.

As I have now seen for a number of years, with pain, the departure of Christendom from its origins, and its almost entire unlikeness to the same ... and had lost any hope of its restoration in the usual course of things which is followed by our clergy (most of whom are themselves greatly in need of reformation), who can rightly object that I have, with a happy heart, chosen for my own those teachers fitted by God to bring about a reform of degenerate Christianity?

Anna Maria was by now a famous woman and her move away from the Dutch Reformed Church caused her to be deluged with letters asking her to return. Jean de Labadie, (1610-1674) the leader of the group with which she was involved, set up a house at a place called Herford⁶ where the believers all lived together in a way that reminds us of some of the early Celtic monasteries. Hated by their neighbours, it was only the support of the Princess Elizabeth, Abbess of Herford, Anna Maria's friend that prevented the Labadists, as they were called, from being driven out. As a result the Labadists isolated themselves from the world even more and became introverted and rather strange. Persecution and then war made them wander from place to place seeking a peaceful place to live. At last they found Castle Waltha, in the little village of Wieuwerd in West Friesland, which had been placed at their disposal. This was their last home. The country people received them gladly and a commission appointed by the Reformed Church to inquire into their views and ways reported them to be harmless. At last they were allowed to remain in peace. Here Anna Maria van Schürman died, aged 71.



In the picture on the left you can see a piece of paper cutting art by Ann Maria done when she was still a child. In the centre is a six sided star often used as a Jewish symbol. At the top and bottom are the letters A and M for Anna Maria woven into a monogram.

Simpler paper cutting is easy to do yourself. You can use a circle of paper to create flower or snowflake effects. Fold the circle several times until you have a thin “pie-slice” shape. You can then cut pieces out of the sides and edges and then open it up to see the results. Practice on any scrap used paper and you will soon find what gives the best effects – and what makes your work simply fall to pieces!⁷

More complex cutting like that done by Anna Maria requires using a sharp knife blade. I guess that she folded her paper in half to get the symmetrical effect⁸ and drew out her design on what is now the back of her work. The she cut away the paper with a knife that no small child

would now be allowed to get their hands on!

Anna Maria was also a skilled engraver. Engraving is scratching a picture on a metal surface with a

⁶ Image of Herford Abbey and house which were in Herford in Anna Maria's day: By “Ingo Kirschneireit Cyclejakob” - Own work, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3560647>

⁷ More ideas here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARHcO6kUvPk> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctkZ4h2ACvU>

⁸ The work is not exactly symmetrical but I think that may be due to damage over the years.

special tool. If you want to do something similar there are instructions for how to scratch a picture on a background of wax crayon in the lesson for July 18th. If you did not do that lesson you could look at it now. If you did the lesson you might still like to do some more scratch pictures.

Understanding what you read

In 1883-4 the American evangelist D. L. Moody came to Britain to make an evangelistic tour. He was invited by some of the undergraduates to hold meetings at Cambridge for the students. I have put an account of what happened at these meetings on 5th of November – and afterwards – in today's optional resources files. This account was given by the Rev. W. H. Stone, M.A., Vicar of St. Mary's, Kilburn to Moody's son who wrote the evangelist's biography. He mentions J. E. K. Studd at the beginning of his story. This was one of the cricketers Studds, brother of C.T. Studd whom we shall meet next month.⁹ Mr Sankey is also mentioned. He was Moody's fellow evangelist who accompanied him on his tours and sang gospel solos at the services. Moody was not an educated man. He did not speak very good English, in fact, he often made mistakes in grammar. An American, he was totally unfamiliar with the customs and manners of Cambridge undergraduates. Read the extract to find out how all this went down with the young Cambridge men – and how God used Moody's visit to Cambridge. You need to know that “encore” means “again” and at a concert the audience will shout this if they have particularly enjoyed an item in the hope that the singer (or player) will sing (or play) for them again. The students who shouted “encore” in the extract however were not being serious. They were making fun of the singer.

Here are some questions about the account for you to answer. Can you write the answers down so that they make complete sentences which stand on their own? The first one is done for you.

What organisation had invited D. L. Moody to Cambridge?

The Cambridge Christian Union had invited D. L. Moody to Cambridge.

Who were invited to the meetings and how did they get their invitations?

Where was the meeting on 5th November held?

How many people did it hold?

How many people came?

What were they wearing?

Were they well behaved and attentive?

What was thrown against the window and what did it have to do with the date?

What did the men do when Sankey sang?

What was shouted and what does it mean?

Were the men who shouted this being serious?

Why was Moody's address “almost unheard”?

What does “chaffing” mean?

How many remained for the prayer-meeting?

What were Mr Moody's feelings after the prayer-meeting?

Who gathered to pray together on Thursday afternoon?

For whom did they pray?

What was the evangelist's subject on Thursday evening?

What did he ask at the end of his address?

Why was this a “terrible test”?

What happened as a result?

Why do you think a revival in Cambridge among the students might have a wide and lasting effect?

⁹ Lesson for 2nd December yet to come.

If you have done this exercise carefully, copying the style of the example answer I gave, you will find when you have finished that you have made a neat summary of the passage that makes sense without the questions.

Something to read from science history¹⁰



Do you enjoy reading detective stories such as the ones about Sherlock Holmes or Dr John Evelyn Thorndyke?¹¹ Detectives use their skill to work out what has gone on in the past: this is sometimes called forensic science. The detective was not there when the crime was committed but he has to work out what went on, often when someone had died in suspicious circumstances. He looks at the remaining evidence and makes deductions. Forensic science has many uses.

On 5th November 2011 a paper was presented at the Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology Conference in Las Vegas. It answered an intriguing question about some deaths in the past. The researcher, Alicia Cutler, had been investigating a large number of deaths. She had been doing, as it were, some forensic science. Why, she wondered, were so many dinosaur fossils found in a particular and unusual position? What did it say about the way they died? Look at the fossil on the left.¹² The dinosaur's pose is typical. It has its head thrown back and its tail arched over its head and back. This is called

the opisthotonic pose and it is not a natural pose in which you would expect to find a living creature. Why then are these many, many dinosaur fossils found in such a pose?

Some people suggested that the pose was the result of something that happened to the fossil after it died due to dessication or drying out. Did dessication lead to muscle contractions that pulled the neck upwards? To test this idea Alicia Cutler used chicken carcasses because the long neck of a chicken models that of a long-necked dinosaur very well. She placed the plucked carcasses on a bed of sand and left them for three months. Would they adopt that typical pose as they dried out and the muscles contracted? At the end of the experiment she found that the carcasses had decayed but that there was no sign of **contortion**. She had showed that dessication was not likely to be the cause of the classic dinosaur death pose.

The next step then was to consider what other cause there might be. Could it have been a watery death? Alicia Cutler conducted another experiment. This time she put seven freshly killed chickens into cool, fresh water. She found that within seconds all their heads bent backwards! She kept the chicken bodies under water for a month and the pose became slightly more severe.

When chickens are alive the weight of the body is such that the head does not bend back. When placed in water after death however, the body becomes buoyant. At this point the ligaments contract and the heads bend backwards and take on the classic "dinosaur death pose".

¹⁰ Information from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w19jCJeCvtU>, <https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/extinction/dinosaur-deaths-pose-link-immersion-water/> and other sources.

¹¹ Do you remember him from the lesson for 13th September?

¹² Fossil from the collection of [Creation Research UK](http://www.creationresearch.org). Image used by kind permission.

In her paper Alicia Cutler explained:

Although the roads to the opisthotonic death pose are many, immersion in water is the simplest explanation...

If you did the lesson for 25th May this might make you think of Ockham's Razor: “the simplest explanation for something is the most likely to be correct.” All the dinosaur fossils in this pose, then, are likely to have met their death in water. This is consistent with the idea that they were destroyed during the great flood of Noah's day. A study done earlier (2007) on quails rather than chickens had found that when put in salt water there was no adoption of the classic pose so perhaps the fresh water used in the chicken experiment was the key. One thing is certain: those dinosaur were destroyed as a result of the flood. The dinosaurs were overwhelmed with the flood water, as were other creatures, and many were buried rapidly and so preserved as fossils.

Back in September we read of a scientific paper about large armoured dinosaurs that were found fossilised upside down.¹³ They too had all died in water. These two pieces of evidence go well together.

More British history to read



Guy Fawkes Night is not the only very significant event in British History that happened on **5th November**. The landing at Torbay of William of Orange that began the Glorious Revolution happened on that date in 1688. You will already know something about it if you did the lesson for 6th July. I have put H E Marshall's retelling of this event in today's optional resources files. Although many people do not realise it, this event was one of the most important steps in gaining our freedom of worship in Britain. It was also one of the most important steps on the road to a full parliamentary democracy headed by a monarch with no political powers. In fact, it is even more important than Guy Fawkes Night and far more deserving of a fireworks celebration!

13 See the lesson for September 18th (yet to come).