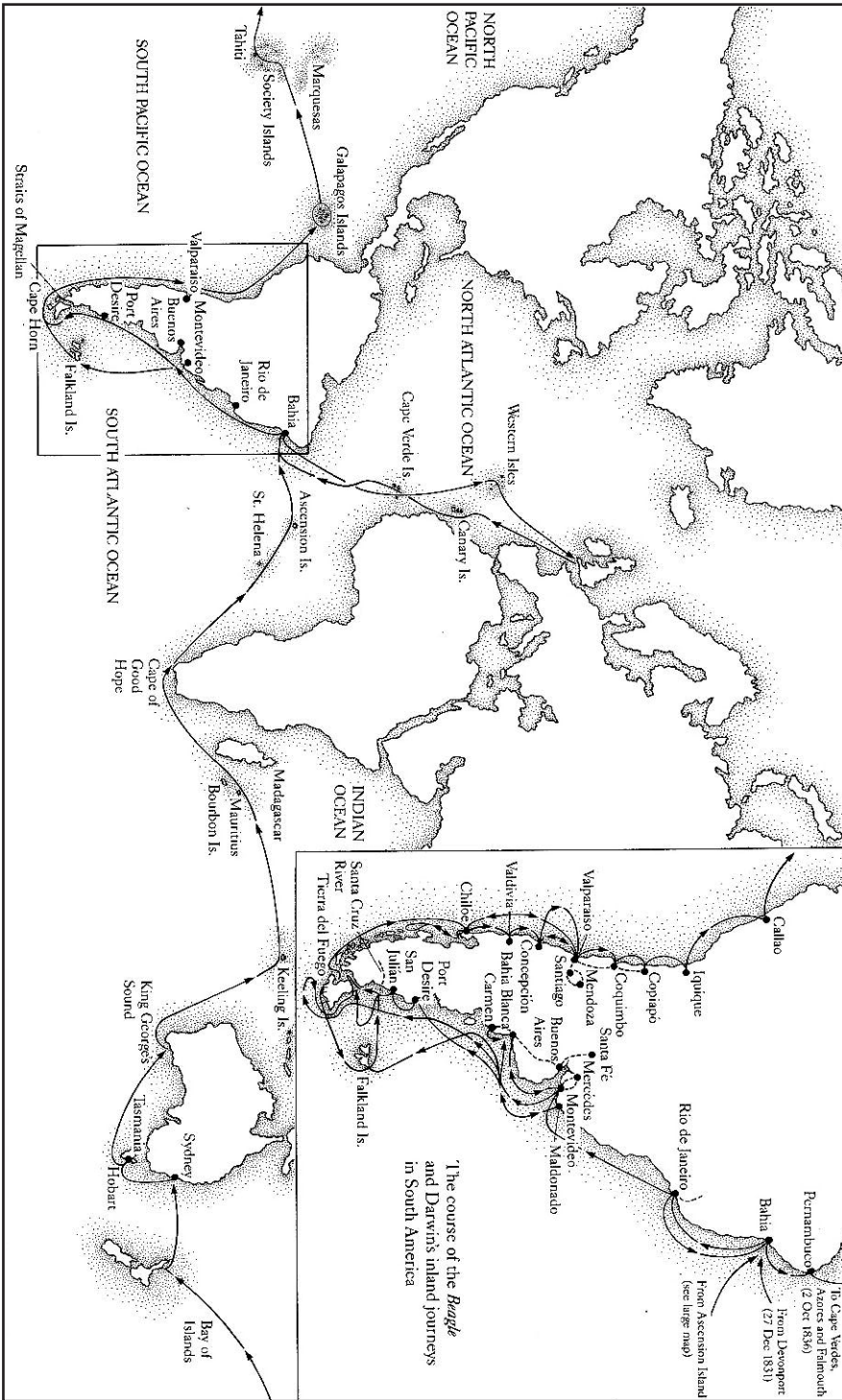


ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GRAFTON REGIS



SERVICE OF DEDICATION FOR THE MEMORIAL TO VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT FITZROY 1805 — 1865

MONDAY 6TH JUNE 2011



The Voyage of HMS Beagle 1831-6

The course of the *Beagle*
and Darwin's inland journeys
in South America

In Cape Verde,
Azores and Falmouth
(2 Oct 1836)
from Desegor
(27 Dec 1833)
from Ascension Island
(see large map)

Those who never run any risk; who sail only when the wind is fair; who heave to when approaching land, though perhaps a day's sail distant; and who delay the performance of urgent duties until they be done easily and quite safely, are, doubtless, extremely prudent persons: - but rather unlike those officers whose names will never be forgotten while England has a navy.

Robert FitzRoy's Narrative

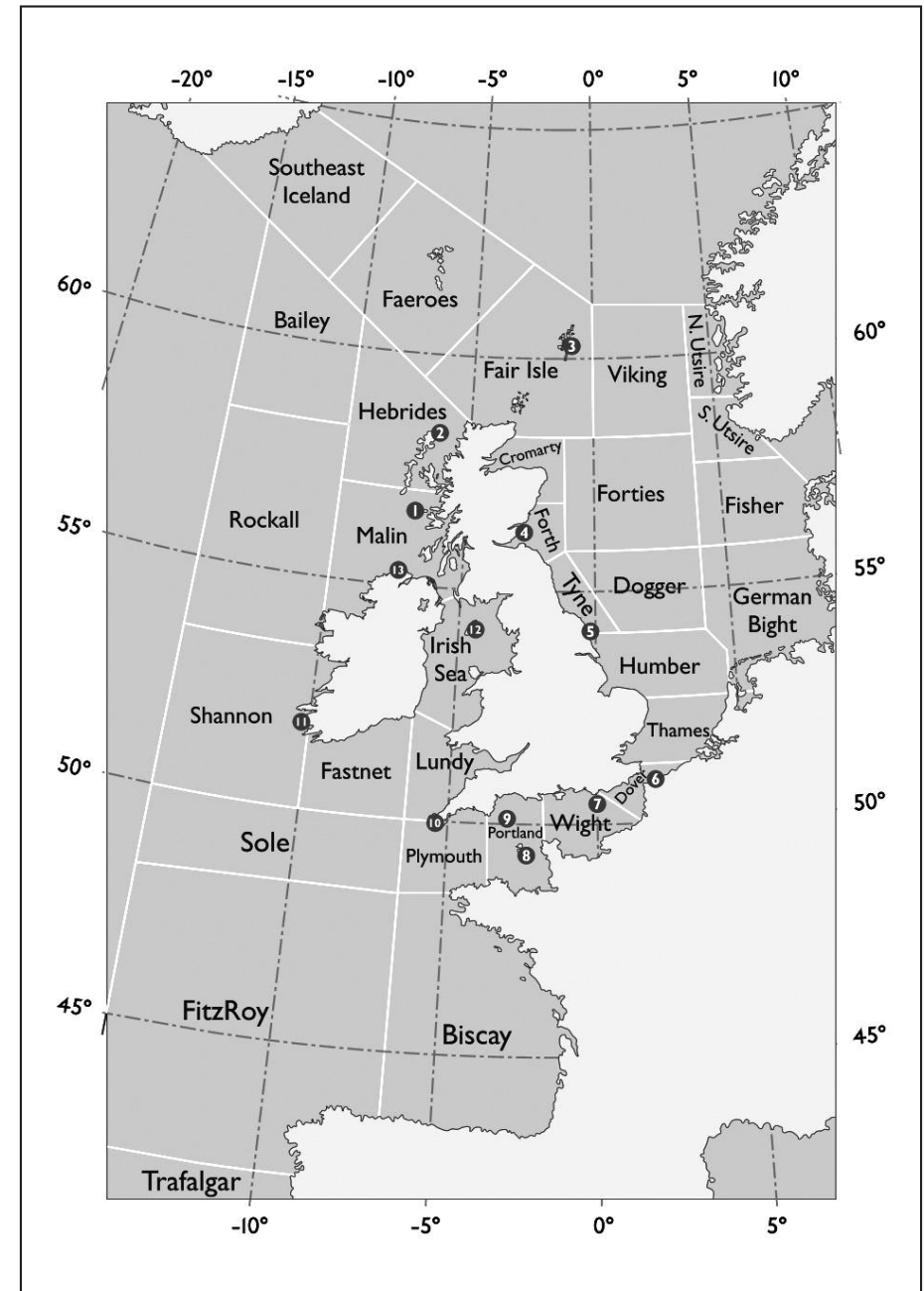
I think it far the most fortunate encounter of my life that the chance afforded by your offer of taking a Naturalist fell on me
Charles Darwin to Robert FitzRoy on his decision to select Darwin as his cabin companion on H.M.S. Beagle

Weather on Friday favourable for crossing – moderate – mild – cloudy, fine perhaps showery at times

Robert FitzRoy's detailed (and accurate) forecast for Queen Victoria on her daughter's crossing of the Channel, 4th March 1863

As of midday on Monday February 4th, the area of Finisterre was renamed FitzRoy, in honour of Admiral FitzRoy, the first professional weatherman...he introduced the first storm warnings for shipping using the telegraph in 1861, and he has also been credited with creating the word 'forecast'

Navy News, March 2002



TRIBUTE

by Lord Hunt of Chesterton, C.B, F.R.S,
former Director General of the Meteorological Office

PRAYERS

HYMN

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting, thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight,
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home.

THE BLESSING

Organist

Valerie Penn

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

by the Rev'd Mark Jones, Eton College

HYMN

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at thy word,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst the storm didst sleep;
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit who didst brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid their angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

READING

by Professor Paul Hardaker, FRMetS, CMet, CEnv,
Chief Executive, Royal Meteorological Society

Psalm 107, verses 23-32

They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;
These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.
For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves
thereof.
They mount up to the heaven, they go down to the depths: their soul is melted
because of trouble.
They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end.
Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of
their distresses.
He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.
Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their
desired haven.
Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful
works to the children of men!
Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in
the assembly of the elders.

HYMN

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,
Through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

READING

by Mark Smyth,
close relative of Robert FitzRoy's second wife Mary Smyth

As far as I can judge, he is a very extraordinary person. I never before came across a man I could fancy being a Napoleon or a Nelson. I should not call him clever, yet I feel convinced nothing is too great or too high for him. His ascendancy over everybody is quite curious: the extent to which every officer and man feels the slightest rebuke or praise, would have been before seeing him, incomprehensible. It is very amusing to see all hands hauling at a rope, they not supposing him on deck, and then observe the effect when he utters a syllable; it is like a string of dray horses, when the waggoner gives one of his awful smacks. His candour and sincerity are to me unparalleled, and using his own words his 'vanity and petulance' are nearly so. I have felt the effects of the latter: but the bringing into play the former ones so forcibly makes one hardly regret them. His greatest fault as a companion is his austere silence: produced from excessive thinking: his many qualities are great and numerous: altogether he is the strongest marked character I ever fell in with.

Charles Darwin