

Marking Moments

Your newsletter from the
M&S Archive – Summer 2026

From summer sun to stormy skies, in this issue we
take a look at wonderful weather!

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Share your photos



THE BAY OF BISCAIY.

ANDREW CHERRY.

J. DAVY.

Moderato.
f
 PIANO.

S

1. Loud roar'd the dread-ful thun-der, The rain a del-uge show'rs; The clouds were rent a-sun-der By
2. Now dash'd up-on the bil-low, Her op-'ning tim-bers creak; Each fears a wa-'ry pil-low, None
3. At length the wish'd-for mor-row Broke thro' the ha-zy sky; Ab-sorb'd in si-lent sor-row, Each
4. Her yield-ing tim-bers sev-er, Her pitch-y seams are rent, When heav'n, all-boun-teous ev-er, Its

sf S p

light-ning's viv-id pow'rs; The night was drear and dark, Our poor de-vo-ted bark, Till next day, there she
 stop the dread-ful leak. To cling to slip-p'ry shrouds Each breath-less sea-man crowds, As she lay, till next
 heav'd a bit-ter sigh. The dis-mal wreck to view, Struck hor-ror in the crew, As she lay, all that
 bound-less mer-cy sent. A sail in sight ap-pears, We hail her with three cheers! Now we sail, with the

p

cres. f

lay In the Bay of Bis-cay, O!
 day, In the Bay of Bis-cay, O!
 day, In the Bay of Bis-cay, O!
 gale, From the Bay of Bis-cay, O!

Dal S

f

Dal S

Sheet music, c1910

Sheet music was a popular product at M&S in the 1910s. This edition features the song 'The Bay of Biscay', which tells the story of a ship that runs aground and is rescued. The Bay of Biscay, known for stormy weather, is off the coast of western France and northern Spain.

Have you ever been out on a stormy sea?

Can you play the piano?



Woollen swimsuits, 1930s

In the 1930s, wool was considered the most practical material for swimwear. M&S sold knitted swimsuits in a range of colours, as shown on this leaflet. The bottom photo shows M&S staff on holiday, all wearing their woollen swimsuits! By the 1950s, most swimwear at M&S was made from nylon or cotton.

Did you ever have a woollen swimsuit?

STYLISH UMBRELLAS

of durability and value

Obtainable only at MARKS & SPENCER'S stores



St. Michael

British Make

Ladies

Art-Silk, as illustrated, in three modern styles—
Walking-Length, Chubby
Straight and Chubby Crook.

4/11

Ladies

Plain Colours, fine quality
Bordered Covers. Styles as
above.

3/11

Gents

Real Malacca Cane, Crocus
and Palm Handles, Covers of
Fine quality Taffeta, com-
plete with Sheath.

4/11

See the name "ST MICHAEL" inside each umbrella.

Umbrellas, 1932

This advert for umbrellas appeared in a Marks & Spencer customer magazine in 1932. Customers could choose between taffeta, artificial silk, walking-length or malacca cane – all between 3s 11d and 4s 11d.

Do you prefer to carry an umbrella or wear a raincoat?



Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor in the MGM release "Singin' in the Rain".



Wet weather bootees, 1953

This 1953 advert features a scene from the film 'Singin' in the Rain' to promote M&S shower-proof bootees. The boots had a rubber sole with a fleecy lining – perfect for autumn walks! The film had been released in 1952 so would have been familiar to anyone who saw the advert.

Do you have a favourite pair of shoes?

Have you seen 'Singin' in the Rain?



Gaberdine raincoats, 1953

These double-breasted, belted coats were made from woollen gaberdine, the fabric was tested to be fast against sun, rain and air. The hoods and the coats were lined with tartan rayon fabric. The coats were often part of school uniform – in some schools a gaberdine coat was compulsory! In 1956 these coats cost between 57s 6d and 87s 6d.

Did you have a school uniform?



Swimwear, 1972

These models show off the latest swimwear in the summer of 1972. The swimsuit cost £3.75 and the matching jacket was £3.50, the men's trunks cost £1.75. By the 1970s, foreign travel had become more affordable, opening up overseas holidays to more people. These brightly printed swimsuits would have been right at home on a sunny Spanish beach!

Where is your favourite place to be when it's sunny?

Do you enjoy swimming?



Summer's the time to discover the great outdoors and that means perfect picnics with St Michael's summertime foods. Crisp, new season's salads, fresh salad dressings, lattice-top bacon, egg and sausage pie, continental meat assortment, and whole crab. There are easy and conveniently prepared salads, seeded ruffini rolls, and delicious new sandwich fillings of bacon, lettuce and tomato, and deep-fried chicken. Children will love potato waffles, corn chips and tortilla chips, mini apple puffs and banana delights. Cool off with a refreshing glass of English apple juice (now in litre packs), fresh skimmed milk, or pull the ring 'on a can of hock! And this year there's even a cool bag to pack it all up in! The red and white bag is £8.99 and the parasol (for when the going gets too hot) is £12.99. Both are also available in green and white.

Photograph by Paul Webster

Picnic food, 1984

A sunny day is perfect for a picnic! The first M&S food store opened in the 1930s, customers could buy pies, cold meats and biscuits for an outdoor feast. This photograph shows picnic food available in the 1980s – see how many different foods you can spot!

Where is your perfect picnic location?

Who would join you at your perfect picnic?

MARKS & SPENCER

**Skiwear, 1987**

M&S began to sell skiwear in the 1980s. Customers could buy salopettes, ski suits, gloves and even ski boots! The 1980s saw a boom in winter sports holidays. The popularity of programmes like Ski Sunday, and famous skiers like Eddie the Eagle, meant more people jetting off to ski resorts than ever before.

Have you ever been skiing?

Or perhaps you prefer a warm holiday?



DEEP WATER: Policemen wade waist-deep in Llandudno amid stranded cars - Lynne's is arrowed

HOW STAFF DEFIED ORDEAL BY FLOOD

Floods in Wales, 1993

Following heavy rain in June 1993, the Welsh town of Llandudno was engulfed by floodwater. Staff at the M&S store worked through the night, lifting stock and shop fittings off the floor to protect them. The photograph shows police officers alongside flooded cars - one belonging to Lynne, an M&S catering assistant, whose vehicle was caught in the rising water as she travelled to work.

Have you ever witnessed floods or other extremes of weather?
What would you try to save first in a flooded shop?



Trench coats, 1969 and 2026

The top photo shows three models wearing rain macs and trench coats – they cost between 135s and 150s in 1969. The styles are still very popular today, they help the wearer stay smart even in the rain! The bottom photos show trench coats sold at M&S in 2026.

Do you have a favourite coat?



M&S

Have a Go... Wordsearch

Find as many of the weather-related words below as you can. Don't forget, the words might go diagonally, or even backwards!

S U N S H I N E X Q F L O O D S M K
 F O G N S O R F Z L F T T F X Q E S
 P C P E Z N H A I L S T O N E S T N
 D X K A Z F O S U N S C R E E N E B
 Z I R A I N K W V B S G V A O E O X
 H U R R I C A N E C T T O L V Z R H
 G P N P N A Q P M U B M H V S B O G
 R A I N C O A T L J D H B W P Y L D
 G I J L V F W A U M B R E L L A O M
 P V Q N G K U M E Z A G O R B D G Z
 W C T U Z S L E E T H C L O U D Y P
 R B C L I M A T E J D R Y M R B E W

METEOROLOGY
 HAILSTONES
 HURRICANE
 SUNSCREEN
 UMBRELLA

SUNSHINE
 RAINCOAT
 CLIMATE
 FLOODS
 CLOUDY

SLEET
 RAIN
 SNOW
 FOG



Have a Go... Quiz



Find the answers to these weather-themed questions on the next page

1. Which common phrase is given to an unseasonably warm period in the middle of autumn?
2. What is nephology the study of?
3. Who was the UK's longest-serving female weather forecaster, appearing on ITV for 24 years, from 1990 to 2014?
4. What number is a violent storm on the Beaufort scale?
5. According to the BBC Weather team, which UK city receives the highest annual rainfall?
6. A Chinook is a wind particularly associated with which mountain range?
7. Which of the following cities gets the most rainfall per year: Tokyo, London, Chicago, or Rome?
8. What country experiences the most tornadoes?
9. What is the name of a scientist who studies weather?
10. An anemometer is used to measure what?

Have a Go... Quiz



Answers

1. An Indian Summer
2. Clouds
3. Sian Lloyd
4. 11
5. Glasgow, with an average annual rainfall of 1370mm and an average of 181 rainy days a year!
6. Rocky Mountains
7. Tokyo
8. USA
9. Meteorologist
10. Wind

Have a Go... Spot the Difference M&S

Find the 7 differences between the photos on the next two pages. Answers are circled in orange on page 17... no peeking!



“PUT THAT ONE ON AGAIN.”

A remark you always hear whenever Imperial and Broadcast Records are played. Star Artistes and wonderful reproduction have made them the most popular Records in the world. Make your choice at any Marks & Spencer store

*The most Popular
Records in the world*

BROADCAST 10 INCH **1/6** EACH

IMPERIAL 10 INCH **1/3** EACH

BROADCAST 9 INCH **1/4** EACH

CRYSTALATE GRAMOPHONE RECORD MFG.
60/62 CITY ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

M&S

Have a Go... Spot the Difference



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Answers



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Your Marking Moments

We'd love to see what you've been up to!

To appear in the next issue of Marking Moments, send your photographs to archive@marksandspencer.com, ensuring you've completed the form below for each person in the photographs

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONSENT FORM

Background

From time to time the M&S Archive (the "Archive") takes photographs and film to promote its collections for commercial or non-commercial purposes (the "Images").

In order for the Archive to use the Images as required, all persons over 18 can give their consent by signing this Photographic Consent Form (the "Agreement") for themselves.

Consent

This Agreement covers Marks & Spencer's use of the Images by the Archive. By signing this Agreement to be photographed for the Archive, I give consent to the full use of the Images by the Archive. I do not object to the Archive storing my details on its database.

I agree the Images may be combined with other images, text and graphics, and cropped, altered or edited and that the copyright and/or any other intellectual property rights in the Images shall be owned by the Archive and where necessary, I hereby assign any such rights to the Archive.

Date images taken:

Images taken by (print name):

Subject of image (print name):

Subject's signature: