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CHRISTMAS 2013

Released to coincide with the 90th Anniversary of St Mary’s Church, this issue of four stamps celebrates the Anglican and Roman Catholic faiths and honours the two main places of worship on Tristan da Cunha.

St Mary’s Church was opened for worship in 1923. It was constructed in typical island building style and it’s bell was obtained from a ship wreck. In 1990/91 the church was extended and in 2002 the vestry extension was completed.

St Joseph’s Church was constructed in 1983, it was later rebuilt on the same site to replace the smaller church in 1995/96.

VOLCANO IV

Ships of the volcano period

The final four stamp issue of this four part series features ships of this period.

HMS Puma provided a passage to Gerry Stableford in early October 1962. It’s crew blasted a new access road (known as “Puma road”) from the beach to the village.

HMS Jaguar visited Tristan on the 16th December 1961 to make a preliminary investigation prior to the early 1962 expedition who studied the effects of the volcano.

MV Tristania, one of two licensed fishing vessels, on the 10th October 1961 evacuated the islanders to nearby Nightingale island, on the 9th April 1963 landed the resettlement survey team on Tristan and assisted in the return of the first resettlement party.

MV Stirling Castle gave passage to the islanders from Cape Town to England on 21st October 1961, after they were safely evacuated from Tristan.

This souvenir sheet shows the MV Bornholm (which bought the final party to Tristan in 1963) and the SAS Transvaal (who took the first mail, from the Royal Society expedition, from the island).

Release Date 9th December 2013

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