

MARCH 2025

News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1775-2025



The
Presbyterian
Church
in Canada

News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to the News from the Pews Newsletter!

Spring is almost upon us! With days getting longer, and the sun making more appearances it means we're not too far away from brighter days.

This month, the News from the Pews newsletter has heartwarming stories, a new recipe to try, very exciting updates for our 250th anniversary celebration, and information for one of our favourite events - pancake supper.

Want to share your news, events, or good story in the next edition? Contact us!



stdavidsnfld@gmail.com



98 Elizabeth Avenue



Worship Service, Sunday
11:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m

Minister's Message



Jesus said “The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye is wholesome, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!” (Matthew 6:22-23)

You may have seen charms like the one in the picture here, known as a "Hamsa". Common in the middle east and parts of northern Africa, it is traditionally used as a protection against the "Evil Eye", made of glass, woven into fabric, or painted on. The Evil Eye is a curse that is born from a jealous look, applied by the act of gazing, an ill intent that sticks to and curses the unwitting recipient. In the passage from Matthew above, we see that Jesus also taught about the dangers of an evil eye.

In our modern scientific understanding, we think of eyes as receivers, taking in light particles that come in through the lens, and allowing us to see based on what comes into them. In the ancient understanding, the technology wasn't there to understand photons or even the complex structures of the eye, and so they came to different conclusions. To the ancients, eyes didn't take things in, they put things out.

For them, attention and focus go out from the eyes to rest on various things. The eyes are like a lamp that shines with whatever is on the inside. If you are full of goodness and light, it goes out to bless the world. If you are dark inside, that darkness is in your gaze, clinging to all you see and ruining it, cursing those you see.

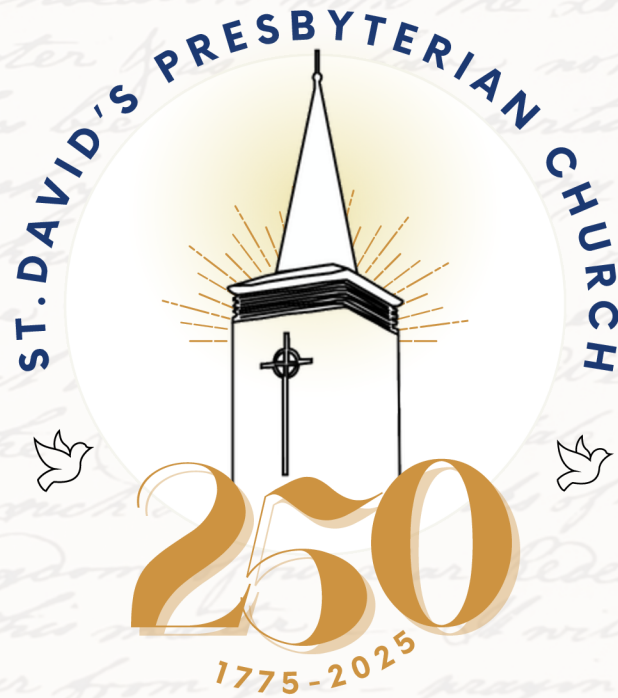
What do your eyes put out? Do you look at others with charity, compassion, and with the benefit of the doubt? In recent news, the President of the United States has expressed continued views that the US is being "taken advantage of" by trading partners, looking at trade deals he himself brokered with new eyes. As we face elections of our own in this upcoming year, doubtless attempts will be made to have us turn bad eyes against political opponents instead of wholesome ones. If you can control how people see things, you can control them.

If the world seems dark, remember that our eyes are the lamp of our body. How we look at things does, in fact, change the world. Take responsibility for what you are putting out into the world, even with your eyes, and you will reap the rewards that Jesus promises: if your eye is right, so the rest will be too.

This month, you will be filled with light by the lamp of your body. When Jesus speaks, he says the eye comes first and fills the body with whatever is filling the eye. May God save you from the Evil Eye, and most importantly may He keep it from finding a home in your own head! May you make every effort to look on the world and your own situation with the love, grace, thankfulness and joy that God's Spirit brings.

Take charge of your eye, and the darkness will never overcome you.

David



Saint David's Day Celebrations

Also known as the Feast of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales and it falls on March 1st the date of Saint David's death in 589 AD. With so many people out of town for reading week/Spring break, we will delay marking the occasion until a later date! We have special plans in place for the occasion, stay tuned to our social media, newsletter, and Order of Service for the date.

SDPC 250 THE *Dissenters* Path

Thursday, April 24th 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm The Rooms Theatre

From the rugged barracks of 18th-century St. John's to the welcoming doors of St. David's Presbyterian Church today, the story of this congregation is one of resilience, faith, and community. Join us as we embark on a journey through time, following the Dissenters' Path through the streets of St. John's that traces the evolution of the congregation from its founding in 1775 to the present day.

This engaging presentation will feature insights from Dr. Steve Bruneau, PhD, P.Eng., along with members of the congregation's original founding families, who will share personal and historical perspectives on the congregation's rich legacy.

Using historical maps, archival records, and personal accounts, they will explore the key locations that shaped the congregation's history—from its earliest gatherings in the barracks of Fort William to the construction of the Stone Chapel, the devastating fires of 1892, and the eventual establishment of St. David's Presbyterian Church. Attendees will also have the rare opportunity to view archival records in person, including original documents and artifacts that bring the congregation's history to life.

Join us for a fascinating glimpse into the enduring spirit of St. David's, and the deep roots of religious dissent in Newfoundland and while seeing 250 years of history up close. After all, it's not everyday you turn 250 years old.



Treasurer's Report

St. David's does really well financially as we near the end of any calendar year. Now at the beginning of March our pattern remains consistent, which shows us falling behind. **We have enough income to meet some commitments, but not all, meaning choices are made of who and when to pay.**

For 2025, we again have a projected deficit. A meeting to discuss the 2025 budget with the combined Board and Session was set for Saturday Feb 7th. Four people accepted the invitation and so, the meeting was cancelled. Subsequently, I sent out copies of the latest budget to all those invited. One person reviewed the budget asking several questions and suggesting some tweaks. One person emailed asking if there was to be another in-person meeting.

Preparations for the upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) have begun. A date has been suggested by the Board for Session's agreement. The persons in church leadership and our church groups have described their activities over the past year. The Annual Report for 2024 including the budget for 2025 will be prepared and presented to the members of the congregation in time for the ACM.

I am delighted to report that we have new members for the Board of Managers, new people are still joining and more are invited to join. As we embark on our 250th Anniversary, please reflect on what St. David's means to you and your family, now, and going forward into the future. Our future depends on you and everything you bring to our congregation. As treasurer, I do appreciate your generosity. I hope that you continue to support St. David's in many ways and as best you can.

Thank you.

Anne Calver

Condolences

Mary Holloway



Condolences to the Holloway and Hudson families on the unexpected passing of Mary Holloway on January 26, 2025.

The sympathy of the congregation goes to Michele (Holloway) and Geoff Hudson and Sylvia and Dave Hudson and their families. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.

For the full obituary, please check Barrett's website, www.barretts.ca or if viewing the newsletter digitally, [please click this link to view.](#)

Condolences

Miles McMeegin



Condolences to Sarah (McMeegin) King and her family, on the passing of her father, Miles McMeegin on January 31, 2025.

Miles, was 71, and passed away peacefully at the Residential Hospice of Grey Bruce (Owen Sound, Ontario). A memorial service was held for Miles at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Owen Sound on February 7, 2025. Memorial donations to OSHaRE (<https://oshare.ca/>) or Safe 'N' Sound (<https://www.safensoundgreybruce.ca>) would be appreciated.

For more information please visit the online memorial at www.woodfuneralhome.ca. The sympathy of our congregation is extended to Sarah and her family and our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Kyle Sampson,
March 2nd



Jean Bruneau,
March 2nd



Sarah King,
March 3rd



Judy Woolridge,
March 4th



Brian Gamberg,
March 5th



Gracie Wood,
March 7th



Katherine Hancock,
March 9th



Kathy McKay,
March 10th



Pearle Clouston,
March 11th



Jean Mallowney,
March 12th



Ian Steneker,
March 12th



Rev. David Sturtevant,
March 13th



Daley Johnson,
March 15th



Miraero Shin,
March 15th



Sylvia Hudson,
March 18th



Elizabeth Thistle,
March 23rd



Jana Kearsey,
March 27th



Sheena Findlay,
March 29th



Max Burness,
March 29th



Olive Goobie,
March 31st



Brian Way,
March 31st

Best wishes from everyone here at St. David's and we hope
you have a wonderful birthday with family and friends!

What's Happening

at St. David's

MARCH

02

1:00 PM

COMMUNICANTS CLASS

In concert with our brothers and sisters at St. Andrew's church, St. David's is offering a Communicants class for people interested in claiming their own faith and becoming voting members of the church.

Classes resume Sunday, March 2nd at 1 PM - with a lunch in the Armour Room and will continue on all Sundays in March.

In our tradition there is no hard and fast rule for what age children may pursue communicant membership, but parents are encouraged to speak with their children to determine if they are prepared to engage with the spiritual self-examination such a class involves. Although we have had two classes already, we welcome new expressions of interest happily.

MARCH

04

10:00 AM

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY /KNITTERS

The Knitters will be meeting this Tuesday, March 4th in the Armour Room at 10am. No knitting experience is required! Please join this friendly and fun group for a morning of knitting and fellowship.

And don't forget - also happening on this day is Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper at 6pm! Please join us!

What's Happening

at St. David's

MARCH

04

6:00 PM

PANCAKE SUPPER

Shrove Tuesday is on March 4th, join us for one of our favourite traditions in The Hall – pancake supper! There will be lots of pancakes and other fare to go around so please join us and bring your family and friends at 6:00 pm.

Questions? Contact Heather at the Church.

MARCH

05

12:30 PM

BIBLE STUDY

This March, our Wednesday Afternoon Bible study will be focusing on New Testament passages brought to mind by our journey through the Bible in Sunday Worship. The Old Testament was near and dear to the hearts of those writing the New Testament, as well as the people whose stories it records. By reflecting on how they brought old testament teachings into the time they lived in, we can learn to apply their wisdom and teaching to our own lives as well. No biblical experience is required, questions are welcomed, and newcomers are warmly appreciated! Next Bible Study is Wednesday, March 5th.

What's Happening

at St. David's

MARCH

05

2:00 PM

PICKLEBALL

Pickle Ball takes place every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. If you'd like more information, or if you would like to get some education on the rules and instruction on how to play, please contact the office.

MARCH

06

2:00 PM

GOOD COMPANIONS

The Good Companions is a seniors group that meets once a week in the church hall and Armour Room to share in some activities. If you would like to try your hand at carpet bowling, join a game of bridge or 120's or maybe a friendly game of Scrabble. Please join us on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm. All are welcome!

MARCH

TBD

12:00 PM

AMS - ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY

The AMS will meet this month but may change their regular date or venue to accommodate the well-attended Communicants Classes - which will be meeting on Sundays for the month of March. Once it has been decided a new announcement will be made... stay tuned!

What's Happening

at St. David's

MARCH

02

11:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is a fun and active group that meet part way through the Sunday Service following the Children's hymn and sermon. They have a Bible study lesson, enjoy craft-time, sing songs and so much more! Please join us and see for yourself!

MARCH

09

11:00AM

We are still looking for volunteers. Please speak to Sarah King or email sarah_mcmeekin@hotmail.com

MARCH

16

11:00AM

Our need for additional volunteers makes it difficult for us to respond to children who need consistent one-on-one care. In the event that a child needs ongoing behavioural help during Sunday School or is wandering from the group, we may ask parents to come assist with their child's learning, or else return the child to their parents in the service so the rest of the class can continue. If you have a child with special considerations, please speak to Sarah King before the service.

MARCH

23

11:00AM

Creche/Playroom:

We have an unsupervised Creche/playroom for Families to use. This space is available to use anytime and during the worship service. Though please be reminded that it is unsupervised.

MARCH

30

11:00AM

What's Happening

at St. David's

MARCH

16

9:30 AM

POP-UP CHOIR CALL

The next Pop-Up Choir will be, Sunday, March 16th. The choir will meet with Brian at 9:30am in the Sanctuary for rehearsal followed by the 11am service. Do let Brian know either way, so he can prepare accordingly. Thank you!

MARCH

18

7:30 PM

SESSION MEETING

Session will meet on Tuesday, March 18th at 7:30pm in the Armour Room.

MARCH

19

7:00 PM

FUTURES COMMITTEE

The Futures Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 19th at 7:00pm in the Armour Room

What's Happening

at St. David's

MARCH

13

7:30 PM

BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

The Board of Managers will meet on Thursday, March 13th in the Armour Room at 7:30pm.

We are always looking for new members. If you think that you might be interested in being part of the BOM, we would love to hear from you. Maybe consider attending one of the monthly meetings to see what we are all about. You would be most welcome!

MARCH

30

11:00 AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

This service features contemporary gospel music complete with a band thanks to brilliant Music Director Brian Way!

Contemporary Services are scheduled for the last Sunday of every month and we hope you will join us for this lively Sunday Worship!

MARCH

25

12:00 PM

WA (WOMEN'S AUXILIARY)

The next meeting of the WA will be held at 12 noon, Tuesday, March 25th, in the Armour Room to discuss and plan upcoming events, including the next Bridge Party.

If you would like to join this vibrant group, drop by and get to meet the ladies. There is a great lunch, a short devotion, and a business meeting where the plans for the next activities take place.

Our next Bridge Lunch will be Tuesday, March 11th.

Tables of four (4) must be booked in advance.

Cost - \$20.00 per person.

Groups and Events



Bridges to Hope

“The Weekly "Flyer" Specials with items helpful for food hampers”, will be included in your weekly Announcements insert in the Order of Service.

The suggested item(s) for March 2025, especially useful for Bridges To Hope – **Canned Beans**. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated! While Bridges to Hope always has an ample supply of dog food, they have a shortage of cat food. Your help in this area would be appreciated too. Thank you.



39 Cookstown Rd, St. John's, NL A1C 4G7



<https://bridgestohope.ca/>



Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Jigsaw Puzzles are found in the locked grey cabinet just outside the Armour Room. (The key for the cabinet is kept in the office.)

Management of the puzzles will be done on an ‘Honour System’ – anybody can leave a puzzle or take a puzzle. And you can take as long as you like to complete. Should you have any questions, comments or suggestions, you may leave them at the office for Charlie Goobie and he will contact you promptly!

Groups and Events



Sunday Coffee Hour Volunteers

“Coffee-time” after the church service allows people to meet and mingle. When it doesn’t happen, people still wander down and miss the opportunity to have a chat and a cuppa. However, to sponsor this time, we need volunteers! It is not an onerous task - all the things needed are already in the kitchen. What needs to be done?

Before church, the kettles have to be boiled; a pot of coffee made, cups, milk, sugar, etc. put out, together with plates of cookies/biscuits or other goodies. Often there are treats in the freezer! If there is a special occasion, just a word to any member of the WA and more delicious homemade goodies will appear.

After the service, tea needs to be steeped and then, coffee, tea served at the wicket. Of course, there is always clean-up but there are always people willing to help with this task.

How much time does it take? Maximum 30 minutes before church and about the same amount of time after!

Why not give it a try? Take the opportunity to “Team up” with someone who does this regularly to learn the ropes and help spread the workload for this important time of fellowship.

A sign up sheet has been put on the refrigerator if you have a spare Sunday to help out. A special thank you to everyone who signs up to help - it is so appreciated!!

The March sign up schedule is now available.

Groups and Events



News from the Pews Newsletter

Our next once-a-month, Newsletter will be emailed to the Congregation in early April, 2025.

We would love to read your stories and see your pictures, hear about special events, a holiday-trip, a treasured pastime and maybe share a favourite recipe!!

We are interested in any of the ways you would like to stay in touch and connect with each other. Send your stories to: stdavids@nfld.com

Thank you!

Good News

from you

Birth Announcement!

Some wonderful news from the Gillies Family. Allison (Gillies) and her partner, Daniel, had a beautiful baby boy, Julian Andrew Dominguez Gillies born early in February! Congratulations to Allison and Daniel and to Penny and Stewart on their newest grandson! There will be lots of pictures coming, but here are a couple the family would like to share with you. Best wishes to Julian and his mom and dad!



Knitter's Group – Welcomes a New Member!

The first Tuesday of every month, a small group of knitters (of all levels of know-how) meet in the Armour Room. The two hours fly by with gentle chit-chat, exchange of helpful hints, patterns and coaching and of course the all essential cup of tea/coffee. If you can knit or would like to learn, we'd love to have you join us! We have lots of needles and wool to get you going!

This past month, Rev. Sturtevant joined us and took up the needles for the first time. He's doing really well with his scarf!



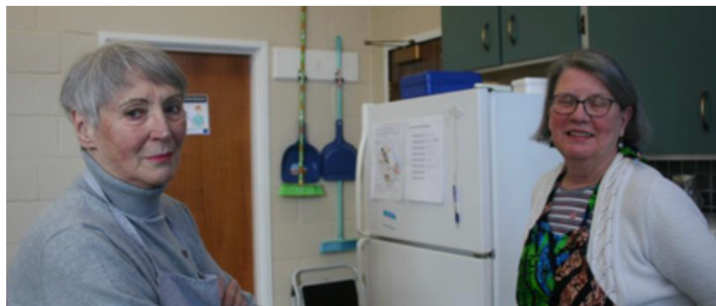
Good News *from you*

WA Hosted Bridge Party – February 11, 2025

The WA hosted their February Bridge Party on Tuesday, the 11th. It may have been the day after our first major snowfall, but everyone was on deck and looking forward to a great afternoon of playing bridge with friends. Our team of helpers ensured everyone had a warm welcome, a lovely luncheon and a fun-filled afternoon. As usual, the soups and desserts were delicious – and many thanks to all our volunteer cooks and bakers. It was a great afternoon of fun and friendship!

Many thanks from the WA to all those who volunteered to make this afternoon a great success – our set-up and take-down crews, our "souper" cooks and "delectable dessert" bakers, our dessert "plater", our kitchen staff and servers, and our dirty dishes cleanup team. We look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year!

Here are just a few of the pictures from the 11th.



Good News

from you

Bridges to Hope Newsletter – Volunteer of the Month

Lillian Crawford has been a long-time supporter of and volunteer at Bridges to Hope (BTH) for 22 years. BTH has picked Lillian as Volunteer of the month for February. Congratulations Lillian! Well deserved! This is from the BTH newsletter....

For the month of February, we're highlighting Lillian C! Lillian is one of our incredible food pantry volunteers. On Thursdays, she packs food hampers and keeps our shelves stocked and ready to serve the community. We asked Lillian:

When did you start volunteering with Bridges to Hope?

I started as a volunteer in the Pantry when I retired in February 2009. Before that, I had served as Secretary on the Board of Directors for 6 years.

What is your favourite part of volunteering at Bridges to Hope?

My favourite thing at Bridges is stocking the shelves. I enjoy doing other things as well - whatever needs to be done on that particular day.

Tell us a fun fact about you!

I play golf in the summer - sometimes every day - so when people say, "you must be a good golfer", I say I'm a 'happy' golfer - happy to be out in the fresh air playing a game I love with friends with mutual interests.

Please join us in thanking Lillian for her outstanding volunteer contributions over these last 22 years! We are so lucky to have her on our team.

Recipe of the month

Lemon Squares (Paul Rice)

Paul Rice has become a great friend to many here at St. David's. Paul is a great supporter of many events here at the Church. One of his favourites we believe is our Good Companions Group that meets every Thursday afternoon for carpet bowling and friendly bridge. Paul has been delighting our Good Companions with his baking skills – especially the “sweet treats” that he bakes for their “tea/coffee break”! His baking has become legendary so much so that every now and then we'll print one of his favourite recipes. This week it's his Lemon Squares. Thanks Paul for sharing and for your gifts of baking and friendship!

Lemon Squares

I find that one medium-sized lemon is enough.

Cut together as if making piecrust:

½ cup butter

¼ cup icing sugar

1 cup flour

½ salt



Spread and pat onto the bottom of an 8 or 9 "pan [I use parchment paper in the pan because it makes getting them squares out of the pan to cut easier.] Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees F.

Mix together:

2 eggs, slightly beaten

1 cup white sugar

2 ½ tbs. flour

3 tbs. lemon juice

1 tbs. grated lemon rind (or to taste)

Pour mixed wet ingredients over the baked base and return to oven for 20 to 25 minutes at 350 degrees F. [I find that 20 minutes is usually long enough.]

Sprinkle with icing sugar while still warm.



Good News *from you*

Rock Climbing Adventures

For those of you who did not watch the CBC Land and Sea episode entitled “Land & Sea: Rock Climbing Rapture on the Cliffs of Newfoundland”, we encourage you to check it out. You’ll hear and see the story of Daniel Alocoque, an expert rock climber along with some of his friends who share his passion. One of those friends is David Bruneau, who many of you know. Check out their climb of El Capitan, a vertical rock formation in Yosemite National Park. At 3000 feet from base to summit along its tallest face, it’s a world famous location for climbing.





Kiwanis Music Festival and the WA

For the last 2 weeks of February, the sanctuary in St. David’s was full of beautiful music thanks to the Kiwanis Music Festival and some very talented musicians. St. David’s was honoured to be a part of this wonderful tradition and we hope to see the Festival again next year.


Meanwhile, the WA ladies had an unexpected pleasure when the adjudicator for the day, Valerie Gordon, joined us for lunch in the Armour Room! Valerie is a Toronto based violinist, an avid performer and teacher and has her own private studio in Oakville, ON. She was a delight to meet and we so enjoyed getting to know her.

Church Information



Church Office Hours:

-  Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
-  709-722-2382 (General office)
-  709-699-3661 (Rev. David Sturtevant)
-  stdavids@nfld.com (messages are checked regularly!)

Pastoral Care

- Please contact Rev. David Sturtevant
-  709-699-3661

Donations

-  The sole email address we are using to accept donations is: stdavidsnfld@gmail.com
It is linked to our bank account and automatically accepts all donations!
-  You can find more ways to donate on our website, stdavids.nf.ca/donations-2/

How to Reach us:

Minister: Rev. David Sturtevant – Cell. 709-699-3661
Music Director: Brian Way
Administrator: Heather Steele Morrissey
Women's Auxiliary: Lillian Crawford
Good Companions (Seniors): Call Heather in the Office
Bible Study: Rev. David Sturtevant
Atlantic Mission Society: Kathy McKay & Penny Gillies
Prayer Shawl (Knitters): c/o Lillian Crawford

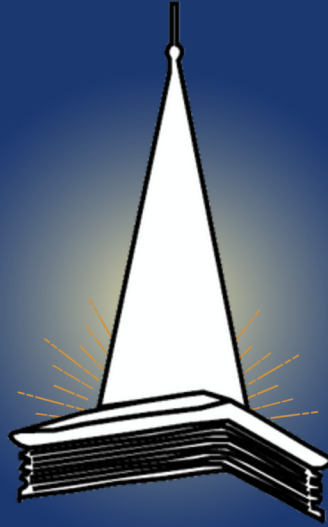
Session

Lillian Crawford (Clerk)
Sue Templeton Ken Templeton
Janet Calver Aubrey Bonnell
Penny Gillies Eleanor Bonnell Jenny Griffioen
Kathy McKay Steve Bruneau Jennifer Waterman
Ian Bruneau Ed Vanderkloet

Treasurer: Anne Calver **Envelope Secretary:** Ian Bruneau

Board of Managers:

Jill Bruneau, Anne Calver, Nnenna Odide Offia, Heather Steele Morrissey, Lisa Dooley, Debbie Wells, Aldrin Gain



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Want to share your news in the next edition?
Contact us!



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