

CHALLENGE



The Parish Magazine of St Mary Sandbach

May 2023 50p

Volume 59 No 692



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May 2023

Sunday 7th May	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Easter 5	11.15 am	Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Coronation
Sunday 14th May	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Easter 6	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 21st May	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Easter 7	10.00 am	Family Worship and Communion Followed by APCM
Sunday 28th May	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Whit Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 4th June	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity Sunday	10.00 am	Family Worship and Baptism

Holy Eucharist, Parish Eucharist - Order 1 Common Worship

Holy Communion - Order 2 Book of Common Prayer

St Mary's Church, High Street, Sandbach, CW11 1AN

“Throughout this memorable day I have been uplifted and sustained by the knowledge that your thoughts and prayers were with me.” *Queen Elizabeth II 2nd June 1953*

This month will be the King’s Coronation and as we prepare, I expect like me you have been remembering the Queen’s Jubilee that we celebrated not that long ago. Then closest in our minds the Queen’s death and all the regal events this entailed. We have marked several of these royal milestones recently, yet this one feels a little unknown and unfamiliar. Many of us have never celebrated a coronation during our lives.

King Charles is loved and respected by many but naturally it will be take some time to gain the warmth that his mother acquired during her many years of service to us. I hope that he feels supported and encouraged as he begins to fill the large void our late Queen has left and that he has the courage to do so as the person God has made him to be.

As I ponder, I can’t help but wonder how he must be feeling in the leadup to his big day and in the first months of being head of the family. We know very publicly that family rifts are in full swing so he must be juggling many emotions personally and dutifully, although he has been preparing for this position for all his adult life, I expect it is none the less daunting.

I was blessed this weekend to have a quick overnight dash to the Welsh coast, with a few friends to dream and pray together. We talked about our hopes and talked about where we could see God at work. It was a step out of ‘normal’ life, just 24 hrs with no immediate responsibilities and I can assure you it filled my soul. What a gift.

It's a gift that I am not sure the King and Queen Consort will ever really get. I understand some people will comment that they have many privileges in return for this duty, which of course is true. However, it has made me think that we really should be praying for them together, as they take their place at the head of the church and state. We should pray that they too can find ways to dream, to see where God is at work and where He is calling their attention. We should also pray that they will always turn to God when they need their souls filled.

I came across the quote on the previous page by our late Queen published in the days after her own Coronation. If the King has been learning from his mother, then we should too. Let's commit to praying for the King.

**Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,
and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Bee

The next Choral Evensongs are on:
Sunday 30th April at 6.30 pm (Coronation)
Sunday 26th May at 6.30 pm

From the Editor

It's never good to start with an apology but..... last month we inadvertently left four pages out of the magazine. I have included the relevant pages in this edition.

Advertisements. Thank you very much to the companies and organisations that have been advertising with us but have not renewed this year. We wish them all well.

There are two new companies advertising this year, but we still have room for more on the cover. If you know of anyone who would like an advertisement (£27 small; £54 large - per year) than please let me know.

Proof Reading. I just need one more proof reader to help with the magazine every other month. It's not an onerous task but will help me ensure the mistakes are kept to a minimum. If you are interested please get in touch.

Photos. Please send in more photos for the cover picture or for inclusion in the magazine. As you saw last month, the reproduction is vastly improved.

In this Issue.....

Gratitude

Teas

Coronation

Scone

Rolls

Pentecost

CWGC

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The annual church meeting will take place after the service on **Sunday 21st May**. We have a number of vacancies for PCC members. To become a member, you have to have been on the church electoral roll for a minimum of 6 months and worship regular with us. There is also a requirement to undertake safeguarding.

Sunday Services

The Sunday 10.00 am services have recently been revised.

Family Worship - 1st Sunday and 3rd Sunday (Communion)

A more accessible liturgy which is suitable for all ages.

Parish Eucharist - 2nd and 4th Sunday

For those who love the more traditional liturgy with sung responses. All ages are welcome.

Pewsheets

We are currently thinking through how we share information, news and service details. So we may ask for feedback as we try new methods in the future.

If you have any question please get in touch with me. **Bee**

Regular events and services		
Tuesday & Thursday	9.30 am	Morning Prayer in church
Mondays	9.00 am	Tiddlers - Praise & Play
Tuesdays	7.00 pm	Prayer Meeting in church
Wednesdays	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursdays	9.00 am	Thursday Teas (except first Thursday of month)
Fridays	6.15 pm	Choir Practice - contact Kevin for details (760778)
First Thursday of month	10.30 am	Bereavement Group - contact Bee for details
First Sunday of the month	9.15 am	Music group practice before Family Worship - contact Heather (768744)

Registers

Funerals



March

23rd June Burkill
28th Pam Buckley

April

18th Hilda Butters

Baptism

April

2nd Leono Konni Klennert

Coffee Rota

7th May	Stella Craven and Angela Speedy
14th May	Kath Davies and Kath Beech
21st May	Janet Hides and Christine Hirst
28th May	Jim Thompson
4th June	Jean Richardson and Iris Kenilworth

Sides people

We would welcome some more volunteers to our sides person team.

It involves being in church in time to hand out books and tidy away at the end of a service.

If you can help please contact Sheenagh or Ruth.

Say thank you

GratITUDE has been considered a moral virtue for thousands of years. According to Cicero, who was a Roman lawyer, philosopher and politician born 100 years before Christ, gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all virtues.

Other Biblical virtues include chastity, temperance, charity, diligence, patience, humility and kindness. Kindness is closely linked to the word gratitude, which is derived from the Latin *gratia*, meaning grace, graciousness, and gratefulness. It can be confused with *grazie*, which means thank you. Saying thank you is the response of your grace or gratefulness.

Gratitude is a state of mind that comes from our spirit and is a combination of wonder, appreciation and the readiness to respond

by saying thank you, which itself is an act of returning kindness to someone else. When someone says thank you to you, you are usually left with a nice warm feeling that whatever you did to deserve it was appreciated.

Rabbi Harold Kusner once said this about that nice warm feeling: 'If you concentrate on finding whatever is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul.'

How much better would our world be today if more people took the time to nurture the souls of others by simply saying thank you?



Sandbach concert series

Tickets: Adults: £12.00
Snr Citizens/
Concessions: £11.00
School Children: £3.00
Family Ticket : £25.00
Doors Open 6.30 pm

Wednesday 31st May 7 pm

Peter Moore - trombone

BBC Young Musician of the Year in May 2008, aged 12
years old!

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www.sandbach-concert-series.co.uk

All concerts at 7pm in **St Mary's Church Hall**

Tickets available on the door (cash only) or via WeGotTickets.

Electoral Roll

Are you a member of St Mary's Electoral Roll? If so, you don't need to do anything this year as the roll is being revised and not renewed. A list of the current members is posted at the back of the church.

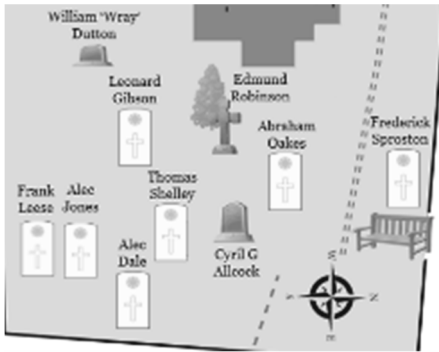
If you attend St Mary's and you're not on the roll please take and complete a form and return to the church office.

The roll provides a useful record of the members of the church who can take part in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Spotlight on a casualty buried in St Mary's churchyard

(by Pete Merrill)

Private Frederick Sproston, Service Number 121873, served in the Machine Gun Corps (MGC) during WWI and died on 4th November 1920 aged 29. He is remembered on the Cobbles' War Memorial, is registered with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) as a war casualty and is buried in the south-east area of St Mary's churchyard, Row 6, Grave 63.



Frederick was born in the parish of St Peter's, Congleton in 1891, to Francis and Henry, the ninth child of eleven and he grew up at 4 Victoria Street, Congleton.

The 1911 census records that at 19 he was a Silk Work Dresser, living with his older sister Fanny and three other siblings at 42 Dane Street, Congleton.

His life changed when he married Harriet Harvey, a Silk Waste Spinner, on 3rd May 1913, in Congleton. Within a year they had moved to 16 Church Street, Sandbach and Fredrick was now a Coach Painter. They went on to have three children together: Edward, Nellie and Phyllis, who was born three months after his death.

Shortly after moving to Sandbach, he joined the 7th Cheshire Territorial Force. The following year saw the outbreak of hostilities and, being a territorial soldier, Frederick was amongst the first people to be mobilised. He was attested on 24th November 1914 into the Cheshire Regiment and was allocated the service number 18603. However, his records show that he had poor eyesight (6/36 right eye, 6/24 left eye) and was discharged after just four days service on 29th November, being medically unfit for military service because of 'defective vision'.

However, Frederick was intent on serving and he was eventually accepted into the

military; enlisting into the MGC and being allocated another service number – 121873. Nearly all of Frederick’s service records for the time he served in the MGC were destroyed in London during the Blitz in WWII, so his period of enlistment and the theatre of war where he served is unknown. It is purely speculation, but his service number would indicate he possibly re-enlisted around October 1917 and his medal card does not reference any service abroad. Likewise, there is no record of any medical discharge; however, to be recognised as a CWGC casualty and for his wife to receive a War Widow’s Pension, the War Office had to be satisfied his death was because of war service. His death certificate records his cause of death as Phthisis Pulmonalis (Consumption) and Tuberculosis.

But the story does not end here. Researching Frederick’s military career and death did cause me some difficulty, not just because of the loss of his service records but because the



CWGC archive references our man as Frederick S Sproston, as does his gravestone. However, the letter S as one of his Christian names is a mystery, as his birth and death certificates only reference ‘Frederick’ as do all the census documents, his service records and the inscription on the cobbles’ memorial. There was, however, a Frederick Samuel Sproston who also served in the MGC at the same time as our man, but he survived the war.

It is possible that the authorities got the two names confused, but why the error was not corrected by Harriet is not clear, especially as the CWGC

routinely sent a casualty verification form to the next of kin.

So I contacted the CWGC, made them aware of the possible error and provided supportive documentation for their consideration. In December 2022, the CWGC acknowledged that there had been a clerical error and that the letter S was incorrectly associated to Frederick and updated their records. At some stage they will also replace his headstone.

St Mary's Thursday Teas

9am to 1pm

(except for the 1st Thursday of the month)

We offer a selection of filled sandwiches, tempting homemade cakes, toast, toasted teacakes, tea and coffee.

A welcoming atmosphere with food at very competitive prices and somewhere to meet friends for a drink and a chat.

Have a look at our two stalls selling books / bric-a-brac and specially designed greeting cards.

Please continue to "POP IN" - we love to see you!!

We are extremely grateful and thank everyone who continues to support us.

With your help
£7,600 has
been raised in
the last 12
months for
Church Funds.



*Thursday Teas
Group*

Sunday 7th May

After the Sunday Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Coronation, there will be a Bring & Share Lunch in the church hall.



Please come along and enjoy friendship and a natter.

Do good, be blessed

When we do good, even when others are doing wrong – God will bless us. That does not mean God will always bless us in material ways, although at times this is the case. But God will always bless you spiritually for your faithfulness.

If you have committed your life to God, let your life reflect His love for those around you. “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16). By your daily actions and your daily words to friends, colleagues and family, you can be a witness to those you meet every day, and God will honour your witness for Him.

Calligraphy

We looking for somebody who can do calligraphy. The church book of remembrance, which is always on display at the back of church needs updating.

Please contact *Sheenagh* if you can help.

St Mary's Events



* **Saturday 15th July 7:30pm**

Ashton-on-Mersey

Showband

* **Sunday 30th July 12:30pm**

Summer Lunch

* **Saturday 28th October**

Autumn Fair

If anyone would like to organise a social or fundraising event then please discuss your idea with Bee and book the Hall through the office.

Coronation

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort is a time for celebration across the nation and the Commonwealth, over a weekend of special events. Saturday 6th May 2023 the Coronation Ceremony takes place at Westminster Abbey commencing at 11 am.

This official emblem celebrates the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

The emblem is created with the flora of the four nations of the United Kingdom: the rose for England, the thistle for Scotland, the daffodil for Wales and the shamrock for Northern Ireland.

These natural forms combine to describe St Edward's Crown, used for the coronation of British monarchs. The emblem was designed by Sir Jony Ive.



Sandbach Events

St Mary's Church. Sunday 7th May at 11.15am Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Coronation. Followed by a Bring and Share Lunch.

Rugby Club. Saturday 6th May 3pm – 10pm. Foden's Band, along with the Wirral Pipe and Drum Band, and the Audley Male Voice Choir. The Finale for the Concert will be a Last Night of the Proms event with our own Sandbach Britannia performing Land of Hope and Glory and Jerusalem!

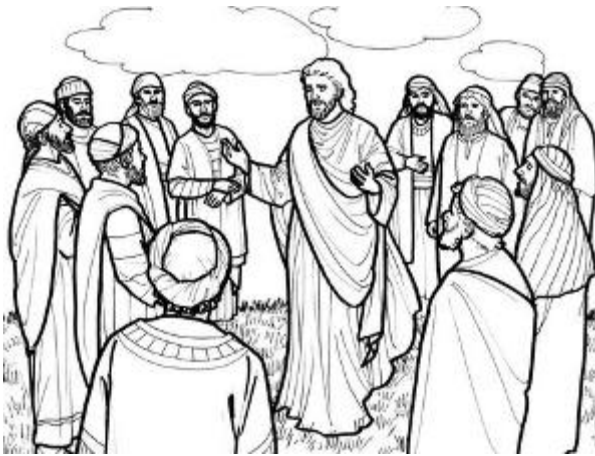
Sunday 7th May Big Tea Party. Live screening of the Coronation Music concert. Bar and food available. (Both events - limited spaces. Tickets from town hall or rugby club).

Pentecost - not a Ghost but a Gift

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and



His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when

God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle,

3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.

How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him... (Luke 11:13b)

Heavenly Father,

In these troubled times we need your help, just like those first disciples did when Jesus came back to you after his resurrection. They must have wanted him to stay with them. They must have felt puzzled and bereft – and wondered how to go on.

But you Lord knew a better way. You sent them a helper, the Holy Spirit to fill them with your life. We thank you so much that the same Spirit will be our helper too, if we are willing to ask you for him. We will be able to face each day, each challenge, with your Spirit living in us to guide and empower us, to enable us to carry on even when we don't understand.

So, we pray, come Holy Spirit, fill us, encourage us to carry on sharing your love and life and truth, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



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www.sandbachchoralsociety.co.uk

Sandbach Choral Society is a registered charity no 1082655

Christian aid week 14th to 20th May



One of the areas where Christian Aid are working at the moment is Malawi, especially in the south of that country. Malawi suffered very badly during Cyclone Freddy a few weeks ago. It was the longest lasting tropical cyclone on record (34 days) and for much of that time it settled over Mozambique and especially Malawi, where they had a year's worth of rain in 4 weeks. The devastation caused by the cyclone is enormous and widespread: hundreds of people have died and over 500,000 displaced. Malaria and cholera, already a big problem before the cyclone, are increasing. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of crops have been destroyed, along with animals, and roads have been washed away.

Malawi is a very poor country, which has contributed almost



nothing to the problem of global warming, but is suffering some of the worst results. It is a country close to my heart since I

went there with a Traidcraft trip 14 years ago. We visited one of the areas in the south, which has now been most affected by



the cyclone. We went to see sugarcane farmers working for a fairtrade co-operative. They were thrilled because they had just managed to get electricity brought to one of their villages, although few could afford to buy appliances, or even had houses that would be suitable to have it installed. But they insisted we go to their village to see it for ourselves. Of course we took lots of photos, and these two show the village, and the women hoeing in the sugar cane starters.

It's heartbreaking to think of the effects of this cyclone on these lovely people. Malawi is not called 'the warm heart of Africa' for nothing. Many of the people of Malawi are Christians - even more reason to consider them our brothers and sisters.

Of course, this is just one area where Christian Aid are working. Please give whatever support you can during this week, even though this year there will not be a house to house collection here.

Joan Plowman

Stone of Scone

‘It often seems to me that the only thing united about the United Kingdom is the name. We’ve had Brexit, various independence movements, and I’d be the last person to pour scorn on those who seek independence, nor on those who struggle to accept the validity of Royal accession. But I was struck by the symbolism of the fact that the Stone of Scone is to come back from Edinburgh to be placed under the Coronation Throne. So I do hope that, for one day at least, we can rejoice in the shared values of our United Kingdom...’ **Nigel Beeton**

United

An ancient ornate wooden seat
And an historic stone
Shall once again be joined and meet
To form a royal throne.

Our kings and queens, anointed there
O’er seven hundred years.
Upon this Anglo-Scottish chair
They heard their people’s cheers!

The throne was formed of English Oak
And gilded with fine gold
It bears the marks of common folk –
Who slept there, so we’re told.

The stone was used by Scottish kings.
Upon the Stone of Scone
Was marked the destiny it brings
In time-eroded rune.

And now, united once again
As royal anthems ring;
We sing, united just like them
Our hymn ‘God save the King!’

Christian Basics: How Does God Guide Us?

by Paul Har-
dingham (The final article in the
series)

The Return of Jesus

‘For the grace of God has ap-
peared that offers salvation to
all people... while we wait for
the blessed hope, the appear-
ing of the glory of our great
God and Saviour, Jesus
Christ’ (Titus 2:11,13-14).

Advent is the time when we
focus on the first and second
coming of Jesus. He first came
as a baby in Bethlehem as our
Saviour, ‘to redeem us from
all wickedness and to purify
for himself a people that are
his very own.’ through His
cross and resurrection. Now
we wait for His return to
judge the world and finally
put an end to sin and death.

We can understand the
relationship of these two
events by considering D
Day and VE Day in
World War 2. D Day
marked the allied inva-

sion at the beaches of Nor-
mandy on 6th June 1944. It
was not the end of the war,
but it was a decisive turning
point in which victory was as-
sured, although not finally
achieved until VE Day on 8th
May 1945.

For us, Jesus’ death and res-
urrection marks our D Day,
when He secured victory over
sin and death. However, only
when He returns, will Jesus
finally end sin and death and
all who have put their trust in
Him can share the great victo-
ry celebration in heaven.

In Advent we reflect on what
it means to live in the time be-
tween these key events. Paul
says, we need to ‘to say “No”
to ungodliness and worldly
passions and to live self-
controlled, upright and godly
lives in this present age’. More
troops died in the period be-
tween D Day and VE Day
than during the rest of
the war. Although we live
under Christ’s victory, we
will still struggle with sin
and suffering.



From the Archives



This month we are in Wheelock looking down Crewe Road towards the Shampaan Indian Restaurant and DSH Controls Ltd. In the lower image we go back to the early 1900's, when there was obviously less traffic. The house in the middle at this time was a small shop, that was attached to the Nags Head, later it became Swaites Garage that was bombed during WWII. **Stephen Minshull**



Have you ever wondered

Why doctors call what they do 'practice?'

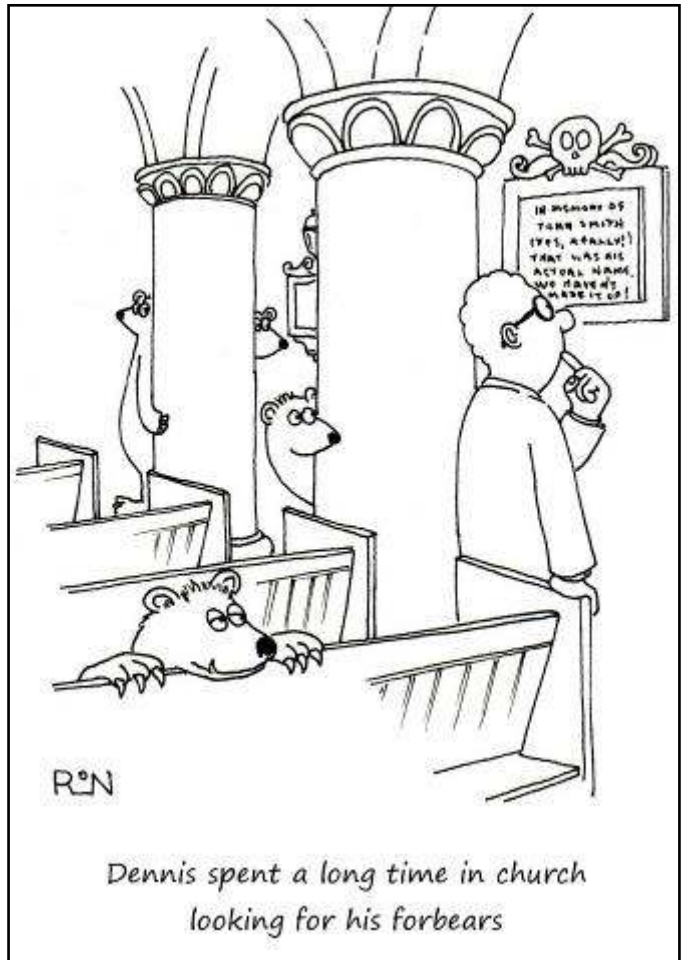
Why lemon cordial is made with artificial flavour, but dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?

Why they are called apartments, when they're all stuck together?

Miscellaneous observations

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark, to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

I burn about 2000 calories every time I put on fitted sheets by myself.



Church Contacts

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Challenge

If you have any events or information that needs publicising, or you would like to write an article, please contact the editor.

Articles must be received by **Sunday 21st May**

www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org

Donations

If you would like to donate funds for the running, repairs and mission of St Mary's then please use one of the following methods:

- Standing Order
- Contactless machine in church
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More details are available on the website:

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June magazine deadline

Sunday 21st May

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