



Sedgeberrow



Hampton – Fairfield – Thistledown
Eastwick Park – Charity Crescent



Hinton on the Green

THE HERALD

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

The magazine of the Churches of
Hampton, with Sedgeberrow
and Hinton on the Green

30p

February 2024
www.hamptonchurch.org.uk

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 or sent to the editor at The Parish Office, Hampton Vicarage, Pershore Road, WR11 2PQ
 Large Print editions of the magazine are available on request.



From the Archdeacon of Worcester, Mark Badger

Part of our calling as Christians is to constantly examine and deepen our relationship with ourselves, the Gospel and with God, I suppose you could say to continually develop our communication skills. You could say that God is the most effective communicator there is, because if we are tuned in right – God can communicate to us through everything that exists. The Jewish writer Martin Buber points this out in his book *I and Thou*, he wrote that ‘every “thou” is a gateway through to the Eternal Thou’ – for him a tree was just as much a ‘thou’ as a cat or a human being.

The traditional Christian word for the communication between God and human beings is of course Prayer. But so often we find it hard to pray, particularly in the light of all the world’s problems! So how do we do it? What do we say?

I’m reminded of a tale I heard about an old man who has gone into the local church each and every day for many years, not a religious man, yet without fail he was there. One day his mate says to him. *Ere Alf, what do ya when ya goes into Church?*

He says – I pray

What do ya say

He says, I don’t say nothin

What do ya do then?

Well – I just sits there and looks at im and he looks at me,

Unknowingly that old man had a very special prayer life- one based on giving time to gaze and listen.

When we get right down to it, prayer is not about place, posture or eloquence. Prayer is essentially about being together with God and if our relationship with God is to grow, then just as in our earthly relationships, we



need to make time to be in God’s presence and of course we need to listen!

This making time and taking time to listen is at the heart of our Christian discipleship and there have been

many tomes written in order to help Christians to make time, to listen and to pray. One writer of such books is Sister Lavinia Byrne. ‘Listening is all’ she says; ‘and we can listen anywhere, in stillness or in the reality of the business of everyday life. But listen!’

Mark Badger

In our Thoughts and Prayers



'Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength

They shall mount up with wings like eagles'

They shall run and not be weary

They shall walk and not faint. Is 40:30-31

This month sees the beginning of Lent. Let us pray that we may use it as a time to draw closer to God who is always ready to listen when we pray to Him.

'Before they call I will answer. While they are yet speaking I will hear.' Is 65:24

We pray for those parts of the world where there is discord and for the innocent who suffer wrong.

May there be a fairer distribution of the world's resources and an end to poverty and hunger.

'But strive first for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.' Mat 6:33

The Diocese of Worcester has launched a period of prayer for growth, both spiritual and numerical, over the next few years.

God of all grace and goodness,

you lead us into the way of love and life:

hear our prayer for your church in this place,

may we offer you our hearts and minds in worship,

bring others to walk with us as disciples of Christ,

and share the hope to which you have called us,

That by the work of your Spirit

We may see lives and communities transformed

And be drawn ever more deeply into your life of love,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

From the Registers - December 2023

Funerals		
11 December	Paco Jurino Godino	Hampton

Archbishop Justin to visit the Diocese

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will visit the Diocese on Saturday 3 February to bring us together in prayer.

Prayer is the first of Archbishop Justin's stated priorities and as we continue to 'pray for growth' in our diocese, his visit provides an opportunity for us to come together for a day of focussed prayer that more people will come to know the love of Jesus and join us in our life and worship; praying for our parishes, schools and communities.

All are welcome to join us as we pray in different locations throughout the Diocese.

The timetable for the Archbishop's day will be as follows:

- 10am: Top Church, Dudley - An interview with the Archbishop followed by worship and prayer.
- 12.30pm: Prayer lunch at Pershore Abbey - bring your own picnic lunch. (Please note this is a change to the originally publicised lunch at Holland House - there is no need to book for this)
- 2.15pm: The Cathedral. An interview with the Archbishop followed by worship and prayer in various prayer stations. All are welcome.

Bishop John said: "I'm delighted that Archbishop Justin has agreed to spend a day with us in February. Prayer should be the bedrock of all we are doing, and this day will provide an opportunity for us to support each other as we pray together.

I hope that it will be an extremely affecting and inspirational day.

Please do join us."



For all those who are sick, in special need or house- bound:

Mary Andrews; Sue Burdett; Brenda Clarke; Dave Cockram; Brenda Curtis; Caroline Evans; Ann Fletcher; Heather Gibbs; Duncan Houston; Carolyn Jenkins; Annabelle Keen; Joan Parry; Caroline Rusher; Steven Rhodes; Marguerite Smith; Mila Sosna; Carol Thould; David Troth; Jennifer Waters



For those who have died, and all who mourn them:

Peter Griffiths, Graham Hayes, Violet Lamb, Anne Brown, John Darby, Ann Hackett, James Corbett and Yvonne Jones



Lent 2024 – Revd. Mark Binney

There is a fourth century story about a young King who went to visit a saintly desert monk, who lived in the desert around Cairo after the age of persecution. The young king looked at the monk and said, “What a wonderful sacrifice you are making!” The monk replied, “Your sacrifice is much greater!” The shocked King asked, “What do you mean?” The monk said, “Because I have renounced the passing world, while you, young King, have renounced the eternal world.”



This is the message of the Church each Lent. The choice is presented to everyone as to what is important. The Church can only do what Jesus did – present the offer. The response to that offer is out of the control of the Church, just as it was beyond Jesus. It's an offer that can be refused and often is amid such busy and rushed lives. Lent is a time when we look at our priorities and make sure we are on the right track. It is not so much a negative time as a positive time when we check that we are not going astray. It can partly be summed up in Psalm 25.4 'Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths'.

It was in the wilderness that Satan tempted Jesus. Temptation is about choice and decision. To focus on God or follow our own selfish desires. Quite often it is when we do not make up our mind or commit our heart that we are defeated. For Jesus this was the time for decision and commitment. In the wilderness he would ask, 'Who am I? What am I called to do? How will I do it?'

We too are invited to ask the same questions during the coming weeks. To reflect upon your spiritual life and consider making improvements. Is there something you could do which would make a great difference?



St Mary the Virgin, Sedgeberrow

The Evening of Carols and Curry was well supported and much enjoyed.

The Crib Service was also well supported. The children enjoyed helping to put together the crib scene.

Our next Coffee Morning is on **Thursday February 22nd at 10am**



Act on poverty this Lent

Act on Poverty

Proverbs 31:8 says: 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed'.

As the UK gears up for a much-anticipated General Election, Christian Aid has formed a new partnership with churches and other organisations - including the Baptist Union, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church, Church Action on Poverty, and the Trussell Trust.

Together, they have launched a course called [Act on Poverty](#).

More than 200 churches and individuals have signed up to the initiative, aimed at encouraging people to put their faith into action

Over six weeks, those taking part will find out more about the reality of poverty both in their communities and around the world, through activities designed to inspire them to engage with Parliamentary candidates ahead of the election and with their newly elected MPs afterwards.

The series of resource packs contain guidance for short Bible studies; recordings of conversations with activists; questions and prompts for group discussions; videos about taking practical action; and a guide to steps churches can take to advocate for change.

Christian Aid Campaigns and Activism Officer Katrine Musgrave explained: "We have hope for a world where there is justice for all and we believe our relationships and communities can be restored and transformed. With a General Election approaching, we have an opportunity to unite our churches with a compelling message for our next Government: it is time to act on poverty."

You can find out more and sign up by visiting the Christian Aid website: [Act on Poverty - Christian Aid](#).



Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

2 February

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.



The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

Sudoku Solutions (from p16)

Easy Sudoku

1	6	3	5	8	4	7	2	9
8	7	5	2	9	3	6	4	1
9	4	2	6	1	7	5	8	3
5	1	6	9	3	2	8	7	4
2	3	4	8	7	6	1	9	5
7	8	9	1	4	5	2	3	6
6	5	7	3	2	9	4	1	8
3	2	8	4	5	1	9	6	7
4	9	1	7	6	8	3	5	2

Medium Sudoku

4	8	5	6	2	7	3	9	1
9	1	6	8	3	4	2	7	5
7	2	3	9	1	5	8	4	6
2	5	9	4	8	6	7	1	3
8	3	4	1	7	2	5	6	9
1	6	7	3	5	9	4	2	8
6	9	2	5	4	8	1	3	7
5	4	1	7	6	3	9	8	2
3	7	8	2	9	1	6	5	4

Local Warm Spaces

Caring Hands in the Vale - The Lighthouse

Waitrose Car Park

Offer Free Hot Food, refreshments and a warm space to meet people



Monday, Wednesday and Friday

12noon

Staff and volunteers always welcoming

The Tea Service - All Saints Church

Every Friday afternoon from 2pm - 3pm

There is no charge, but donations are welcome.

Spend time together, making new friends, while afternoon tea is served

Contact Rosie on 01386 442213



Evesham Older Peoples Forum

Town Hall, Evesham (Lift available)

The fourth Tuesday of every month

1.30pm to 3.30pm

Guest speaker, entertainment, games and quizzes!

Tea and Coffee, Biscuits and Cake

ALL WELCOME

Seated Exercise

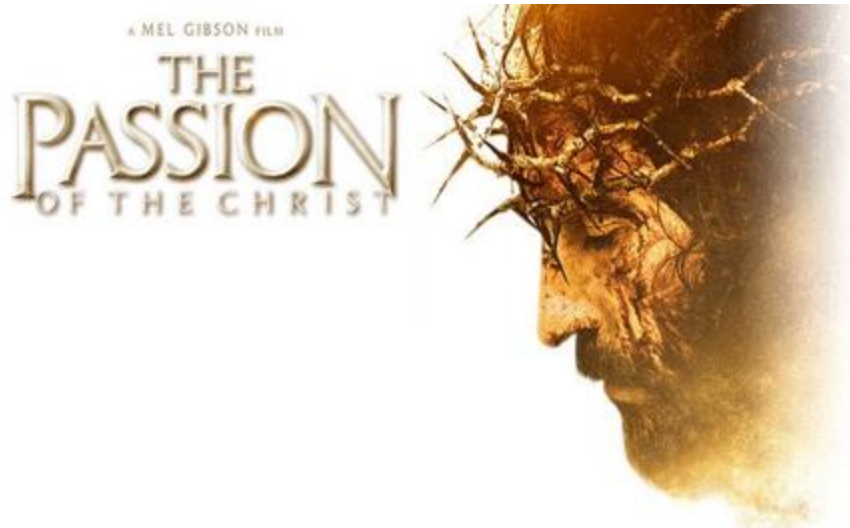
Town Hall, Evesham (Lift available)

Every Monday

10.30am - 11.30am

Followed by Refreshments and Chat

ALL WELCOME



To be shown at
St. Andrew's Church,
Hampton
(Adults only)

Tuesday 26th March 2024
10.30am for 11am start.

No charge for watching the film.

Coffee, Tea,
Cake, Soup and a roll,
available at a small charge

Please contact Margaret Thomson 07917726411
or Parish office 01386 446381 to book tickets.

Events Update – February 2024

St Andrew's Tots	Tues	6 Feb 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall
School breaks up	Fri	9 Feb	Hampton
Church Open Morning	Sat	10 Feb 10.00-Noon	Hampton
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	13 Feb 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall
Ash Wednesday Service	Wed	14 Feb 10.00am	Hampton
School re-opens	Mon	19 Feb	Hampton
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	20 Feb 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall
Coffee Morning	Thurs	22 Feb - 10am	Sedgeberrow
2 C's	Sun	25 Feb 2.30 – 4.30	Scout & Guide Hall
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	27 Feb 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall
Community Coffee & Crafts	Wed	28 Feb 11am	Hampton
Mother's Day Service	Sun	10 Mar 10am	Hampton
Springo Bingo	Mon	11 Mar 7 for 7.30	Hampton Club
Coffee & Crafting	Wed	27 Mar 11am	Hampton

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

THE TWO C'S MONTHLY TEAS

Conversation & Company

For those who are lonely or bereaved.

Please come & join us for - **Traditional Afternoon Tea**

Last Sunday of the month

Next one – 25 February 2024 from 2.30 – 4.30

Hampton Guide and Scout Hall

For Further Information: Elaine Major 01386 40722

Reflecting Faith: Memorial Stones

The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on the meanings in church buildings.

Last month we began to look at the outside of the church building. When you last visited a churchyard with very old memorials, what did you notice?

The oldest stones probably just had the name of the person, date of death and perhaps their age.

But the slightly more recent stones may well have included where the person had been born, lived, and who they had married. These stones probably belonged to the wealthier people, as they needed to be large, to include all this information!

As for the poorer folk, as cheaper stone became available, they also wanted to mark their loved one's place of rest, even with just the bare details.

With the advent of the railways, a firm in Scotland started a business for shaping the stone with recessing, into which a local stone mason would be able to carve the words. This is why you will see many similar shaped stones in every churchyard in England, Wales and Scotland for that period.

In different areas of the country, both locally sourced stones and the availability of the stonemason create very different looks – whilst within that area are many reproductions.

Also, the 'floweriness' of the inscriptions grew over the years. What started with just the name of the person later had added before the name, 'With affection', then 'With great affection', then, 'Greatly loved' and so on. It was almost as if people were trying to outdo each other on who loves who most.

Meanwhile, by the early 20th century many churchyards were 'full', and if adjoining land was available this was consecrated, but otherwise separate land was purchased – which became a 'cemetery' and was usually not the responsibility of the church.

A churchyard, on the other hand, is by definition under the auspices of 'the church', whether open or closed.

Because people continued to want to be interred in 'holy land', eventually all cemeteries were set aside and consecrated by and for the different religions and denominations, reflecting the needs of the local communities.

This month

Think about where you'd like to have as your final resting place. Whether you choose cremation or burial, is being in a set-aside 'holy place' important to you and to those who will visit?

The Big Idea – Exodus

This month we are looking at **Exodus**, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means departure, reminding us that Israel's flight out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part (chapters 1-19 & 32-34) is the story of an oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (chapters 20-31 & 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of God's people. The book introduces us to their salvation or deliverance, as story. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews His covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (20: 1-17).

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God Himself. In chapter 3 God reveals His name as YHWH or 'I am who I am' (3:14) to Moses. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament, expressed in the title 'the LORD'. To know God's name is to know Him, as well as His character i.e. His justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is the God who controls history, delivering the people out of Egypt, while the death of the Passover lamb points us to Jesus' death on the cross (1 Corinthians 5:7).

God's promises of help remain true for us today: 'Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today' Exodus 14:13.

'This Exodus story continues to be a major means that God uses to draw men and women in trouble out of the mess of history into the kingdom of salvation.'
(Eugene Peterson).

ST ANDREW'S TOTS

HAMPTON GUIDE & SCOUT HALL

Every Tuesday in term time, at 9.30am

For further information:

Margaret Thomson 01386 47541 or

look at our Facebook page



St Andrew's CE First School

Successful Learners; Success for Life



The Spring Term began extremely well with everyone returning to school refreshed after their Christmas break. We have lots of interesting work and events planned as usual and will be embarking on lots of exciting topic work, enabling the children to learn through our rich and broad curriculum.

At school, our acts of worship are based around a set of Christian Values which are relevant to everyone of all faiths and none. This half-term's value is 'RESPECT'. We are learning at school about the importance of treating others with respect even if we sometimes do not agree with the way they behave or the things they say. We have also been thinking about how we should treat the things that belong to us and to other people respectfully.

Year 3 attended a service at St Andrew's Church recently. Elaine led the collective worship where the children learnt two new hymns and listened to passages from the Bible. The children were very respectful and were amazing at using the order of service to join in with the readings and prayers.

This week, Year 5 had two special visitors, PC Martin Kennedy and PC Justine Lane from our local Safer Neighbourhood Team. All the children thought of some insightful questions to ask them. Questions ranged from 'How much training do you do?', 'What is the most dangerous thing you've had to deal with?' and 'Do you really say 'ello 'ello 'ello or just hello?'. It was a great start to their new topic of Crime and Punishment.

Our extra-curricular clubs, which are an essential part of school life because they enrich children's experiences beyond the curriculum and develop social skills, are well underway. The clubs we are offering this half-term are Chess Club, FUNdamental Club, Sewing Club, Fencing Club, Dodgeball Club and Football Club!

Joel Turvey – Headteacher

office@st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk

Tel: 01386 41351

www.st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk

Smile Line - Off to the vet

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come down on his own?"

RECIPE - Creamy Carrot and Parsnip Soup

INGREDIENTS

- ½ tsp olive oil
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 2 celery sticks, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- ½ small bunch thyme, leaves picked
- 3 large carrots, peeled and roughly chopped
- 2 large parsnips, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- 100ml double cream
- finely chopped parsley to garnish (optional)



INSTRUCTIONS

- Heat the oil in a large saucepan and fry the onion and celery for 10 mins, stirring occasionally until softened. If they start to catch, add a small splash of water.
- Add the garlic, thyme and ½ tsp black pepper and cook for 2 mins.
- Add the carrots, parsnips and stock and bring to the boil.
- Reduce to a simmer and cook for 20 mins until the vegetables are soft, stirring occasionally.
- Blend using a stick blender until smooth. Add the cream and blitz again until combined, then taste for seasoning.
- Ladle into bowls and scatter over a little chopped parsley, if you like.
- *Serve with some nice crusty bread*

Strap Lines

- Don't judge yourself by your past. You don't live there anymore.
- Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the edge of their pool and throw them fish!

Sudoku – Easy

		3		8			2	
8	7		2	9	3			
	4	2	6			5		
5	1			3			7	4
2	3						9	5
7	8			4			3	6
		7			9	4	1	
			4	5	1		6	7
	9			6		3		

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Sudoku - Medium

		5			7	3		
	1					2		
7				1	5			6
	5	9			6			
			3			4	2	
6			5	4				7
		1					8	
		8	2			6		

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Solutions on page 8

Evesham Festival of Words is back for 2024

Friday 22 March, 12.30pm for 1.00pm

'Ups and Downs of the River'

The **Severn Bore** tidal phenomenon has delighted and frustrated viewers over centuries. However, this is not only found on the Severn.



This talk by Festival favourite **Tony Conder** looks at the bore worldwide, then concentrates on the Severn tide, where the wave comes from, how people use and view it, the shape and changing nature of the river, its channels, floods and banks. A celebration of one of England's great natural free events.

Venue: Holland House, Cropthorne WR10 3NB

Tickets: £22, including lunch, available only from Holland House (online – www.hollandhouse.org; email: enquiries@hollandhouse.org or tel: 01386 860330)

Friday 29 March, 2.30pm

'Flog It versus Bargain Hunt'



Enjoy a classic Raphael's Afternoon High Tea in the company of **Robert Arley**, talking about how TV favourites 'Flog It' and 'Bargain Hunt' battle against each other. Hear how clever contrivances and taxing schedules engineer unlikely candidates and

dodgy collectibles into happy daytime viewing.

This event is part of Raphael's Easter Charity Weekend. Come along and support a local cause, all in a stunning riverside setting.

Venue: Raphael's Restaurant, Boat Lane, Evesham WR11 4BP

Tickets: £15, including afternoon tea (pre-booking essential) available direct from Raphael's or online via www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org or info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org or Tel: 0787 128506

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Angela Fitch
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www.angelifitchphotography.co.uk
07585 904636

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024

4 February – Second Sunday before Lent				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Morning Praise	Hampton
		10am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31; Colossians 1: 18-20; John 1: 1-14				
Wednesday 7	10am	Holy Communion		Hampton
11 February – Sunday Next before Lent				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Parish Eucharist	Hampton
		10am	Morning Praise	Sedgeberrow
		11am	Morning Praise	Hinton
2 Kings 2: 1-12; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9				
Ash Wednesday 14	10am	Holy Communion		Hampton
18 February – First Sunday of Lent				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Morning Praise	Hampton
		10am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
Genesis 9: 8-17; 1 Peter 3: 18-end; Mark 1: 9-15				
Wednesday 21	10am	Holy Communion		Hampton
25 February – Second Sunday of Lent				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Parish Eucharist	Hampton
		10am	Morning Praise	Sedgeberrow
Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16; Romans 4: 13-end; Mark 8: 31-end				
Wednesday 28	10am	Holy Communion		Hampton

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2024

3 March – Third Sunday of Lent				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Morning Praise	Hampton
		10am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
Exodus 20: 1-17; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25; John 2: 13-22				
Wednesday 6	10am	Holy Communion		Hampton
10 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Parish Eucharist	Hampton
		10am	Morning Praise	Sedgeberrow
		11am	Morning Praise	Hinton
Numbers 21: 4-9; Ephesians 2: 1-10; John 3: 14-21				
OR				
Exodus 2: 1-10 or Samuel 1: 20-end; 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 or Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 33-35 or John 19 25b-27				

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