

August / September 2011

The Ambassador

**The Magazine Of Market Harborough
Methodist Circuit**

www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk



'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

All of us in Market Harborough, Kibworth, Naseby and Husbands Bosworth Methodist Churches and Gartree Christian Fellowship are

Ambassadors for Christ

Dear friends,

My thoughts for this *Ambassador* were inspired by a sticky label. Our Ben has just come home from his first day in a new school with one. You know the sort of thing- at a big event, every visitor or participant wears a label with his or her name on it for instant identification.

We all tend to label people, don't we - dividing people into 'us' and 'them' or 'friend' and 'foe'. Often we do this by first impressions or by appearances. But appearances can be very deceptive, as the prophet Samuel found out when he was looking for a man to replace Saul as King of Israel. God told Samuel, "Man looks on the outside, but God looks on the heart."

Jesus.

What label would you attach to him? '**Religious**'? If you look again at the Gospels you'll find it was the 'religious' that (for the most part) were most opposed to Him.

'**Social reformer**' then'? Certainly, Jesus' actions and works have been the inspiration for countless men and women seeking to build a better world. But Jesus never started an orphanage, or a school for the poor, nor a campaign to raise living standards.

'**Politician**' perhaps? He talked of freedom, yes, and yet He was ready to offer help to a Roman soldier and turned out the merchants occupying the Temple rather than the Romans occupying Jerusalem.

There is, of course, no label which will fit Jesus, because He is unique. And labels are often unhelpful to describe you and me. But every single one of us has one of two labels which identifies us before God. They are "WITHOUT GOD" and "IN CHRIST". Which is yours?

Brian Kennard

HOLIDAY AT HOME

Now in its fourth year



For the fourth year Churches Together are running a week's activities aimed at the older members of the community (to include crafts, music and singing, talks, relaxation, computer know - how and much more)

The event will take place at the Methodist Church Centre on Northampton Road from Monday 15th to Friday 19th August (mornings) with a whole day out on Thursday.

Because of grants received we can offer places at £4 per day which includes a cooked meal.

For more details please get in touch with John Pearse Telephone 01858 464501, email john1949@btinternet.com Places are limited so please register your interest now.

Circuit Dates

Wed 7 Sept 7.30 pm Local Preachers' Meeting, Upper room, MH. This will include the Lord's Supper.

Wed 14 Sept 7.30 pm Circuit Meeting at Kibworth, chaired by Chair of District, Rev'd. Peter Hancock.



Market Harborough News



NEW WORSHIP SERVICES
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METHODIST CHURCH

At our **Ignite Services** which are held on the third Sunday in the month between 5.30 and 7.30 p.m. we enjoy food, songs, discussion, prayer, informal worship and discussion around tables - exploring faith and the big issues. All are welcome and

we feel certain that you will be able to contribute and gain things of value from our worship.

Pathways to Spiritual Growth - exploring spiritual disciplines

This, the theme for 2010/11 has been inspired by Richard Foster's book "Celebration of Discipline". This is the programme for the next few months.

2011

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|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aug 21 | Confession | Freedom in Transparency |
| Sep 18 | Guidance | Needing spiritual direction |
| Oct 16 | Fellowship | Synergy in Community |
| Nov 20 | Worship | Experiencing the Greatness of God |
| Dec 11 | Celebration | Experiencing the Goodness of God |

Indoor Bowls Monday evenings from 6 p.m.



Our weekly bowls night on Monday evenings continues to

provide great pleasure to its participants. The competition between "The boys" and "The girls" continues but, far more importantly we have chatter, a cuppa and lots of laughs.

You are all welcome to join us on any Monday evening - we open at 6 but you can come in any time till we finish at 8. During August we will be bowling on 1st and 8th August and from 5th September we will be back to normal and will meet every Monday at 6 p.m.



"Back to Church 2011"



At Market Harborough we are combining 'Back to Church 2011' with our Harvest Celebrations over the weekend 24/25

September. On the Saturday, a breakfast is planned before decorating the church for Harvest. A prayer "labyrinth" is going to be available over the weekend - this is basically a large mat with a course marked out on it, with stopping points to reflect and pray.

The Sunday "Back to Church" special service will be led by Deacon Andrew Carter. Invitation cards will be available so that we can invite individuals to the service, with a special emphasis on people who used to worship but have stopped doing so. Beyond the weekend, there are provisional plans for a Churches Together open-air Harvest celebration on the town Square on Thursday 6th October - more details later."

CONTACT.

In June we were treated to a lesson in creating beautiful flower arrangements without the use of very exotic blooms. Heather O'Connor made use of more everyday flowers to make two very lovely arrangements.

If you were inspired don't forget our Church can use your talents!

In July we went for a meal once again to The Waterfront to end our session. Much noise, good food and wonderful fellowship!

Our super-efficient secretary took the opportunity to give us next year's programme. Details of this to the end of the year are below. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Marion

Programme September to December 2011:

7th September	Jeanne Moore. Laughter - the best medicine
5th October	Maureen Hawksworth. Life and hope in Nepal
2nd November	Kath and Malcolm Harrison. Kiwis and kangaroos.
Bring and buy.	
7th December (7.30 p.m.)	Christmas miscellany

Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Roy and Barbara Howe celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 16th September. We send them our congratulations, our love and our good wishes. Roy is not in very good health at the moment and we keep them both in our prayers



FANCY BEING A SPY ON A SECRET MISSION?

Are you aged between 5 and 11?

Then why not join us for: -

Mission Rescue Holiday Club
Market Harborough Methodist
Church centre,
Northampton Road, LE16 9HE

When?:-

**Wednesday 3rd August 2011 to Friday 5th August 2011,
10 am-12.30pm.**

For more information please contact:
Sarah Jones, Worker with Young people
Children and their families, Market Harborough
Methodist Church Centre, Northampton Road, LE16
9HE. 01858 463 972 or 07780 788 814

There will be activities for families on the Sunday following this week's activities as well.



Kibworth News

Reverend Jane Gaffney.

With most of 'the brains' on holiday, my concern is to find the right words to do justice to a tribute to Jane during her time at Kibworth.

Jane became a local preacher in 1982, moved to Gumley in 1992 and joined Kibworth Church the same year and eventually moved to Kibworth in 2000. How we all have been enriched since. Her services have always been so well thought out and thought provoking. No rushing of words, but a calm measured delivery with time to consider everything she has said. Her influence has spread out from the church to the village with the climax of creating 'The Well', which is now a well respected feature in the village for both old and young.

Reading Eileen Bromley's excellent history book of Kibworth Church entitled 'A Celebration' (surely you have all bought a copy!) it would appear that Jane may be creating history as being the first member of Kibworth to become a Methodist minister.

When I was asked to say a few words at a Circuit Meeting, I remember saying that, if I was selfish, then I did not want Jane to leave Kibworth, but it was so blindingly obvious that she has been called by God to enter the ministry, and my selfishness must 'go out of the window'.

Her last service at Kibworth, the Church Anniversary, will be remembered for a spectacular display of pyrotechnics - and I missed it!

Jane, together with husband Steve and a complete and loving family go with all our love and best wishes and prayers towards an exciting new life. Our loss is someone else's gain. God be with you 'till we meet again.

Mike Millward



A note from Ivan (Editor).

I, too, was unable to be at Jane's farewell. We are all, delighted that Jane has become a Minister, though she has been ministering to us all for many years. You and your family go with our love and blessings, Jane and our thanks for all you have done and continue to do.

Ivan Hodgson

And finally, from Jane herself.

I would like to thank everyone for all the kind things said at my leaving service. I'm not usually speechless but in this instance felt quite overwhelmed by it all. I could not have done what I have without all your help, love and prayers, which have been especially appreciated over the last couple of years. The gifts are beautiful. I will always treasure them.

Thank you,

Jane Gaffney.

Kathy Morrison M.B.E

Congratulations to Kathy Morrison who has been awarded an MBE by Her Majesty the Queen in the 2011 Birthday Honours List for Services to Inter-Faith Relations in Leicester.



Kathy works at the St Philip's Centre in Leicester which runs a range of inter faith programmes, training and events. Kathy is PA to the Director and was instrumental from the start, alongside the founding Director Reverend Canon Dr Andrew Wingate OBE.

She said, "I've enjoyed helping St Philip's Centre grow into a nationally and internationally recognised charity. I'm pleased that the work of the Centre has built up such a good reputation over the years thanks to the dedication of the staff, volunteers, faith practitioners and Trustees under the chairmanship of Richard

Atkinson. It has had such a positive impact upon the lives of many people”.

Revd Canon Dr John Hall, Director of St Philip’s Centre added, “This award is well deserved. Often behind the scenes Kathy has been tireless in her efforts to support and strengthen inter faith relations in Leicester. I’m delighted for her and the Centre”.



Centre Manager at The Well.

The trustees of The Well are delighted to announce the arrival of a Centre Manager, Bev Powell. Bev joined The Well on 1st June to work 30 hours a week supporting the large team of volunteers and leading the development of this Christian Community project.

She has worked extensively in the clothing retail industry and is now settled in Leicestershire with her husband, Ian, who is Lead Elder at Meadows Community Church, Wigston. She is leading prayers each morning and lunchtime at The Well and welcomes anyone who would like to join her (more details in Rhythm of Prayer below).



The Well has recently had the garden landscaped by local builder Jamie Witcombe and the Cafè is now serving refreshments in the garden during the summer. Pop in to have

a cup of Fair Trade tea or coffee; perhaps even a treat from our selection of homemade cakes or a light lunch of soup and sandwiches. The coffee shop is open Tuesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays - 9.30am – 3pm & Wednesdays - 9.30am – 2.30pm.

In the charity shop we have a large selection of summer clothes now on display but donations are still required to keep changing the stock. We accept Ladies', men's and children's clothes, shoes, bags and belts.

We now accept and sell second hand books, so call in and get your summer reading. We have a selection of new gifts and cards at reasonable prices. The shop is open

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am - 4.30pm & Wednesdays 9.30am – 3pm.



Rhythm of Prayer at The Well



Bev Powell, the new manager at The Well, has started a 'Rhythm of Prayer'.

It is a structured prayer time, based on the Ffald-y-Brenin Rhythm of Daily Prayer used at the Christian Retreat Centre and House of Prayer in Wales run by Roy Goodwin.

Daily prayers are at:-

9.30am for ½hr

12.45pm for 10mins

Bev plans to lead morning and lunchtime prayers Monday - Friday.

All are welcome so if you do find yourself free or in the area around those times please do join her in the Prayer Room, she would love to see you.

For further details pop into The Well or ring Bev on 0116 2790148.



Husbands Bosworth News

COFFEE MORNINGS

Our Coffee Mornings will be on Wednesday 24th August and Wednesday 21st September from 10.00-12.00 at 25 High Street, Husbands Bosworth.



A warm welcome is guaranteed at the coffee morning, do come along.

	Services for August (6.30 p.m. Except where shown)		Services for September (6.30 p.m. Except where shown)
7th	Miss E Bromley	4th	Mrs B Whittam
14th	Mr R Gill	11th	Mrs J Shorley
21st	Rev B Kennard (Lord's Supper)	18th	Rev B Kennard (Lord's Supper)
28th	Mr J Pearse	25th	Rev P Green

METHODIST APP FOR Iphone.

The Methodist Church in Britain has created a free app for the iPhone - now available from the App Store at;-

<http://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/methodist-church/id369862307?mt=8>.

(N.B. The above should be typed as a continuous line without breaks)

The app offers free daily prayers and Bible studies. The popular Word in Time Bible study features a different author each week, every week of the year, with a short reflection on the day's passage and questions to consider for your own life. It's available to read every day, or you can listen to it as a podcast. And a brief but challenging prayer helps you to focus on God in the middle of your busy day.

The app also offers you the latest news, topical podcasts and tweets from the Methodist Church.

The Bible readings are based on the Methodist lectionary but Christians from all backgrounds will find this app inspiring, informative and uplifting.

We are currently working on making the app available on other smartphones.

For technical queries see our iPhone App support page. (You can navigate to this from the Methodist Church web site).



Naseby

Naseby News

All has been going well here at Naseby over the last couple of months. **A notable highlight was the Prayer Day** we held at the end of June, which saw both church members and non-members praying in shifts throughout the day and into the night. It was lovely to see people who would not normally come to our services feel comfortable enough to come into the chapel and spend time away from the bustle of life, and hopefully experience something of the peace and rest that relationship with God brings.



We also tried something a bit different at our regular **Soul Café service** at the start of July. Josiah and Elijah Watson and some of their friends ran the service, teaching the adults some new songs with rather complicated actions and performing a sketch. The service was brought together by a very professional talk on the subject of :- "The Resurrection: Fact or Fiction?" from Josiah. Look out for him preaching at a church near you soon!

Looking ahead to the summer, we're already getting ready for our annual **Holiday Club** for children aged 5-11, which this year has been given the name '**Mission Rescue**' (see next page for details). If you'd be interested in coming along, we're running it in the mornings on 9-12th August. For further information, please speak to Ruth Watson on 01604 740845.

Enjoy the summer,

Louise Jenkinson

FANCY BEING A SPY ON A SECRET MISSION?

Are you aged between 5 and 11?
Then why not join us for:-



Mission Rescue Holiday Club

Methodist Church,
Church Road,
Naseby

When?:

Tuesday 9th August 2011 to Friday 12th August 2011,
10am-12.pm.

For more information please contact:
Sarah Jones, Worker with Young people
Children and their families, Market Harborough
Methodist Church Centre, Northampton Road, LE16
9HE. 01858 463 972 or 07780 788 814

There will be activities for families on the Sunday following this week's activities as well.





Gartree Christian Fellowship

Gartree Prison Theology Class

The Class meets every Wednesday afternoon throughout the year for 2 1 hour sessions (with a coffee break between) Over the last few months membership has grown from 8-13 men with ages ranging from 20 years to around 60. In the last 2 years we have studied the Gospel of Mark and The Theology of the Narnia Stories of C.S.Lewis We are currently looking at the Christian doctrine of the Atonement (the Cross of Christ) and how it relates to human lives today) During Holy Week this year we watched the Mel Gibson film " The Passion of Christ". Over the next six to eight months we shall be working on an ambitious project to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the Throne in 2012. More of that in a later issue..... Please remember us in your prayers.

Revd Peter Green

The E100 Bible Reading Challenge

You are all invited to take part in this challenge no matter how much (or little) you read the Bible now. If you are avid readers, you will know that one can always learn something new from even familiar passages and it would be good to encourage those that are less familiar with the Bible. If you are not much of a reader of the Bible now, you won't be alone, and perhaps this will be the start of an exciting journey of discovery.



The challenge will be launched at the morning service on Sunday 4th September, 2011. Hopefully from mid August, the E100 Bible Reading cards will be available and these will detail the Bible reading passages for each week (five

each week). The challenge comprises reading 50 Old testament passages from 5th September to 27th November, 2011 and 50 New Testament passages from 2nd January to 11th March, 2012. During the process, it is planned that there will be ten other services where the preaching will be geared to the challenge readings.

Small groups are considered to be a vital part of this process. These will enable members in small informal groups to discuss the Bible passages, ask questions and encourage one another in a friendly and caring atmosphere. A leaflet should be available at the Church from early August, outlining some of the purposes of small groups and saying what small groups are presently active in the life of the Church. Existing groups are being invited to make the E100 readings the major focus of their group meetings during the period of the challenge. It is also hoped that new groups will be formed, day-time as well as evening, to enable all that wish to participate to be a part of a small group at a convenient time.

If you are not already a part of a small group but would like to be, at least for the period of the challenge, please let John Pearse know. He would also like to know whether you could host such a group. There will be a list in the Church foyer by the end of July for people to indicate their wish to be involved. If you want to know more or have any questions, please contact John Pearse (telephone 01858 464501 or e-mail john1949@btinternet.com).

Although this is intended for the Market Harborough Church, some copies of E100 Bible reading challenge cards will be sent to other Churches in the Circuit.

John Pearse

A Book review.

Rev Peter Green has recently been reading **“SIMPLY CHRISTIAN”** by Tom Wright (London SPCK)

Peter has written a very helpful review of this book - reproduced as follows.

It is a long time since I read a more exciting book of theology! Not surprising perhaps when the author - former Bishop of Durham and now a research professor at St Andrew's University - is one of the ablest Christian scholars and communicators in Britain today.

Tom Wright has written an account for the non-specialist reader of the fundamentals of Christianity. His powerful use of language shows an exceptional wordsmith breathing new life into old themes: God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Worship, Prayer, the Bible. All come alive in his expert hands, and with everything backed up by solid but palatable scholarship.

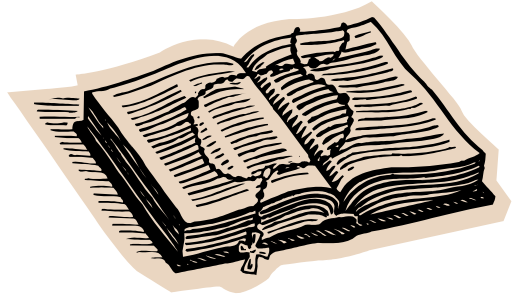
It is the first of the three main sections of the book which I found most fascinating and compelling. Here, instead of speaking of the so-called "proofs" for God (largely discredited, though in several respects still useful) the author writes of what he calls the "Echoes" of God's voice heard in humanity's frustrated longings for justice, spirituality, relationships and beauty. These longings he sees as pointing beyond themselves to the God for whom these concerns are paramount. He weaves these themes into the other sections of his book in masterly fashion.

The final two paragraphs of the book are a breathtaking tour de force, almost like the peroration of a political speech or the climax of an evangelical sermon in which the author invites us to join in the task of bringing to birth the new creation of which the Bible speaks and which is God's ultimate intention for heaven and earth. I felt like standing and applauding!

Here is a book (just over two hundred pages long) for any Christian wanting to engage with the truths of their Faith and,

indeed, for anyone wishing to know what Christians believe and what Christianity is all about. It could also be a useful resource for anyone wanting the confidence to engage with the New Atheism.

Revd Peter Green (from whom the book may be borrowed)



THE CUBE PLANNING APPLICATION

In common with many others in our churches I wrote to Harborough District Council in support of the application for planning permission to change the use of the Bowling Pavilion to that of Youth Centre to enable “The Cube” to go ahead.

I was delighted to receive a letter from Harborough District Council informing me that ‘the decision has been taken to approve this application, subject to conditions, on 13th July 2011.

Jean Molcher tells me that it was a very nervy time at the meeting but every councillor was behind the project -we just have to deliver now. If we get the funding then we hope that work will commence in September.

Please continue to keep all involved in ‘The Cube’ in your prayers as there is a great deal of work to be undertaken over the next weeks / months.

A bit of humour

Thanks to Patrick Mawby for these snippets

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?'

One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake and their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, ' Ryan , you be Jesus !'

And thanks to Peter Arnold for these.

Grandparents

When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us

I'm not sure who gave me these:

Q: Why is a cheap violin like a jury?

A: Everyone breathes a sigh of relief when the case is closed.

During her rounds a doctor points out an X-ray to a group of medical students. "As you can see," she says, "the patient limps

because his left fibula is arched. Michael, what would you do in a case like this?" "Well," ponders Michael, "I suppose I would limp, too."

"I made my husband a millionaire," said a woman to her friend.

"And what was he before you married him?" asked the friend.

"A billionaire," replied the woman

LOVE - God's Love and Ours (1 John 4, 7-12)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

(1 John 4, 19 - 21)

We love because He first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: "Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."

Imagine you had received *A Letter From Jesus*

I am sending you a letter by way of one of My disciples. Just wanted to let you know how much I love and care about you and how I greatly desire to become a meaningful part of your life.

This morning when you awoke, I was already there with you in the light of My beautiful sunshine that filled your room. I was hoping that you would say Good Morning to Me - but you didn't! So I thought maybe it was just a little too early in the day for you to notice Me.

Again I tried to get your attention when you stepped out of your door. I kissed your face with a soft gentle breeze. I breathed upon you My fragrant sweet breath scented with flowers. Then I sang you a love song through the birds in the trees. You just walked past Me.

Later in the day I watched over you as you were talking with some of your friends. Oh how I wished you would talk to Me also. I waited and waited but you just went on talking and then walked on your merry way.

This afternoon I sent you a refreshing shower and glistened to you from each raindrop. I even shouted to you a time or two with a rainbow in the midst of My fluffy white clouds. I just knew you would see Me then, but you were not aware of My Presence.

This evening to close your day, I sent you a beautiful sunset. After that I winked at you a thousand times through my stars, hoping that you would see Me and wink back. You never did!

Each and every day I have revealed Myself to you in many strange and wondrous ways, hoping that you would accept Me as your shepherd. For I am the only One who can supply you with all your needs. My love for you is deeper than the deepest ocean and bigger than the great blue sky. I have so much to give you and also to share with you. Please let Me hear from you soon.

Your loving friend forever,

Jesus

I understand that this article is as seen in South Sheffield Evangelical Church magazine. Thank you Chris and Hanny Hill-Jones for this.

40 years in the ministry!.

Rev Peter Green celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination with afternoon tea on Saturday 9th July. We were all made most welcome and we all enjoyed celebrating this wonderful occasion with them. Peter was ordained by Rev. Kenneth L Waights, a wonderful Minister and President of conference.

Congratulations Peter and love and blessings to you, Helen and your families.



Helen and Peter on 9th July 2011 in their garden.

Collective Nouns.

In the last issue I asked whether anyone had any suggestions for collective nouns to describe retired ministers and / or their wives / husbands.

As Ministers are said, I believe, to 'stand down' on retirement, Marion suggested to me a 'standing down' of retired ministers. However, no one could provide a collective noun as descriptive as some she gave me for natural creatures.

A 'murder' of crows.

A 'watch' of nightingales.

An 'exaltation' of larks.

A 'parliament' of owls.

A 'murmuration' of starlings.

A 'congregation' of plovers. (Anyone fancy preaching to plovers?)

PRAYER

"All that Christians do, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer if done in simplicity, according to the order of God. Prayer continues in the desire of the heart, though the understanding be employed on outward things. "

John Wesley

Prayer Cairn

An idea from the Liverpool (North) Circuit who used the theme of "Our Rock of Prayer".



People who signed up to a prayer rota and people attending services were given a palm sized pebble to hold as they prayed. The theme offers the potential for individual interpretation but all the pebbles (and prayers) were gathered together to form a cairn.

Cairns are traditionally built as memorials or waymarkers. Maghull Methodist Church have a prayer cairn outside their building as a permanent reminder of what prayer can achieve.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM IVAN

To be sure that articles can be included in the October / November edition of Ambassador ,they need to reach me **by Sunday September 11th** to 14 Fairway, Market Harborough or via email to ivan.hodgson1@ntlworld.com. 'Phone 01858 461282. If articles reach me before this date it would be super - it gives me more time in case there are problems. I am awaiting a call to hospital for some more surgery and therefore the earlier the better.

Thank you all.

Ivan Hodgson

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