

St John's Square / Wentworth St Wakefield WF1 2QU

Harvest
Festival
Service
10.00am
Sunday
12<sup>th</sup>
October

Parish Magazine October 2025





#### We have a 10.00am service of Holy Communion each Sunday

We provide hand gel as you come into church and at the entrance to the prayer chapel.

There are candle, shell and leaf prayer stations in the side chapel.

At the communion we offer bread and wine. If you do not wish to use the common cup you may just partake of the bread.

Refreshments are available after the service.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month we offer prayer for healing with the laying on of hands, in the side chapel.

The 10.00am service is live streamed and available from 10am onwards on the St John's YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyIQ-Vbrv-5bikSlpgV2QQ Just click on the link and select the service for today from the range of videos on the channel.

If you are on email you can receive the weekly newsletter this way. Please let Stephanie know if you would like this.

#### **Tea-Time Service**

We also have a service at 4.00pm on the third Sunday. Everyone is welcome. The service is very relaxed with songs, activities, readings and prayers.

It is for everyone: families of all kinds, children, adults, young and old. Why not come along? Drinks and biscuits (and sometimes cake!) will be available before the service.

#### The Art of Study... Reconnected

Have you read any good books lately? Your response could range from 'Oh I don't have time to read', to 'well, I read the Bible everyday... does that count?' It's definitely a good book! On a recent holiday I read two full books and finished a third the day after I arrived home. There have been times when it's taken me 6 months to read just one. Two of the books were quite 'light'. Both kept me engaged, as they gently took me into the scenarios and drew me close to each character. They led me to anticipate what might happen next and encouraged me to draw my own conclusions before the clear and definite ending.

The third book was a story woven around the characters that we encounter in Paul's letter to the Philippians, in the New Testament of the Bible. (We preached on this during this summer's services.) Half the book is notes relating to the characters and culture that the author draws on to create her story. As well as giving insight into the context of the Philippians, the book encourages the reader to look anew at what Paul wrote to encourage the young church in Philippi.

Whilst in training for LLM (Licensed Lay Ministry) I wrote a series of articles for this magazine entitled 'The Art of study...'. They detailed the trials and tribulations of going back to studying after some considerable time away. I encountered books that ranged from complete 'brain melt' to pure inspiration and everything in between. The overriding impact, however, was an encouragement to delve into books that I might not otherwise have read.

In October we return to our study of the Gospel of Luke. Now that is a good book! Similarly, the 'Pilgrim' group will be exploring The Beatitudes using the Pilgrim resources. In both groups people have time and space to explore the passage.

pose related questions, then discuss and exchange opinions in a safe and spiritual environment.

Exploring a book together allows us to hear what others think and see how differently people may understand the same words. We all approach things in our own way, with our individual experiences and interpretations. By sharing these differences we can re-evaluate how we see things and learn from one another.

I find 'study groups' an invaluable way to explore the Bible with a variety of people, at different stages of their Christian journey, who each bring their own insight.

Do consider joining a study group this autumn. Think of it as 'reconnecting' with the Bible. Explore familiar words, share your thoughts, ask questions and learn from one another. During these increasingly difficult times talking together can be so valuable.

Details are available on page 14 in this magazine and on the weekly newsletter. If you have any questions please ask one of the leaders, or better still someone who attends.

All study and exploration of the Bible, and books that offer insight and encouragement of our thinking and discipleship, helps us to develop our relationship with God and our lives as Christians.

As Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians,

"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you discern what is right..." (*Phil* 1:9)

And as he begins to conclude his letter,

"Keep on doing the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me and the God of peace will be with you." (Phil 4:9)

#### Come and join us for an exciting



## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 3.30pm — 5.30pm in church

Games, activities and food Create, celebrate, worship Come along and join in the activities and fun!

All children to be accompanied by an adult, please. (Food is available for adults as well as the children)

If you have any questions, contact Cath on cath.s.fox@outlook.com

#### **DIARY DATES for OCTOBER 2025**

Wed 1 October 11.00am-1.00pm Drop In to St John's 1.30-2.45pm Study Group on Luke, in church Toddler & Baby group Fri. 3 9.00am **Sunday 5 October Trinity 16** 10.00am **CREATION SERVICE** Mon. 6 9.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom Wed.8 11.00am-1.00pm Drop In to St John's. 3.30-5.30pm **MESSY CHURCH** Fri. 10 9.00am Toddler & Baby group HARVEST SUPPER (see page 8) 6.00pm **Trinity 17** Sunday 12 HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE 10.00am Mon 13 9.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom Wed. 15 11.00am-1.00pm Drop In to St John's Study Group on Luke, in church 1.30-2.45pm Fri. 17 9.00am Toddler & Baby group Sunday 19 **Trinity 18** Holy Communion 10.00am 4.00pm Tea Time Service 9.30am Mon 20 Morning Prayer via Zoom Wed 22 11.00am-1.00pm Drop In to St John's. Toddler & Baby group Fri. 24 . 9.00am Sunday 26 **Trinity 19** Holy Communion 10.00am Mon 27 9.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom Wed 29 11.00am-1.00pm Drop In to St John's Study Group on Luke, in church 1.30-2.45pm Fri 31 4.00-6.00pm Halloween 'Light' party (see page 11) **All Saints Sunday 2 November Trinity 20** Holy Communion 10 00am 9.30am Mon. 3 Morning Prayer via Zoom Drop In to St John's. 11.00am-1.00pm Wed.5



#### We did it!

Well done to everyone at St John's Church, it's been an incredible effort...

We have achieved an Eco Church Silver Award.

It was hard work but the time invested has been worth it to focus on the natural world that we've restored and the climate that we've

protected. Thank you everyone. Together we will see our environment thrive and flourish.

We have our certificate for church, our eco badge for the website and eventually we can purchase an Eco Church plaque. These are handmade from recycled wood, available from Grassmarket Community Project for £90. (Proceeds go to Grassmarket, a social enterprise creating community, sanctuary and support for people with multiple complex needs in Edinburgh).

As part of A Rocha's commitment to every church in England and Wales becoming an Eco Church, they provide Eco Church free of charge to churches. But for those churches that can afford it, they ask for a small donation of up to £125 from all awarded eco churches. This contributes to their running costs and the growth of the eco church movement.

Liz Oldroyd

Many thanks to all who helped, in so many ways, when the church was open to the public for the Heritage weekend. The visitors really appreciated being able to visit, explore, browse and to talk to members of the congregation.



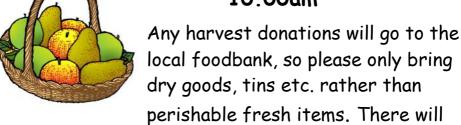
# Friday 10 October 6.00pm in church HARVEST PIE & PEA SUPPER



(meat & potato/ chicken & leek / veggie) £10 adults, £5 children under 8. Bring your own drinks. Must pre-book: sign list in church or ring Paul 01924 367976

## HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE Sunday 12 October

10.00am



also be a bowl for donations of money towards items people need but which are rarely donated.

Just been to the gym at work because they've got a new machine in. Only used it for half an hour as I started to feel sick.

It's great, though. It does everything - KitKats, Mars bars, Snickers, Crisps, the lot.



"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."

Don't grumble because you don't get what you want; be grateful you don't get what you deserve. – Anon

The cable repairman was on my street and asked me what time it was. I told him it was between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

In need of company or some conversation?

Lonely, or just at a loose end?

Wanting some quiet space?



Each Wednesday St John's is open 11.00am – 1.00pm Anyone is welcome to 'dropin' for a cup of coffee or tea.

There will be people to chat to, if you want some company or some local information, but space for quiet if that is what you need.

You might just want a warm space to eat your lunch.

Do come along, we'd love to meet you.

### Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

Long ago, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End', with ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. As they moved into winter, people feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So they lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

When the Romans arrived they brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace both the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', which became shortened to 'Halloween'.

For centuries fear of the supernatural remained strong. In the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits on Halloween.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning, of All Hallows' Eve should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

Some parents are not quite sure what to think about Hallowe'en – is it just harmless fun, or are there aspects of it that don't fit in with how we want to see the world? A child's christening service is very honest about the reality of good and evil, and Hallowe'en can be a good time to talk about those things and how the love of Jesus can be a 'Light in the darkness' for everyone.

Hallowe'en is the night before the church's festival celebrating All Saints. A Saint is not necessarily an exceptionally holy person: in the Bible, St Paul calls ALL Christians saints. A saint is simply a friend of God, who seeks to live their life according to God's purposes. A very good example for us to follow

## See You at St. John's This All Hallows' Eve!



We'll be outside the church on October the 31st from 4pm until 6pm serving hot chocolate, sharing treats, and hosting fun activities for young people.

Everyone is welcome! Come and stop by as we celebrate light, joy, and community.

#### Joseph Winter Lecture 2025

## Wednesday 1 October Wakefield Cathedral

## Speaker: Rev. Dr Susan Durber President, World Council of Churches.

Formerly Principal of Westminster College, Cambridge and theological advisor to Christian Aid.

Dr Durber will speak about the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council of Nicea and its significance for today.

This will link us with the world-wide celebrations organised by the WCC

Optional Choral Evensong 5.30-6.15pm

Tea and coffee available from 6.15pm

Lecture and Q&A 7.00-8.30pm

Everyone welcome. No charge.

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The charge has had a dramatic effect – with a reduction of 98% in sales.

In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets. The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.

Cath's editorial speaks of how differently we might each understand the same words.

'Unparalleled Misalignments' are pairs of non-synonymous phrases where the words in one phrase are each synonyms of the words in the other. But the phrases certainly do not mean the same! Here are a few examples:

- Home schooled // House trained
- Forest fire // Amazon Kindle
- Blanket statement // Pillow talk // Cover story
- Quick sort // Short order
- Fast fashion // Taylor Swift // Quick Fix
- Drink menu // Spirit guide
- Speed limit // Amphetamine shortage
- Minor correction // Key change
- Telephone pole // Call log
- Local girl // Near miss
- Dark horse // Nightmare
- White onion // Light bulb
- Pen Pal // Cellmate

God of mission,
You give fresh life to St John's
Send your Holy Spirit to give
vision to our planning,
wisdom to our activities,
and power to our witness,
that we may grow
in love and commitment to you
in number of disciples
and in loving service to our neighbours
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **Details of Study Groups**

#### The Gospel of Luke

The Wednesday Bible Studies on Luke will be held in the Samaritan Room from 1.30 - 2.45pm on:

Weds 1<sup>st</sup> October Weds 15<sup>th</sup> October

Weds 29th October

Weds 5<sup>th</sup> November Weds 12<sup>th</sup> November





#### **Pilgrim Course**

Those studying the fourth Pilgrim course, on The Beatitudes, meet 7.30 - 9.00pm Thursday evenings at the vicarage.

2<sup>nd</sup> October 9<sup>th</sup> |October 23rd October 6<sup>th</sup> November 20<sup>th</sup> November 27<sup>th</sup> November

Details are available from Stephanie.



## Sundays at 10.00am

Our Sunday morning children's group takes place **during term time.** Join us in the Samaritan Room for story, prayer and activities.

A fun place to learn and grow in faith. All children 4-11 years old are welcome.

Further details from Cath Fox on cath.s.fox@outlook.com

#### St John's Christmas Fayre 2025 Saturday 29 November 10.00am-1.00pm

#### SAVE THE DATE

for our main fund raising event of the year

If you fancy helping out on a stall or have any ideas for new stalls, please get in touch.

We will soon be collecting donations of bottles; unwanted gifts; home made craft items; books, jigsaws and toys in good condition; tombola prizes; and sweets suitable for children's prizes. However, we won't be having any bric a brac this year.

Many thanks, Sally & Liz

My sister lives in a retirement complex. In one of the communal areas a jigsaw is always 'on the go'. One day they found the following document lying on the jigsaw:

A little silver-haired lady called her neighbour and said "Please come over and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle and can't work out how to get started. The picture on the box shows a rooster, but I can't find the right pieces for it."

The neighbour goes over, and the little silver-haired lady shows him the box, and the table where all the puzzle pieces are spread out.

He studies the box, and the pieces, then says to her, "First of all we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything that looks like a rooster. But we are going to relax over a nice cup of tea, and then", sighing deeply, "we will put all the cornflakes back in their box."

#### St John's School Page

Images of our Y6 Art Topic for this half term - we have been looking at Hans Holbein the Younger and sketching Henry VIII.









#### The Prayer for Holy Love

1 Thessalonians 3:12, 13, runs: 'May the Lord ...establish your hearts un-blameable in holiness.' Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian church, dating from about 51 AD, is generally regarded as the first book in the New Testament to have been written. That means that this *prayer is the first New Testament prayer to have been composed*.

Paul has already highly commended the genuine spiritual experience and character of these new Christians. He thanked God for their faith, love and hope, 1:3; they were examples to others, 1:7; their faith in God was being widely spoken about, 1:8; and having turned from idolatry they were now serving the true God and expecting Christ's Second Coming, 1:9, 10. It is for these new and enthusiastic believers that Paul now prays.

The prayer asks for two great blessings for these Christians. First that they may abound in love toward each other and to the world, and then that their conduct will be characterised by holy living. What a model prayer this is for Christians in every age! Note Paul's words, 'may the Lord make you increase and abound in love' (v.12). This is not merely asking that these believers will love one another, but that their love will be full and overflowing.

Perhaps Paul is recalling that Jesus said the world would recognise His disciples by their love toward one another (John 13:35). But this love, the essence of Christian experience, is not narrow or parochial. Paul prayed that their love would abound not only to each other but also 'to all men.' What a picture of what His church should be! All of us who claim to be His people should be known by our love for one another and for the world for which He died.

Then comes the second request in the prayer, that their hearts will be 'established un-blameable in holiness.' (v.13). The word translated 'established' means to be fixed, to be settled, indicating constant character. In this world no Christian can be

faultless, but by His grace and mercy we are called to be blameless. In the prayer Paul brings together the condition of our hearts – overflowing in love, and the quality of our conduct – steadfast in holy living. What a combination of holy love, a reflection of what Jesus was!

One other aspect of this prayer is worth noting. When Paul prays that the love of these Christians will abound to each other, he adds that this is how he feels about them; 'as we do to you' (v.12). Likewise, in 2:10 Paul says the Thessalonians are witnesses of His holy, righteous and blameless conduct among them.

The love and holiness for which Paul prays for these believers can be seen in his own life and work. Surely the most pressing need in all our congregations is that all of us as Christ's disciples will consistently bear witness to His love controlling our hearts and our conduct.

Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle

Most of us are familiar with the international phonetic alphabet: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie etc.

Here's one to confuse everyone!

A for Aisle B for Bdellium C for Czar D for Diibouti F for Fwe F for Pharaoh G for Gnome H for Heir I for Island J for José K for Knife L for Llama M for Mnemonics N for Nauven O for Oeuvre P for Psychology Q for Qatar R for Rendezvous S for Sisyphus U for Utrecht T for Tsar V for Viking W for Wrestling X for Xylophone Y for Yttrium 7 for 7wieback

## What do beavers and rainbows have in common? They both need leaders!



The 25th Wakefield (St John's) Scout Group has a **Beaver Colony** (ages 6-8) which meets every **Tuesday 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm** in the Scout Hut by the Parish Centre. They urgently need **more leaders** to keep the fun going!

As a leader, you'll help plan and run weekly meetings, plus join in on weekend

activities and camps. You'll need to be available a bit before and after Tuesday meetings for setup and pack down, and dedicate some time during the week for planning.

No experience? No problem! Full training and support are provided.

If you would like to talk to someone about becoming a Beaver leader please click below to fill in a form at <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSc6c1Z2iyhylE9CGv1aH-6ElvK9lyPEdlAPhKl3DlrZXjN7AQ/viewform?">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSc6c1Z2iyhylE9CGv1aH-6ElvK9lyPEdlAPhKl3DlrZXjN7AQ/viewform?</a> usp=sharing&ouid=105272546151232362322

#### St John's Rainbow Unit

Have you an hour a week to spare to help at your local Girl-guiding Rainbow Unit? Rainbows welcomes all girls from 4-7 years old to laugh, learn and have fun in a creative safe space. We meet on Thursday evenings (term time) from



6.00pm-7.00pm in the reception area at St John's Church. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Ann on 07932 39402

#### **Community Use of St John's Church**

Wentworth St, Wakefield, WF1 2QU

The church building is fully accessible, with ramp access to the main door, and two ramps giving access to the staging. Our accessible toilet also provides baby change facilities.

For further information, or to enquire about hiring our facilities, please e-mail: stjohn.churchbookings@gmail.com

Comfortable chairs in the nave offer flexible seating for up to 200 people. There is a dais, a keyboard and a sound system. Cost is £30 an hour. WiFi, sound system, computer projection equipment, electric piano and organ can be included, subject to an additional charge, on request





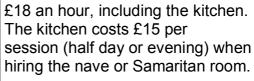
The Samaritan Room has space for up to 15 people. It costs £15 an hour.

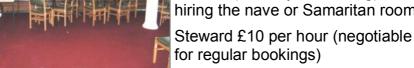
Our fully equipped

kitchen opens onto a café area with 6 tables + 24 chairs. The tables can be removed to make a larger, more flexible, meeting space. The café





















YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL













THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.: IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

### YOUR PARKING SPACE

This company operates our car park, on the corner of St John's Avenue and Wentworth Street WF1 2QU. You can pay for parking on an hourly, daily, monthly basis. You pay with your mobile phone: either call 0330 333 8434 (local rate) or download the YourParkingSpace app. (available on the app store or Google play) For either method you need to enter St John's Church location ID: 11173. This ID is displayed at the car park, along with all other details. You will be advised of the rate being charged once you have input your preferred option. The car park has 24/7 monitoring of number plates. Any car parking without payment may be issued with a Parking Charge Notice, so that only paying or permitted vehicles use the area.

Full terms and conditions are on their website: www.yourparkingspace.co.uk /company/terms-conditions YourParkingSpace Ltd. Company No 08670309 Any revenue from the car park goes to the church.

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Readings at the 10.00am Communion Service			
Date	Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
5 Oct.	Trinity 16	Philippians 4: 4-9	Luke 14:25-33
12 Oct.	Trinity 17	Philippians 4: 10-23	John 3: 8-17
19 Oct.	Trinity 18	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Matthew 9:9-13
26 Oct.	Trinity 19	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16: 19-end

The views expressed in this Magazine are those of each writer and are not necessarily held by the Editor, Vicar or PCC.

#### **Magazine Contributions**

The Editor is always pleased to receive news of events, to come or which have taken place; reports of church activities; original articles, stories, etc. We cannot guarantee that they will be included, and they may be edited before inclusion.

### Please send contributions for the November 2025 issue

#### **By 12 October 2025**

**All copy should be sent to the editor:** Deidre Morris at 263 Park Lodge Lane, Wakefield WF1 4HY

Or e-mail to: bandmorris@btinternet.com

#### **Mission Statement**

St John's is here to be a living, loving and serving witness to Christ; worshipping, learning and growing in our faith together, reaching out to share God's love in the community and bringing His Word to all

#### PARISH ACTIVITIES / ORGANISATIONS

**Parish Morning Prayer** Mondays at 9.30am on Zoom A Psalm, a Bible reading and some prayers. All welcome. The Zoom link to join in is: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89866690323?">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89866690323?</a>

wd=NHZXaEc2TkJEcFBXbmtpOE5WTEpadz09

**Church Drop-In** 11.00am—1.00pm Wednesday Everyone is welcome to drop in for tea/coffee, a chat etc.

**Toddler & Baby** 9.00-11.30am Friday in church **Playgroup** (during term time) *A time for babies, toddlers and their carers to play and to share.* 

Church Choir Practice after the 10.00am service Join us in helping to lead Sunday worship

#### UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Purposeful activity in a structured, fun environment.

**25**<sup>th</sup> **Wakefield Scout Group** For boys and girls, held in the Scout Hut by St. John's Parish Centre.

Details: Group Scout Leader Laura Stephenson 07772869561

#### Rainbows

To register an interest, visit <a href="www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a> & click on join

Rainbows contact Ann Coulson – 07932394020

#### **Sunday Services at St John's**

#### **EVERY SUNDAY**

#### 10.00am Parish Communion

There will be candle, shell and leaf prayer stations available in the side chapel.

10.00am St John's Juniors - 'JJs' - meet for story, prayer

and activities in the Samaritan Room.

All 4-11 year-olds welcome. (Term time only)

We have toys and books in the café area, for younger ones, but parents are asked to supervise them at all times.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY EACH MONTH (usually)

#### 4.00pm Tea-Time Service

For everyone: families of all shapes & sizes, singles, children, adults, young and old.

A relaxed service, with songs, activities, readings and prayers, beginning with refreshments.

We have a crèche area for the service.

#### 4th SUNDAY EACH MONTH

In the side chapel, during communion, we offer prayer for healing, with the laying on of hands.

Everyone, of any age, is welcome at all our services.

The entrance door to the church is on the city centre / High School side of St John's Square. There is a ramp access for wheelchairs and pushchairs up to this door.

There is a fully accessible toilet at the church, and a babychange facility.

There is an induction loop for those who use a hearing aid.

#### Who's Who at St John's

Vicar The Revd Stephanie Buchanan

Tel: 01924 371029

e-mail: stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com

Assistant Clergy: The Revd Paul Ellis 01924 367976

Churchwardens: Sally Jones 07712 989714

**Liz Oldroyd** 07975 839277

Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers)

**Cath Fox** 01924 386422

**Brian Morris** 01924 369437

Treasurer: **Geoff Lockyer** 01924 368972

To ask about booking any of the following - Church, Church Reception Area, Samaritan Room -

e-mail: stjohn.churchbookings@gmail.com

Magazine Editor, and Advertising Manager

**Deidre Morris** 263 Park Lodge Lane, WF1 4HY 01924 369437 e-mail: bandmorris@btinternet.com

Our Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7365

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