

# Shanklin Chimes

Church and Community News



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**January**  
2026

The monthly magazine of  
**St Blasius Old Parish Church**

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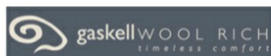
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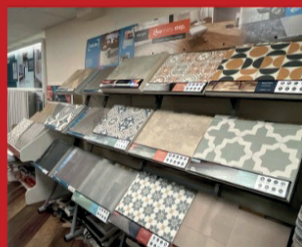
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# Shanklin & District History Society



Meetings with a speaker and archive display are held at the Falcon Cross Hall (next door to the library) on the first Thursday of the month at 7.25

Visitors are welcome

For details of talks and other events please see our website  
**[shanklinhistory.net](http://shanklinhistory.net)**



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To find out what and where to donate or to make a financial donation, please visit our website:

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[rebecca@embracingage.org.uk](mailto:rebecca@embracingage.org.uk) or Tel. No 07419338066



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# St. Blasius Old Parish Church

## Magazine

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL  
Worshipping, Serving, Growing  
TOGETHER**

### — CHURCH SERVICES —

We warmly invite you to join us - See details on Page 3

For enquiries relating to Banns and Marriage services, Baptisms and Funerals  
please contact: Revd. Tony Richards (details below)

Local Minister:	Revd. Tony Richards.	Tel: 863607
Curate:	Revd. Karen Crowhurst	Tel: 867727
Churchwardens:	Mr. Robert Crawley. (VACANT)	Tel: 868436
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs Jane Wilshaw	Tel: 07484 235103
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Cost of Magazine: £1.00 DONATION

St Blasius Old Parish Church, Church Road, Shanklin, PO37 6QY

**NEW website:** [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16793/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16793/)



## Thought for the Month

**Happy New Year to all!** I wonder how you celebrated New Year? Did you stay up late to see the New Year in? Did you go to a party? Or did you just go to bed, hoping you wouldn't be disturbed by any fireworks? When I was a child, one of our neighbours used to bang dustbin lids together and shout 'Happy New Year' – not something that would really work with today's plastic bins, let alone wheelie bins!



New Year is marked around the world in very different ways and even on different dates. Whilst we celebrate New Year on 1<sup>st</sup> January, the Chinese New Year is set by the lunisolar calendar, beginning on the first new moon between 21<sup>st</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> February. This year it will be on 17<sup>th</sup> February and will mark the beginning of the Year of the Fire Horse. Chinese people consider New Year (Spring Festival/ Ch'n Jik) important because it symbolizes renewal, family unity, and the arrival of good fortune. It is the most significant holiday in Chinese culture, rooted in ancient myths, agricultural cycles, and traditions that emphasize harmony, prosperity, and hope.

However, the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) in 2026 will not begin until sundown on 11<sup>th</sup> September. It will mark the start of the Hebrew year 5787. Jews consider New Year important because it is both the birthday of the world (some orthodox Jews believe that the year reflects the date God created the earth) and a day of judgment and renewal, shaping the spiritual direction of the year ahead.

Here in the UK, we tend to see New Year as a time to make a fresh start and to make new year's resolutions. A survey showed that in 2025 the most popular resolutions were as follows:

1. **Exercise more** planned to increase their physical activity.
2. **Eat more healthily:** 36% aimed to improve their diet.
3. **Lose weight:** 32% hoped to shed some pounds.
4. **Get more sleep:** 29% planned to improve their sleep quality.
5. **Drink more water:** 34% hoped to increase their water intake.
6. **Travel more:** 32% planned to explore new places.
7. **Cut down phone use:** 16% aimed to reduce their screen time.
8. **Read more books:** 15% wanted to spend more time reading.
9. **Try meditation:** 14% planned to practice mindfulness.
10. **Improve their living space:** 13% planned to organise their living space and improve their home environment.



But whether or not we make formal New Year resolutions, we all tend to see a new year as an opportunity for a fresh start, a chance to look back at the year just gone and to think about how we want to live in the twelve months to come. It is an opportunity for us to take stock and to rethink our priorities, and this applies to our spiritual lives too. Are there things that I need to do more of, or perhaps even less of? Is God calling me to do something new for him this year? The following prayer by Francis Brienan invites us to step out into this new year with God:

**God of all time, who makes all things new,  
we bring before you the year now ending.  
For life full and good, for opportunities recognized and taken,  
for love known and shared,  
we thank you.**

**Where we have fallen short,  
Forgive us.  
When we worry over what is past,  
Free us.**

**As we begin again  
and take our first few steps into the future,  
where nothing is safe and certain, except you,  
we ask for the courage of the wise men  
who simply went and followed a star.  
We ask for their wisdom,  
in choosing to pursue the deepest truth,  
not knowing where they would be led.  
In the year to come, God of all time,  
be our help and company.  
Hold our hands as we journey onwards  
and may your dream of shalom,  
where all will be at peace,  
be our guiding star.  
Amen.**

Reverend Karen Crowhurst.

# OUR CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

*You are warmly invited to join us for  
our Sunday Worship  
at 10.15am unless otherwise stated*



**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January - EPIPHANY**

**Holy Communion**

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January - THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

**Matins**

Reverend Tony Richards

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January - Epiphany 2**

**Holy Communion**

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January - Conversion of St Paul**

**Holy Communion**

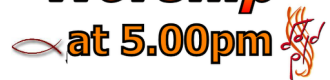
Reverend Tony Richards

## **Christians Working Together in the Bay**

Warmly invite you to join them on Sunday evenings in a different Church each week.

Details will be published in the weekly newsletter.

***Shared  
Worship***  
**at 5.00pm**





**PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH**  
*The Sunday and Special Collects for this month*  
(with endings omitted)

**4<sup>th</sup> January - EPIPHANY**

O God, who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face...

**11<sup>th</sup> January - BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children...

**18<sup>th</sup> January - Second Sunday of Epiphany**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory...

**25<sup>th</sup> January - Third Sunday of Epiphany**

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power...

**25<sup>th</sup> January - CONVERSION OF ST PAUL**

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;

## **FESTIVALS IN JANUARY**

*From the Church of England Calendar*

### **1 The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**

**2 Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops,  
Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389**

2 Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833

2 Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945

### **6 The Epiphany**

10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645

11 Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915

**12 Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167**

12 Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689

**13 Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367**

13 Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603

13 George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691

**17 Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356**

17 Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932

**18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**19 Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095**

20 Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349

**21 Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304**

22 Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304

**24 Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622**

**25 The Conversion of Paul**

**26 Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul**

**28 Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274**

**30 Charles, King and Martyr, 1649**

31 John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888

## **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - One Body, One Spirit**

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the **18th to the 25th January** – in the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul.

For 2026, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 extends an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.



The epistles of St Paul stress the importance of unity within the Church, urging us to live lives worthy of our calling with humility, gentleness, patience and love (Ephesians 4:1-3). Ephesians 4:4 summarises the teachings of Paul about unity, emphasising that the followers of Christ represent 'one body and one Spirit', united in a single hope. This metaphor signifies the Church as a unified entity transcending barriers of geography, nationality, ethnicity and tradition. Paul uses the metaphor of the Church being the Body of Christ to describe its unity within the diversity of its members.

Introducing the material prepared for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, His Grace Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, who is Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland, together with Dr Nicola Brady General Secretary Churches Together in Britain and Ireland write:

*With the Armenian diaspora numbering many times the population of the country itself, the Armenian Church brings together a truly global community that is present in Russia and in Ukraine, and throughout the Middle East. The Armenian community is impacted by these conflicts that have captured the attention of the world, while also experiencing the pain of the comparative neglect of the situation of the Armenian people attacked and displaced by Azerbaijan. The ethnic cleansing and associated human rights abuses perpetrated against the Armenian people, especially in the ancient Armenian homeland of Artsakh, have been well documented by international human rights observers, yet the international community fails to act as lives are lost, families are displaced, people are unjustly imprisoned and cultural heritage is destroyed.*

*For Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and the National Ecumenical Instruments on these islands, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland has provided a powerful witness to the call to be peacemakers – through prayer, through advocacy and humanitarian aid, through peace education, and through hospitality and encounter. This goes hand in hand with a deeply rooted commitment to Christian unity as integral to how we live out Christ's commandment to love our neighbour, and as a source of hope in troubled times.*

*This Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, let us unite in prayer and advocacy for the people of Armenia and Artsakh, calling for an end to violence and the restoration of peace. Together, we can shine a light on these injustices and, in doing so, help build a future where the rights of all are upheld and respected.*

Details from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2026/>

## ***'My Mother's Christmas Poem'***

The season of Epiphany, which begins on 6<sup>th</sup> January and ends with the Feast of Candlemas on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, reminds us that Christ is not just for Christmas!

This beautiful and thought-provoking poem was written by the late Sister Olga, the mother of Lady Annie Walker.

The picture of Mary gently cradling the infant Jesus, watched over by an angel, was painted by a local artist in Sandown, Sarah Williams.



## **Christmas Poem**

**Mary, it is not hard to love  
You and your baby, tender, sweet,  
But how to love the violent, mean,  
The sneering braggart down our street?**

**For all men are your son's Belov'd.  
He bids us look with his deep eye  
And set them and their circumstance  
Within his passion's mystery.**

**Your shepherds were not holier men  
Than factory workers of our days  
And youngsters seek the star of truth  
In modern universities .**

**And all betray and all deny  
The highest that our heart can see  
And justify our sloth and greed  
With some high sounding sophistry.**

**Tied in one bundle are we all  
With liar, snob and racketeer,  
And by one only cross-given grace  
To sing at Christmas do we dare**

**And we do sing, because He chose  
In that same bundle to be bound  
And the whole human race is held  
In those swathed bands your fingers wound.**

*Poem by Sister Olga*



## **Dementia Friendly...**

An enjoyable Dementia Friendly Service was held in December. With a special Advent theme, the service was led by Reverend. Karen Crowhurst and supported by Jane Wilshaw, Charlotte Coppin and Jackie Ridley. The music was played by Erles Jones and Pat Dean organised the refreshments. It was good to welcome a contingent from Highfield Residential Home to this service. Members of the St Blasius Church Anna Chaplaincy Team, Jane Wilshaw, and Jackie Ridley, also regularly visit the residents of Springfield Residential Home together. We are hoping to provide more Dementia Friendly Services in 2026.



## **Monday Coffee Mornings will be back in the Spring...**

We continued to hold our coffee mornings on the first Monday of the month, throughout the Summer and into the early part of the Winter. A big thank you to everyone who organised and supported them. The Christmas Craft Coffee morning held in December, raised £165 for charity. The team are now having a well earned break, but plan to recommence in the Spring. Watch this space for details of the first Coffee Morning in 2026.

*The photo shows four of our Happy Cakemaking, Coffee Serving Crafters!*

## Book Review

## Title: More than Words

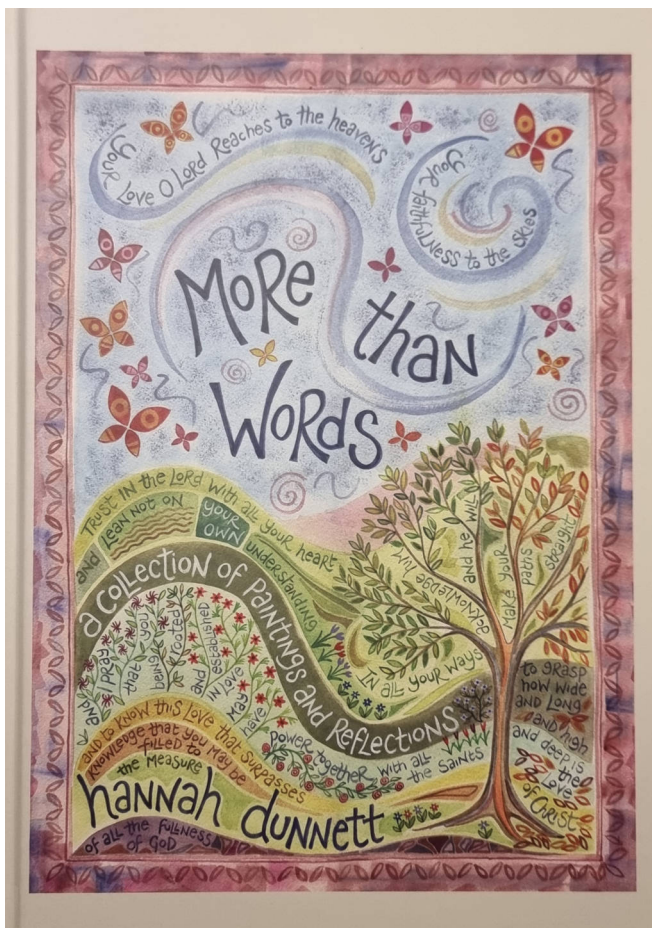
**Author:** Hannah Dunnett

**Publisher:** Lion Hudson

**ISBN: 978 0 85721 793 6**

If you were fortunate, you may have been given a book token for Christmas. Perhaps you knew straight away which book you would like to buy. Perhaps you already have a list of books you are planning to read, or perhaps you are still trying to decide . . .

So, if you are looking for some fresh inspiration, Hannah Dunnett has produced a book full of paintings which are both beautiful to look at and inspiring to read and reflect upon.



Hannah has created a book that combines inspiring words from The Bible within her beautiful illustrations. When she was working to produce two large paintings for a special exhibition, Hannah began to think about “How to use an image to draw someone’s attention and to engage them in thinking about faith and God.” She decided “to paint scripture passages into the texture of the painting to give a deeper meaning and to illustrate and bring imagery to the words.” In this book, Hannah tells the story behind each of the twenty-four of her favourite pictures.

Hannah originally studied medicine and worked as a family doctor but she never lost her childhood love of creativity. Eventually, following all the enthusiasm shown by people for her work, she decided to become an artist to use her talents to help others to visualise the symbolism of the inspirational words in the Bible.

The journalist Kate Nicholas has described Hannah's work as "inscribing God's word onto landscapes, seascapes and everyday environments with her poetic brush strokes, she is creating deeply meditative images that help us to internalise His truths."

To find out more about Hannah Dunnett's work, books, paintings, greetings cards, calendars, notebooks, stationery and homeware:

[www.benandhannahdunnett.com](http://www.benandhannahdunnett.com)

Ben Dunnett is a musician and there are CDs of his arrangements of music.



## St Blasius Branch of the Mothers' Union

### An exciting Programme for 2026

The first meeting of 2026 will be a **New Year Lunch** at The Fighting Cocks, on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Those attending are asked to meet there at 12 noon, for lunch at 12.30pm. If you would like to go to the lunch, please contact Pat Dean on (01983) 868342 to let her know in advance.

An exciting programme of talks and visits is being planned throughout the year. The branch usually meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, at 2.30pm in the Parish Room at St Blasius Church. Look out for details of forthcoming meetings.

### ***New members are always welcome!***

The Mothers' Union is a global organisation open to anyone, and supportive of everyone. Although initially started as a Christian group to support mothers and families, anyone is welcome to join - you don't have to have children, be married, be a woman, or be a churchgoer!

However, you get involved, you are becoming part of a global movement for change, which is four million strong! Joining the global movement is open to anyone who supports our vision and mission, who we are and what we do. Why not come along to one of our local meetings to find out more?



## Extracts from Recent Newsletters

By Jemma Powell, Assistant Principal

*The final term of 2025 was clearly extremely busy, with many exciting things happening in the run up to Christmas...*

The Christmas sparkle shone through at St Blasius Academy! We've had a fabulous start to the festive season with lots of exciting activities and events:

A huge thank you to all the families who joined us for a wonderful afternoon of creativity. The children loved making festive crafts with you, and they look absolutely fabulous on our tree!

Thank you for your generous donations for our tombola. All of these goodies will form part of our school Christmas Fair, helping to make it a fantastic event for everyone!

We were thrilled to welcome Clive and Quincey, two adorable ability dogs, who taught us about the amazing work they do to help people. The Ability dog charity are supporting the training for Skye and Miss Stevens and we are pleased to announce that Skye has been awarded her half green training jacket. Skye, we are super proud of you!!!

What an incredible time we had at our Christmas discos with AJ the fabulous entertainer! We had balloons, we had magic, and we saw some of the most groovy and interesting dance moves (from children and staff!). There was great dancing and some super singing, especially an on-stage solo by Emilia in Year 5, who was fabulous! It really has got us in the party mood!

A huge thank you to all the wonderful parent volunteers who helped transform our library space – your hard work has truly made a remarkable difference! The library now feels brighter, more inviting, and ready to inspire a love of reading in our children. We're still dreaming big and would love to create a magical entrance archway to make the space even more special. If anyone knows a builder who might be interested in taking on a feel-good charity challenge, please encourage them to get in touch with us. It would be amazing to make this vision a reality for our school community!

*Jemma Powell*



## ***A wonderful evening of Music....***

In the run up to Christmas, St Blasius Church was honoured with a wonderful performance by the Simon Langton School Chamber Choir from Canterbury. They had arrived in a large bus and made themselves comfortable inside the church with their smart maroon uniforms.

They were introduced by their Musical Director and Conductor Emily Renshaw-Kidd wearing a huge smile and a very smart red jacket.

Alongside a festive selection of songs, they brought a piece called ***Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo***, by Horowitz, which was performed with dramatic and musical verve. One of the choir did a splendid stage fall at one point!

Although the school is called a Grammar School for Boys, there were two girls in the choir. Good!

They also had a barbershop quartet who were great fun.

Altogether, it was a delightful evening and their next Christmas performance was at Canterbury Cathedral. Let's hope they will come back to St Blasius next year.

*Lady Annie Walker*



***Copy Deadline for February Magazine - Wednesday 21st January***

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Email:

[shanklinhydesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:shanklinhydesecretary@gmail.com)

**Meetings held at the  
The Catholic Church Hall  
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Shanklin, PO37 7AT**

second **Tuesday** of each month  
**@7.30 pm**  
(No meeting in August)



**Shanklin  
Community  
Library**

***Opening Times***

**Monday,  
Wednesday and  
Friday**

**9:30am-12:30pm & 1:30pm-5:00pm**

**Saturday Mornings  
9:30 - 12:30**

More details available on  
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[shanklincommunitylibrary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shanklincommunitylibrary@hotmail.co.uk)



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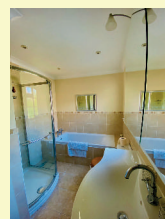


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# FIND AN ALZHEIMER CAFÉ near you

An Alzheimer Café is a meeting place that gives informal education and advice about dementia and offers guidance and signposting to other services. We welcome people with dementia, their families, carers, professionals, and people with an interest in dementia.

## EAST COWES

**1st Tuesday of the month**

**2PM - 4PM**

Town Hall, York Avenue

East Cowes

PO32 6RU

## COWES

**2nd Weds of the month**

**2PM - 4PM**

Football Club

Reynolds Close

(off Park Road)

PO31 7NT

## TOTLAND

**3rd Weds of the month**

**2PM - 4PM**

St Saviour's

Holy Family Centre

Weston Lane

Totland

PO39 0HE

## SANDOWN

**4th Weds of the month**

**2PM - 4PM**

The Broadway Centre

1 Broadway, Sandown

PO36 9GG

## NEWPORT

**Last Thurs of the month**

**6PM - 8PM**

Newclose County Cricket

Ground

Blackwater Road, Newport

PO30 3BE

## RYDE

**1st Weds of the month**

**11.30PM - 1.30PM**

All Saints Church Hall

Queens Road

Ryde


PO33 3BG

**ACE7**, an Alzheimer Café for people with young-onset dementia (age 65 and younger) runs on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10AM - 12PM at Parklands Park Road, Cowes, PO31 7LZ

 [www.alzheimercafeiw.org.uk](http://www.alzheimercafeiw.org.uk)

 [info@alzheimercafeiw.org.uk](mailto:info@alzheimercafeiw.org.uk)

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