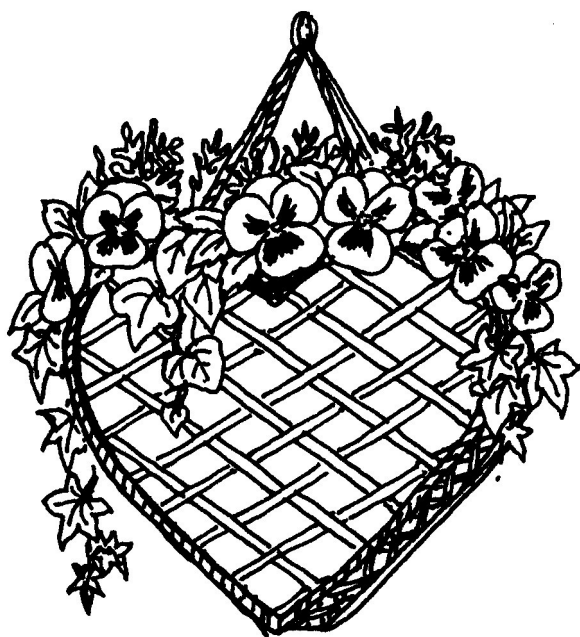


# The Link

**COUGHTON with SAMBOURNE PARISH NEWS**



**Alcester Minster Churches** at Alcester,  
Arrow, Coughton, Great Alne, Haselor,  
Kinwarton, Sambourne and Weethley

**FEBRUARY 2021**

**RECTOR of ALCESTER MINSTER: Vacancy. Please contact the Administrator**

**Administrator**

Tricia Berry **t: 01789 509278 m: 07840 284294**

(Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 1.30 pm)

Alcester Minster Office, Church House, 17 Butter Street, Alcester, B49 5AL (opening hours 10.30 - 12.30 Monday - Friday)

administrator@alcesterminster.org

**Reader**

Mrs P Newbold **t: 01527 458852** the\_newbolds@blueyonder.co.uk

**COUGHTON WITH SAMBOURNE CHURCH OFFICERS**

**Church Warden** Gail Laband **t:01789 764736** gail@laband.uk

**Assistant Church Warden** Mike Thake **t:07966314828** mike@thake.biz

**PCC Secretary**

Mrs Sue Swinbourne **t: 01527 457357** sueswinbourne@virginmedia.com

**Treasurer**

John McTavish, Knockmore, Sambourne Lane, Coughton, Warks B49 5HS

**t: 01789 764703**

**Coughton Flowers Co-ordinator**

Joy Hawthorne **t:01789 764577** joyandjimhomestall@btinternet.com

**Sambourne Flowers Co-ordinator**

Sandra Archer **t :01527 892837**

Please contact if wishing to make own flower arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

**Sambourne Church Booking Agent**

Debbie Lanz, **t: 07711 834716** debs.doo@gmail.com

**Family and Children Worker**

Beth Clarke **t: 07494 329638** beth.clarke@covLEC.org

**GIFT AID**

Whenever possible, please gift aid any donations made to our churches. Charitable causes can reclaim an extra 25p in the £1 from the government on donations made under the Gift Aid Scheme. The giver must have paid a tax amount that at least equals the tax being reclaimed on the donation. Please contact the treasurer.

Items of news for **"The Link"** by the **FOURTEENTH** of the month to:

Gail Smith gailsmith@aol.com **t: 07449 930480**

Whilst the Editor welcomes material for publication in **"The Link"**, they do not guarantee that items submitted will be included or will appear in a particular issue. The Editor reserves the right to edit or shorten items used. Publication is in good faith and does not imply accuracy of content or agreement with views expressed

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*CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE COST OF PRODUCTION ARE VERY WELCOME.*

## **A Message from Gill Laughlin**

As I write this, it's hard to believe that it is less than two weeks since we were saying 'Goodbye' to a rather miserable 2020. We had past the shortest day of the year; we had celebrated (in an unusually muted way) the Christmas season and we were welcoming in a bright new year, full of hope for the new vaccines and the early end to the Corona Virus restrictions. And here we are, suddenly in a new lockdown, with dangerously high levels of infection and a larger weekly number of deaths than we have seen in a generation. Even our Church services have been abandoned again, although that does not prevent us from worshipping God in our own homes, of course!

I suspect that many people have been asking, 'Why would a loving God do this to us?' Well, I don't believe He would. Surely, our problems are brought about by human beings going our own way and thinking that we can manage our lives without God's help. That is not to say that each person who suffers is individually responsible for their own suffering, but that humankind as a whole is disobeying God's will and, as disaster falls upon us, even Saints suffer.

However, as I go for my daily walk in the countryside, I still see signs of God's wonderful love, which give us hope for the days to come. There are sticky buds on the horse chestnut trees, waiting to burst into leaf, there are primroses flowering in sheltered corners of my garden, the daffodils are beginning to grow and daffodils are actually in bloom in a neighbour's garden; life is returning all around me. And so, my hope for 2021 is renewed. We must just turn to God and, trusting in his love for us, renew our efforts to care for our planet and its people.

Meanwhile, we can look for the good things that have come out of our experiences of the past year. In the latest Diocesan news, there is a story about a couple who bought a house in a cul-de-sac in Coventry. They hoped to become part of a neighbourhood community, but this did not happen in the first year, however, during 2020 they proposed a whatsapp group and the neighbours were quick to join and have now formed a close-knit community, which lovingly supports one another. Similarly, our own Church communities have looked for new and innovative ways of keeping in touch with one another and with God. The Minster has held weekly on-line Services, which have attracted more than our usual congregation numbers and, on Christmas Eve, there was a very successful Drive-in Carol Service. This has led us to contemplate how we can use some of these innovations to help spread God's word in the future and I hope that, when she arrives in March, our new Rector will feel that we have used the time of the interregnum well.

Meanwhile, let us pray for the sick around the world and those who care for them and dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of God in what continue to be difficult times.

*Gill Laughlin*

## Alcester Minster Church Services February 2021

### **Suspension of all Minster Church services in February**

It is with regret that as there is little change in the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision has reluctantly been agreed, to continue to suspend all church services throughout February.

*This will be reviewed before the end of February.*

The on-line services will continue to be available



**If you have any queries regarding the suspension of services please contact the Administrator by emailing or telephoning the Administrator**

**Email: [administrator@alcesterminster.org](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org)**

**Tel: 01789 763 246**

**An On-line service is available every Sunday on the Welcome page of the Alcester Minster website  
[www.alcesterminster.org](http://www.alcesterminster.org)**

### **MINSTER EVENTS**

**For the most up-to-date information on Minster Events please see the website calendar on the noticeboard page on the website – [www.alcesterminster.org](http://www.alcesterminster.org) or check out the**

Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on facebook?



Find details and pictures of events at

**[www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster](https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster)**



**Alcester Minster Churches at Alcester, Arrow, Coughton, Great Alne, Haselor, Kinwarton, Sambourne and Weethley**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are delighted to announce that the Reverend Katie Cross has been appointed as the next Rector in the parishes of Alcester, Arrow with Weethley, Haselor, Kinwarton with Great Alne, and Coughton with Sambourne, known as the Alcester Minster Benefice in the Diocese of Coventry, subject to the completion of all legalities.

Katie is presently Rector in the Netherexe Parishes, a rural mission community of eight parishes and ten churches near Exeter in Devon.

Katie, her husband Paul and family will move to Alcester Rectory in the Spring. We have yet to arrange a date for her institution service



### Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team  
would like you to pray for  
the following topics:

1. *Give thanks to God for all the acts of kindness we have seen during the pandemic, and for all those who have lifted our hearts.*
2. *Pray for the leadership of the Church of England, Archbishops, Bishops and Archdeacons as they continue to guide us through the complexities of dealing with Covid as church communities. Pray that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit and that their faith may be strengthened at this difficult time.*



**Lateral Flow Antigen Testing** If you are taking part in church related activities with regular contact with the public, such as helping with the food bank etc. and do not have any COVID symptoms, you are encouraged to access weekly Lateral Flow Testing. This is a very quick process with quick results. You would need to pre-book a test. Find out more by following the link:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/covidcommunitytesting>  
there is a centre in Stratford-upon-Avon.





# Studley Isolation Support Group update

May 2020 Edition 2

Now, more than ever, the community in our village are pulling together to support each other. The Studley Isolation Support Group supports all those who are isolated, alone, elderly or vulnerable. With Studley in Business and the Parish Council, we have built a core team of around 50 volunteers who carry out tasks on a daily basis. So far we have supported 165 households and undertaken over 1000 tasks. These range from shopping, prescription collection to dog walking and daily newspaper deliveries.

Nothing is too much trouble for our volunteers, and we actively encourage anyone who is having to isolate, with no close family close by to help them, to give us a call on **07933 093268** from 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday.

If you have a neighbour you are concerned about then please ask them to call us. Our aim is for everyone who is vulnerable to stay safely at home. No one who should be isolating needs to do any shopping, our volunteers are shopping ninjas!

We will be here for as long as necessary, and alongside our day to day tasks we can arrange for someone to call you for a chat, drop off some books or jigsaws, post letters etc. We are here for you.

**If you need help the Contact Phone number is: 07933 093268  
Monday - Saturday 9am-5pm**

Please note that we operate a password system to protect you. Please do not open the door to anyone you don't know, unless they can tell you the password that YOU have chosen. There are scammers capitalising on the current situation, and we want everyone to stay safe. Always follow the Government's Social Distancing guidelines

We are still looking for volunteers, please contact us if you are willing to help..

Many volunteers are busy **sewing scrubs, bags, headbands and face-masks**. They are in need of new material (that can be washed at 60 deg), elastic & buttons about the size of a 2p. If you can help then please call the Isolation Support Group on 07933 093268.

**Arden Foodbank** is working hard to supply food parcels to our community. Anyone who is struggling can request a voucher. Parcels can be collected from the Methodist Church on Tuesday afternoons, or one of the Isolation Support Group Volunteers can collect and deliver it for you. To contact the foodbank please call 07733 551926. Food donations can be made via the collection box in the Co-Op, or by calling the Isolation Support Group on 07933 093268.

**Useful Contacts:** Samaritans 116123 24-hour helpline

Your mental health is important. For a listening ear in time of need, call Janet 07852 349361

Mental Health Matters 0800 616171, 24-hr helpline & webchat [www.mhm.org.uk/coven-try-warwickshire-helpline](http://www.mhm.org.uk/coven-try-warwickshire-helpline)

Arden Marches Churches - for help, someone to talk to, or a prayer request: Revd Kate Mier 01527 852830 [rector@ardenmarches.co.uk](mailto:rector@ardenmarches.co.uk)  
or Revd Dan Corlett 07543370637 [curate@ardenmarches.co.uk](mailto:curate@ardenmarches.co.uk)

# Local Businesses & Contacts Offering Services to the Community

The situation changes daily, so for up to date information please visit [www.enjoyablistudley.com](http://www.enjoyablistudley.com) and check out the Studley Isolation Support Group Facebook page for updates.

**Bespoke Butchers** FREE delivery over £25, or if you are over 65 no min. Tuesday-Friday. Ring 01527 852235 in the morning to check availability. Deliveries at the end of the day.

**Bruno's Bakery** min delivery £10, packed lunches also available for delivery. 01527 854652

**Mount Everest** for takeaways 6-8.30pm Sun-Thur & 5.30-9.30pm Fri & Sat 01527 850717

**Caney's Cider** deliveries. Contact: social media, website or email [canescider@gmail.com](mailto:canescider@gmail.com)

**Studley Fish Bar** for collection or delivery. Download their App or call 01527 852448  
Delivery of orders over £10 with a delivery fee of £1.75

**The Cantonese Chef** is open 01527 852021.

**Purity Brewing** free delivery over £40 [www.puritybrewing.com/online-shop](http://www.puritybrewing.com/online-shop)

**Seven Mile** Homemade frozen meals delivered on Weds & Fri. Phone Jake 07891 448749  
[jake@sevenmile.co.uk](mailto:jake@sevenmile.co.uk) See [www.sevenmile.co.uk](http://www.sevenmile.co.uk) & Facebook for menus

**Stephanie Evans** (Virtual MoneyPenny) for coordinating home deliveries if you're struggling  
07908 226633

**Fetch N Stretch** for dog walks for the elderly or key workers. Emily Smith 07713 057028

**Robert Pannifer** from Thomas Guise Solicitors for phone support 01527 912912

**Studley Florist** deliveries of fresh flowers for birthdays, celebrations, memorials or a cheer up gift. 01527 853509 Mon-Fri mornings [www.studleyflorists.co.uk](http://www.studleyflorists.co.uk) & Facebook/Insta

**Botany Bay Garden Centre** FREE delivery over £25 within 5 miles. 01527 893885

**Flutterby Heidi** Handmade cards with local delivery. [www.flutterbyheidi.co.uk](http://www.flutterbyheidi.co.uk) 07791 662348

**Happy Buffalo** personalised gifts, free local delivery [happy-buffalo.myshopify.com](http://happy-buffalo.myshopify.com) & FB

**Helping Hands** homecare services Katie 07792 172 604 [Katie.Woodhall@helpinghands.co.uk](mailto:Katie.Woodhall@helpinghands.co.uk)

**Alcester Home Care** homecare provider 01789 765468 [office@alcesterhomecareagency.co.uk](mailto:office@alcesterhomecareagency.co.uk)

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Ring the Police on 101 for suspicious activity. For a crime ring 999 & then tell Jim Bacon ([jimbacon@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jimbacon@blueyonder.co.uk)) so Jim can alert others.

Please email [info@enjoyablistudley.co.uk](mailto:info@enjoyablistudley.co.uk) if you are a local business & wish to be included online



[www.studleyinbusiness.co.uk](http://www.studleyinbusiness.co.uk)

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has helped to create, print and deliver this leaflet.

When you talk to your neighbours (from a safe distance), ask that they keep this leaflet close at hand, for help in the coming weeks. Not everyone has access to Social Media, and they may feel very isolated, particularly if they are poorly.



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

All information is correct at time of print.

## Nature jottings from Perrymill Lane



Our involvement with the natural world has inevitably continued to be limited to the lanes around Sambourne and Coughton, and our own garden. However, there is still great pleasure to be obtained from observing the more “everyday” species.

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Several Yellowhammers occupied trees by a barn in Coughton Lane.

31<sup>st</sup> dec. A mixed flock of more than 100 corvids (Jackdaws, Crows and Rooks) were feeding in a field beside the footpath to Coughton. We stopped to watch a Dunnock in the hedgerow. Easily dismissed as “little brown jobs” they are most attractive birds when viewed in good light that shows off the contrasting grey and brown plumage.

2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. For the first time this winter I noticed two Siskins visiting our sunflower heart feeder. They soon departed and were replaced by a party of Long-tailed Tits.

5<sup>th</sup> Jan. We had another Yellowhammer sighting in Coughton Lane.

9<sup>th</sup> Jan. A Song Thrush flew from a tree in Sambourne Lane and a Great Tit was calling clearly in Wike Lane. Chris described the technique of a Blackbird in his Middletown Lane garden using a fatball as a pendulum, taking a peck each time the fatball swung towards it.

13<sup>th</sup> Jan. A flock of about 10 Starlings were feeding in the field behind our garden. To my mind this is worthy of comment because Starlings are no longer a common sight for us.

15<sup>th</sup> Jan. A sad occasion caused us to head south to Somerset on an essential journey. The journey was slightly brightened in both directions by the sight of a Red Kite flying overhead near Beckford.

17<sup>th</sup> Jan. A few Meadow Pipits and Yellowhammers were visible in the trees by the barn in Coughton Lane.

18<sup>th</sup> Jan. After a period of intermittent visits to the garden by a Great Spotted Woodpecker, today we had a male and a female feeding on the sunflower hearts and peanuts, and having a peck at the bark of our old apple tree.

19<sup>th</sup> Jan. We had a good view of a Mistle Thrush and a Song Thrush close together in a tree in Wike Lane. This gave a great opportunity to compare the size and the markings of the two species.

Although the time for the Big Garden Birdwatch will have passed by the time you read this, I hope anyone interested will have taken part. What better way to spend the enforced time at home than taking an hour to see what visits your garden?

**Phil J (19th January)**

We may be closed over the winter but our conservation team are still hard at work carrying out the deep clean of the house ready for when we re-open in spring. During the closed months archive documents are photographed and filed, all of the brown wood furniture is dusted and museum wax is used to clean iron, steel, copper and brass which provides a protective seal for the next season.

By February we are deep into our annual clean and it's a really good time for the team to condition check each object in the collection. This includes checking the books in the Saloon which are susceptible to mould and waxing the floors which is a big job for the conservation team.

Our sister properties over at Baddesley Clinton and Packwood are open all year except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There's something magical about walking in winter, from hearing the frosty grass crunch underfoot to seeing low-lying mists sweeping across the countryside, the first months of the new year are the perfect time to wrap up warm, throw on some wellies and go for an invigorating walk. Blow away the cobwebs along blustery canal paths or take a frosty stroll across the Warwickshire countryside, now is the ideal time to get outside and enjoy the outdoors.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a lockdown in England, the gardens and parkland at Baddesley and Packwood will remain open for local people to exercise. The safety of staff, volunteers and visitors from the nearby community remains our priority. We know how important it is for people to seek fresh air and nature and we urge visitors to stick to the rules and stay local.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coughtoncourt](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coughtoncourt) or call 01789 400777

Follow us on Twitter @NTCoughton or 'Like' us at [www.facebook.com/CoughtonCourt](https://www.facebook.com/CoughtonCourt)



### ***Leaves.....***

Lord, there are still old leaves  
clinging to wintry branches,  
Tattered, stained, they hang there – remnants of past life,  
needing the storms of rain, the winter winds  
to shake them down to decay and death.

My life, too, has autumn leaves  
that cling so stubbornly;  
pour the rain of your love, Lord,  
blow the wind of your Spirit  
and let these hindering leaves fall away to dust;  
for then new leaves will grow,  
in freedom.

***(Mary Whettam)***



## **A Message from Pat Newbold**

As I write there is snow on the ground and I just saw a wondrous sight. Dad with a long rope round his waist pulling a plastic washing basket full of little daughter, with brother and Mum running behind all shrieking with laughter! What a GIFT was the snow to locked down families! I had lots of different snowmen pictures sent to me from my family, and scenes of snowball fights in the garden. It does your heart good to see such happy scenes.

As for we oldies, well, it is so beautiful to look at, the trees show off their filigree patterns, sparkling in the sun, the icicles on the washing line like shining stars, everywhere looks so clean and unspoilt.... and the sparrows tweeting their pleasure for a de-snowed bird bath and lots of crumbs....!

Well, the Churches are closed again for services, St Peter's is not open at all, but Sambourne is open for prayer on Wednesday mornings from 10am to 12noon. You are very welcome to drop in. And do remember, if you feel you are struggling and need to chat or pray, do phone me, or Gail Laband (01789 764736) or Jenny Tilsley (01527 757092) or the Minster Administrator will put you in touch with the wider Minster team.

It is coming up to Lent - Ash Wednesday is on 17th February. I wonder if you are thinking of giving something up - I don't do that any more, because I know I always fail half way through, but I do try to be just that bit more prayerful and generally read a Lent book to help me prepare for the coming of Holy Week and Easter. Lent is the time given in the Christian calendar to prepare ourselves for Easter, to see if there is anything in our lives that is unwholesome, to invite God to come closer, and teach us more about His endless, unconditional love for us and His world.

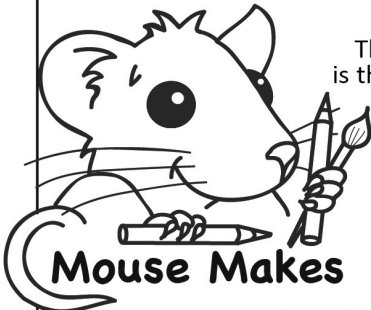
This year we are being urged during Lent to look again at Creation: to see ourselves as people made in the image of God, entrusted to look after what He has created and to share in God's own joy and ingenuity in making a difference for good in the world. There is a book, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for this year, called 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio, for adults to study at home or in a group. Let me know if you are interested.

There is also a 40 day challenge in a little booklet entitled 'Live Lent - Care for His creation'. There is a Children's edition, a youth one and a family and adult edition, something for every age group, with reflections and tasks and challenges for every day- like, how much water goes into making a pair of Jeans, when did i last gaze into the night sky, where did the ingredients for my last meal come from? - and 37 more. If you would like a copy do ask me, or pop down on Wednesday and let us know. Think I will have to have a go...

God bless you all and keep you safe.....and don't be afraid to get in touch,

***Pat***

# Junior Link



## WHAT AM I?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next ....

E \_ \_ \_ \_ H

- What two things did God create first? *Genesis 1:1*

\_ \_ \_ S \_ \_

- What was the Earth without? *Genesis 1:2*
- What came before morning? *Gen 1:5*

E \_ \_ \_ \_ G

- Who is the creator? *Genesis 1:1*
- What was separated from light? *Gen 1:4*

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

- Which day did God finish work? *Gen 2:2*
- Who was created God's image? *Gen 1:27*

S \_ \_ \_ \_ H

- Who moved over the water? *Gen 1:2*

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ S



By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **forth commandment** said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means creation, origin and generation



Can you find these words in the word search?

- GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
- FLY • DEEP • EARTH
- DARK • DAY • LIGHT
- NIGHT • STARS • SKY
- SEA • LAND • BIRD
- CREATURE • HUMAN
- TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
- FRUIT • GOOD • TWO



## FIND THE CREATION PAIRS

from Genesis 1 and 2

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| EARTH   | MORNING |
| LIGHT   | FRUIT   |
| DAYS    | SEA     |
| TREES   | NIGHT   |
| LAND    | FISH    |
| EVENING | YEARS   |
| ADAM    | HEAVENS |
| DAY     | DARK    |
| BIRDS   | WATER   |
| SKY     | EVE     |

C R E A T U R E H G O D P  
D G A L R E F R U I T E L  
L O R I E S L B M O S E A  
A O T G E T Y D A R K P N  
N D H H E A V E N I G H T  
D A Y T R R S P I R I T W  
A S E E D S K Y B I R D O





Our Parish Assembly is on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm.

Our new website includes the following information and more:

Please sign up for email alerts at [www.coughtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.coughtonparishcouncil.co.uk)

For PC information, please contact our Clerk:

Kerry Finlayson [coughtonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:coughtonclerk@gmail.com)

January`s Jackpot draw for £450 produced a new name for our list of winners - Jane Sergeant. Jane, a former resident of Middletown, now lives in Alcester but has continued to support the villages` two Churches. Congratulations Jane!!

With another lock-down in place and Church services in doubt, the Organisers have decided that the February draw for £100 will revert back to Facebook. Look out for Peter Laband making this draw on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February at Noon at the Cottage in Sambourne.

The Organisers will be pleased to welcome any new members who would like to join the 100 Club. By doing so you would not only be helping to maintain the churches in both Sambourne and Coughton but also have every chance of winning a cash prize each month. You should contact Peter Laband (01527 893879) or John McTavish (01789 764703) to be included in the monthly bit of fun.

[illegible]

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