

St Helen's Magazine

November 2020



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Loving God, loving others, loving the world

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(The dialling code for these numbers is 01530 except where stated)

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Editor Writes ...

Our choir is practising the beautiful anthem 'Do Not Be Afraid' for our Advent Carol Service ... whenever that may be. We are learning to be very flexible about our scheduling this year – you can read about the 6 months late APCM on page 22, and the alternative venues Ashby Youth For Christ is finding for its groups on page 34.



The anthem is my current 'earworm' in these fearful times. The expression 'feel the fear and do it anyway' popped into my mind recently when I was reading the obituary of David Toole. The book *Feel the Fear And Do It Anyway* by Susan Jeffers, first published in 1987, is one of the biggest selling self-help books of all time. But the phrase it inspired doubly applies to David Toole. You might think you don't know who he is, but I am almost certain that you do, even if you don't know the name - He was the disabled dancer who 146 million of us watched in the opening ceremony of the 2012 Paralympics. It was a breath-taking sequence. David Toole's legs had been amputated when he was a child, so he cut a diminutive figure on the stage. Suddenly he took flight and sailed up high into the air.

There's no doubt that 'feel the fear and do it anyway' must have applied to a computer programmer without legs when he was invited to attend a dance workshop for disabled and non-disabled people by a former music teacher who said, 'You might like this because you're a bit of a show-off.' We have some equivalents to that dance company's offer of opportunities this month. Read how you can join a class to learn a new skill on page 17, try out some activism with the MU on page 26, and Revd Mary brings us all the encouragement we need on pages 4 and 6 - a much needed double dose this month.

Going ahead despite fearfulness applied a second time to Toole because he had a crippling (!) fear of heights, and when invited to take on the role in the Paralympics opening ceremony he refused. He was persuaded. And how moving it was for those of us watching to see him cast free of the Earth.

I've seen the Bible described as the ultimate self-help book. Hmmm. It's certainly a place where we can help ourselves to God's wisdom. But we know that we don't have to do anything in our own strength. So, as Susan Jeffers told us, although our natural impulse might be to treat fear as an obstacle that stops us from moving forward, the issue is not with fear per se, but how we handle it. For some fear-quelling, read David Watson's favourite psalm on page 19. And Isaiah tells us that, 'those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.' Hope in God lifts us. Hope in God raises us above the horizon. Hope in God brings freedom.

Jill Chapman.



Revd Mary Writes ...

Dear Friends

If you had to encapsulate the essence of November using only pictures, what would your collage look like?

It might, perhaps, include images of the flicker of candles, each one lit to remember a loved one who has died; of a rainbow of colour lighting up the night sky, of a confetti of sparks from a bonfire, of faces lit up by the magic of sparklers; of a sea of red poppies, of old soldiers, stooped in age and grief.

Until recently, you might not have had included the image of yourself participating in these events - All Souls' Day, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday - hunched in front of a screen! - our 2020 collage will look quite different, I think.



I want to offer you another November image; this one part-present, part-anticipated. It is of a King ruling over his people with magnificent tenderness, generous provision, merciful justice, wise counsel, perfect love. His inner circle is made up not of the brash and the bold, not of the powerful and the privileged, not of the rich and the resilient, but of the poor, the weak, the hungry, the immigrant, the child and the elderly. In his presence, there is a great reversal and they are transformed so that the last is first and the lowly lifted up. This King is lit by splendour; not from the trappings of state but from the life of God within him. This King is the light that shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

In our worship in November, we enter what is informally called 'Kingdom Season', when we think about Christ the King and the rule he promises he

will establish one day. In these days of political turmoil at home and presidential elections over the pond, we might well long for this perfect Kingdom, for this unparalleled King.

We can do more than long for the Kingdom, though, we can work to make it present; not, Jesus says, by acts of rebellion or military coup but by the quiet revolution of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the prisoner and welcoming the stranger. These are acts of the Kingdom, Jesus says; do them, and the Kingdom comes close; is present amongst you.

So, lovely though your original November collages were, could you make another one this month? - and in keeping with these virtual times in which we're living, not an actual collage, but one made out of your actions. Could you make a Kingdom collage where your actions over the coming days enact the Kingdom, make it present in your community?

May God's Kingdom come; his will be done.

With love
Rev'd Mary

Remembrance

Although the normal Remembrance commemorations cannot take place this year, the day will still be marked across the country. To facilitate this in Ashby de la Zouch a film has been made, thanks to Wendy Freer. In it Reverend Mary takes the service in church, with the St Helen's Choir, and at the war memorial in Ashby's Market Street with the solemn ceremony of wreath laying, a British Legion standard bearer, two minutes silence, last post and reveille. The film includes war memorials across the town and villages.

This film will be shown on St Helen's Church Facebook page and the Town Council Facebook page on the morning of Sunday 8th November onwards. To ensure the 2 minutes silence coincides with 11am, the film's start needs to be at 10.47am.



Letter to the Flagstaff Family of Churches

Re Going Back into Lockdown

1st November

Dear Friends

Yesterday evening, as you know, the Prime Minister announced another national lockdown, to begin in the early hours of this coming Thursday morning.

This will have a huge impact on our way of life, on our economy, and on the mental health of those who will struggle to return to an extended period of relative isolation once more. I know that you will join with me in praying for those for whom this news will come as an especially tough blow. Please check in on those you know who might need some additional support at this time.

Back in March, on the two Sundays before lockdown commenced, I preached about what I called our 'Coronavirus Charter'; an approach I suggested we take as we faced this pandemic.

It had three strands:

1. *we will be honest about how we feel - lamenting where we need to, feeling angry, asking questions....*
2. *we will protect the most vulnerable - in everything we do, we will consider, first, those most at risk from the virus...*
3. *we will frame our feelings with faith - we will not forget the hope that we have in God, his promise of a new and better world, we will keep looking for Jesus Christ, the light who shines in the darkness....*

It seems timely to return to our Coronavirus Charter afresh today; to recommit ourselves to these three strands as we ready ourselves for this new lockdown.

I will pray for you. Please pray for me.

The Government has said that during this next lockdown places of worship can only be open for funerals and for solitary prayer. This means that the pattern of our life together will be as follows:

Monday and Tuesday, & Thursday to Saturday

8am Prayer for the Day

Wednesday

10am

Holy Communion online

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|--|
| Saturday | 10-noon | Solitary Prayer in St Helen's |
| Sundays - all online only: | | |
| Remembrance Sunday | 10.45am | Service of Remembrance |
| | 4pm | Service of Holy Communion |
| 15 th November | 10.30am | Service of Holy Communion |
| 22 nd November | 10.30am | Service of Holy Communion |
| 29 th November | 10.30am | Service of Holy Communion |
| | 6.30pm | Advent carol service (I am exploring with Andrew Chapman, our Director of Music at St Helen's, what form this service can take.) |

The Wednesday and Sunday services will all be streamed live to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page.

We will revisit our pattern for December in the light of the restrictions in place at that time.

I've been so grateful for your company and support over the last seven months of pandemic. Thank you! Now, let's keep loving one another, holding together, worshipping together.

Our God is holding us in his everlasting arms: do not be afraid.

With love

Mary

The Revd Mary Gregory

Team Rector of the Flagstaff Family of Churches

Prayer from Pastoral Principles

Suffer us, O Lord, never to think
That we have knowledge enough to need no teaching,
Wisdom enough to need no correction,
Talents enough to need no grace,
Goodness enough to need no progress,
Humility enough to need no repentance,
Devotion enough to need no quickening,
Strength sufficient without your Spirit;
Lest, standing still, we fall back for evermore.
Amen

[Eric Milner-White 1884-1963]

Church Fundraising in Earlier Times.

The current St Helen's was built in the 1470s, in the high medieval period. William, Lord Hastings, was a rich man who, we assume, funded the rebuilding, but the church needed – as it needs today – additional funds to keep it running and to do repairs. The church wardens had responsibility for managing the finances, and, although we do not have the church wardens' accounts for that period, we have a good idea what went through the books.

Many people in the parish were surprisingly well off. One source of income for the church was donations for candles, images, cloths and church plate given by individuals such as Robert Nundi, or groups of people in Guilds. It was good for your soul to make donations – and especially good for shortening your time in Purgatory, something everyone wanted. Wills of the time show that the churches received many gifts from benefactors, before even their families were thought about. Our Robert Nundi gave a substantial income from land in order that prayers would be said for him in perpetuity; it is even possible that he paid for a chantry priest whose only job would have been to pray for Nundi's soul. Some churches, especially in urban areas, got most of their income from rents of land and properties.

Everyone was expected to give an annual tithe, a tenth of their income. This was generally in kind, and our archaeological dig before the Heritage Centre was built provided evidence of a tithe barn by the original rectory. Crops would have been stored there, of course, for the use of the priest but also for the poor of the parish. The difficulty came when 'in kind' meant a cow or some sheep – what did the churchwardens do with them? Sometimes they – or others – added them to their own herds/flocks, and gave a proportion of their income from them to the church. The sheep might well have joined the church flock, grazing on the grass around the church: imagine! A real issue came in places when the sheep were grazed on high land and brought down to lower land for the winter, where the two areas were in different parishes; who got the fleece tithes? This issue must have been widespread, as it went all the way to the Archbishop of the time, Archbishop Grey, who ruled that it should be split in the same proportion as the sheep spent on each area of land.

If gifts, rental income and tithes were insufficient for the church's needs, the people held a 'Church Ale'. Actually, these were pretty common, and different groups would arrange them. Beer was brewed and refreshments and revels laid on. People from neighbouring churches and Guilds were expected to attend and pay. These were not just sources of income for the church: a Bride Ale would raise money for a girl getting married; a Help Ale might replace an old widow's cow which had died. Different groups would arrange a Church Ale – the young men, the maidens, the matrons, the

Guilds... I suspect an excuse was found quite frequently! We might equate it with a Christmas Fair or Summer Garden Party to raise money at St Helen's – but with beer.

Then along came the Reformation and everything changed. Those Puritans evidently didn't like beer! And poor Robert Nundi's soul was left to fend for itself without the prayers of the parishioners. We still have to find ways to raise money for the church, though. Flock of sheep, anyone?

Anne Heaton



Garden Help Offer

Hello, we would like to volunteer our help in tidying your garden over the winter months. We would include the following help:

Clear dead plants

Prune perennials

Remove weeds

Clear dead leaves

We will, of course, do this under your direction. Unfortunately we are unable to remove your garden waste but we can provide suitable waste bags for storage if needed. We can help during weekdays only and not during the Christmas period.

Our time maybe limited but we can certainly help to do some of these key jobs.

We both have qualifications in gardening. I (Alison) have a Diploma in Landscape Design and Alan has a Certificate in Horticulture from the RHS.

We are planning to open our own garden next year on the 3rd and 4th of July with the RHS National Garden Scheme. Monies collected will go to the various NGS Charities. For information please find below a description of our garden, which will appear in the NGS Yellow Book next year:

1/3 acre packed with a diverse plant variety. Large frontage including large and small trees, many shrubs and perennials. There are small apple and pear trees, a raspberry area and a diverse range of shrubs and perennials. To the front there is 22 square metres of raised vegetables consisting of many varieties. The Hosta collection, to the front and rear of the garden includes over 80 Hostas. The Rear garden consists of a patio, gravel and a variety of grasses. It also includes a rockery, small tropical area, perennial area and small wild flower area. There is a children's woodland walk, fernery and children's den. The patio has many pots including

plants such as perennials, annuals, small conifers, fruit, herbs and hostas. There is a large summerhouse consisting of three rooms and to the front of it, undercover, is a terrace and also an octagonal greenhouse. The garden boasts of having around 40 seats spread across the front and rear garden so plenty areas for sitting and enjoying the various views. We try and encourage wild birds by having many bird feeders around the garden. We will be providing cream teas at a minimal cost. There will also be a plant sale of Hostas and a variety of perennials. Children are welcome and there will be a forest, 'Name the Animal', search



Contact Details

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Remembering ... and Moving On

As a family we spent most of the recent half term in Scotland. We had a lovely wooden chalet in the highlands, with views out over the hills, the smell of the pine forest and feel of constant rain in our faces. Of course like many people do we have returned with photographs to help us remember the time we had.



November seems to be a month that is synonymous with Remembering, we have All Soul's where we remember those who have gone before us, our memorial service offers an opportunity to remember those we love and see no more. There is of course another occasion to remember in November: Remembrance Sunday, where we remember those who have died in service to their countries.

As churches our Flagstaff Family have been having our postponed Annual meetings (APCMs) which always give an opportunity to look back and remember the previous year, look to the there and now and reflect, and look to the future and pray for God's guidance.

Remembering is therefore an essential part of the moving forward process.

I left Inverness over 13 years ago, I remember looking in my rear view mirror as I drove up the hill away from the city for the last time and actually noticed how beautiful the landscape was. Sometimes we take things for granted, we get so used to them that they have grown familiar. Time never stands still, even when we move away things move on, that struck me! As I walked around a deserted and decimated city centre, favourite places of the past were closed, roads were altered and houses had been, or were being built in places of tranquil peace.

As a church family we are not absent in this period of the here and now, we have a chance to prayerfully consider and shape the future around us. We can take rest in the knowledge that wherever we are, God does not forsake us. Let us learn from the past, rejoice in our happy memories and look to God for the future.

This is something that I am trying to put into practice myself at the moment, as I prepare to temporarily leave the Flagstaff Family for my placement parish, I do so with a strong sense of thanksgiving for the past 2 years and a sense of anticipation for the what I can put into practice from those 2 years and what may I learn in the 3 months ahead.

Stewart

A Time to Remember

Sunday 1st November was All Souls Day, the day for remembering the dead with thanksgiving, and we held our annual memorial service, A time to Remember. Because of restrictions on socially-distanced numbers in church, this was held in the St Helen's Church building with service leaders and musicians present, but with others invited to join via Facebook live.

This was a service for all in the Flagstaff Family of Churches and, for the first time, our 'live-streaming' to Facebook was to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page rather than to the St Helen's Church page. Many services from now on will be on this Facebook page, reflecting the togetherness we have enjoyed throughout this year, with our live services on Facebook, courses via Zoom, and Holy Communions in the various church buildings including participants from across the Flagstaff Family. If you haven't already done so, it is a good idea to find the page and to 'like' it.



This poignant and moving service included beautiful music, comforting words, the lighting of candles, and the reading of the names of those we love who are no longer with us.

Behind Each Number, One Beloved Face: A Requiem for All Souls Day

Earlier this year the poet and theologian Revd Dr Malcolm Guite published a sequence called [Quarantine Quatrains](#), whose seventh and final section (below) was a requiem for those who have died during this pandemic and especially for the careworkers who gave their lives in looking

after them. He posted it again on All Souls Day.

The Quarantine Quatrains were published in a limited edition to raise funds for The Careworker's Charity. That edition is almost completely sold out, but it is possible to donate to the charity at www.thecareworkerscharity.org.uk

VII

35

At close of day I hear the gentle rain
Whilst experts on the radio explain
Mind-numbing numbers, rising by the day,
Cyphers of unimaginable pain

36

Each evening they announce the deadly toll
And patient voices calmly call the roll
I hear the numbers, cannot know the names
Behind each number, mind and heart and soul

37

Behind each number one beloved face
A light in life whom no-one can replace,
Leaves on this world a signature, a trace,
A gleaning and a memory of grace

38

All loved and loving, carried to the grave
The ones whom every effort could not save
Amongst them all those carers whose strong love
Bought life for others with the lives they gave.

39

The sun sets and I find myself in prayer
Lifting aloft the sorrow that we share
Feeling for words of hope amidst despair
I voice my vespers through the quiet air:

40

O Christ who suffers with us, hold us close,
Deep in the secret garden of the rose,
Raise over us the banner of your love
And raise us up beyond our last repose.

Cycle of Good

Are you one of the cyclists who takes your used inner tubes to Just Bikes for recycling? Those of you who have not come across 'Cycle of Good' may wonder why on earth anyone would want old inner tubes, especially when they say 'Tubes with puncture patches are great too, in fact they add character. The more puncture patches the merrier!'

So an explanation; Cycle of Good create quality handcrafted goods using recycled materials (like old inner tubes) by training tailors in the world's poorest places so they can earn a decent living. Fair2all has a glasses case, pocket wallet, pencil case and wash bag which were made by the tailors in Malawi. They also make belts but I haven't seen one yet. I was impressed by the quality of the items and the care with which they have been made – the pencil case and the glasses case are lined and contain a card with details of Cycle of Good. I would be grateful if potential customers would come and have a look at them and tell me their opinion.



I would be grateful if potential customers would come and have a look at them and tell me their opinion.

November 19th is World Toilet Day; so again this year I will be donating 10% of fair2all's takings from 14th – 21st November to WATSAN the water and Sanitation charity that assists communities in South West Uganda to cap springs and pipe the water into communities with accessible taps so water is available, without the girls having to spend hours, walking miles to collect it. Watch out this year, I may even try to construct a Tippy Tap in fair2all's window - if I can remember how to do it!

I plan to make an order form (with small images) of fair2all's Christmas cards etc. If you like to receive it please email info@fair2all.net. Please use this email or call 01530 417286 for all enquiries. Thanks.

Mandy McIntosh

Makaton Taster Session On Zoom

Hello, I am a Licensed Makaton Tutor and I run various courses covering all levels of Makaton to all age groups including babies, teachers, children and parents etc. I have for many years taught within the Special Needs sector of Education.

Makaton is a Language Programme that uses Signs together with Speech and Symbols, to enable people to communicate. It supports the Development of essential Communication Skills such as Attention, Listening, Comprehension, Memory and Expressive Speech and Language.

These short sessions are designed for people who are interested in finding out about Makaton.

The Taster gives you a general introduction into what Makaton is and who uses it, with the opportunity to learn a few signs and symbols too.

Participants receive hand-outs covering the vocabulary they have learned and general information regarding further Makaton training and Makaton resources.

Duration

Usually about 1 hour 30 minutes.

Contact Details

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Our regular final song at All-Age, Peace To You, was signed in Makaton in August. See the service again at the St Helen's website www.sthelensashby.net under Church Life August 2nd

Alison Cross

David Watson



The funeral of our good and wise friend David Watson's took place on Tuesday 29th September at Ashby Cemetery, with very many in attendance, social distanced of course.

At Pam's request those who were there were not wearing black but, instead, wore 'rainbow colours'. This was not only because it was a celebration of a life spent sharing a vibrant Christian faith, but also because, as Revd Mary said in her eulogy, David had a joy which 'he expressed in the brightest, most flamboyant clothing.'

Sadly we had technical difficulties live-streaming, but we did manage two films of some of the service, and they can be found on the St Helen's Church website under the Recent Events tab.

Many people spoke most movingly of David, including Keith Hunt, who has also written this tribute:

We never dreamed you would leave this summer
We assumed you would always be around.
But with your faith in Jesus we know you will walk on
Hallowed Ground,

Darklands

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In green pastures and beside still waters
Your faith has seen you through to carry on the good work you always
do
You will remain in my thoughts, David - It was a pleasure knowing you.

Pam chose Psalm 23 to be included in the service:

- 1The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- 2He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
- 3he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
- 4Even though I walk
through the darkest valley, ^a
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
- 5You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- 6Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD



Changes to Our Use of Facebook



In November we are worshipping together on-line via the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page, rather than the St Helen's Facebook page we've used this year up until now.

We will continue to upload a film of every on-line service onto the St Helen's Church website, and these can be found under the Church Life tab, in date order. Service booklets, hymn sheets etc for these acts of worship are available too, by clicking on the relevant link.

Service Pattern

This is our pattern of worship for November:

Every morning except Wednesday & Sunday

- Prayer for the Day posted to Facebook at around 8.00 am.

Wednesdays

· Wednesday November 4th

Holy Communion streamed live from St Helen's on Facebook at 10.00 am

· Wednesdays November 11th, 18th & 25th

Holy Communion streamed live on Facebook at 10.00 am

Sundays

◆ Sunday 8th November

10.45am Remembrance (not in church)

Pre-recorded film on Flagstaff & Town Council Facebook pages

4.00pm Holy Communion on St Helen's Facebook

◆ Sunday 15th November

10.30am Holy Communion, streamed live

◆ Sunday 22nd November

10.30am Holy Communion, streamed live

◆ Sunday 29th November

10.30am Holy Communion, streamed live



Night Prayer/Compline

To pray compline at home, the lectionary readings for November are:

- Sun 1st November: Isaiah 65.17-end OR Hebrews 11.32—12.2
- Mon 2nd November: Isaiah 1.1-20 OR Matthew 1.18-end
- Tues 3rd November: Isaiah 1.21-end OR Matthew 2.1-15
- Wed 4th November: Isaiah 2.1-11 OR Matthew 2.16-end
- Thurs 5th November: Isaiah 2.12-end OR Matthew 3
- Fri 6th November: Isaiah 3.1-15 OR Matthew 4.1-11
- Sat 7th November: Isaiah 4.2 – 5.7 OR Matthew 4.12-22
- Sun 8th November: Judges 7.2-22 OR John 15.9-17
- Mon 9th November: Isaiah 5.8-24 OR Matthew 4.23—5.12
- Tues 10th November: Isaiah 5.25-end OR Matthew 5.13-20
- Wed 11th November: Isaiah 6 OR Matthew 5.21-37
- Thurs 12th November: Isaiah 7.1-17 OR Matthew 5.38-end
- Fri 13th November: Isaiah 8.1-15 OR Matthew 6.1-18
- Sat 14th November: Isaiah 8.16—9.7 OR Matthew 6.19-end
- Sun 15th November: 1 Kings 1.15-40 OR Revelation 1.4-18
- Mon 16th November: Isaiah 9.8—10.4 OR Matthew 7.1-12
- Tues 17th November: Isaiah 10.5-19 OR Matthew 7.13-end
- Wed 18th November: Isaiah 10.20-32 OR Matthew 8.1-13
- Thurs 19th November: Isaiah 10.33—11.9 OR Matthew 8.14-22
- Fri 20th November: Isaiah 11.10—end of 12 OR Matthew 8.23-end
- Sat 21st November: Isaiah 13.1-13 OR Matthew 9.1-17
- Sun 22nd November: 2 Samuel 23.1-7 OR Matthew 28.16-end
- Mon 23rd November: Isaiah 14.3-20 OR Matthew 9.18-34
- Tues 24th November: Isaiah 17 OR Matthew 9.35—10.15
- Wed 25th November: Isaiah 19 OR Matthew 10.16-33
- Thurs 26th November: Isaiah 21.1-12 OR Matthew 10.34—11.1
- Fri 27th November: Isaiah 22.1-14 OR Matthew 11.2-19
- Sat 28th November: Isaiah 24 OR Matthew 11.20-end
- Sun 29th November: Isaiah 49.1-9a OR 1 Corinthians 9-16
- Mon 30th November: Isaiah 52.7-10 OR John 1.35-42

Sir Cliff Richard Quotes

In October Sir Cliff Richard celebrated his 80th birthday. Here are just a few examples of when he brought his faith to the fore when interviewed in a career of over sixty years:

"If I'm going to represent God I have to do it the best I can."

"I don't spit or swear or sleep around. I've always maintained I'm the most radical rock 'n' roll singer Britain has ever seen."

"There is no better news, than the fact that Jesus can actually turn a life upside down and save it."

"What other people think of me is becoming less and less important; what they think of Jesus because of me is critical."

"With God you don't have to express it. I believe he knows what you're feeling. He's going through what you're going through."

In recent years Sir Cliff has had some very difficult times, facing false allegations, but he has turned to God, and has forgiven those who lied about him:

"My faith is stronger than ever because I've had to rely on it in recent years much more than I've ever had to."

"I often have asked myself, 'How would I have survived that had I been atheistic, how would I have survived if I believed there was no God.'"

"I just said: 'God, I wanna forgive this guy,' so I said, 'yes, okay, I forgive him.' You know what? I felt such an ease. I forgave him and therefore I didn't feel any animosity anymore and even now I can't feel hate."



The APCM Happened At Last

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or APCM, for 2019, originally scheduled to take place in April, finally happened on 27th October. It took place in church and via Zoom, although the technology was far from co-operative. As usual, a comprehensive Annual Report was produced in advance to help us look back on what we did in 2019, and Revd Mary

produced a Team Rector's report. (Both of these reports can be read on the St Helen's Church website www.sthelensashby.net under the Recent Events tab.) There was also an opportunity to look ahead into what a post-pandemic worshipping community might look like.

Statutory elections took place for churchwardens and for PCC members. We elected Valerie Backman to join Val Bowron as our churchwardens. Valerie's appointment followed the end of Helen Smith's term of office - a wonderful six and a half years! Flowers were presented to Helen and Revd Mary thanked her on our behalf but, as Mary said, 'Helen's contribution has been so significant in the day-to-day life of running a busy parish and in the delivery of the heritage project that there are hardly words to thank her.'

PCC members who have served their terms of office and stood down were Emily Darlington, David Darlington, Mary Handford and Pauline Wells.

Newly elected to the PCC are Julian Boardman Weston, Alison Cross, John Dennis (a re-elected member), Shan Dyer and Caroline Essex.

The first PCC meeting will be on 24th November at 7.30pm on Zoom. In the meantime, the Standing Committee will meet as we begin to form as a new team and look ahead into next year.

Please continue to pray for our PCC, particularly at such a challenging time. And remember that through them your thoughts and views can be fed into the PCC discussions and decision-making.



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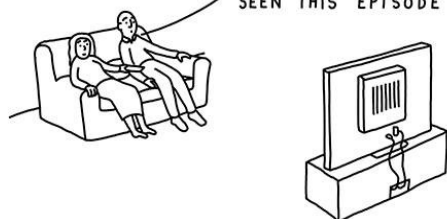
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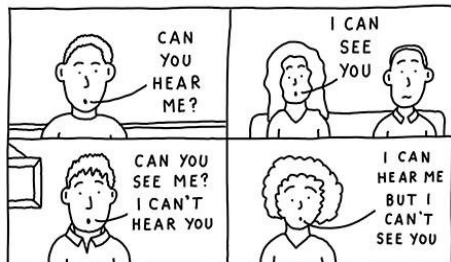
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WAYS TO HOLD THEM DURING A PANDEMIC

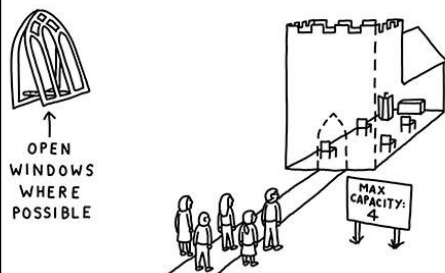
HANG ON... I THINK WE'VE
SEEN THIS EPISODE



ONLINE (RECORDED)



ONLINE (LIVE)



IN THE BUILDING



OUTDOORS

BOOKING SEATS

TIPS FOR RESERVING A PEW WHEN SPACE IS LIMITED

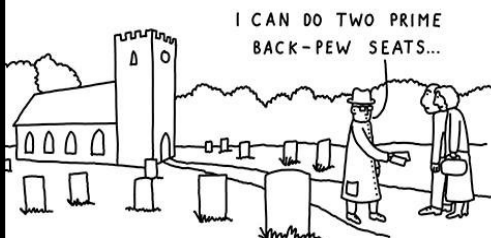


BE READY THE MOMENT
BOOKINGS OPEN

8AM IN ABERDEEN?



CAST THE NET WIDE



BE PREPARED TO USE
UNOFFICIAL CHANNELS

PUT ME DOWN FOR
A RICH TEA
AND A BOURBON



DON'T FORGET THE
HOSPITALITY PACKAGES

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Last month, Mothers' Union held its first virtual gathering entitled 'Building Hope and Confidence in a Covid World'. With opening worship from our Central Chaplain Rt Rev Emma Ineson, keynote addresses from CEO Bev Jullien and Worldwide President Sheran Harper, and contributions from members around the world, it paints an inspiring picture of what MU is doing, with particular reference to the changes we have all experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Sheran Harper's address, accompanied by lively birdsong from her garden in Guyana, gave a personal account of how she has experienced these changes. She has gone from a busy life in her church and a full diary as Worldwide President, to extreme shielding/lockdown, and has only left her house 5 times since March! She had to start to think differently and to see this as God's time of shaping and pruning where necessary. She is content because she believes God is preparing us for a new season of growth and purposeful activity. While she misses visiting provinces in person, meeting members, and visiting their projects, she sees that MU has found new ways of staying connected. Daily, she receives news of what members around the world are doing. What has given her hope and confidence through lockdown is knowing that, as in St Marks' Gospel, when Jesus was in the boat with his disciples and calmed the storm, Jesus is 'in the MU boat with all of us'. This has given her inner peace and calm: knowing that she can trust in God's Word, and have confidence in God's presence and in His amazing power.



#No More 1 in 3 Campaign

Also featured is a call to a Global Day of Action on 5 December named

"No more 1 in 3" which is part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign. Last month's MU article in the parish magazine highlighted one way in which members could get involved by writing to their MPs about the Domestic Abuse Bill currently being discussed in Parliament. In addition to this we are encouraged to show our support for the global protest against GBV by submitting a photo or video of ourselves holding a placard featuring the campaign title "#No More 1 in 3" to



communications@mothersunion.org by 7 November. Further resources to support this campaign and a placard template are available at:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/16-days-activism-and-global-day-resources-2020>

These photographs and videos will be woven together into one protest video that will be released on 5 December.

Richard Miller, Head of finance at MSH, reported that thanks to the generosity of members who responded to this year's Emergency Appeal, and prudent cuts in expenditure, the charity is now operating within its income. Sadly, this has been at the cost of some redundancies at MSH, while others have generously agreed to temporary salary cuts. The loss of valued colleagues was keenly felt by everyone involved but was necessary to ensure the future of Mothers' Union.

The 90-minute video of the virtual gathering held on 20 October is well worth watching and is still available to view on Facebook, and YouTube. <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion/videos/1055714614855791/> or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6H2_ScZzzV8

Beryl Stephens

Ins and Outs at Ashby Workhouse

Before I began my research into Ashby workhouse, some years ago now, I had the impression that for most people, when you entered the workhouse, you were unlikely to ever come out. Nothing could be further from the truth! Although some elderly people did spend the rest of their days there, for many people, their stay would be numbered in months or even days.

A good example of this was Harriett, who was admitted to the workhouse no fewer than seven times in 1891 with her five illegitimate children.

This could have happened for a number of reasons. For example, Annie, a 40-year-old charwoman, came in on 30th January 1891 because she was ill. The workhouse infirmary was the only way of getting free hospital treatment for most poor people. She discharged herself ten days later, but was back the following day and this time stayed for more than three months, leaving in May. On 16th November she was back again and stayed until January 1892. She managed to stay clear of the workhouse for a good few years after that, but in 1908 she resumed her “in and out” career, entering for the final time in March 1909 and remaining until her death in 1919.



It was common for single women to enter the workhouse when they were pregnant and stay until after the birth, leaving with or without the baby. Emma, a lace runner from Blackfordby, entered in November 1836 and gave birth on 1st February 1837. Sadly, her baby died on 24th February and Emma discharged herself on 6th March. Harriet, a single servant girl, had a son in the workhouse who survived almost a year. She was admitted in January 1837, gave birth in March and remained in the workhouse with her son until he died in March of the following year. She left the workhouse four days later.

The workhouse was not a prison and adult inmates could request to leave at any time, but they were required to give a few hours' notice so that their own belongings could be given back to them and their workhouse clothes

returned. Despite this, some people found it necessary to run away, which made them liable for prosecution and imprisonment on a charge of theft of workhouse property (clothing).

At the age of 38, William entered the workhouse, not for the first time, on Christmas Eve, 1838, with his wife and four children. On the 12th February 1839, he absconded, leaving his family in the workhouse. A summons for his arrest was taken out and he was sent to prison. William was returned to the workhouse from prison, but absconded again in January 1840 and twice more later in the year, each time being arrested, sent to prison and from there returned to the workhouse again. Isabella, his wife, was in and out of the workhouse with the children several times over that period and absconded twice herself in 1840. It would appear that she was simply returned to the workhouse without being sent to jail. William isn't heard of again after 1840 and Isabella was admitted to the workhouse for the last time in September 1844, destitute.

At the age of 34, James entered the workhouse on 12th December 1838. He was said to be "rheumatic and destitute" which was slightly surprising given that it was also noted that he was in receipt of a government pension. The workhouse obviously wasn't to his taste, however, as he left the next day! He had a stay of four days in July of 1839 and one of twenty days in 1844.

Ashby's workhouse was not unique or unusual. "Ins and Outs" were a common feature of Victorian workhouses.

Wendy Freer

Remembrance Day and the White Poppy

Did you know there are white poppies of remembrance as well as red poppies? You might be surprised, or you might have seen someone wearing one and wondered about their meaning. Or you might have seen the annual to and fro of arguments in some national newspapers.

White poppies were first produced in 1933 by the Co-operative Women's Guild, made up largely of women who had lost husbands, fathers, sons, brothers and friends in the First World War. They were troubled by the growing militarisation of remembrance events in the late 1920s and into the 1930s. This led the Guild's General Secretary, Eleanor Barton, to call for renewed commitment "to that 'Never Again' spirit that was strong in 1918, but seems to grow weaker as years go on."

Today, white poppies are distributed by the Peace Pledge Union. People wear white poppies on Remembrance Day because they, as well as red poppies, are a symbol of remembrance. Whereas the red poppy traditionally commemorates UK and allied military victims of war, the white poppy

stands for remembrance of all victims of war, both civilian and military, and of all nationalities.

White poppies have been worn on Remembrance Day for over 85 years, for almost as long as red poppies. Wreaths of white poppies are laid at alternative remembrance ceremonies, both around the UK and abroad.

What does the white poppy stand for?

The white poppy has three meanings:

- Remembering all victims of war including both civilian and military victims, and people of all nationalities.
- Building a culture of peace by addressing the causes of war and fostering nonviolent alternatives.
- Challenging militarism including any attempts to glamorise or celebrate war

Where does the money go?

Any profits from white poppy sales go towards the PPU's work promoting peaceful alternatives to war, campaigning against militarism and championing peace education. Far fewer white poppies are sold than red poppies, so any profits are relatively small, although the number sold has risen in recent years, and in 2015 passed the 100,000 mark for the first time. White poppies are more about a message of peace than raising funds. At a local level, peace groups, shops and other outlets can donate money raised to charities or campaigns supporting victims of war. This is not controlled centrally and a number of charities benefit.



Many people who buy a white poppy will buy it in addition to a red poppy, with both symbolising their desire to mourn the dead. In a world where so many differences are expressed as binaries when they are not, it seems apt for the choice of poppy to not be an 'either/or'. Wearers of poppies of whatever colour surely agree that they wish for a better option than war for solving human conflicts in the future.

Jill Chapman

British Legion Poppy Appeal 2020 - Every Poppy Counts

For nearly 100 years, for The Royal British Legion has worked tirelessly for the Armed Forces community to ensure that those who have served and made sacrifices for us, along with their families, are being looked after, no matter what challenges the country faces.

Like so many things this year, the Poppy Appeal, which was founded to help those in need following a National crisis, has had to be adapted due to the challenges caused by the threat of Covid-19. This meant making some difficult decisions, including postponing almost all of the live fundraising events this Autumn, such as park run fundraisers and City Poppy Days (although London Poppy Day managed to go ahead on October 29th), in order to safeguard staff, volunteers and members of the public. Postponed, not cancelled - they are committed to them taking place in 2021.

However, there are still some virtual fundraising options such as 'My Poppy Run'. Taking part in this event is open until the end of November. Simply choose to run, jog or walk, in a park after work, around town during the weekend, or even on a treadmill in the morning. They suggest taking your four-legged friend along too, but maybe not on the treadmill!

With some people unable to leave their homes as they normally would to find a poppy, and with many of the charity's collectors unable to carry out face to face collections, The British Legion has come up with new ways for people to show their support remotely. They want to ensure that everyone can still get their poppy, so they've developed an A4 poster of the iconic Remembrance Poppy. When you donate on-line you receive a link to download and print it. Or you can print a plain one to colour in. But even if you don't have access to a printer, they'd love you to draw your own. Displaying these paper poppies in your window is a great way of showing your support for the campaign.

Facebook will add a virtual poppy to your photograph for you - simply find the filter in your Facebook library by searching 'Poppy Appeal'. You can also add a donate sticker to your post and encourage friends and family. This is on Instagram too.

There are poppy products for sale in Sainsbury's supermarkets. There is an on-line official Poppy Shop, a British Legion eBay Shop and an Amazon Shop (but beware of websites which are selling products that claim to support the Legion but don't.)

You can donate on-line at rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal, or by texting #everypoppycounts on your mobile phone, or at Facebook Donate, or at your local supermarket. For more assistance with donations or fundraising go to the website <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk> or call 0345 845 1945.

Quotes for the Month

'He literally saved Christianity. There's a war on faith in this country by the other side. I mean, the Democratic Party, the far left, has become the party of the quote-unquote atheist.
Eric Trump on his father President Trump, North Dakota radio, October 2nd

'You'll never meet anyone that God does not love'
Rt Revd Colin Fletcher at his Farewell service, Dorchester Abbey, October 4th

'I presided at Communion today for the first time. Did I shed tears? Yes I did. Did I drop a wafer on the floor? Yes I did. Did my heart burst with love for God and for his people? Yes it did. Honestly, I don't know how anyone in Heaven looks at Christ and keeps it together.'
Revd Madi Simpson, Twitter, October 4th

'Veterinary emergency rooms should have chaplains.'
Revd Nadia Bolz-Weber, Twitter, October 4th

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'To fail on safeguarding casts a profound stain across every good thing we do.'
Personal statement from Justin Welby following publication of IICSA report, Oct 6th

'We pray all the time regardless ... Worrying is praying for what you don't want.'
Russell Brand, Russell Brand on prayer, Unbelievable?, October 6th

'Happy birthday, John Lennon. I hope you discovered that there wasn't only sky above us.'
Beaker Folk of Husborne Crawley, <https://cyber-coenobites.blogspot.com>, October 9th

'[It] is the time to name racism as a sin.'
Revd Arun Arora, co-chair new CofE anti-racism task force, October 15th

'Well I've learnt a lesson today. You can say all sorts of things on Twitter and get nary a stir. But make a comment about bishops' hats, and it's like you said you were planning to stir-fry the dog for tea.'
Andrew Graystone, Twitter, October 16th

'I have been having conversations with my new staff team. I've asked each of them the same questions. One of them is this: what would you do if you were the Archbishop of York?'
Most Rev Stephen Cottrell, sermon at enthronement as 98th Archbishop of York, Oct 18th

'Let's put this sign up outside our churches. Let's wear it on our sleeves and declare it to the world: Everyone is welcome.'
Most Rev Stephen Cottrell, sermon at enthronement as 98th Archbishop of York, Oct 18th

'If God only saved people who look like those already in church only Jewish people would have ever been saved.'
Gary Cadge, Christian Misfits Community, Facebook, October 19th

'You've got churches that are moving on from the House of God to the House of Good.'
Former top civil servant Gus O'Donnell, PM programme, BBC Radio 4, October 19th

'Homosexual people have a right to be in a family. They are children of God.'
Pope Francis in the film 'Francesco' premiered as part of the Rome Film Festival, Oct 21st

'If despair is the world's most common disease, its most powerful vaccine is hope.'
Revd Steve Chalke, Twitter, October 22nd

'Christianity is not just a narrow little hobby for the soul, but a vision of the whole world, every part of it, transformed by the love and presence of God.'
Rev Dr Giles Fraser, Why bishops shouldn't stay out of politics, UnHerd.com, October 22nd

'The word 'his' appears in the Bible 8,472 times. The word 'hers' features three times.'
QI - Quite interesting FB page, October 27th

'I've served in every capacity from the ministry of toilet cleaning to being the head of an ecumenical organisation.'
Pastor Derrick Day, Heretics Happy Hour podcast, October 27th

'Religious life is not going to go back to normal after the pandemic ... what is being developed in this pandemic is going to shape the future of church life in this country.'
Dr Edelman, Christian News October 28th

'[She] brought domestic to a place that is often seen as unwelcoming to those who don't see themselves reflected in our life ... She did more to bring people to this place than I will ever do.'
Revd Andrew Nunn re memorial service for Southwark Cathedral's cat, The Metro, Oct 30th

'This is a time of real uncertainty for everyone and the Church will continue to be central to the life of our communities in bringing light and hope.'
Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, C of E website, October 31st

'Thank God for Bill Bailey!'
Revd Bryony Taylor, Twitter, October 31st



Ashby
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Rock Solid

Our meetings are outside, usually walking around Ashby chatting and playing games and achieving great feats of human ingenuity. We might try to spy Mars, although clouds frustrate us. We might attempt to imitate another spectacle of nature - the murmuration. We have been known to be having such a splendid time of conversation and silly game playing that we have to hurry back to waiting parents after we lose track of time.

For one meeting, for various reasons, we were all aged 14+. Because the young people present have a long association with Rock Solid we spent the evening reminiscing and giving thanks for how we had come to Ashby and become part of Rock Solid. It was a delightful, encouraging time of praise and appreciation. Thanks, Lord.

Another evening we ambled along some footpaths to the north of Ashby. Because it was damp and dark the experience was enlivened and we enjoyed many interesting discussions and reflections on deeper and higher matters. We passed where Arthur Hildersham once lived and we thought about his life of faithfulness to God - and what it cost him (disinheritance, alienation, persecution, oppression and more). We also thanked God for the faithful communion of saints who through their courage during their earthly lives have passed down to us the truth so that we can receive it and know it during ours. This left us with the obvious challenge - How about us? Will we dare to be faithful followers of Jesus whatever the cost?

A damp weather forecast lets us know we will be outside until we aren't, and then we'll be taking cover in one of the large shops in which we will play games and do things that in no way compromise Covid security or inconvenience other shoppers. Please pray we will be blessed with fun and eyes to see God's gracious and merciful hand on us and those around us.

Rock Solid is growing. Slowly and manageably the young leaders have invited their friends. These new additions have accepted the reasons for us including young leaders into the group - to serve the younger members in their spiritual development - and have been open and accepting of our beliefs in the one who offers us a rock solid foundation. Please pray for them as they are challenged by Jesus. Pray they will be convicted of his goodness and supremacy. Pray the group will continue to invite their friends to taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please pray that God will prepare our hearts for further challenge and encouragement, and will mercifully convict us of our poverty and the incomparable riches on offer to those who will let go of all to follow him.

Thanks
Vernon

Sk8ers

At the beginning of October we returned to Sk8ers. It was a different 'beast', as we are now meeting in the Ashby Baptist Church car park. We set out places for the young people to come and see us and collect some delectable Greggs food!

We had 5 boys and 5 girls attend and stay with us for over half an hour. It was great to be back. We heard stories of hopes for the future, new schools, better behaviour in school and jobs for some of our older members. In fact, it was lovely to spend an evening with very little complaining at all, the young people were just happy to be together with us.



The second week was a shorter meet time of 5.30-6pm. We have chosen to shorten the meeting time as we are outside, it is getting darker, wetter and colder and it gave us just the right amount of time to talk to the young people before they naturally scattered after 30 minutes. We had 10 young people join us and share their week. We sang happy birthday to one very excited 11 year old and gave out a huge Greggs bounty. Praise the Lord for their generosity each week.

At the end of October we had our first Sk8ers by candlelight! As the night have drawn in, it was 'fun' to find new and inventive ways to light our Sk8ers club in the Baptist Church Front area. I rushed around finding lamps and batteries and Vernon climbed trees...yet when I look on the photo above, what I see is Jesus Light, shining on the young people as they came and chatted with us and ate Greggs to their hearts content.

As the nights draw in and it gets colder, it seems less likely we could continue to meet in this way - and now we have another lockdown too. Please pray for our young people that they feel 'locked down safe' not locked away out of sight and mind. Please pray for protection over them and their families as COVID continues to wreak havoc across this nation. And finally please pray, that these young people come to know that Jesus is the true light of the world, and is sitting in his throne, not fearful or 'locked down', but very much in charge and earnestly seeking relationship with them.

God bless,
Katie & The Sk8ers Team

The Lord's Prayer, Extended Dance Mix...

by Nadia Bolz-Weber

Our Father, Our Mother, Our Holy Parent, The Source of All Being from whom we came and to whom we return, You who knows us better than we know ourselves. Jesus called you Abba and so shall we, even as we may have an ambiguous relationship with parenthood - Be to us our Holy Parent, the one who loves without condition.

Who art in heaven... Our Father who art in everything. Our Father who art in orphanages and neonatal units, and jail cells and luxury high-rises, who art in law offices and adult book stores, and in rooms alone with suicidal people. Our Father who art in the places politicians meet and the homes that are tenements and slums.

Hallowed be thy name. Holy is your name. Ever since the beginning we have attributed our own sin and ego and wishful thinking and greed and malice and racism and ambition and manipulations of others to you and to your name – and yet your name remains holy.

Thy kingdom come... God, right now we beg you to bring more than just a

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| TUES | 10.00am 11.15am | St Helens Heritage Centre | £7 |
| WED | 6.00pm 7.00pm | As above | £7 |
| THURS | 6.00pm 7.00pm | As above TBC | £7 |
| FRI | 10.00am 11.15am | TBC TBC | £7 |



small measure of heaven to earth because, you will have noticed, we are in the middle of a global pandemic and millions are sick and dying. It's a mess down here Lord, so we need your Kingdom to speed the hell up. We need wise leaders, and just systems and an extra dose of compassion for all of us.

Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Thy will and not ours be done. Forgive us when we use prayer as a self-help technique by which we can get all the cash and prizes we want out of your divine vending machine if we just kind of bug you to death through ceaseless prayer, because when it comes down to it, we know better. You are our Father whose name is holy and whose love is boundless and who wants, as our holy Parent, to hear our prayers.

Give us today our daily bread. Give us today our daily bread, our daily naan, our daily tortillas, our daily rice. Lord, give us real bread, even when we keep reaching for those literal and metaphorical Krispy Kremes. Give us the gift of enough-ness. May our response to perceived scarcity always be increased generosity for we are your children and from you we receive everything. Give us today our desire for the neighbour to be fed. Give us today a desire for a good that is held in common.

And forgive us our sins. As we forgive those who sin against us. Forgive us when we hate what you love. Forgive us when we would rather anesthetize ourselves than feel anything. Forgive us for how much we resent in others the same things we hate in ourselves. Forgive us for the terrible things we think about our own bodies, bodies you have made in your image. Forgive us for thinking we know the hearts of our enemies.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Deliver us from the inclination that we too do not have evil in our hearts. Deliver us from religious and national exceptionalism. Deliver us from addiction and depression. Deliver us from self-loathing. Deliver us from self-righteousness. Deliver us from high fructose corn syrup. Deliver us from a complete lack of imagination about where you are in our lives and how you might already be showing up. Deliver us from complacency. Deliver us from Complicity.

As Jesus taught us, we are throwing this bag of prayers at your door. We are not asking nicely, Lord. We are your children and we are claiming your promises as our own today. Some of us are holding your feet to the fire, some of us don't know if we believe in you, some of us are distracted and just going through the motions, some are desperately in love with you....but all of us are your children. Use these prayers to hammer us all into vessels that can accept the answer when it comes.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. And the children of God say, AMEN.

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