

St Andrew's and St George's West Magazine Dec 2018 - Jan 2019

ST ANDREW'S & ST GEORGE'S WEST



-

Friday 21 December at 6pm

Carols at Six

Come and enjoy a feast of Christmas music amid a forest of sparkling trees. Sing favourite carols with **St Andrew's and St George's West** Choir and Cantilena Orchestra.

Special guest soloist Andrea Baker | Directed by Brigitte Harris



Music includes

Sweet little Jesus boy and Go tell it on the mountain O magnum mysterium Morten Lauridsen In dulci jubilo J.S. Bach O holy night Adolphe Adam Have yourself a merry little Christmas Andrew Carvel

Christmas services

Mon 24 Dec • Christmas Eve | 5pm Christingle | 11.30pm Watchnight Tue 25 Dec • Christmas Day | 11am family service



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FREE Retiring collection for Birthlink, Blood Bike and The Welcoming



St Andrew's & St George's West 13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

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St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh is a charity registered in Scotland No. SC008990



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Thanks to all contributors. Our next edition is published in February 2019 – copy deadline Friday 25 January. magazine[at]stagw.org.uk



The place where God is with us Very Rev Dr John Chalmers

The last time I penned a piece for this magazine I was in London at an overnight consultation with Christian Aid; it gave me the inspiration for the short article that I wrote.

This time I'm in Rome and part of my reason for being here is to visit *Mediterranean Hope* which is a project run by the *Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy* and supported by one of our Church of Scotland Mission Partners, Fiona Kendall. Some of you in St Andrew's and St George's West will know Fiona; she is a great friend of the Gilmour family and from time to time she has worshipped with you in this congregation.

Not that long ago Fiona was a solicitor working in private practice, but now she has found her vocation doing some inspiring work as the European & Legal Affairs advisor in a project that is facilitating the safe passage of refugees from some of the most dangerous war torn countries in the world.

What one of us has not been horrified to witness the plight of men, women and children, exploited by people traffickers, risking all to cross the Mediterranean in ramshackle boats and rubber dinghies not fit for the open seas? No one knows how many lives have been lost trying to make this treacherous passage. In one incident alone, in October 2013, 368 fleeing migrants were drowned near the island of Lampedusa, they were trying to make landfall somewhere in Italy. They are counted amongst more than 20,000 people who have suffered the same fate over the past 30 years. That particular incident, however, inspired the creation of *Mediterranean Hope* which has established 'humanitarian corridors' that allow those whose lives are most at risk to apply for humanitarian visas and travel to Italy where they reach safe haven.

I am immensely proud that we, in the Church of Scotland, are supporting this venture and are saving vulnerable lives. Unfortunately there is a growing problem. The new government in Italy, and an attitude that seems to be growing across the developed world, is becoming more and more hostile to those who are in such desperate need.

As I write Fiona is on her way to Rome's

Fiumicino Airport to welcome the latest group of refugees arriving from their war ravaged towns and villages in sub-Saharan Africa and we need to pray that they will find safety and that they, and their children, will be able to build a secure future.

Why write about this the Christmas edition of our Church magazine? Well, if you remember the detail of the Christmas narrative you will remember that it ends with Mary, Joseph and the new born baby fleeing for their lives and there would be no Christmas story to tell if the border into Egypt had been closed or the authorities there had refused them the asylum which they so badly needed.

The place where God is with us *(Emmanuel)* is the place where God's vulnerable people are given refuge and hope and *Mediterranean Hope* is one of those places. May I wish you a very blessed Christmas – one in which God is with you.

Read more about Fiona's work on the Church of Scotland website: http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/53139/ September_Sent_out_14.9.18.pdf







December 2018		
Sun 2 Dec	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 12 noon Fellowship	
	Lunch for TOGETHER Homelessness projects	
	3pm in St Andrew Square Edinburgh's Christmas Carol	
	Concert and Blessing of the Nativity	
Mon 3 Dec	6.30pm AHSS Lecture: Being Authentic: Restoring Historic	
	Buildings and their Interiors Michael Davis	
Sat 8-24 Dec	New Life Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival	
Sun 9 Dec	9am, 9.45am, 11am services	
Mon 10 Dec	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting	
Tue 11 Dec	6pm Stewart Investors Carol Concert	
Wed 12 Dec	7pm Missing People Carol Concert	
Sun 16 Dec	9am, 9.45am, 11am services	
Tue 18 Dec	Faculty of Advocates Carol Service	
Fri 21 Dec	6pm Carols at Six	
Sat 22 Dec	Congregational Christmas Supper in the Undercroft	
	Tickets are £10/£5 for children and are available from the	
	church office.	
Sun 23 Dec	9am, 9.45am, 11am services	
Mon 24 Dec	Christmas Eve – New Life! closes at 4pm	
	5pm Christingle	
	11.30 pm Watchnight	
Tue 25 Dec	Christmas Day 11am Family Service	
26-29 Dec	Church closed	
Sun 30 Dec	9am, 9.45am, 11am services: 2.30pm wedding	
Mon 31 Dec	11 pm TOGETHER Hogmanay Watchnight Service at St	
	Cuthbert's to welcome in the New Year	





Staff News

Easy spiced pear cocktail Wendy Henderson, Church Manager (via Olive Magazine)

Ingredients (for 1 cocktail)

gin 50ml lemon 25ml pear syrup 25ml egg white 1

SPICED PEAR SYRUP

pears 4, cored and cubed star anise 1, plus more to serve cinnamon 1 stick, broken in half caster sugar 250g

Method

Step 1: To make the spiced pear syrup, put the ingredients in a pan with 250ml water and simmer for 20-30 minutes until the flavours have infused. Cool.

Step 2: To make the cocktail, put all of the ingredients into a cocktail shaker without ice and shake vigorously. Open the shaker, fill with ice and shake again, then strain into a chilled coupe. Place a star anise on the foam to serve.





My name is Meyko Nikita Bailey-Matsumoto, I'm the somewhat new trainee chef working in the Undercroft Cafe. I'm born in the heart of London and grew up there all my life.

Before coming here, I dedicated a lot of my time to becoming an engineer and finally got the perfect spot working for Apple as a Hardware Engineer, this was my dream job.

Turns out it was the most boring thing I've ever done after a few months of work and quit to go on to short time jobs here or there, Deliveroo turned out to be my favourite!

I used to do Judo and compete in international competitions in Holland. As well as that I'm a very big gamer, too much knowledge about many different games. I can also speak Japanese, haha!



Sally Evans









Soon it will be time to open the doors of "New Life", the Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival 2018.

Then we will warmly welcome hundreds of people into the church: to decorate trees, make music, make decorations, donate, look, listen, touch, smell, connect, sing, laugh, cry, pray, reflect, think, remember, admire, be still and wonder at this beautiful Christmas celebration.

Each of our 40 "Caring Christmas Trees" supports Bethany Christian Trust's work, transforming the lives of people affected by homelessness.

The donations from visitors will be shared between **Birthlink**, an established charity who have regularly supported the Christmas Tree Festival and are based in our parish and two much newer local charities, **Blood Bikes Scotland** and **The Welcoming**.

Our "New Life" theme connects so well with each of them.

Birthlink is a charity working with adults affected by adoption with a Scottish connection. It works with adopted people, birth and adoptive relatives, to enhance their wellbeing and promote the welfare of all people affected by adoption.

The agency originated in 1911 as the Eastern Branch of the National Vigilance Association, its aim being to protect women and girls on the street. In 1941 the association became the Guild of Service, working with single mothers offering support, arranging fostering and more often adoption. In 1954 we registered as an adoption agency with a further name change in 1978 to Family Care. Then in 1984 Birthlink and the Adoption Contact Register were established supported by funding from the Scottish Government.

We provide an After Adoption Information Line to support anyone with adoption enquiries including local authorities, adoption agencies and other professionals. We work in partnership with Future Pathways, Scotland's In Care Survivor Support Fund, offering our Care Connect service, to assist survivor's access their care records.





We have two Thrift Shops, one of which is now the oldest in Scotland. All our staff, volunteers and Board are dedicated to supporting our organisation to bring the highest level of care to our clients.



For more information visit: <u>http://www.birthlink.org.uk</u> Facebook: birthlink - adults affected by adoption



Blood Bikes Scotland are a dedicated team of volunteer motorcyclists, who commit their time to provide a motorbike courier service to the NHS. Using fully liveried motorbikes, they offer this service free of charge to the NHS as a way of 'giving something back'. They deliver small urgent items that are urgently requiring to be moved from one site to another or to a patient's home in the community.

This amazing group of bikers deliver items such as specialist baby milk to premature babies, sometimes collecting expressed breast milk from the mother in their home and taking it to the hospital, they deliver new prescriptions to District Nurses while they are still in the patients home so that Palliative patients can have changes to their pain medication quicker thus reducing the time they are waiting on pain relief medication.

As part of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB), BBS can coordinate items to be transported to any area across the UK. This is done in a coordinated relay using Blood Bikes from the relevant area across the UK. They have also been pivotal in assisting other charities supported by the NHS including the Edinburgh Sick Children's Foundation and Marie Curie and St Columba's Hospices.

In June 2018, BBS were voted Scottish Charity of the Year 2018 and People's Choice Charity at the Scottish Charity Awards in Edinburgh.



We are looking forward to taking part in the 2018 Christmas Tree Festival!

John Baxter, Chairperson For more information visit: <u>https://bloodbikesscotland.co.uk</u> https://www.facebook.com/bloodbikesscotland/ The Welcoming Association's aims are to assist newcomers, to increase their confidence, well-being and realise their economic and social potential to become part of community life in Edinburgh. We have an experienced staff team and over 100 volunteers that welcome and work with around 1,300 newcomers who join our programme each year from over 80 different countries and backgrounds. We also work in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council to provide cultural integration services to the Syrian refugee community.

We deliver an extensive range of English classes, an employability



guidance service, opportunities to volunteer for work experience, and a weekly social and cultural integration programme of activities which also includes creative arts, health and sports activities. We also deliver a home energy efficiency service to newcomers through our Welcoming a Greener Future programme to help people change their behavioural habits to save energy and tackle climate change.

One of our most successful activities has been our befriending programme: Welcoming Friendship. This project, which takes us back to our roots as a weekly befriending programme, aims to support newcomers to build increased confidence, well-being and integration into Edinburgh life whilst providing local people with opportunities to contribute to their community. Newcomers and local volunteers have the opportunity to share cultures, language and build meaningful friendships.

Feedback from our participants show that they have developed their language skills, friendships and confidence, while gaining new skills thanks to our programmes.

David Carpenter, ESOL Coordinator For more information visit: <u>www.thewelcoming.org</u> Facebook. <u>https://www.facebook.com/thewelcoming/</u>





What we need is here Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

Typically, as one year draws to its close and another begins, I cannot help but reflect on everything in nature I have been so blessed to witness thus far in my life; also, to make tentative plans to search for creatures I have yet to see, my 'bucket list' in other words. Not something I have ever compiled formally before, but interestingly, I have been asked about it on a couple of occasions recently. Just pondering the question proved an enjoyable exercise in itself, helping me to re-live past fantastic and often unexpected experiences in God's creation, plus to focus my mind on future aspirations.

Not being a great traveller, certainly not to foreign parts, it is with a degree of regret that I resign myself to the fact that I am unlikely to ever sample the wonderful sights and sounds of wild Africa; similarly, to encounter any of the world's wild bears, penguins, or great apes in their natural habitats. How I would love it, any of it, I know, but I console myself with great stories shared by David Attenborough (eg his latest TV series 'Dynasties'), Jane Goodall (eg her book 'Reason for Hope'), and some dear friends who have made those journeys and connections and who happily tell me tales of their amazing adventures.

Opting to remain largely in and continue to explore Scotland's natural riches, reminds me of an extract from Wendell Berry's poem, 'The Wild Geese':

"...what we need is here. And we pray, not for new earth or heaven, But to be quiet in heart, and in eye clear. What we need is here."

And so, turning back to my bucket list and my sought-after 'spots'. I included mountain hares in snow sporting their white winter coats; red squirrels leaping; owls; orcas; and starling murmurations. Add to this of course, those creatures I never tire of seeing again and again: otters; badgers; kingfishers; seal pups; gannets; puffins; all of Spring's new arrivals; weasels; waxwings; whooper swans; and it goes without saying, my swan pair, although ideally to see them mate again, and also in flight. Clearly, to make headway on my list will require time away from the Water of Leith, and significant dedication. Realistically, my list probably represents more than a year's worth of planning, effort and patience, but I look forward to finding and recording as much of it in 2019 as is possible. Also, to days when I feel as Kenneth Steven describes in his poem 'Remember':

"Give thanks and turn and go back home – For there will be only a few days like this."

Included in this article are three photographs that for me depict special 'Moments In Nature' during 2018: seal watching (Islay April'18); my first ever close-up sighting of a whooper swan (Islay April'18); and my swans.

I cannot wait to share more news and photographs of forthcoming

wildlife adventures through future editions of this magazine.

For now, I pray that you all find the peace, love, and hope that Christmas offers, and I send my very best wishes for the New Year. In the words of the Guatemalan song translated by Christine Carson and arranged by John Bell:

"The peace of the earth be with you,

the peace of the heavens too: the peace of the rivers be with you,

the peace of the oceans too. Deep peace falling over you; God's peace growing in you."

Every blessing, Pat McKerrow





Singing our way into or out of belief

Inspired by John Bell's idea that we sing our way into or out of belief, we asked a few folk to share favourite words from a Christmas carol...

'It came upon the midnight clear' isn't up-to-date in language, nor politically correct, but for sheer poetry, I don't think it can be beaten. It's a beautiful description of the realm of the angels breaking through to the chaos of life on earth - but so often unheard and unheeded. For me, the most powerful lines are

O hush the noise ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing

They bring a tear to my eye every time! Dorothy Mackenzie (this was also Rev Rosie Addis' favourite line!)

So many of our carols are disappointing in their theology, but Christina Rossetti nails it down with

Love came down at Christmas, Love incarnate, Love divine

- this says it all. Very Rev Dr John Chalmers Locum Minister

I love the line in 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight

I've known lots of times when hope accompanies fear, but fear also accompanies change, and the comforting thought that those two emotions have been meeting for centuries is very reassuring, especially in Bethlehem where hope existed in the midst of uncertainty and high and low, sure and unsure met at the mangerside. Rev Moira McDonald, Interim Moderator at StAGW

The line that has most meaning for me is from 'Oh come all ye faithful' Very God begotten, not created

Jesus was born. He lived here on Earth. He suffered with us and for us, He died for us. He was not just playing at being human, he *was* human. Morven Cross

What would YOU share?

When curtained night is closest drawn and daylight hours are short, the Yuletide solstice warns of frost and summer days are long since lost, and gloves and scarves are bought.

When autumn's leaves are blown away, when longest night means shortest day, and winter deepens, cold and grey, and dark clouds veil the dawn, then, in our coldest, darkest times we light our days with song; our glasses raise among the show of holly, fir and mistletoe, to cheer the days along.

And did you see our seedtime feast? and in those measures hide your yeast, and see the harvest grain increase, and wine-press autumn's later lease, a glowing, golden song?

Saturnalia's grinning orgy, the High Lord of Misrule, the prancing, dancing Feast of Fools, our mingling right and wrong?

Our pagan village feasts and fètes that close-pursed lips and high-held hates see as our faults and so mistakes the courage in our song?

> And did you see our courage then? your children singing in the dark? And did you give your heart to them who loved the One they did not know; and bowed to You they could not see and gave another name to You?

> > . . .

Saturnalia

'During my week the serious is barred, no business allowed, drinking and being drunk, noise and games and dice, appointing of kings feasting of slaves, singing naked, clapping of tremulous hands and the occasional ducking of corked faces in icy water.'

Cronos, in 'Saturnalia' by Lucia of Samosata, 167-175 AD. Did you not know Me then

my children, singing in the dark? I who made your solstices, your moons, who threw the wheeling stars, the tides, the seasons, day and night.

You who sang the seasons, named turning stars and constellations, saw life's spring and summer, its autumn and its winter the zodiac in life's zoè, its seedtime, its harvest, did you not know Me and give Me many names?

I AM your Father, I AM Mother, your Sister, your Brother; I AM Love and I AM laughter. When My erring son or daughter turns away and strays to danger. Though I grieve and there is anger. Yet in Me there is no turning, no wrath nor fierce burning, simply longing and a yearning watching for My child's returning. Though you nailed me to a tree, from death I've broken free, and follow you through hell to bring you home.

Tony Shephard anthonyinuk.com



Reflecting on Homelessness Pat McKerrow

For those in church for 11am Morning Worship on 18 November, what an interesting, informative, and moving hour it proved to be. A service designed to raise awareness of homelessness and its many issues, with the opportunity to hear a recording of three young members of our congregation, **Caitlin, Philippa, and Matthew**, in conversation with Jenny and Peter, representatives from the local **Souper Saturday** charity, which offers food and companionship to anyone homeless or without home facilities.

The youngsters did themselves proud by preparing their own searching questions to learn more about homelessness, and by sharing their own personal and heart-warming stories of homeless people they had already observed.

The service began with the powerful image of the 'Jesus on a bench' bronze statue by Timothy Schmaltz. Jimmy Campbell explained that the sculptor designed the statue to provide a visual message of Matthew's gospel, where the son of man has nowhere to lay his head, and then shows us the way by consistently identifying himself with those who are marginalised.

Jimmy went on to illustrate the many different aspects of homelessness, from those who live on the streets, to those in hostels; in temporary, unsuitable or unfurnished accommodation; or 'sofa-surfing'. Also highlighting things homeless people face routinely, including freezing temperatures and inclement weather; as well as humiliation, abuse, and injury. Key messages everyone took from the service included the need to pray for guidance in seeking ways to offer help; to notice and speak to people on the streets; to demonstrate kindness; and to set-aside any pre or mis-perceptions about homelessness and its causes. With thanks to David Brown for recording and editing the Souper Saturday conversation. You can "listen again" to the recording on the church website here

https://www.stagw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Homelessness.mp3

The StAGW Care Shelter Team in action Katie McNeill











Like many Edinburgh churches we regularly field a team to set up and cater for the Bethany Winter Night Shelter. Our next date is 16th February speak to Katie McNeill if you would like to be involved.

January 2019			
Sun 6 Jan	9am, 9.45am, 11am Services		
Mon 7 Jan	Undercroft Café reopens		
Sun 13 Jan	9am, 9.45am, 11am Services		
Tue 15 Jan	St Mary's Music School Concert		
Sun 20 Jan	9am Communion, 9.45am Learning Together		
	11am Together Joint Service at St Andrew's and St		
	George's West		
Wed 23 Jan	7pm The Lady in the Van Film showing and discussion		
	with David Todd, TOGETHER Theatre Chaplain		
Sat 26 Jan	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society		
Sun 27 Jan	9am, 9.45am, 11am Services: Quarterly Communion		
	Holocaust Memorial Day		
Mon 28 Jan	12.15 pm Undercroft Amnesty Group		

Together Joint Service Sun 20 January 11am at

StAGW

Congregations, choirs and clergy of St John's, St Cuthbert's and St Andrew's and St George's West worship together to mark the week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January 2019) Rev Rosie Addis leads worship and Rev Peter Sutton preaches



Wed 23 Jan at 7pm at StAGW

Film and discussion led by David Todd, Theatre Chaplain at TOGETHER and Greenside churches. Free, donations welcome.

Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's Thursdays 12.30-1.45pm

Tea and coffee provided – bring a packed lunch. We ask for a donation of £2 each time you come. Meetings are open to everyone and we offer a warm welcome.



10 Jan	Alison Burnley	The Quaker Tapestry
17 Jan	David Dixon	Border Bothies
24 Jan	Alex Shuttleworth	Burns
31 Jan	Bill and Shirley Brown	Ecumenical Day Care Project
		(ECUDARE) Kenya
7 Feb	Jock Stein	Books I have Published
14 Feb	Pat Ash	Water
21 Feb	Catherine Booth	A Scottish Suffragette
28 Feb	David Dutton	The Emergence of Dissent in
		Haddington
7 Mar	Robert Allen	The Falkirk Family Life Centre
14 Mar	Malcolm + Cati Ramsay	Lenten Meditation

Find the programme online at

togetheredinburgh.org.uk/outreach/ecumenical-friends-edinburgh/



Messy Café at St John's

Cornerstone Centre Sat 19 Jan 10am - noon

We love Messy Church but don't want to wait so long between events so we're trialling Messy Café, a relaxed drop-in café style event

with hot/cold drinks and snacks, crafts and books. Stay for the whole time or just for half an hour, whatever works for you. Also Sat 16 Feb - Sat 23 Mar - Sat 20 April

Torn From Home Morven Cross

We are all probably aware of Holocaust Memorial Day, the date picked as being the day that the Red Army liberated Auschwitz. What may be less known is that ever since it became an official commemoration day in 2001, there have been different themes to each year.

In 2019, the theme is 'Torn from home'. A refugee crisis where people are forced from their homes is not a holocaust but it could become one. There are what seem like pedantic discussions about what constitutes genocide as opposed to just a war crime at the UNHCR. Reclassifications alter the legal options but they probably don't help much when you are running from persecution. This year will also mark the 25th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide.

The horrifying realisation that Holocaust Memorial Day is not a day for history buffs but tragically becoming more relevant as persecutions and hatreds change and spread.

For the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.' (BCP)

Holocaust Memorial Day is marked on 27 January 2019.



The refugee crisis and the human rights response Alf (Lord) Dubs

Sunday 9 December at 8pm Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh EH16 4AB

Lord Dubs will discuss UK policies on child refugees, the EU situation, movement across the Mediterranean, source countries (especially in the Middle East), and global issues.

Alf Dubs arrived in the UK in 1939 on a *Kindertransport* from Prague. Educated at the London School of Economics and worked as a local government officer before entering politics. He was CEO of the Refugee Council from 1988 until 1995.

He campaigns on behalf of unaccompanied child refugees.



Step into a forest of fragrant Christmas Trees, each decorated by a local charity, or business, or voluntary group.

Make a decoration to add to a tree, add a star to a tree for someone born this year or remember someone you love on our Tree of Remembrance.

When and Where

8–24 December Mon–Sat 10am – 6pm (Thu until 9pm) Early closing: Friday 15 December, 2pm close for Carols at Six preparations.

St Andrew's & St George's West 13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

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Follow us (f) /EdinburghChristmasTreeFestival



FREE | Donations welcome for Birthlink, Blood Bike and The Welcoming





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www.stagw.org.ukf stagw✓ @StAGW1Office openMon - Fri 10am-3pmChurch openMon - Fri 10am - 3pm: Sat 11am-2pmUndercroft CaféMon - Fri 10am - 2pmSunday worship9am, 9.45am, 11am + Albany Deaf Church 2pmWeekday worship1pm Monday – Friday				
Interim Moderator Locum Minister Locum Minister	Rev Moira McDonald MMcDonald[at]churchofscotland.org.uk Very Rev Dr John Chalmers JChalmers[at]churchofscotland.org.uk Rev Colin Douglas (pastoral support)			
Session Clerk	Crispin Longden			
Joint Treasurers	John Innes Allan Sim			
Director of Music Assistant DoM	Brigitte Harris Andrew Carvel			
Church manager	Wendy Henderson 0131 225 3847 churchmanager[at]stagw.org.uk			
Church secretary	Joyce Garland 0131 225 3847 info[at]stagw.org.uk			
Church administrator	Sophie Hudson 0131 225 3847 admin[at]stagw.org.uk			
Safeguarding	Barbara Finlayson			
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