

The Messenger
Parish Magazine of



**St George
and**



**All Saints'
Chorley**

March 2025

Parish Clergy

	<p>Vicar The Revd. Michael Print BA (Hons), BTh (Oxon) Tel: 01257 263064 Email: vicar@stgeorgechorley.co.uk</p>	
	<p>Assistant Curate The Revd. Jordan Bentliff MA (Hons) Tel: 01257 43800 / 07450 269010 Email: cjbentliff@hotmail.co.uk</p>	
	<p>Retired Clergy with Permission to Officiate The Revd. Peter Smith BA (Hons), PTO Tel: 07412 624931 Email: ordinand07@gmail.com</p>	

Regular Services

<p>The Parish Church of St George Sunday 9:30am Family Eucharist Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist</p> <p>www.stgeorgechorley.co.uk</p>	<p>The Parish Church of All Saints' Sunday 11:00am Family Eucharist Sunday 4:00pm Closer Service Thursday 10:30am Eucharist</p> <p>www.allsaintschorley.com</p>
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Parish Contacts

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Dr Victoria Gibson safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07921 010900
Parish Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Sara Shingler shinglebelly@yahoo.com	
Parish Treasurer	Mr Stephen Pollard treasurer@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07568 502770
Parish Magazine Editor	Mrs Christine Gibson acvgibson@sky.com	01257 260555
Parish Health & Safety Officer	Mr John Bradley jm30.bradley@gmail.com	07375 047982
Parish Visiting & Lay Ministry Team	Mrs Carol Pearson (Authorised Lay Minister) carolpearson@outlook.com	07981 021288
Parish Youth Group	Meet every Friday 5:30pm to 7:00pm at All Saints' Church (contact Fr Jordan)	07450 269010

St George's Contacts

Churchwardens	Mr John Bradley jm30.bradley@gmail.com Mrs Lorraine Smith lorraine54@me.com	07375 047982 07729 886640
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr Gordon Blackledge ARCO FTCL	01257 274922
Verger	Vacancy	
Flower Guild Secretary	Mrs Freda Armstrong	01257 262918
Bell Tower Captain	Dr Victoria Gibson drvigibson@outlook.com	07921 010900
Church Hall	Mrs Sian Phillipson Manager/Booking churchhall@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07734 232584
St George's Primary School	Mr Andy Purcell, Head Teacher	01257 262323
Sunday Club	We meet in the Church Hall 9:25am on a normal Sunday	
Men's Fellowship	2nd Wednesday 7:30pm, Church Hall	01257 426335
Mothers' Union	2nd & last Thursday 7:30pm, Church Hall	
Thursday Ladies Circle	1st & 3rd Thursday 7:30pm, Church Hall	
Dramatic & Musical Society	Friday 7:00pm, Church Hall	
Badminton Club	Monday 8:00pm, Church Hall	
Church Institute	Monday - Thursday 2:00pm -11:00pm Friday & Saturday 2:00pm -12:00 midnight Sunday 12:00 noon -11:00pm	01257 413107
Toddler & Baby Group	Little Steps meet Wednesday (term time) Church Hall (contact Mrs Natalie Print)	01257 263064

St George's Uniformed Organisations Meet at Church Hall (Term Time)		
Rainbows	Kathryn Winters Tuesday 5.00pm	07701 353425
Brownies	Kathryn Winters Tuesday 6.15pm	07701 353425
Guides	Sarah Glover Tuesday 7.15pm	07974 687541

Red Bank Uniformed Organisations Meet at Red Bank Mission Hall (Term Time)		
Beaver Scouts Scouts Club Scouts	Monday 6:15pm Monday 7:30pm Jackie Beesley (GSL) Tuesday 6:50pm	01257 270770
Rainbows	Wednesday 5:30pm Kaitlinn Hunter	
Brownies	Wednesday 6:45pm Lynsey Torrens	
Guides	Thursday 6:45pm Jackie Beesley	01257 270770

All Saints' Contacts

Churchwardens	Mrs Shirley Starkey churchwarden.allsaints@yahoo.com Mrs Joyce Jolly joycejolly21@gmail.com	07806 682946 01257 278057
Verger	Mrs Christine Ireland	01257 273281 07596 443163
All Saints' Primary School and Nursery Unit	Mrs Sarah Partington, Head Teacher	01257 262489
Flower Guild Secretary	Mrs Marjorie Holland d_holland1@sky.com	01257 271830
Mothers' Union	Mrs Marjorie Holland d_holland1@sky.com Meet every 1 st & 3 rd Wednesday at 2:00pm (locations vary)	01257 271830
Ladies Friendship Group	Mrs Rachael Anders-Kay rachaelanderskay@gmail.com See notice sheet for meetings	07851 210120
Men's Social Group	Mr Michael Anders-Kay michaelanderskay@gmail.com See notice sheet for meetings	07923 255325

Please notify the Parish Magazine Editor of any changes/updates
Mrs Christine Gibson acvgibson@sky.com 01257 260555

I now cast this little Publication into your hands earnestly hoping that it may meet with your approbation, and enable you to spend a happy and profitable hour whilst reading over its pages".

Rev. John Stock 1863, The Messenger first issue

Dear brothers and sisters,

I would like to begin my letter by offering my heartfelt thanks to all for any help you have given over the past few months. Whether praying in your homes, offering financial support, or giving up your time to volunteer for us, your help has been invaluable seeing us through a busy period. I am always immensely impressed with the willingness to serve and by all the hard work that so many put into our parish. It is, as such, only right that I should start my letter by thanking you all, as we once more look back over the past few weeks and celebrate what has worked well, even as we look forward to the challenges ahead.

The past few weeks have been a busy time for All Saints' Church yet there is one thing in particular that I would like to mention to you in this letter. A few weeks ago we saw our parish youth group lead one of the services in our church for the first time. Many of these young people have only started coming to church through our youth group and have started to become actively involved in the life of our church. They led the service in worship, prayer, and even gave a short talk based on the bible passage.

As I have since pondered this service I have been reminded that God grows his church in whatever way he deems right. When we take part in mission we do so by recognising that God's plan is different from our plans. It is, after all, God's mission we take part in. This minded me that we should have hope, that we should be encouraged that although we may worry about various matters in our church nationally - declining numbers, finances, etc - it is ultimately God's church, God's mission and plan, so we should not be afraid. Seeing those young people be brave and lead reminded me that God will work with whatever he has to grow his church.

As we see the youth group step in to taking part in God's mission, we should open our arms and embrace the way that God seems to be moving in our parish, supporting it in whatever way we can. I know from my own experience that this is certainly something that many of you have been excellent at, and have felt the support of the whole parish as we continue to try to engage all people, young and old. So my message to you is both one of thanks and also a reminder of the hope that it is God's mission, and he never fails; a simple message yet one which we must regularly be reminded of.

Thus, as we turn our eyes to the weeks and months ahead, there are many exciting things approaching us. At All Saints' we have mass baptisms planned and, at St George's, many exciting events related to the bi-centennial. There is much to hope in the months ahead and much to be grateful for too. So keep on spreading the gospel in hope and faith, wherever you are, pray for God's mission in this parish and know that he is at work here.

Amen.

Fr Jordan



Our Vision - Closer to Christ; further out for Christ.



Parish of Chorley St. George and All Saints

New Church Electoral Roll

Spring 2025

Background

In accordance with Church Representation Rules, every six years each Parish of the Church of England has to compile a new electoral roll and as the existing roll was compiled in 2019, we have to create a brand new electoral roll in 2025.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who does this apply to?

A: Everyone! Everyone will be removed from the current roll and must re-apply.

Q: But my name is already on the electoral roll for public elections.

A: The church electoral roll is totally separate to the electoral roll known as the Electoral register for UK elections and is used to enable you to vote at our Annual Church Meeting and to hold certain positions such as sidesperson, or to be part of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), which is responsible for local church affairs.

Q: So who can apply to go on the new roll?

A: Under the Church Representation Rules you are entitled to have your name entered on the roll, if you:

(i) are baptised and aged 16 or over; and

- (ii) have signed a form of application for enrolment; and either
- iii) are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment; Or
- (iv) are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves to be also members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish church of England being resident in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

Important dates

A formal legal notice will be displayed in both churches on the ***1st March*** and forms will be available from this date.

The New Electoral Roll forms will be accepted from the ***2nd March to the 19th April*** and the Visiting team will liaise with the 'housebound' between these dates.

The New Roll will be displayed on internal notice boards of each church on the ***3rd May***. The New Roll will be confirmed at the APCM on the ***20th May***.

Sara Shingler

Electoral Roll Officer

St George's Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicants
5th Jan	4	45	43
12th Jan	27	119	110
19th Jan	23	132	103
26th Jan	52	135	120

**Note - The attendance numbers include all the services
within the week**

**St George's Church - Holy Baptism
Arthur Clark & Leonard Clark**

Holy Matrimony-None

**Please pray for those struggling with illnesses of any
sort, and especially for:**

**Marian Crossthwaite, David Heyworth, Linda Eubank,
Richard Wilk, Margaret Salisbury & Steve Cox**

**And for the families of those who have died recently
Margaret Williams, Geoff Armstrong, Geoff Gibbs,
Irene Haworth & Diana Downing**

We remember all those who are currently housebound and unable to be
with us in Church.



Spotlight on Safeguarding

This month I am focussing on supporting family and friends of those who use drugs. Lots of families in the UK have a loved one who is using or trying to come off drugs. If you're the parent, partner, child or carer of someone who uses drugs, you may feel worried, frustrated and alone. It's important to recognise this and get the help and support you need. Families often play an important role in helping someone come off drugs. Getting help for yourself will put you in a better position for supporting your loved one. It can be helpful to talk to other people who know what you're going through. Your GP can give you details of local support groups for people affected by someone else's drug use.

There are also organisations that run helplines and local support groups for people living with a person who uses drugs.

FRANK:

[FRANK](#) is a support service that provides information about drugs, plus advice for people who use drugs, and their parents or carers.

[Find support near you on the FRANK website](#)

Call the Frank helpline: 0300 123 6600

Adfam:

[The Adfam website offers families help with finding support](#)

[Find an Adfam support group near you](#)

Addiction Family Support:

[Addiction Family Support](#) offers phone and email support to people affected by other people's drug or alcohol misuse.

[Contact Addiction Family Support](#) or call the helpline: 0300 888 3853

Release

[Release](#) offers free, confidential advice on drugs law for people who use drugs, and their families.

Email: ask@release.org.uk or call the helpline: 020 7324 2989

If you want to stop taking drugs, your GP can tell you about the treatment options and services available. They can also refer you for treatment.

Victoria

Dr Victoria Gibson

Parish Safeguarding Officer

0792 1010 900 safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk

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Friday & Saturday 2pm - 12 midnight
Sunday 12 noon - 11pm

Lent Lunch 2025

This year's Lent Lunch will be held on Sunday 23rd March after coffee. Please join us to enjoy a bowl of delicious homemade soup and a roll in exchange for a donation to charity. It was lovely to have so many attend last year for food and fellowship and we hope for a good turnout again this year to support our chosen charity, Action for Children.

If anyone would like to make a pan of soup for the occasion or help on the day, please contact Elizabeth on 07425608510.

Action for Children is a leading UK Children's charity that has been helping children for more than 150 years. Today, they run 426 services in local communities across the UK, in schools and online.

They protect and support children and young people by providing practical and emotional care and support. They do this in 3 ways:

Intervention. Anyone can get trapped in poverty, abuse or violence. When problems are identified, early action is taken. Help is provided to children, young people and families before things get worse.

Prevention. Support is given to young people to enable them to grow up safe and happy. Projects like The Blues Programme teach important life skills and help to build resilience. It's simple and it works.

Advocacy. Children don't have a say in many things that affect their lives. Action for children listens and takes their concerns to the government.

Mission and Discipleship Team

St.George's Day Bi-centennial Celebration

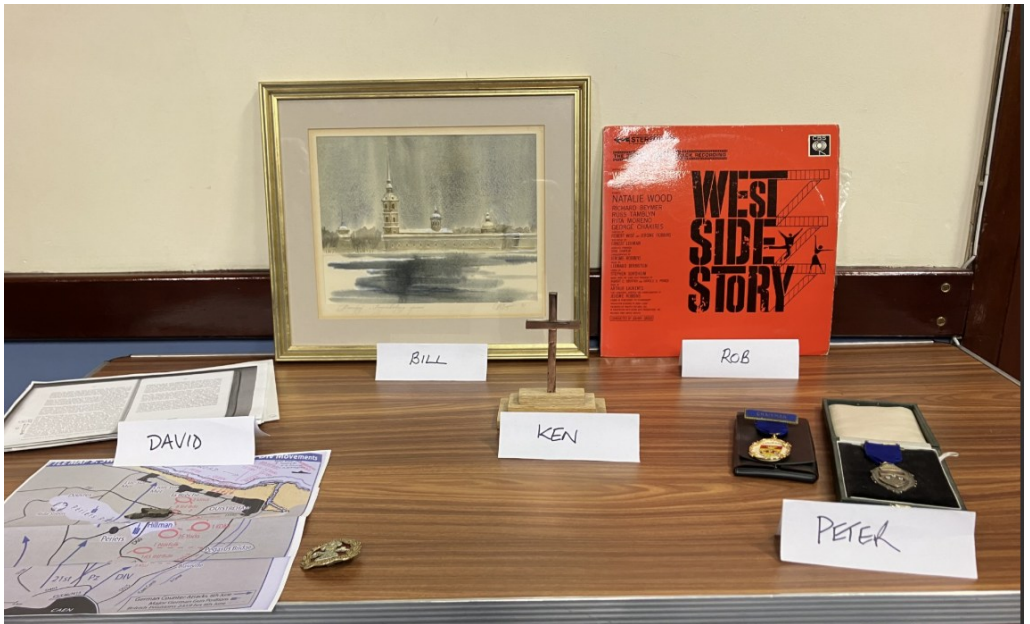
Come and join us on Sunday 27th April at 10 o'clock for a special service of celebration as we remember our patron saint, George, in our church's 200th Year. Bishop Joe Kennedy will be preaching and there will be contributions throughout the service from St George's school children.

Stay after the service for fun, food (Bring and Share) and fizz. To mark the occasion why not wear something red and/or white ? You could even add blue as that is reputed to be St George's favourite colour! If you're very inventive you could even include these colours in the food you bring to share! Swat up on your knowledge of St George as there will be a quiz as well as crafts(for adults as well as children) and a bouncy castle!

Mens Fellowship

At our January meeting we were pleased to welcome Stuart Whillis who gave us a brilliant talk “a life of horology”. Stuart took us through a history of his interest in clicks starting when he was a young boy all the way through to the present day. He brought a number of antique clocks with him together with some interesting slides showing important local historical timepieces.

At our February meeting we shared personal artifacts with each other. We didn't have an outside speaker available so each of us brought along an artifact which held memories and gave a brief talk about it. We were only five in total but we enjoyed each others talks. A varied range of artifacts were brought together - it was so successful we may look to repeat the evening in the future”



Peter Wilding



*You are all so welcome to
come and join All Saints' new*

SUNDAY SCHOOL!

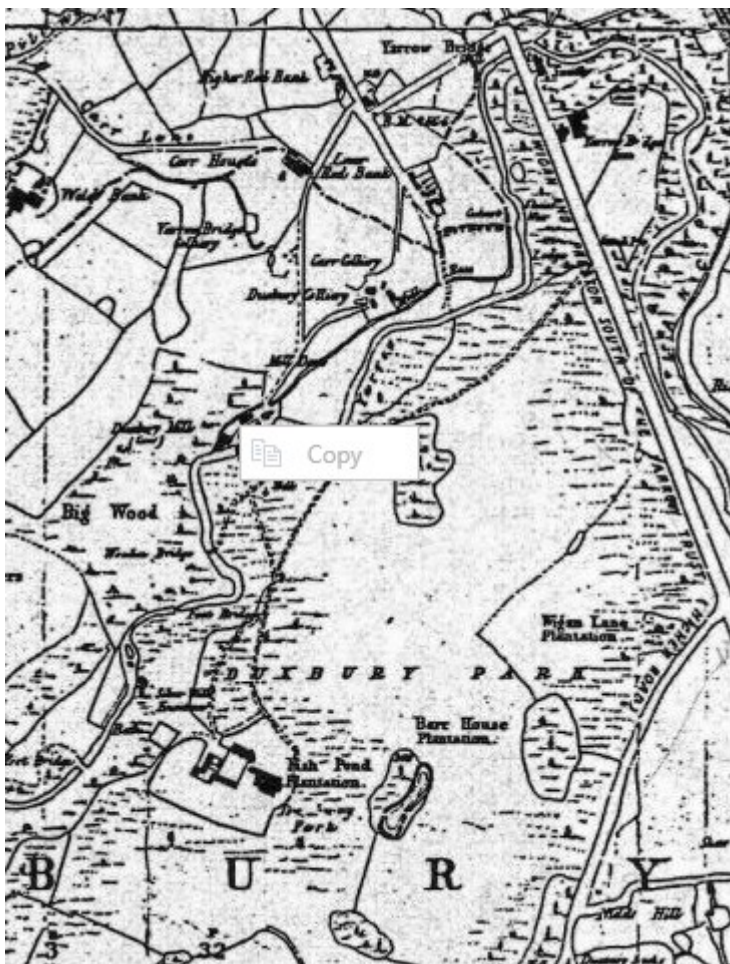
*For 0-18's every Sunday during our 11am
Eucharistic Worship, All Saints' Church,
Moor Road*

The History Page February 2025 Two Hundred Years Ago

Recent issues have dealt with reasons why St George's waited, empty as the Marie Celeste, between the summers of 1824 and 1825. The architect, Thomas Rickman, did not forget his large creation during this time. There must have been a watchman designated to keep an eye on the building, for as yet no locks were fitted.

In addition, Rickman called by several times. In the Spring of 1825 he noted that, "Chorley (i.e. St George's) looked very well". He evidently had some pride in his building. Living in Birmingham, he would pass the chapel quite frequently during coach runs to his commissions in Preston and further north. He developed a liking for the then new Yarrow Bridge Hotel, now positioned, as it is today, at the foot of the Wigan and South Yarrow Turnpike in Duxbury. Once he recorded that he simply took breakfast there, it very likely being a posting stage in 1825.

Bill Walker



MOTHERS' UNION

Away From It All Caravan Holidays

Blackburn Diocese Mothers' Union AFIA Caravan Holiday



Sometimes the families who need a break are those least able to take one. Mothers' Union provides holidays for families like these.

The Mothers' Union Caravan accommodates up to six and is fully serviced. Holidays are available for families, couples or individuals. (if a caravan holiday is unsuitable , alternative accommodation may be possible)

If you know anyone who would benefit from the above, please pass details to a member of The Mothers' Union committee who are:

Gloria Dunseath (Branch Leader)
Elizabeth Wilding (Treasurer)
Rosemary Finch

All information is given on a strictly confidential basis.

LITERATURE AND GIFTS

Although it isn't very obvious, the Mothers' Union does have a space (which seems to be shrinking by the week) on the set of drawers in the old Baptism corner with books and single cards such as birthday/confirmation etc which can be purchased. There is also a gift catalogue which I will leave on there and if anyone wishes to purchase anything just leave details in the book provided. Most Sundays other MU stock will be available to be purchased in the Church hall at coffee.

Our AGM was held on 13th February and no changes were made to the committee.

future Dates for the Diary are:

13th Mar We have our own Nicola giving us a talk about 'Small Gordy'

27th Mar Cath Cole – 'Bedpans to the Palace'

ADVANCE NOTICE

8th MAY VE PARTY (MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

MEMBERSHIP

Unfortunately during the past year we have lost several of our older much loved members and therefore our numbers have dwindled and to take some of the words from our Parish Mission

"He then sends us out to serve others and invite them to join us on this amazing journey. There is a place for everyone in our Parish on this journey, **so why not join us?**".

The only stipulation is that you have to have been baptized. Please come along to any of our meetings or just ask any member to find out more about what the MU is involved in.

Gloria Dunseath

Annual Parish Meeting (APM) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Our APM and APCM will be held on 20th May 2025 at All Saints' Primary School, Moor Road, Chorley, starting at 7:30pm. The APM (normally a very short meeting) will be held first followed by APCM. Both the meetings are major events in the parochial calendar and are conducted in accordance with the requirements as laid out in the Church Representation Rules.

The primary purpose of the APM is to elect the Churchwardens for the parish, in our case we need to elect a total of four, two for each of our parish churches. In addition to those listed on the Church Electoral Roll (referred to as the 'Roll') of the parish, those persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence may also attend this meeting.

The purpose of the APCM is to receive reports on changes to the 'Roll', general parish activities and financial matters. Due to 2025 being the year that a new 'Roll' is required to be prepared, the APCM will receive the newly prepared 'Roll'. The APCM also elects new members to the PCC, and also to Deanery Synod every three years. As elections for Deanery Synod were held in 2023, the next elections will be held in 2026. Only persons whose names are listed on the 'Roll' may attend this meeting.

Members of the clergy (including retired clergy) are not legally permitted to have their names listed on a Church Electoral Roll. They are, however, permitted to attend both these meetings.

A reminder

British Summer Time begins at 2.00am on Sunday 30th March.

Please remember to put your clocks and watches forward 1 hour.

All Saints' Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicants
5th Jan	15	55	33
12th Jan	15	62	36
19th Jan	209	102	55
26th Jan	54	76	54

Note - The attendance numbers include all the services within the
week

All Saints' Church - Holy Baptism
none

Please pray for those struggling with illnesses of any sort, and especially for:

Paul Caterall, Linda Eubank, Ken Starkey, Eniko Bodis, Christine
Gothard, Denise Byron, Michael Baxendale, John Tickle, Pam
McLachlan, Linda Carrara, & residents of Gillibrand Hall and
Coniston House.

And for the families of those who have died recently
Alan Holcroft, Irene Rathbone, Thomas Warren, William Hough,
Rosemary Roberts, Carol Webb, Margaret Ferguson,
Steve Fisher & John Riley

2025 Flower Rota

St George's

Date	One Pedestall\	Lady Chapel
23rd March	Lent	
30th March	Lent	
6th April	Lent	
13th April	Lent	
20th April	Easter Mothers Union	
27th April	Mrs Hobbiss	
4th May	Mrs Parkinson	
11th May	Mr Walker	

Thursday Ladies Circle

At our first meeting in February we welcomed back Bill Walker, who once again gave us another fascinating talk about St George's church and how it took about a year to open up for use after the building had been completed. Bill showed us slides of St George's church, and other churches built around the same period, with a brief history of them, and also the life of the architect Thomas Rickman.

Thank you Bill, looking forward to your next talk.

Future meetings:

6th March. Sister Act at Adlington

20th March. A talk about St Catherine's Hospice

Everyone is welcome to come along to our meetings.

Cath Jolly

Parish Magazine 2025 Dates

Issue	Deadline (Sunday)	Available (Sunday)
April	23rd March	6th April
May	20th April	4th May
June	18th May	1st June
July/August	22nd June	6th July
September	24th August	7th September
October	21st September	5th October
November	19th October	2nd November
December/January	23rd November	7th December
Contributions for inclusion in The Messenger can be given to Chris Gibson or can be emailed to acvgibson@sky.com		

St George's Bi-Centenary Year 2025

Notes for your Diary

Bi-Centenary Parish Dinner, 13th June Cunliffe Hall
(Masonic hall)

October Dams Bi-Centenary Musical Production
John Bradley



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Revd. Jordan Bentliff

*Assistant Curate in the Parish of St George, Chorley and
the Parish of All Saints, Chorley*

Tel: 01257438000
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