

CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
STOCKPORT SK8 7HU
www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk



The
United
Reformed
Church

Partnership Ministers:

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NOVEMBER 2022

Friends,

How Does God Guide Us?

We are all faced with daily decisions about our jobs, future, money, relationships etc. Yet God promises to guide those who listen to Him: *'My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.'* (John 10:27). There are five key aspects of hearing God's voice.

1. Scripture:

The primary way God guides us is through the Bible: *'Your word is lamp for my feet, and a light on my path'* (Psalm 119: 105). The Scriptures give us general guidance for life eg whether to pay taxes, give or forgive others, as well as what to do in particular situations.

2. Holy Spirit:

'And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem' (Acts 20:22). The Holy Spirit helps us to hear God's voice through Scripture, prayer or pictures, and also by prompting us in particular situations.

3. Common Sense:

We must not abandon common sense: *'Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this'* (2 Tim. 2:7). In making most decisions, God uses our thinking about what to do. *'God's promises of guidance were not given to save us the problem of thinking'* (John Stott).

4. Wise Advice:

'Make plans by seeking advice' (Proverbs 20:18). Although we're responsible for decision making, it's good to talk to others about the choices we are making.

5. Circumstances:

God also guides us through circumstances, *'In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps'* (Proverbs 16:9). He will open or close doors in particular circumstances.

We won't always get it right, but God can include our mistakes in his bigger plan: *'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him'* (Romans 8:28).

**Canon Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump**

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Our sympathy, prayers and thoughts are with those who are bereaved, particularly Vera Lees daughter and son, Fiona and Alastair, and their families and friends. Fiona has written to say that the fellowship of the Church was a huge part of Vera's life and meant a great deal to her.

We also remember in our prayers friends and family who are worried or ill, at home or in hospital at this time and we think especially of Geof Thompson and Norman Lawrence.

We are extremely grateful to Rev Marion Tugwood who not only led our worship on 3 occasions during October but also chaired 3 thought provoking sessions on 'Renewed Beginnings' which were followed by lunch. Thanks also to Prof Chris Whitehead and Sandy Smith for their services last month.

Best wishes to everyone who will be celebrating their birthday in November.

Many thanks to everyone who helped to fill the 21 'Link to Hope' shoeboxes, not forgetting all those who donated the goods including Mums from the Pre-School.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Wed 7 DEC - Christmas Lunch. If you would like to reserve a place, please sign the list which is available in Church.

Sat 10 DEC - CAROLS IN THE PARK Oak Meadow 11 am

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

It has been a very busy time in church this month but the Fellowship has been meeting every Wednesday in a more leisurely fashion. We have had word games and poetry reading and have also enjoyed watching "A Private Function" which caused much laughter. On Sat 29 October, a few of us went to CHADS theatre for a matinee performance of Shadowlands.

Carole Davies

FILM MATINEE

Saturday 26 NOVEMBER

2.30 pm

CHURCHES TOGETHER & WARM SPACES



In response to the current cost of living difficulties, the following churches will be open as indicated from November 2022 to March 2023, along with many other places in Stockport. see

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/warm-spaces>

EACH WEEK...

Monday 14.30 - 17.00

Grove Lane Baptist Church

Tuesday 11.00 - 14.00

United Reformed Church

Wednesday 10.00 - 14.00

All Saints Parish Church

Thursday 10.00 - 14.00

Chelwood Baptist Church

Friday 13.00 - 16.00

St Ann's Roman Catholic Church



ALL ARE WELCOME

Drinks etc & newspapers available

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Sat 19 NOVEMBER 2.30 pm

Christ Church South Manchester URC
Parrswood Rd

INDUCTION

of Rev Kurauone Mutimwii

**to the Greater Manchester South and
Cheshire Missional Partnership**

The service will also be lived streamed so you can watch at home or at our church

Link details to be advised

Please let Bernie know if you would like to attend in person

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TOY SERVICE

The annual Toy Service will be on Sun 27 NOV when we hope to gather as many New and Good as New items as possible that can be taken to The Dandelion Community (URC), Wythenshawe for distribution. Under the present situation, many more families are needing support in this way.

COUNT the CROSSES

In the October issue of our magazine, the Rev Dr Jo White (Parish Pump) suggested that during that month we should have a look around our Church building, both inside and outside, for **crosses**. Yes, our icon and brand logo in advertising terms.

What materials are they made from? How extravagant or glamorous are they? Are they crosses or crucifixes? How much do they reflect your faith? Well, how are you getting on with your searching and how many have you found? Such findings will be revealed next month.

Mavis Davies

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

If you would like to help raise funds for our Church charities by inserting a single, personalised greeting into the December newsletter instead of sending lots of individual cards, please just email me with your greeting, or pop it in an envelope along with a donation and hand to either Bernie or myself by **Sunday 20 NOV**. Donations in lieu of postage will be applied to the church charities.

Alison Stevens

THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT? – HISTORY IS GOING SOMEWHERE!

‘And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger...’ (Luke 2:7)

‘They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.’ (Matthew 24:30)

What a contrast between the humble birth of Jesus in Bethlehem – and His eventual return! No one knows when that day will be, but it will be earth-shaking. In the meantime, Advent reminds us of the last of six great saving actions of God in Jesus Christ.

The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem was to inaugurate our salvation. The Death of Jesus at Calvary established it – forever. The Resurrection of Jesus at Easter

confirmed it. The Ascension of Jesus to heaven celebrated it. The Gift of the Spirit at Pentecost drove it worldwide. And sixthly will come the Return of Jesus at the world’s end – to consummate and complete it.

The message of Advent reminds us that history is not circular or locked into an unending stalemate. Neither can we ever accept a notion of successive reincarnations, for the Bible is clear that *man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment* (Hebrews 9:27).

The Bible has had many pre-runs of that final ‘Day of the Lord.’ Noah’s flood, the overthrow of wicked Babylon; these and other upheavals were but pointers to the final ‘Day of our Lord Jesus Christ’ (1 Corinthians 1:8), when all wrongs will be stopped, and the Lord shall reign with justice.

For the Bible is clear that world history is leading to a *Conclusion*, to the new heaven and the new earth. That will be inaugurated when ‘He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.’ Christ’s return will usher in the final triumph, bringing about the dismantling of the whole apparatus of Evil that has so harassed us across the centuries.

The Cross and Resurrection secured the victory over evil. Christ’s return will make it final! Believers echo Paul’s words in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 - ‘And so we will be with the Lord for ever.’ If we have a *strong view of the future, we can be sure it will energise us in the present!*

In the meantime, Advent is coming round once again. It’s time to celebrate the first of God’s six mighty acts that secured our salvation – and look forward to the future.

Parish Pump

NOW RESTARTED...

**Breakfast Before
9.30am ~ 13 NOV 2022
[& every 2nd Sunday]
Typical menu:
Drinks, toast, cereal**

VERA LEES - 30 SEPT 1933 - 19 SEPT 2022

Family tributes to Vera included the playing of Celtic harps by two of her granddaughters, a very personalised eulogy from son, Alastair, and the reading of a Joyce Grenfell poem read by daughter, Fiona. I was able to include some detail of Vera's time at Cheadle Hulme.

Ron and Vera married 1962 in Oldham Congregational Church but Fiona was baptised here in 1964 in Cheadle Hulme Congregational, a large Victorian 400 seater on this site. By 1965, Alastair was the 7th entry on the cradle role chart on the rear wall even now.

So Vera was here by 1964 and soon joined helping form a playgroup and later joined the Ladies Circle, the younger of 2 'ladies' groups.

Ah! From an early stage she sang in the choir, the choir was quite large and locally celebrated in those days. Mr Williams, the High Master at William Hulme's Grammar School, was the choirmaster and Doctor Edmundson was the organist. At some point she became the authorised person for the wedding register and it's possible she was in that role in 1976 when my wife Alison and I married here. She went on to organise the room hires for a time, something which I do now!

Vera did Christian Aid collections, and as part of the pastoral team visited people at home, and maybe at the old Stockport Infirmary. She was a founder, alongside Vivian Wilson and Bill McMillan, of our Scottish Country Dance evenings in 1974 (see below) which was only recently sunk by Covid. Vera helped with luncheon clubs and jumble sales and a great source of 'news around the fellowship' in the magazine. Latterly for many years she had been the official archivist. There probably are roles she hasn't played, but we can't think of them.

Extract from letter from Bill McMillan:

"I became much involved with Vera, mainly through the dancing but also in many other church activities. Apart from the weekly classes, we also held two or three ceilidhs each year as well as the more-organised Burns Nights. Vera was always very much part of the organising team. On ceilidh nights we had a buffet repast, organised by Vera and Vivienne among others. Burns Nights were a more formal seated affair with Scottish fare of Haggis etc. for about 100 attendees. Vera was a key person in meal preparation, serving, having the meal of course and washing up while the men cleared the tables

ready for dancing and party pieces. A group of us attended other Scottish dances locally and did demonstration dances, again Vera was very much part of all this. In 1995, we celebrated the club's 21st birthday "

Vera Lees' life has been closely intertwined with this church; she has been a wonderful servant of the Lord

Bernie

PRAYERS OF REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance Sunday will be especially poignant this year, as Russia's war on Ukraine continues to cast long shadows over Europe. But Remembrance is also a time to remember those whom we have loved and lost, from Queen Elizabeth II to members of our own families. So, these prayers may help direct your thoughts as you think back...

For those who have died

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For those who have died on active service

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those men and women
who have died in active service:
in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere.
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory,
may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope,
now and for ever. Amen

On a bereavement

Father,
you know our hearts and share our sorrows.
We are hurt by our parting from those whom
we loved:
when we are angry at the loss we have sustained,
when we long for words of comfort,
yet find them hard to hear,
turn our grief to truer living,
our affliction to firmer hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SYNOD LETTER

Dear Congregations,
Is anyone back to normal? After 2 years of lockdowns, and Covid still with us we can now worship together in person and find fellowship again. But for many of us it is not simply a return; some people have not returned to church, some have died or become too frail, some churches have closed.

Now we have significant European turmoil and its likely effect on fuel and food prices for all. Thank God that **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13 v.8). Whatever else changes, He is our rock, our cornerstone.**

Financially, things were extremely tough for churches in 2021. Offerings had collapsed; some regular givers had to reduce support of God's work; and those churches which hire out their premises had seen income from that source reduced. Even those churches where the majority of the giving was by standing order or bank transfer (please do consider this) may have seen a 20% drop in income. If this had been replicated in giving to the Ministry & Mission (M&M) Fund in 2021, we might have been faced with a serious financial crisis last year.

But NO! Through the generosity of individuals, churches and Synods, we can report that income only fell by 4.4%. With a similar reduction in expenditure the M&M Fund result was a deficit of only £80,000 (less than half a percent), and comfortably covered by reserves.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2021 in full.

With churches and individuals under financial pressure, 2022 is not going to be an easy year either. The M&M Fund budgeted income (based on Synods' projections) will not be sufficient to cover expected costs and we are reconciled to dipping into our reserves more seriously as a result.

However, if we “ordinary Christians” are to fulfil the call of Jesus to be His witnesses in the world around us we need ministers and other workers “on the ground” and we need shared resources which are often best created centrally. That all comes from the M&M Fund.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU ALL.

Ian Hardie (Treasurer),
Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

Prison quartet

While I was a guest preacher in a rural church, they announced that their prison quartet would be singing at the evening service.

I wasn't aware there was a prison in the vicinity, and so looked forward to hearing them. That evening I was puzzled when four members of the church sheepishly approached the stage.

Then the choir master introduced them. "This is our prison quartet," he said with a grin, "always behind a few bars, and looking in vain for the key."

Chicken rules

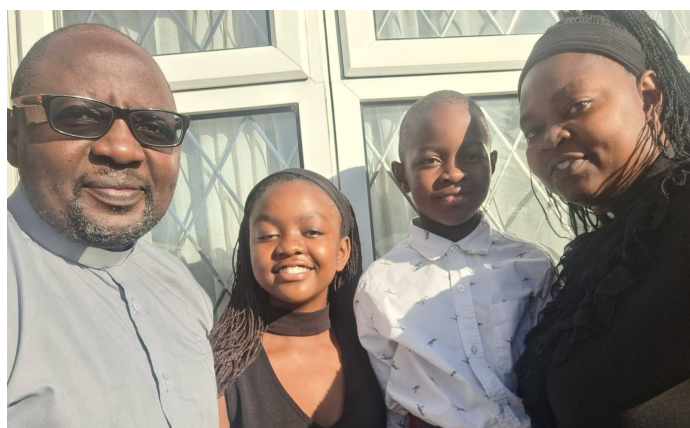
One day a new chicken was introduced to the farm. The duck, who was in charge, showed the new chicken around. "This is where you go to get fed, this is the water trough and that is the coop. Chickens hang out near the fence, us ducks near the pond and the geese near the gate. We're friendly, but we keep to our own. Oh, and whatever you do, DO NOT cross that road. You'll never hear the end of it."

Parish Pump

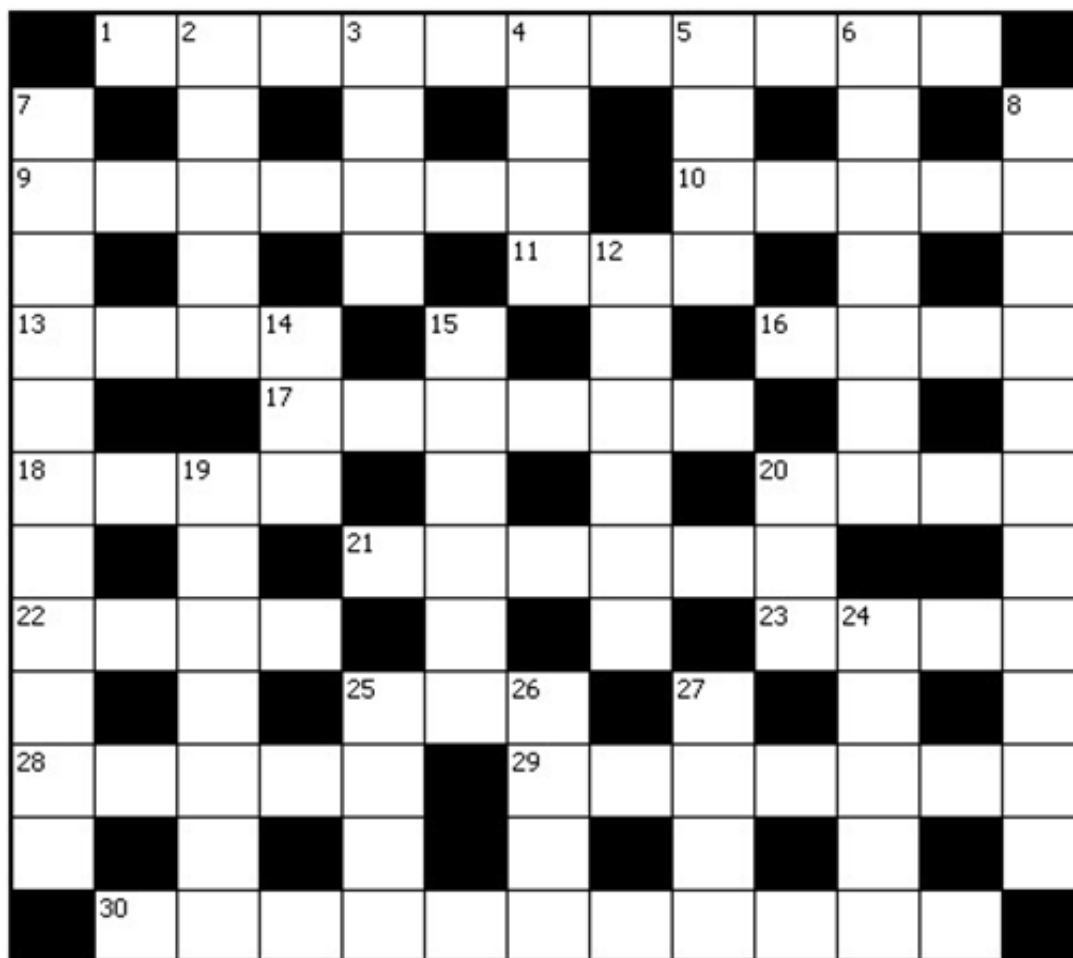
NEW MINISTER!

I can report that YES! We do have our new minister, Rev Kurauone Mutimwii. He landed at Manchester mid OCT and is settling into the rented manse in Heaton Mersey with his family - well, most of them. Mostly due to delays at the visa office, his eldest son became 18yrs and was refused entry. This has been appealed.

Kurauone has attended meetings already and will try to greet all elders (even preach) at all churches by Christmas (only 10 churches now)



Kurauone Blessed Courage Nancy



Across

- 1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all __, Lord of all __, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
- 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you __ your fellow Hebrew?'' (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline __ (2,3)
- 11 'At even __ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but __ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must __ God rather than men!''(Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, __ Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat __ __ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 'No fear of me should __ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)

- 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem __ how __ I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
- 3 Way out (4)
- 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5 Done (anag.) (4)
- 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
- 14 Frozen (3)
- 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
- 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
- 20 See 1 Across
- 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
- 25 Time (anag.) (4)
- 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
- 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the __ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

SERVICES

Elders' wish to keep everyone safe, so please wear masks (especially for singing) and understand our plans may change with little notice.

We may sometimes have a speaker and sometimes a simple in-house led service. Video conferencing continues and Leaders or readers may Zoom in or speak in church.

Duties are performed by a small team on a rota. Please check the board for swops.

Date	6 NOV	11 NOV FRIDAY	13 NOV		20 NOV	27 NOV
Service	Morning Worship	Armistice Day	Morning Worship	Evening Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.45 am	10.30 am	6.30 pm	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Rev Peter Sharp	Bernie Stevens	Prof Chris Whitehead	Partnership Zoom Service	Bernie Stevens	Rev Jonnie Hill
Elder Duty	B Stevens		A Stevens	Meeting Id: 821 8150 8988 Password: 716978	D Phillips	P Oliver / A Stevens
Door	M Smith		M Hardie		M Morton	H Elsden
Reader					D Green	
Flowers	Remembrance	Remembrance	Remembrance		Silk	Peter Grieve
Coffee	H Elsden		M Morton		B Platt	S & M Smith
Notes		MINI EXHIBITION		ZOOMED EVERY 2 ND SUNDAY		ADVENT SUNDAY TOY SERVICE

CHURCH REGISTERS - none

LECTIONARY for NOVEMBER

6 NOV: Job 19.23-27a; Psalm 17.1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5,13-17; Luke 20.27-38

13 NOV: Malachi 4.1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19

20 NOV: Jeremiah 23.1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43

27 NOV: Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44

INDUCTION of Rev KURAUONE MUTIMWII

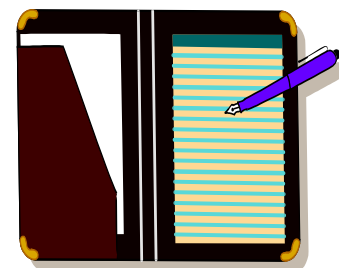
at CHRIST CHURCH S MANC URC (Parrswood Rd)

Sat 19 NOVEMBER 2.30 pm

Also live streamed into our church

Swann Lane, same time

CALENDAR



.....to the best of the editor's knowledge, unless you know better.....

NOVEMBER

Tues 01	11am - 2 pm	WARM SPACE in coffee lounge
Wed 02	10.30 am	Elders' meeting at Church
	1.30-3 pm	FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE - Swann Grove
Thu 03		
Fri 04	2.00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 05	10am-12 noon	COFFEE MORNING in aid of the ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Sun 06		
Mon 07		
Tues 08	11am - 2 pm	WARM SPACE in coffee lounge
Wed 09	1.30-3 pm	FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE - Swann Grove
Thu 10		
Fri 11	2.00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Mon 14		
Tues 15	11am - 2 pm	WARM SPACE in coffee lounge
Wed 16	1.30-3 pm	FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE - Swann Grove
Thu 17		
Fri 18	2.00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 19	10am-12 noon	'Drop In' Coffee & Prayer Time
	2.30 pm	Induction of Rev Kurauone Mutimwii ~
		Christ Church URC, S Manchester also in church on screen
Mon 21		
Tues 22	11am - 2 pm	WARM SPACE in coffee lounge
Wed 23	1.30-3 pm	FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE - Swann Grove
Thu 24	7.30 pm	Worship Group on Zoom
Fri 25	2.00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 26	2.30 pm	FILM MATINEE
Mon 28		
Tues 29	11am - 2 pm	WARM SPACE in coffee lounge
Wed 30	1.30-3 pm	FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE - Swann Grove

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