

**St Peter's Church
Thorner with Scarcroft
Parish Magazine
OCTOBER 2023**



A letter from the Vicar

My 'installation, induction, and institution' as Rector of the Elmete Trinity Benefice on 5th September was an incredible event, full of pomp, ceremony and more clergy than you can possibly imagine in one place. St Peter's was at full capacity and the congregation, and the village community, were well represented. My family and I have settled well into the vicarage and have been readily welcomed in the village. I would like to extend a big 'thank you' for all your good wishes and words of welcome. Now, however, the nitty gritty of being your vicar really starts.

As part of my recent studies, I have just completed a dissertation looking at the history of church architecture and 'sacred space'. The early church initially met in each other's houses, and church buildings were developed as congregations grew and the good news spread. Church buildings quickly became the primary hub of the community – a place to worship and to meet together. However, that sense of the centrality of the church building became a bit lost in the 19th century when there was a move to restrict their use to church services and emphasize the 'sacredness' of the space within.

My view and experience of church buildings is that they can be both a sacred space and a community asset. St Peter's is both, and as part of the Church of England, it is a parish church. This means that the building belongs to the community. It belongs to those who attend every week or less frequently. It belongs to those who attend for baptisms, weddings and funerals. It belongs to those who will never step foot through the door, to people of any faith, and of none. It is your church.

St Peter's dominates the landscape of the village, perched upon a hill as Main Street turns into Church View. Anyone who lives in Thorner, or who visits the place, cannot miss it, or ignore it. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls his followers to be a 'city on a hill' which 'cannot be hidden'. St Peter's has certainly been that for many generations, both physically and metaphorically, and will continue to be so. It is at the centre of our community and is central to our community, and is a place where God is worshipped in spirit and truth and where all are welcome.

Revd Jonathan Brennan

Church services

Thorner shares its new rector with All Saints' church, Barwick-in-Elmet, and St Philip's church, Scholes. Sunday services at the three churches will continue in the current pattern for the rest of the year, with a communion service at St Peter's on the first and third Sundays of the month, an All Age service on the second Sunday (except in November because of Remembrance Sunday) and Morning Worship on the fourth Sunday of the month. When there is a fifth Sunday, there will be a single joint communion service at one of the churches.

The dates and times of the weekly Sunday and Tuesday services, twice-monthly Julian prayer meetings and monthly Taizé services are given on the 'Services etc in October' page at the end of this issue.

Bible study group

The Bible study group reconvened on September 28, studying the book of Proverbs using the Lifebuilder book *Proverbs: Learning to Live Wisely* by William Mouser (available online). It isn't necessary to attend all the meetings, so if you missed the start, do come along to one of the others. The weekly meetings are on Thursdays at 7.30pm at Beckfields, Station Lane, Thorner.

The group comprises people from across the benefice. New members, or those exploring who want simply to drop in and give it a try, are always welcome. Please contact John or Jill Waddington, or Sarah Meredith (07714 741923) for more information.

Charity Christmas card sale

Sunday 15 October
10am–12 noon

The first charity Christmas card sale since the pandemic will be held at the Parish Centre on 15th October. Come along and buy your Christmas cards, wrapping paper and tags, calendars, etc, while enjoying a coffee/tea & biscuits (£1) and a chat with friends and neighbours. Charities include Candlelighters, Friends of African Nursing, Leeds Mencap, the NSPCC, Oxfam and the RNLI.

There will also be collection boxes for donations to the Seacroft foodbank, for used stamps and for unwanted spectacles.



The **9.15am All Age service** on Sunday 8th October will be a Harvest Festival service, with contributions from the children, junior choir etc. Please do bring tinned and dried goods etc if you wish, to show your appreciation of the plenty in our lives. These items will be donated via Seacroft foodbank to those who are not so fortunate; items that are particularly needed at present include:

- breakfast cereals
- long-life milk
- teabags
- tinned goods – meat and fish, vegetables, rice pudding, custard
- pasta & pasta sauces
- food that can be reconstituted with hot water, e.g. pasta/noodles in sauces, mashed potatoes
- biscuits
- fruit squash
- toilet rolls, toiletries, sanitary wear and nappies (sizes 3, 4, 5).

The **6.00pm Choral Evensong** will be led by the Rector and Thorner church choir and followed by refreshments. We look forward to welcoming at this service some of the clergy who covered services for the benefice during the vacancy.



If you would like to help with **decorating St Peter's** for Harvest Festival on Saturday 7th October, you would be very welcome. Please come to the church between 10am and 12 noon.



Thorner Over 60s – or less!

Did you realise that you don't have to be over 60 years old to go to events at the Bungalow? Regular sessions open to all include Spanish classes on Tuesdays, a monthly discussion group, our coffee mornings and the Post Office on Thursdays and the Book Exchange on Saturdays. Everyone is also very welcome at the one-off events such as afternoon teas.

The only activities exclusively for the Over 60s are the armchair exercise classes, lunch club, special trips and events. So please do call in. We also make the space available for small meetings. Thorner Historical Society, the Parish Council and the ukulele group are just some that use our premises. Have a look at our noticeboard for the monthly timetable. We can always help with transport if you can't get here on your own.

If you've got some time to spare and would like to join our lovely group of volunteers, we'd also like to hear from you. This is mainly to help with the coffee mornings or the Book Exchange, but there are other areas where we'd like volunteers to join us.

Our next outing for the Over 60s is on Friday 20th October and it's a two-course fish and chip lunch at the award-winning Skyliner restaurant. The cost is £13. We've kept the cost down by arranging our own transport. If you'd like to go, sign up at the Bungalow or email thornerbungalow@gmail.com

Wendy Miller

Secretary, Thorner Over 60s Association

Barwick Monday Ladies Fellowship

Monday 9th October

2.15 pm

All Saints' Church, Barwick-in-Elmet

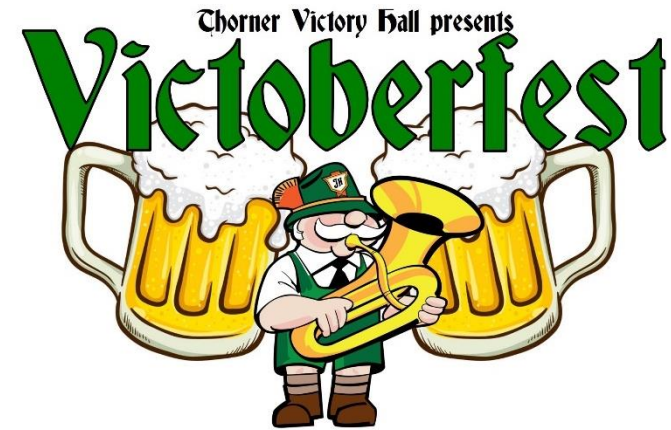
The Fellowship welcomes people to join them for October's talk about 'A Year in the Life of Queen Elizabeth II', given by royal speaker and hotelier Colin Alderson. Admission, which includes refreshments, is £3.

Games afternoon

Wednesday 1st November, 2–4pm

Thorner Parish Centre

A convivial afternoon of board games, chess, dominoes & refreshments – see the November magazine for more details.



Saturday 28th October 2023

7:30pm

Last October saw the resurrection of the Victory Hall's Bavarian Bierkeller-style 'Victoberfest' after a 20-year break. It was so successful, they ran out of beer!

This year, Victoberfest returns with more epic food from 'Frankenfeast' Monster Sausages, more traditional German Pilsener beer (with plenty of options for non-beer drinkers) and riotous live music, songs and audience participation from the Yorkshire Oompah Band.

Tickets are £10 (18+ only), with traditional Bavarian steins available for an additional cash deposit. Get tickets from the [Victory Hall website](#) or at the Post Box Deli on Main Street, Thorner.

Save the date Thorner Beer Festival

With an incredible selection of beers from a little closer to home, our almost world-renowned Beer Festival will take place on **Saturday 20th April**. Expect the usual array of everything from porter to hazy pale, along with top class entertainment, food and general good fun. Mark the date in your 2024 diaries!

Please note that the **Thorner Ball** planned for November has now been postponed to 11th May 2024.



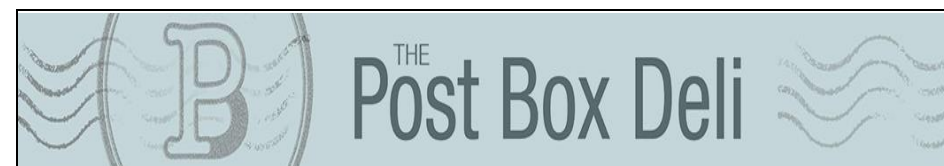
November 18, 7.30pm

St James' Church, Wetherby

Wetherby Choral Society will be performing Paul Carr's *Seven Last Words from the Cross* and Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* with soloists Julianne Coates (mezzo soprano) and Thom Meredith (baritone) and Wetherby Pro Musica, under the direction of musical director John Dunford.

Tickets are £18 (under 18s free) and available from:

- Nicolla Florist, 1 Bank Street, Wetherby LS22 6NQ or 01937 585233
- the ticket manager (07443 466254)
- email to tickets@wetherbychoral.org.uk
- any Society member.



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Tearoom open 9am–3pm (last orders 30 mins before close)



Charity event

Saturday 28th October

9.30am–12.30pm

Thorner Parish Centre

Jill Thwaites, who teaches yoga classes at Thorner Parish Centre on Mondays and Saturdays, invites you to roll out your mat and join her and guest teachers in support of



Drop in when you please, enjoy some gentle yoga and a chance to mingle afterwards over tea/coffee, cakes, bakes and crafts in the pop-up cafe. For more information, contact jill_thwaites@hotmail.com

All funds raised on the day will be donated to the anti-trafficking organisation Odanadi Seva Trust; visit <http://yogastopstraffick.org> to learn more about the Trust.

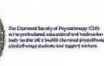
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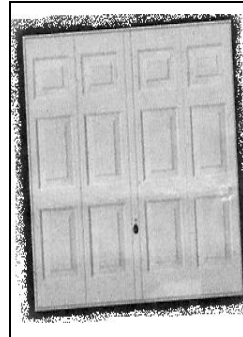
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Bible Sunday – October 29th

The Bible isn't a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having different writers, it claims one authority – God Himself! *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3.16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: *'when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth'* (John 16.13).

Bibles for all

Think for a moment about something you really want. How much would you spend to buy it? How far would you go to get it? Young Mary knew what she wanted. It took years before she could afford it. She was ready to walk 25 miles over mountainous terrain to get it. Mary just wanted a Bible.

Mary Jones lived in a village in Wales at the end of the 18th century. She loved to hear stories from the Bible. Every Sunday she attended her local chapel and enjoyed listening to readings from the Scriptures.

When Mary was only nine years old, she decided on the most important thing in her life; she wanted to read from her own Bible. Unfortunately, Bibles were expensive and Mary's parents couldn't afford to buy one. So, Mary decided to do odd jobs for people and earn enough money to buy a Bible.

Six years later, Mary had saved enough money and set out on her long journey to the nearest shop that sold Bibles, which was in Bala, 25 miles away. In Bala, she discovered that the bookshop had sold out of Bibles. When the bookseller, Thomas Charles, heard about her long walk and that she would return home empty handed, he gave her his Bible. Later, Thomas Charles wondered if there were other people who wanted a Bible but had problems getting one.

Soon after Mary's visit, Thomas Charles visited London, where he met influential people and shared with them the story of Mary Jones. From this meeting came a response to Mary's situation; on 7th March 1804 the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed to provide Bibles throughout the world, in a language people could understand and at a price they could afford. After this, other national societies were created and today, there are over 100 Bible Societies, working in nearly 200 countries.

Evensong

Choral Evensong is one of the glories of the English musical tradition, although these days it is the cathedrals, along with some major churches, which are the guardians of this tradition. Until the 1960s, sung Evensong, together with its morning counterpart of Mattins, figured more prominently than the Eucharist; they were *the* congregational services in the Church of England. In parish churches the Eucharist was often said early on Sunday morning, with a mid-morning Sung Eucharist perhaps once a month. Now, the Eucharist is commonly the main Sunday service and Evensong has all but disappeared, apart from in the cathedrals. The prominence of the Eucharist and near-loss of Evensong at parish level began in the 1960s, a period when more modern language began to be used for services. Despite the changes, Evensong is resistant: in cathedrals, the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is still used, and the musical settings work well with its language.

The name 'evensong' dates from Anglo-Saxon times, when it was the vernacular name for Vespers, one of the Hours or services within the monastic daily round of worship. 'Vespers' comes from the Latin for 'evening': liturgical books usually headed the service with the phrase *ad vesperum*, 'at evening', so it's easy to see why the Anglo-Saxons came up with the name *æfensang*, 'evensong'. The new liturgy for the post-Reformation Church of England used 'Evensong' as the name for the service, created by amalgamating and building upon the pre-Reformation services of Vespers and Compline (the last service of the monastic day). So Evensong is highly traditional in form. Called 'Evensong' in the 1549 BCP, it was renamed 'Evening Prayer' in the 1552 edition, but reverted to 'Evensong' in 1662.

The history of Evensong, tracked through the various versions of the BCP, shows changes in liturgical practice not only in the 20th century but since the Reformation. In the BCP of 1549, largely prepared under Henry VIII although issued in the reign of Edward VI, Evensong was not thought of as a congregational service but as a service of devotion for the clergy, reflecting something of its monastic origins. The BCP of 1552, a product of Edward VI's more rigorous Protestantism, changed that: the congregation was expected to attend on Sundays and to take part; and there was to be no music — hence the service's renaming as 'Evening Prayer'. It was the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, the resulting 1662 BCP, and consequent changes to liturgical practice that put Evensong in the prominent position it held in parish life until the mid-20th century.

Joyce Hill



Buzzards



Until recently, the Buzzard was only found in the north and west of the country due to severe population decline. Over the past couple of decades, however, it has been doing very well and can now be seen almost everywhere in the UK. Whilst not a garden bird, unless you have a really massive garden, Buzzards can increasingly often be seen and heard flying over quite suburban gardens. Listen out for their almost haunting, cat-like 'kee-yaaa' calls as they soar in circles high above you.

Buzzards were lost from many parts of the UK due to intense persecution by gamekeepers and farmers, combined with a crash in prey numbers due mainly to changes in farming practice, and the impact of organo-chlorine pesticides such as DDT in the 1960s and 70s. Since then, the UK has improved its wildlife conservation, banning organo-chlorine pesticides and increasing public awareness. This has all led to a significant rise in Buzzard population size and range, and they are now the commonest and most widespread UK bird of prey. Buzzards are one of the larger birds of prey, with broad rounded wings and a short neck and tail. When gliding and soaring they will often hold their wings in a shallow 'V' with their tail fanned, a useful distinction from Red Kites with their longer and V-shaped tails. Buzzards can vary in colour from pale to dark brown, with dark wingtips and a finely barred tail. They have broader wings and shorter tails than harriers or Red Kites.

Buzzards are opportunistic predators and will take a wide variety of prey. Small rodents such as voles and mice are the most commonly eaten, but Buzzards will also take prey as large as rabbits or as small as earthworms. They also scavenge on roadkill. This flexible diet allows them to survive in a wide variety of habitats and has helped them reach an estimated 67,000 breeding pairs.

The question of persecution of birds of prey on moorlands continues to hit the headlines, both in the general press and in conservation articles, with the BBC reporting that North Yorkshire is the worst area in the UK for crime against birds of prey. There is no doubt that the mass releases of gamebirds (still practised, contrary to all the trends to avoid further distorting the environment and to increase biodiversity) attracts predators. Free food is irresistible.

What is not clear though, is the extent to which birds of prey take advantage of this bonanza. As is often the case, objectivity and scientific evidence are

lacking. Just how much of a Buzzard's diet do gamebirds comprise? There are only two ways to find out, and both require a lot of time and a fair bit of skill. The commonest is to observe their nests and identify the food brought back for the chicks, but this only covers a small part of the year. The other is to locate their roosts and collect their pellets (birds of prey regurgitate the bones and feathers of whatever they eat) to meticulously identify all that remains. Very time consuming! The evidence to date is, not surprisingly, inconclusive. Whether objective evidence will ever overcome the subjective opinions of those who illegally kill birds of prey is another matter.



© BTO/Allan Drewitt

If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, or if you know of an organisation no more than 30 miles from York which would like a talk on garden birds, please contact me at gbwmike@gmail.com or visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website at www.bto.org/gbw.

Mike Gray

Local information

GP practice churchview.surgery@nhs.net

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Thorner village website www.thornervillage.org.uk

ThornerCares 0113 880 5255 / www.thornercares.co.uk

St Peter's Church website www.thornerchurch.org.uk

Thorner Church of England Primary School

Head: Gemma Whawell, School Office, Kirkhills, LS14 3JD 289 2541

Thorner Parish Council *meets 1st Tuesday of month, The Bungalow*

Chairman: Alistair Scott thornerpc@btinternet.com

Clerk: Barry Riley 264 0865 / thornerparishcouncil@gmail.com

Village amenities

Book Exchange Saturday 10am–12 noon, The Bungalow, Main Street

Mobile fishmonger Thursday mornings, Main Street, near Bungalow

Post Box Deli Tuesday–Friday 8am–4pm, Saturday 9am–2pm, Main Street

Post Office services Thursday 10am–12 noon, The Bungalow, Main Street

Rooney's fruit and veg stall Thursdays, all day, The Bungalow, Main Street

Village groups

Mums & Tots Group *Thursdays 9.30–11.30am in term time, Parish Centre*

Contact Lucy Griffin 07703 489456

Beavers (age 6–8) *Wed 6.00–7.00pm, Parish Centre* info@TASscouts.org.uk

Cubs (age 8–10) *Mon 6.30–8.00, School* info@TASscouts.org.uk

Scouts (age 10–14) *Wed 7.15–9.00pm, Parish Centre* info@TASscouts.org.uk

Youth Club (age 8–13) *Tuesdays 6–8pm in term time, Parish Centre*

Contact Belinda Swift 289 2946

Over 60s Association: contact Bev Cussons 07916 481897

Probus Club: contact Paul Oldfield 289 3210

Royal British Legion: Secretary, Paul Oldfield 289 3210

Thorner Afternoon Badminton Club: contact Rosie Cooke 289 2351

Thorner Art Group: contact Ada Percy 01937 572941
Thorner Boule and Community Facility contact Parish Council
Thorner Bowling Club: contact Derek Potter 289 2055
Thorner Community Choir: contact Pat Smith 289 2205
Thorner Community Fund: thornercommunityfund@gmail.com
Thorner Cricket Club: contact Alastair Foster 289 2566
Thorner Film Club: contact Val Forster 289 2758
Thorner Historical Society: contact Graham Castle 289 6922
Thorner Old School Charity: eleanor_courtman_stock@hotmail.com
Thorner Produce Society: contact Michele Firth 289 2430
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Thorner Walking Group: contact Wendy Miller 07905 501145

Scarcroft

Scarcroft village website www.scarcroft.org
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 Clerk: Eve Martin clerk@scarcroftparishcouncil.org
Women's Institute 2nd Thurs of each month, 7.15pm, Village Hall
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 Thorner Victory Hall: Jenni Orange 07368 318891/
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Who's Who @ St Peter's Church

Church website: www.thornerchurch.org.uk
Rector: Revd Jonathan Brennan 289 2437
Rector's PA/Communications: Hilary Marsden elmettrinitypa@gmail.com
Organist and Choirmaster: (*Choir practice: Thursday, 7.30pm, in church*)
 Contact: Bridget Lindley 289 2313
Master of the Ringers (*Bellringing practice: Friday, 7.00pm, in tower*)
 Michael Brereton, Moat Cottage, 4 Church View, Thorner LS14 3ED 289 2458
Vice-chair of the PCC
 Simon Belcher sib@redcroft.co.uk / 289 3254
Secretary of the PCC
 Sue Hayward-Giles thornerpccsec@gmail.com / 289 6944
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Wedding arrangements: Ann Stokoe 289 2217
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Outreach: Hilary Marsden 289 2715
Social: Ann Stokoe 289 2217
Parish Magazine
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Services etc in October

OCTOBER

Sun	1	17th Sunday after Trinity	9.15am	Holy communion, celebrated by the Rector Duty warden: Simon Belcher
			9.15am	Sunday School, Parish Centre
Tue	3		10.00am	Holy communion
Sun	8	18th Sunday after Trinity – Harvest Festival	9.15am	All Age worship, led by Debra Wheeler Duty warden: Elisabeth Stephens
			6.00pm	Choral Evensong, followed by refreshments
Tue	10		10.00am	Holy communion
Thu	12		11.30am	Julian contemplative prayer meeting
Sun	15	19th Sunday after Trinity	9.15am	Holy communion, celebrated by Christine Bandawe Duty warden: Anne Wroe
			9.15am	Sunday School, Parish Centre
Tue	17		10.00am	Holy communion
Sun	22	20th Sunday after Trinity	9.15am	Morning worship, led by Sarah Meredith Duty warden: Elisabeth Stephens
			9.15am	Sunday School, Parish Centre
Tue	24		10.00am	Holy communion
Thu	26		11.30am	Julian contemplative prayer meeting
Sun	29	Last Sunday after Trinity	10.00am	Benefice communion service at All Saints', Barwick
			4.00pm	Service of Light at All Saints', Barwick
			6.30pm	Taizé service, led by Sarah Meredith, at Scholes
Tue	31		10.00am	Holy communion

NOVEMBER

Sun	5	Fourth Sunday before Advent/All Saints	9.15am	Holy communion, celebrated by the Rector Duty warden: Jill Walmsley
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An **online service** is livestreamed on the benefice YouTube channel most Sundays. Email elmettrinitypa@gmail.com to receive email notifications of the links and other notices.

Rotas for October & November

If you are unable to take your turn on the date shown, please try to change with someone else and let [Simon Belcher](#) or the duty warden know of the change.

	READERS		INTERCESSIONS
	New Testament	Gospel	
October			
1	Mr J Whawell	Mrs D Scargill	Mr N Howes
8		All Age Harvest Festival	
15	Mrs A Stokoe	Mrs S Meredith	Mrs E Stephens
22	Mr R Kaye	Mr P Mills	Ms H Astin
29	Joint benefice communion at All Saints', Barwick		
November			
5	Mrs G Brereton	Miss H Astin	Mrs S Hayward-Giles
12	Remembrance Day parade and service		
19	Mr D Williams	Mr P Wilby	Mrs S Meredith
26	Mrs P Knight	Mr P Swain	Mr J Graham
SERVERS			
October			
1	Mrs J Walmsley & Mrs S Meredith		
15	Mrs F Ellerby & Jacob Graham		
November			
5	Mr S Hayward Giles & Mrs E Waddington		
19	Mrs F Ellerby & Jacob Graham		
SIDESPEOPLE			
Oct	Mrs P Knight, Mrs G Webster		
Nov	Mrs A Stokoe, Mrs J Walmsley		

From the registers

Wedding

Sep 9 Amanda Field and Stephen Hawkins

Funeral

Sep 1 Christopher Lord, of Sandhills

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