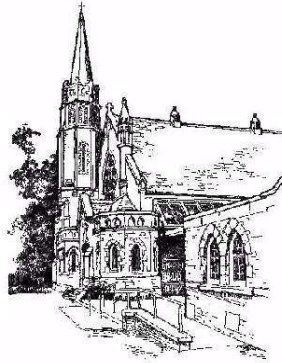


**Fulwood Methodist Church
Crossroads Centre**



SUMMER 2024

Twinned with the Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche,
Recklinghausen, Germany



THE FULWOOD METHODIST

FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8EA
Tel. Preston (01772) 718741

MINISTER

Revd. Jane Wild - jane.wild@methodist.org.uk
Tel. 01772 715134

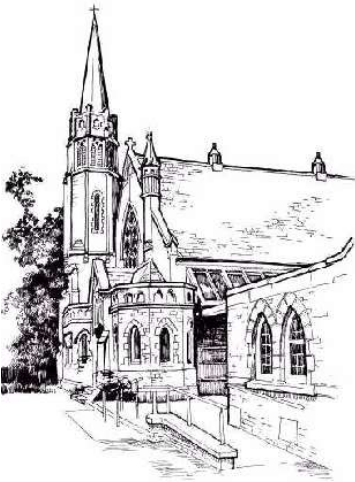
YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

Darren Arnold - darrenarnold.church@gmail.com
Tel. 07811 775825

CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

Denise Johnson - djpastoral@outlook.com
Tel. 07719 200451

Registered Charity No. 1133929



SUNDAY SERVICES

9.45 am. SINGING PRACTICE (occasional)

10.30 am. MORNING WORSHIP & SUNDAY CLUB

We offer a welcome to all ages on Sunday mornings, there is a CRÈCHE for babies and toddlers while parents are in worship. The first 15 minutes of worship are for all ages and then on most Sundays the children leave for their own time in SUNDAY CLUB, where there are groups for different ages. Parents can go out with the younger ones to see them settle, and then come back into Church for worship. Sunday Club and worship finish at the same time and an invitation is extended to everyone to stay and share in fellowship in the Willow Grove, where tea, coffee and orange juice are served.

The CHURCH MINIBUS provides free transport to and from Church on Sunday mornings. The timetable and route information are available at Church. Should you wish to make use of it please complete one of the request cards in Willow Grove.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated monthly and once a month there is ALL-AGE WORSHIP involving children from the youth groups.

For BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS contact Revd. Jane Wild

* * * * *

**If you need any help, or have any concerns, please contact
Revd. Jane Wild or Mrs. Sue Penrith (862273)**

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

The sun is out and it looks like summer is finally here!

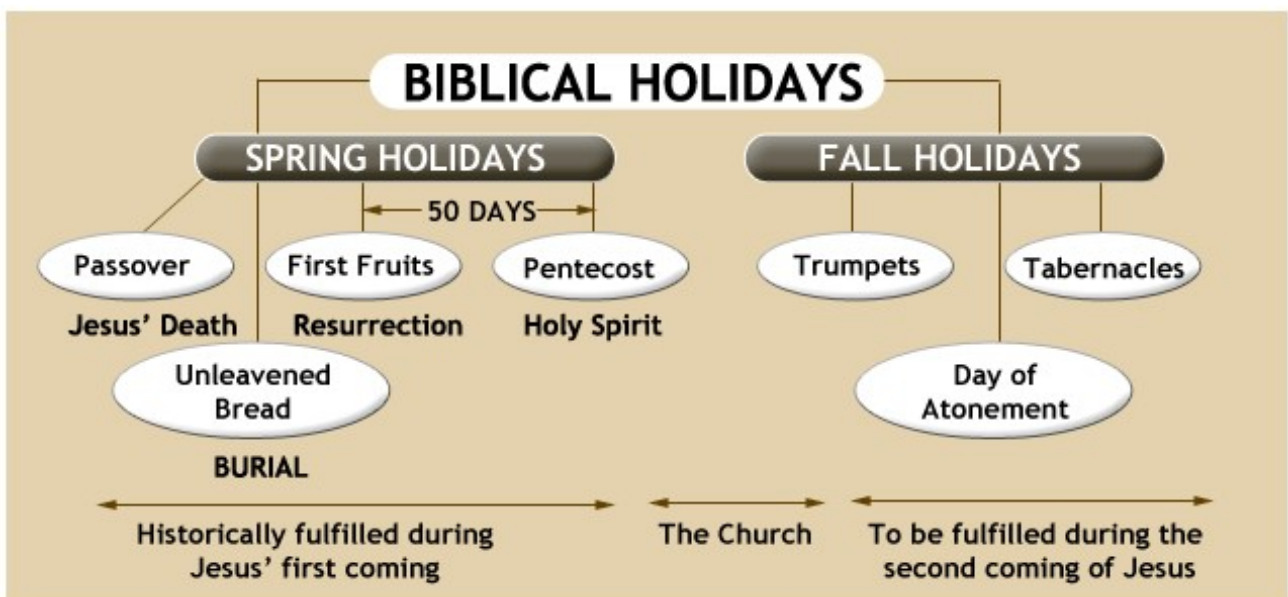
The thought of summer holidays when I was a child, was six weeks off school, spending time with your family & friends at the beach and swimming in the very cold North Sea!

It was also a time to do something different, trying new things or seeing new places. In fact, I still prefer my holidays as adventures and making memories but it seems different now that I'm older. There doesn't seem to be enough time to fit everything in or you find yourself needing another holiday to recover from the last one!

So it got me thinking about whether people in the Bible went on 'holiday'. I know Paul took trips away, but his missionary journeys did not seem very relaxing. Jesus wandered off for prayers and spiritual refreshment, but those were more like spiritual retreats than a modern day holiday. David once ignored his military duties in order to spend his afternoons relaxing, but that led to him committing adultery and murder - hardly a positive biblical story of holiday!

In the beginning, God built cycles of rest into the order of the creation marking one day each week to be spent away from work. Beyond that, annual festivals on the Jewish calendar provided for extended rest and recreation. The author of Ecclesiastes rightly called his readers to the pleasures of life: "Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do" Ecclesiastes 9:7. The Lord has sanctioned recreation; there is no need to feel guilty for times focused on enjoyment - this is part of God's plan. So if you are fortunate to be going on holiday or just taking time off. Enjoy your rest in the way God intended it to be.

Many Blessings. **Sarah O'Halloran** on behalf of the Ministry team



FAMILY NEWS

Funerals

Please continue to remember those who grieve in your prayers

19 th April	Einna Cornall
2 nd May	Florence Dempsey
2 nd May	Barbara Hothersall
8 th May	Frank Whittle
9 th May	Jean Dearnaley
23 rd May	Len Fletcher
13 th June	Brenda McAlister

Baptisms

14 th July	Louis and Riley Williams Harvey Jay Spencer
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* * * * *

STRICTLY NATIVITY

This year we are planning an Inclusive Community Nativity Event. It will be a celebration of the Nativity and a celebration of the breadth and diversity of our community.

It is a partnership with L'Arche, but we hope to involve as many members of church and groups connected in any way to church as we possibly can.

We need people for all kinds of roles, up-front, behind the scenes, front of house. Anyone can get involved. If you belong to the Uniformed Organisations, the Community Choir, Zumba, Sunday Club.....

If you come along to Welcome Wednesday we need you.

If you are interested in helping prepare props and do something arty and crafty and possibly some dance, we will be meeting on 25th July, 1st, 15th and 22nd August from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

If you want to take part by singing, dancing or narration, the rehearsals are on 9th November and 23rd November. The final rehearsal will be at 2.00pm on 7th December followed by the performance at 4.00pm.

If your group is taking part as a group, you can rehearse as and when is convenient for you.

So, **Save the Date** for the performance - 7th December at 4.00pm. If you need more information, speak to Revd Jane Wild, or turn up at one of the sessions and have fun.

METHODIST CONFERENCE REPORT

Methodist Conference was held this year at Leeds Armouries from Thursday, 27th June until Wednesday, 3rd July. It was a smaller gathering this time, as the number of representatives has been significantly reduced across the Connexion. It was a privilege once again to attend as part of the Lancashire team: Chair of District, Revd Phil Gough, Revd Sarah Lamb, Hope Wild and Rebecca Ainsworth.



As always, the first business of the conference was the induction of the new President, Revd Helen Cameron, and Vice President, Carolyn Godfrey. Their addresses to Conference reflected their theme for the year, taken from Isaiah 1:17 ‘Learn to do what is right, seek justice and defend the oppressed.’



It was wonderful to be able to attend the Ordination of Revd Matt Smith from West Pennine Moors circuit on Sunday.

One of the highlights for me, on a personal level, was the Lancashire District being partnered with the overseas representative from Papua New Guinea, Revd Garo Kilagi. I was one of the mission team who visited PNG in 2017, and it was great to catch up with Garo and find out how life has changed.

Many topics in a packed agenda were discussed and resolutions passed during the week’s conferring. Becca Ainsworth spoke passionately about mission, and Hope Wild was appointed to attest the Daily Record.

It was the last time a Lancashire team will attend Conference, as from September we will be the North West England District. If you are interested in being nominated as a representative to Conference, please contact me as Synod Secretary.

For those wishing to find out more about the resolutions passed, there is a Conference Digest available from any of the Circuit Ministry team.

Carolyn Hothersall

Holy people have a sense of inner peace. In their presence it is the God of the still, small voice that one perceives. (*T. Harrison*)

YOUTH AND FAMILY WORK UPDATE

Escape is now running with an attendance of 25/30 youngsters of mixed age. We will evaluate in Sept/Oct to see if there is a need to open the older Youth group again.

3generate - we have six youngsters' attending the full weekend and about four going on the Saturday for the 4 to 7 year-old session. There are 32 children attending from the circuit.

Puppets – Lunchtime session is working well at Ribbleton Avenue. The group are just preparing to use them and take part in assembly in the next week. This will be the third group who have taken part.

WLTD0 (Who Let The Dads Out?) is going well, even though numbers are small, the importance of men getting together and talking is essential and one of the objectives of the group.

Nice Human Beings (11+ youth group) meets monthly and is run by Ben and me, with a wide range of sessions offered. We have solved murders, rapped with Lindsay, played bonkers games, and eaten lots of food.

Breakfast Church runs every 6-8 weeks and usually starts the new theme for Sunday Club. We share breakfast, do crafts, a quiz and have a reading. This is open to all.

Connexions is our new Sunday morning gathering, again open to all, take a Bible passage, chat about it, answer questions and build with Lego, whilst having coffee and pastries.

Toddler Club is very busy and continues to serve the community. During holidays it is always open as a coffee morning because we see the need for parents/carers to still get out.

Summer activities have been organised, please see details in church.

Many thanks,

Darren Arnold - Youth, Children's & Family Worker.



Family Concert & Harvest Supper



CHURCH FAMILY EVENT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 5th at 5.00pm (tbc)

The orchestra returns with music for all the family. Show tunes, film music and light classics. Followed by a sit down meal around 6.30pm.

Look out for more details from Mavis Fletcher.



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VOLUNTEERING

Giving back gives so much.

I began volunteering at church and for a local charity 'Cancer Help' in their Longridge shop, when I retired from 40 years of nursing.



What I love most about volunteering is the people I have met. I've got to know customers' faces, hear about their lives and families, all whilst contributing to a local charity which is helping cancer sufferers, their family and friends through change, challenge and crisis. Plus, in a small way, helping to tackle causes of pollution and over consumption full on. It's satisfying reducing waste and reducing our environmental impact. We at FMC also in our small way also help, for example 'New to You'. We also contribute to our wider community with 'Welcome Wednesday' and numerous other activities.

As a volunteer you don't need any professional skills even if you can only manage an hour a month or 4 hours a week for a local charity. Be proud to know you're helping transform the lives of people living in poverty, loneliness or crisis.



Charity shops are of enormous benefit to the community, to the people who volunteer in the shops and to the people who support the shops by donating and buying pre-loved goods.

Volunteering benefits go both ways; helping others can be the best way to help ourselves. You can give as little or as much time as you like. Volunteering has been linked to better physical, mental and emotional health and there is helping the planet to divert clothing to landfill. Without volunteers, none of the vital work of charities and churches could take place.

God's word is filled with references of sharing love, generosity and sharing our gifts. The Lord even references the benefits of volunteering.

Acts 20: 35 ~ "In everything I did I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said "it is more blessed to give than to receive"



Colossians 3: 23-24 ~ "What ever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. Since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."



Guild Initiative for Furniture Trust

Anyone with any time to spare can volunteer. You don't get paid as a volunteer, not because you are worthless by volunteering, you are priceless for your services to any none profit organisation

which benefits others and provides service and support to the church community and general public.

If you have time please consider becoming a volunteer in any small way you can. You will not regret it.

Maggie Holmes

Go to www.tinyurl.com/5976y23b for an article in the EASTER 2012 of our magazine to read more about Gift '92.

Worrying doesn't take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.

Keep your face to the light and the shadows will fall behind you.

Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly – and leave the rest to God.

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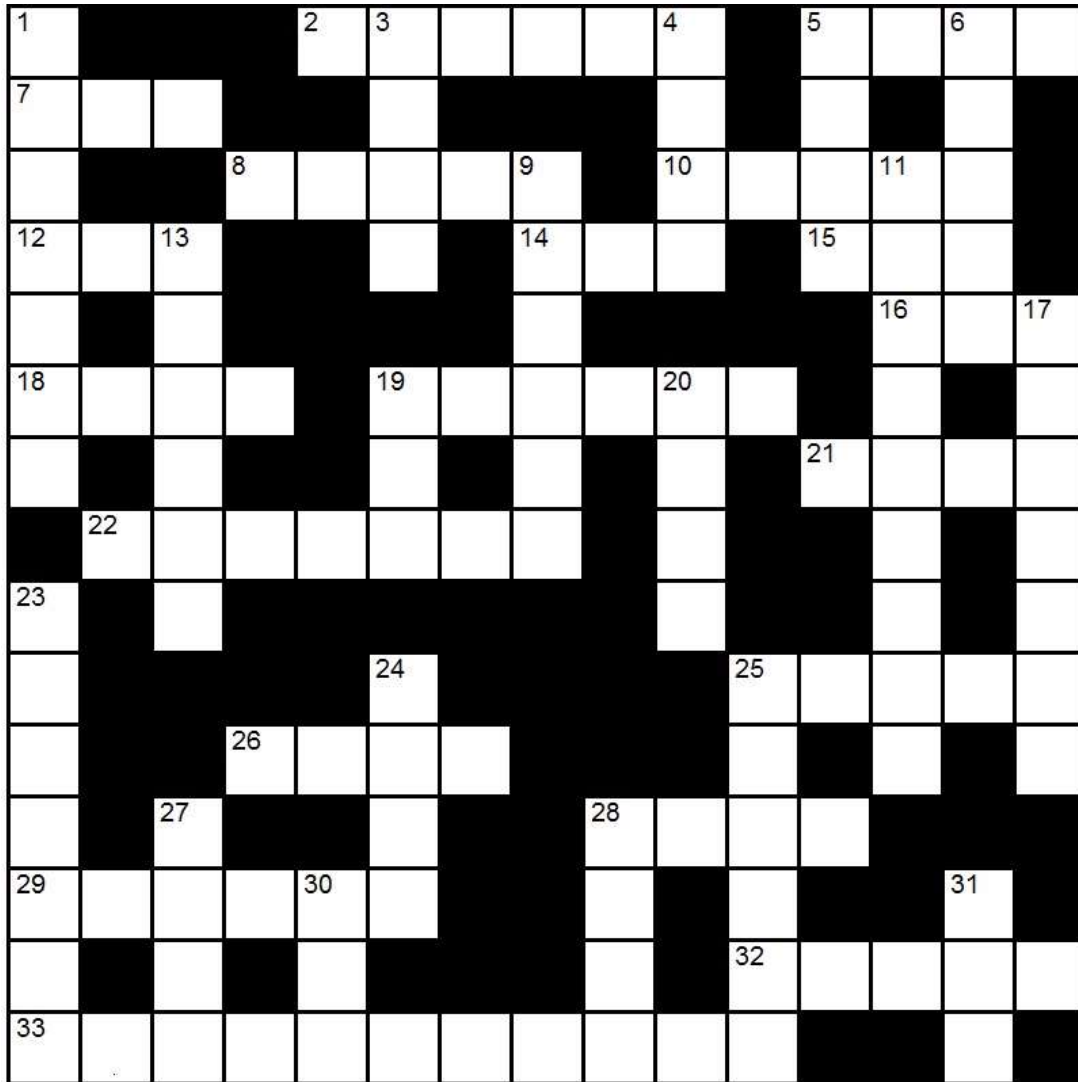
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SUMMER CROSSWORD

As usual, this crossword/word puzzle is a mixed bag. At its heart are the names of books of the Bible. Where such a name is required the clue is marked by a definition of either 'OT' or 'NT', which itself provides further direction.

Most of the other clues are cryptic with a general knowledge flavouring. Hope it is of some enjoyment.



Across

- 2 Dare to be him, in the OT. (6)
- 5 Nutritious liquid, sometimes of human kindness according to the Bard. (4)
- 7 Yorkshire river, flawless but the top is taken off. (3)
- 8 His is the name of the great Basilica in Rome, in NT. (5)
- 10 Four in a pack, in the OT. (5)
- 12 Sounds like it is buzzing to come second in the alphabet. (3)
- 14 Found in the ground, dull person loses his head. (3)
- 15 Argon for example, sometimes linked with gaiters for fun. (3)
- 16 He appears in 23 down, an item for auction. (3)

- 18 Hurt mended, in OT. (4)
- 19 ‘Please sing a lovely melody Sir first requirements of David, in OT. (6)
- 21 Small particle, male cat. (4)
- 22 What male tea maker does, in the NT. (7)
- 25 One acquainted with a big fish, in the OT. (5)
- 26 Found in the sea most likely, in OT. (4)
- 28 “Hey.....,” a Beatles great in the NT. (4)
- 29 First name of composer of Adagio, Barber, in the OT. (6)
- 32 Wimbledon women’s champion found within severe vertigo. (5)
- 33 Top of the Pops, in the OT? (4, 2, 5)

Down

- 1 Painkillers, in the OT? (7)
- 3 West End musical rearranged, in the NT. (4)
- 4 Name of Skywalker, in the NT. (4)
- 5 Chinese dynasty found in Leamington Spa. (4)
- 6 Cowboy’s rope offers nothing to girl. (5)
- 9 Mark Antony asked if he could borrow their (and others) ears, in the NT. (6)
- 11 A Latin gas diffused, in NT. (9)
- 13 Found in best hermitage, in OT. (6)
- 17 Full first name of tiny boyhood hero in Christmas Carol, in the NT. (7)
- 19 Apple, cottage, shepherd’s? Sounds like a mathematical constant. (3)
- 20 Stain, in NT. (4)
- 23 Rock band, in the OT. (7)
- 24 Starters of Job, Obadiah, Esau, Lamentations, in the OT. (4)
- 25 They sit on the bench, in the OT. (6)
- 27 The last word, so be it. (4)
- 28 Neither long, nor silver rather the saint who wrote a sublime first chapter, in NT. (4)
- 30 ‘T comes between ‘id’ and ‘superego’, the three aspects of the personality described by Freud. (3)
- 31 Attempt a score in rugby. (3)

Ken Wales

Solution on page 21

* * * * *

When there’s love at home there is beauty everywhere.

No endeavour is in vain, its reward is in the doing.

There is no duty more obligatory than the repayment of kindness. (*Cicero*)

LAUGH AND THE WORLD LAUGHS WITH YOU

In recent editions, I have focused on the power of empathic humour in supporting people who may be experiencing pain as a result of grief and sorrow.

I have written about the role of humour and laughter as a contributor to resilience and well-being. I also described the benefits of humour in promoting health and reducing stress and importantly applying the ATT test:- Appropriate, Tasteful and Timely.

In this edition I've prepared something completely different; a pot pourri of humour.

I aim to make you smile and, I hope, at times to laugh out loud and exercise your chuckle muscles.

This contribution will seek to deliver some joy and laughter and lift the gloom resulting from this year's awful weather and the avalanche of bad news, along with England's loss in the European Final. I will include anecdotes, stories, wise words, misprints and the wisdom gained with growing old.

I will start with a small number of unusual and interesting Graces:

- ? The two shortest graces are 'Heavenly Pa, ta' and 'God's neat, let's eat!'
- ? 'Heavenly Father, bless us and keep us all alive. There are 10 of us for dinner, but only enough for 5!'
- ? At Barlinnie top security prison, it's reported that the grace they say is 'God bless all us sinners, afore we sit down to our dinners'.

Clerical Errors

Misprints can be as source of laughter.

A Bishop was giving the address at a girl's school prize giving and his speaking notes referred to the headmistress as an old fiend (friend).

A minister had prepared an address to a temperance association and had typed 'and 2 final pints' (points).

A Glasgow church newsletter announced 'There will be a Parish sin along (singalong) on Saturday at 12:30.'

In another magazine an appeal for additional choristers was headed 'Sinners wanted for choir'.

A parishioner explained to her friend that their minister was leaving and the church steward had decided to give him a 'wee bit of momentum' (memento).

An Edinburgh minister was horrified when he was quoted in the local newspaper as having expressed his delight with the 'nudist play in the church hall'. What he actually said was "I am delighted with the new display in the church hall".

An English conference centre, much used by faith groups, has as its motto 'There are no problems, only opportunities'. One day, a vicar, who had not long been booked in, presented himself again at the reception desk. When he said he had a problem, the receptionist responded with a smile, "Sir, we don't have problems here, only opportunities". "Call it what you like," said the Vicar "but there's a woman in my room!"

What the vicar would have made of the notice at the reception desk of a Paris hotel, God only knows? ‘Values can be left at reception!’

A leading preacher was upset, when the title of his forthcoming sermon appeared as ‘Why I believe in immorality,’ instead of ‘immortality’.

Included in one church notice was, ‘On Saturday next, if you have nothing on, please come and help at the jumble sale’.

Musical Sacrilege

Here at Fulwood, we have been blessed over the years with the high quality of the organists. I read of a vicar who commented, that at his church, the organist did his best to struggle through the hymns. However, the long suffering congregation still had to play, ‘Name that tune’ at the beginning of each hymn.

Getting organised

After an organ overhaul, the builder left a note for the lady organist as follows.... ‘You will now be able to change your combinations without taking your feet off the pedals’.

This and That from the Catholic Faith

Two nuns visiting Windermere, entered a café. The waitress, attempting to show interest and courtesy, asked them, ‘What is your order?’ The nuns replied, ‘Sausage and chips please!’

The church notices from Saint Mary’s church in London, reminded the congregation that, hot ‘smacks’ are available after mass.

Wisdom and the Reality of Growing Old.

? Middle age is when the broad mind and the narrow waist change places.

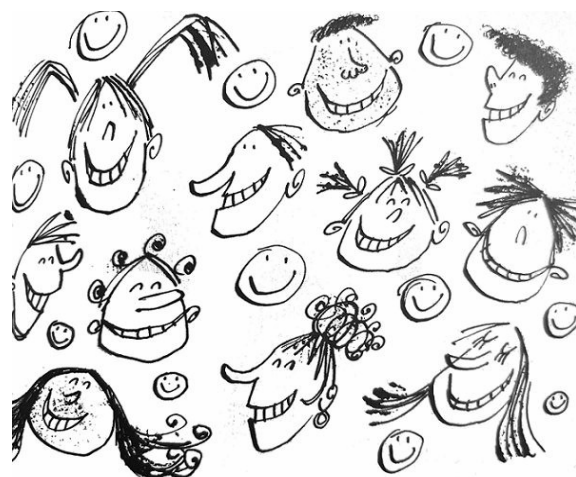
? Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional.

The 7 Ages of Man

1. Spills
2. Drills
3. Thrills
4. Bills
5. Ills
6. Pills
7. Wills

The 3 Stages of Man

1. He believes in Father Christmas.
2. He doesn’t believe in Father Christmas.
3. He is Father Christmas!



Take-away messages

‘Remember that frowning causes more age lines than smiling, so you might as well, relax and smile’.

Finally, KEEP SMILING – and if you meet someone without a smile, give them one of yours.

Malcolm Rae

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

As parents and grand-parents or maybe as someone with an interest in education in its many settings, you may have noticed that children these days are being given more opportunities to learn and play outdoors. Schools, other children's organisations and our own Sunday Club are taking this approach which, of course, has long been a valued activity in the uniformed organisations at Fulwood. Of course, for most of us older ones that was how we grew up. In my own case playing outdoors was a regular part of my childhood. As were walks, often on the outskirts of town, to beauty spots and to visit friends. I remember them well.

So, why has this seemingly come into fashion again? Well, there is much research evidence that these experiences benefit child development in several ways. Learning is more effective, mental well-being is enhanced and the activities are often fun! Below you will see we have asked two people much involved currently in outdoor education and thus with first hand experience in this area to write about their own approach to this form of education. Someone once said, 'There is nothing new under the sun.' - That may be true, but there is much to be learned there.

Ken Wales

Our first contributor is Fran Nickson, the Headteacher of Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School. She needs no introduction to readers of this magazine!

As a school we have embarked upon a journey to build a learning space that not only brightens the school grounds, but acts as a bridge between our inner city school and the natural world. Over the space of three years, we have transformed our environment from one of concrete walls and tarmac playgrounds, to one of wood, greenery and trees. Using several grants and incentives, we have taken the opportunity to model to the RAMJS pupils the importance of planting trees and caring for our natural world whilst highlighting the huge benefits that nature has on our mental and physical health. As our trees begin to grow, so do the aspirations of our children who take great pleasure in using their eyes to spot the changes and difference that these new spaces have brought.

As I child I believe I had a very privileged upbringing; a childhood that was immersed in country pursuits, nature walks, swimming in rivers, potion making with flowers and spending weeks of the summer playing in the local fields. I am lucky to have parents who embrace this life and looking back on what was normal to me, now seems so strange to many others. I had a father who was passionate about falconry, so grew up surrounded by peregrine falcons, goshawks and owls. I remember bringing the birds to school for show-and-tell or dissecting owl pellets with my class mates. This love of nature I owe to my dad and can see that his passion is transcending into the



Goshawk

next generation as I watch my nieces enjoy spending time fishing, looking at birds or running around in the garden, grounded in nature and the bountiful joy it brings.

Therefore it made sense that RAMJS pupils were given these experiences and the chance to glimpse the power of nature. Since then there has been no looking back.

As we look at our starting point, the occasional gardening club and a lottery grant to add some astro turf and a gazebo, we can now see how far we have come. Children at RAMJS engage in a fortnightly outdoor education slot, a way to impact beyond our own school, we also offer a weekly session to the pupils at Ribbleton Avenue Infant School as we believe that a resource such as this should be accessible and life transforming for as many Ribbleton families as we can reach.



We also provide free trips, supported by the Countryside Alliance and take every child on a yearly visit to a farm. These have included a variety of different farming styles and have immersed the children in the awareness of how food comes from a field and onto a plate. This year, our Year 3 pupils were lucky enough to see a lamb being born, which is an experience that might never happen if we were unable to access these provisions.



By accessing the Woodland Trust incentive to plant trees, we have given the pupils chance to plant a small coppice that will be their legacy, providing shade and clean air for the future RAMJS children. Our pupils are taught why trees are important and can identify different species in

the real world around them.

We have used a substantial allocation of funding identified by the school governors to build three outside shelters so that the children can be out learning in all weathers. These funds have also enabled us to make raised beds to grow vegetables and to create a fire circle where children can cook their own food using the fruits they have grown.

Most recently, we were successful in a bid to The Royal Horticultural Society and were awarded £10,000. This money has been a blessing. It has enabled us to develop our dreams even further with the addition of a barked play space with living walls throughout the grounds and we plan to add a Willow Arch once the colder months are upon us. These financial investments have been key factors without the unfaltering support of the RAMJS Governors, my dreams to enhance the school grounds would have come to nothing. One of the greatest pleasures my



Outdoor Learning team have, aside from working with our wonderful pupils, is having the chance to showcase their hard work and dedication to transforming the lives of these fantastic children. To date, we have been able to offer this provision to over 600 children since we first began.

In a world that is so focused on measurable outcomes, SATs and Ofsted inspections, we have taken a stance on what we believe really counts: prioritising the well-being and experiential advantages for children whose postcode often denies them these cultural capital opportunities. At RAMJS we are planting seeds in the hope that they will grow into life-long pleasures that will help our pupils have ‘brighter futures’.

Our second writer is Sonia Phillips. Sonia is an experienced primary school teacher who has studied this form of education in depth. She leads the Explorers Group in Sunday Club and has been leading the introduction of Forest Church into the offerings from the Sunday Club and at Circuit level. Being a mother of two young children add to her life’s experiences, as you will read.

At a recent trip to a sculpture park set in glorious gardens, I was struck by how many human-made sculptures used natural materials or attempted to replicate the patterns, shapes and colours we see in God’s created world, such as the sculptures of a floating magnolia flower, and a huge disc set with hundreds of coconut shells and pine cones (pictured here).

The artwork was stunning, but so was the scenery. I found myself asking my children, “Do you think trees are God’s sculptures?” as we admired particularly interesting bark or beautiful blossoms. And the sculpture of a duck was rather overshadowed by the living mother duck watchfully resting with her four fluffy ducklings at the water’s edge.

There is a growing movement of Forest Churches across the UK. Although this may be a recent innovation in terms of how we approach church services, its roots are ancient. In his book ‘Forest Church’, Bruce Stanley refers to the spiritual practices of Celts, Druids and Pagans among others, who for thousands of years have found spiritual connection through an exploration and understanding of the natural world around them. Of course, as humans, we are ourselves part of God’s created world. In fact, rather than speaking about nature as though we are separate



Pineapple Disc by Sebodh Kekar

from it, some academics now use the terminology ‘more-than-human nature’ when they refer to the rest of the natural world. A good reminder that ‘nature’ should and does include us.

As a society we have become increasingly disconnected from more-than-human nature. More time is spent indoors than ever and most humans live in towns and cities, sometimes with very little access to green spaces. Surrounded by walls and concrete, it can be harder to connect with our creator God: the God of mountains, seas, trees and ducklings. ‘Forest Church’ seeks to reconnect



Magnolia by Rebecca Newnham

people with more-than-human nature, and in so doing, to help us to connect with God. There is no particular right way to do Forest Church, but it is outdoors, in whatever green space is available.

Even living in a city, we have plenty of opportunities to surround ourselves with more-than-human nature. In Fulwood (historically part of an ancient forest) we are lucky to have access to parks and woodland, including Highgate Wood which is located only a few minutes’ walk away from our church. It covers six hectares of woodland, with Savick Brook running through its heart.

Fulwood’s Sunday Club are beginning to explore ‘Forest Church’ principles in this woodland, and hope to be able to meet for worship, learning and reflection out of doors

several times a year. As well as nature connection, children need plenty of opportunity to move their bodies. This is not always possible in our church building, and we hope that families who would not otherwise consider bringing their children to church may be willing to try out a different kind of worship experience.

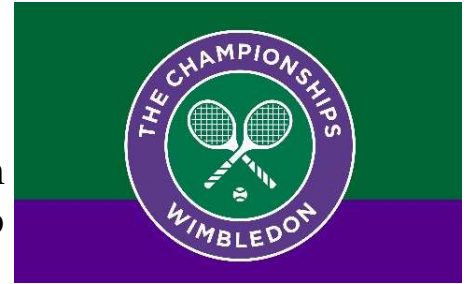
Indeed, Forest Church is very much experiential, and using our senses to explore more-than-human nature is a key component of worshipping and getting to know God. It is also creative, and I’m sure we will soon be able to add our own nature-inspired (and therefore God-inspired) artwork to the long-standing tradition of representing and interpreting God’s created world in our own way.

Sonia Philips

Photos location - Himalayan Garden & Sculpture Park in Ripon.

THINKING ALOUD – THINKING ALLOWED

What a strange summer it has been so far. Lots of wet and chilly weather, plants maturing too early or not at all, some very uninspiring sports fixtures (some good ones as well), in my case a careless speeding fine, the opportunity to go on our first cruise and, next week, as I write, there will be a general election. By the time you read this you will know the outcome of that election and who won Wimbledon, the T20 World championship and whether England managed a shot on target in the Euros. However it has also offered an opportunity to meet up with old friends and to be reminded of happy days (and some less so) in the past.



Outside the political and sporting spheres there have also been, for me, some interesting discussions and particularly at Church. I for one welcome the opportunities we are creating to discuss more openly at events such as Alternative Church, our informal session held at The Black Bull pub, and increasingly the Wednesday morning fellowship often led by Jane in the context of Holy Communion. And then informal chats at Welcome Wednesday itself. How much we have benefitted from the remodelling of part of our premises, even if it was hard work at the time.

Reading the history of the Christian Church in the first three or four centuries, they too also had to work hard and often think ‘outside the box’. In deciding what to do next and more generally in their everyday living they too will have benefitted from discussion. They did not have our technological distractions, but I am sure their lives were pressured and certainly they were shorter than ours. One question which they pondered upon much was what is or was the very nature of Jesus. We can read in Church history great and long-lasting disputes, some of which still echo today – was he a man, was he a God, or was he somehow a God/Man? Whole churches and traditions grew on how that question was answered.

Now I am no theologian or Church historian, but three times this summer I have been led towards that question either in discussions or as I have encountered passages from the Bible. First, at Easter when Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane suffered human agonies as he faced the inevitable. Then again, in the account of the temptations in the desert as he began his ministry – I can only read these as Jesus’ questioning whether the powers he knew were his should be used for his own purposes or in some greater service.

This happened again very recently when, in our Wednesday morning service we thought about Jesus’ encounter with the Canaanite woman. This passage in Matthew 19 has previously left me cold or at best confused, but suddenly a light came on when it was suggested that perhaps here Jesus was realising, at this stage

of his ministry, that the Good News was not only for the faithful Jews, or even the Jewish nation, but for all people.

I suspect that I probably will never have a definitive answer to that ‘who was Jesus?’ question, at least in the terms it was posed by the early Church. For me, the reality must be found in the relationship with the risen Jesus which I benefit from now. It is that which increasingly adds to the richness of my own existence. Indeed, it is that which gives any meaning to it. What I do have though is the confidence to know that I can go on growing in this relationship with the support of my friends at Fulwood Methodist Church.

A very firm favourite hymn of my mother’s is still to be found in our hymn books. It is ‘May the mind of Christ my saviour....’ It is my favourite hymn too.

Ken Wales

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goodfon.com/sports/wallpaper-the-championships-wimbledon.html

1 May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,
live in me from day to day,
by His love and pow’r controlling
all I do and say.

4 May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing:
this is victory.

2 May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through His pow’r.

5 May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

3 May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing

6 May His beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only Him.

Kate B. Wilkinson

* * * * *

Revd PETER SHEASBY

We have recently been informed that Rev Peter Sheasby, who was minister at Fulwood from 2001 to 2012, is retiring to live in Keighley with his wife, Christine. He was Minister here during our substantial redevelopment and re-opening on 9th May 2010. If you wish to know their address, please contact any of the stewards.



“.....AND THE BAND PLAYED ON....”

It's been a while since I wrote an article for the magazine about our church band, aka 316. Those with good memories might recall how I tried to explain why there were so many wires and speakers, and those with an even better memory will recall how they all help us to hear each other! That has very little to do with volume – much more the fact that, like any musical group, we all need to be able to hear what we, as individuals are playing and / or singing as well as being able to hear what others are playing and / or singing, so we can all play at the right speed and rhythm and in tune with each other. Unlike an orchestra, we don't have a conductor to keep us in shape, so our equipment is not only useful, but essential.

Since my last article, we've seen changes to our members. Thank you to Veronica, Bernard, Jonny, Molly and Leighton who we've been privileged to have regularly playing and singing with us in the past. Welcome to Dave (drums) and Naomi (vocals) who have rapidly established themselves as vital members and who add so much.



Also since last writing, we've worked hard on increasing our repertoire and have many new favourites.

We scour the Internet for good, modern, Christian musicians and try hard to bring their music into our own line-up. Often, instrumentation and vocal arrangements end up being very different from what we hear from these talented musicians, but that's no bad thing – an element of artistic creativity is an excellent thing to draw on, and our happily collective contributions ensure that everyone is able to enjoy singing or playing what we eventually end up with! Ultimately, we want our congregation to leave Church on a Sunday morning having benefitted from worship, part of which may be to have heard and enjoyed music that they perhaps haven't heard before, and the prize – for us – would be for them to say to their friends and neighbours “our band is really good, you should come and hear them sometime”. (On that note, watch this space for details of our forthcoming event currently scheduled for January 2025. Seems a long time off, but we all know that time goes quickly!)

It's sad to say, but Churches across the country seem to be slowly losing their 'live' music. I have a vivid recollection – very recently – of a visiting local preacher starting her worship off by pointing at us and saying to the congregation “Aren't you lucky to have this lot!” I'm very happy to say that, on that occasion, the music she offered us for hymns was lovely and I like to think that we did her choices justice. I also hope that we can continue to add value to Sunday morning worship by offering our mix of new and well-known music for many years to come.

Which brings me nicely to another theme.....succession!!!!

There is always room for more singers and musicians who might like to explore joining us. We'd especially welcome a bass guitarist – some of you might have noticed the lonely bass guitar standing miserable and unused in our area. It's a great opportunity to join a band and experience the sheer pleasure of being part of live music as well as supporting worship in our grand old Church. If you are "that person"....please, don't hold back, come and talk to us and give it a go. Perhaps you've never played or sung in a band before – no matter. Perhaps you're more experienced and have done live gigs before – even better! Age is not considered a deterrent – we welcome young and old(er) people and, as you might have noticed, none of us is getting any younger.....We have space for anyone who plays any instrument of any sort (well, maybe not just a kazoo), anyone who can sing well (men, come on, we're currently reliant on lady vocals only, albeit they are all fabulous!). We'd be very happy to talk to anyone with an interest in sound engineering – currently, what the congregation hears is wonderfully mixed by John via his headphones and tablet and, although he is currently the only one of us who has any sort of proper understanding of our fantastic digital mixing desk, he'd be the first to admit that "succession" applies to the technical stuff just as much as the music stuff.



We try to meet for a couple of hours from 7.30 (ish) on Thursday evenings. We use our time to play favourites, to work on new songs that we've discovered and, if we are playing in worship on the following Sunday, it's a good time to practise the hymns we've been offered (quick shout-out a) to those who organise the rotas so we know who to contact and b) the worship leaders who happily work with us to make decisions around the music they want for their theme). We're friendly, always get a brew on and usually pinch the best biscuits. Come and talk to us!!!!

Mike Cushing

* * * * *

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
to puzzle on page 10

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A FARRAGO

Further to our mention of the RNLI's 200th anniversary in the previous issue: John Hecker of Finsbury Square, London, was the first person to leave a gift to the charity. Today his £1,000 would be worth around £100,000. Some unusual gifts over the years have included a set of gold teeth, a pig farm and a 100 year old bottle of Cognac!

Currently helping to raise funds for the RNLI is the Lytham & St Annes Shanty Crew. Every Monday evening from early May to late August, starting at 7:30pm, you'll find them at either the St Annes RNLI Boathouse or the Mussel Tanks at Lytham (near their RNLI Boathouse). Go to Google to find out more – and do remember to wrap up well!!

We're always pleased to receive copies of magazines, weekly newsheets and visitor guides from other churches. This time around there are examples from further afield than some times – some much further afield! We start off with Carlisle Methodist Church, Wigton Road ('The Messenger') and also 'The Canopy' – the North Cumbria Circuit's publication. A clutch from West Suffolk, namely the combined parishes of Ingham, Ampton & the Livermeres; from All Saints, Honington; from St Edmund's Church at RAF Honington; and from St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Then, from even further afield: the church of Sainte-Madeleine & Notre Dame, Verneuil-sur-Avre (near Rouen in Normandy, north western France, the Cathedral of Sainte-Marie Sainte-Reparate, Nice, in southern France and the local Basilique Notre Dame de l'Assumption and the Paroisse Saint Nicholas.

We also regularly receive a copy of the magazine from our twinned Evangelische-methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany. This is available, translated to English, on our website via a link on the front page.

Roy Smith

HOGHTON FOLK DANCE CLUB



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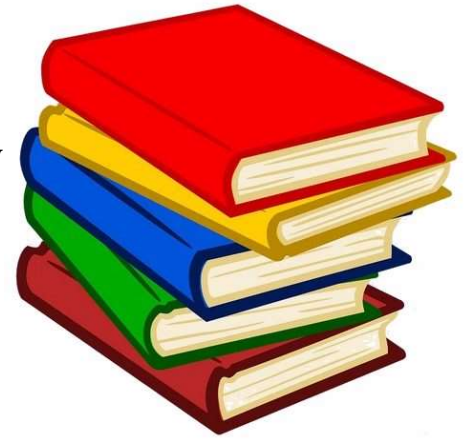


BOOK CLUB

Normally, in our magazine we include some information about recent discussions in the Church Book Club. Every six weeks or so between 12 and 15 of us meet to exchange views about one or more books we have chosen, and usually to talk about much more of common interest, to have fun and to eat chocolate biscuits.

Although there have been, I think, three meetings of the Club since our last edition, this article will look forward rather than backwards. It will indicate how we are planning to operate in the next twelve months or so and try to whet your appetite if you are interested in joining us. If you do, we will do our best to make you very welcome.

Each year we have an open meeting to discuss our programme for the coming months. This is normally held on a Saturday in May to coincide with the Farmers' Market. Two birds with one stone is an unfortunate phrase in that context! But this is a chance to share with everyone what we decided:



1. We will finalise our next meeting in July and publicise it widely in Church over the summer. It may be you would like to join us for just one or two of the meetings - that is fine.
2. We will continue to meet on a Tuesday evening at 7.00pm every six weeks or so. The actual dates will be included in the publicity referred to in 1 above.
3. We will consider whether we can open our meetings so that those who prefer this may be able to join in (or at least listen) using Zoom technology.
4. The range of our meeting will widen. Whilst we mention specific books as is indicated in 5 below we hope our choice may remind you of similar books you have read and perhaps still treasure. Or even events in your lives. You may want to bring with you music, literature, art and other reminders to share with us.
5. And so each of our meetings will take place within an overall theme '**And, by the way....**' In other words, we wish to encourage everyone to share their knowledge and what the chosen book has done to invigorate their own memories.

I hope this might encourage you to find out more about this engaging group! If you want to know more please ask either myself or Janet, or other members of the group.

Ken Wales
(07970842041)

SOME SUMMERTIME CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS

Early summer, particularly on the Fylde, has long been a time for Club Days. Some are still going strong as for example at Lytham, at Freckleton and at Kirkham & Wesham. They began as annual events when members of the local branches of Friendly Societies would parade the streets with their banners, hoping to recruit more members. Sometimes a visit to a local church and a special service were also included.

These Societies were especially popular in the nineteenth century and generally came with the growth of the Industrial Revolution. They provided a vital service in days before the Welfare State.

For a small contribution per week by working men, the extreme financial demands which came with a sudden death in the family or being put out of work might be alleviated with their Club's assistance. Sometimes these Clubs were known as Provident Clubs or Provident Societies.

Their popularity mushroomed and while some remained relatively local affairs others went on to become nationally and even internationally known. Some examples are: The Buffaloes, The Foresters, The Free Gardeners, The Mechanics, The Odd Fellows, The Rechabites, The Shepherds and The Sons of Temperance.

Some are still in existence. When you're sitting in front of your TV set, watching the advert for LV Car Insurance (bright green is the dominant colour- and the letters stand for Liverpool Victoria), that organisation began life as one of those Friendly Societies.

A summertime custom/tradition of long-standing is the Henley Regatta (10-14 July). It certainly has a charm of its own. Meanwhile, a rather different item in the list is the Three Choirs Festival. This rotates between the cathedral cities of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester and is thought to be the oldest classical music festival in the world. It's in its 309th year this year and will take place at Worcester, Sat. 27th July to Sat. 3rd August (for details visit 3choirs.org). Music-making and cathedral services largely feature but walks, exhibitions and theatre are also included in the programme.

Nearer to home there's the more modern custom of attending the annual Southport Air Show (w/e 13-14 July) and the Blackpool Air Show (w/e 10-11 August). The Red Arrows – in their 60th Anniversary Season – are due to appear at each but the Battle of Britain Flight remains grounded (at the time of writing) as a result of the late-May fatality.



At Blackpool too, you can 'Ride the Lights' on Tuesday, 27th August but I'll leave it to the enthusiasts to find out when you can 'Run the Lights' or even 'Walk the Lights'!!

Roy Smith

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EDITORIAL

Just a reminder: the **copy date** for our **Harvest 2024 issue** will be **Sunday, 15th September**. Any material submitted prior to that date would be most welcome – and please do remember that articles may be subject to editing!

Roy Smith (Editor)

* * * * *

COMMUNION STEWARDS

John Butterworth, Jacqueline Clarke, Barry Crossley,
Anne Garsed, Sue Hogarth, Olivia Parkinson, Laura Pavlikova.

* * * * *

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR Roy Smith 7 Southgate, Fulwood Preston PR2 3HX
Assisted by Ken Wales
Libby Stone
Computer layout John Butterworth
e-mail fmc magazine@yahoo.co.uk

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday

- 10.30 am Sunday Club Janet Wales
12.30 pm The Sunday Group (2nd Sun of month for years 5 to 8/9) Darren Arnold

Tuesday

- 10.00 am AM Club (fortnightly) Dave Topping
2.00 pm Friends at Fulwood (fortnightly) Edna Armstrong
5 - 7.00 pm Messy Church (half-termly) for families Delma Whitman
7.00 pm Bible Fellowship (monthly) Margaret Holmes
7.00 pm Book Club (monthly) Ken Wales

Wednesday

- 10 till 12.30 Welcome Wednesday - food, activities, games and New2U stall
10.30 am Midweek Communion with prayers
7.30 /8 pm WoW (monthly Women's Group) Wendy Gaskell
7.00 pm Community Choir Dave Topping

Thursday

- 2.30 pm Knitting Group Veronica Frost

Friday

- 9.30 am Toddlers' Club (under 5s & parents/carers) Janet Porter

Saturday

- 10.30 - noon Who Let The Dads Out? (monthly) Darren Arnold

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Monday

- 5.45 pm Beavers (6 - 8 yr) Fiona Jackson
7.00 pm Cubs (8 - 10½ yr) Dave Killingback
4.45 pm Squirrels (4 - 5 yr) Ketran Eastham

Tuesday

- 7.00 pm Scouts (10½ - 14 yr) Chris Thomas

Thursday

- 5.45 pm Rainbows (5 - 7 yr) Jayne Myatt
6.15 pm Brownies (7 - 10 yr) Diane Bird
7.30 pm Guides (10 - 14 yr) Hannah Jones

Friday

- 6.30 pm Escape (7- 11 yr) Darren Arnold
8.00 pm Youth Club Darren Arnold

Sunday

- 10.30 am Sunday Club Janet Wales
12.30 pm The Sunday Group (2nd Sun of month for years 5 to 8/9) Darren Arnold

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