# **Coastline**



14th

February

## A Magazine for the Dawlish Coast Churches

Edition 23 February 2024 Welcome Linda and Steve!

St George's Holcombe St Gregory's Dawlish St Mary's Cofton

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness;

through Jesus Christ your Son, Our Lord. Amen.

All items for March
Coastline to Editor by
18 February please.

See Benefice E-newsletter for

more details of events. To receive a regular emailing of **Coastline** and the newsletter email, contact **st.gregs@btinternet.com**. **This Magazine** is available free electronically to those who subscribe. Hard copies are provided free of charge but donations to church funds are always appreciated! **If you are not online** and would like a hard copy, please enquire at each church for the arrangements made.

### Message from the Revd Linda Cronin

Hi everyone,

Hopefully by the time you read this, we will have arrived in Dawlish, but probably still surrounded by boxes!

We are very much looking forward to joining you in Dawlish, Cofton, Holcombe and Starcross. When I say we that's my husband Steve and our 2 adult daughters Hannah and Rachel, along with my 12 year old lab/collie cross Bessie and the girls German Shepherd pups who are almost 1 year – Gracie and Samson. You will get to meet our 2 sons and their families at my licensing service!

Life or rather God has a funny old way of working and I am so thankful to God for bringing me. 'home'.

Home is funny isn't it – where is home? Well I left 'home' many years ago to go to college, then spent most of my adult life in London, where we met and married and brought up our children. And I have moved around a few times since being Ordained.

The Bible reminds us that this world is not our home, but that we look for the city that is to come.

So let's go outside, where Jesus is, where the action is—not trying to be privileged insiders, but taking our share in the abuse of Jesus. This "insider world" is not our home. We have our eyes peeled for the City about to come. Let's take our place outside with Jesus, no longer pouring out the sacrificial blood of animals but pouring out sacrificial praises from our lips to God in Jesus' name. Heb 13 The Message

I am sure we will make our home here in Dawlish and amongst you, but our eyes are 'peeled for the city about to come' and in the meantime 'let's go outside, where Jesus is, where the action is... Let's take our place outside with Jesus, ... pouring out sacrificial praises from our lips to God in Jesus'

I am so looking forward to it, as are my family as we make memories together – there are a few 'old haunts' we want to visit Loving and Gracious God,
We give you thanks for
this our Diocese and all
who build the living body
of Christ. Inspire us with
your vision. Lead us in the ways of
your Son, Jesus Christ. Give
wisdom and discernment to those
who will choose our new Bishop.
Help us to be faithful in our lives
and our prayers.
In Christ's name. Amen





Linda is to be Licensed as
Rector of the Dawlish
Coast Benefice on
Thursday 15th February,
7.30 pm at St Gregory's,
Dawlish.

All are welcome as we welcome Linda and her family!

already. But it'll also be interesting finding new places and new things together – so we are open to suggestions.

I know that many of you have been praying for us, as we have for you, and we look forward to this part of the journey that God has planned for us.

Well in just a very short time we will get to meet you- do please introduce yourself but to be honest I am hopeless at remembering names so please bear with me – it's not that I don't care!

With our love and prayers, Revd Linda Cronin and family

Contact details from 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024 01626 927281; 07534 369 035 revdlinda@icloud.com

## Senior Clergy Reflection – February 2024









February is the month when it's all about love!
The shops will be full of cards for Valentines Day

- we get to celebrate, thank, and declare our love to someone we know. There'll be boxes of chocolates and bunches of flowers, 'date nights' and meals out.

However, St Valentine's story isn't about romantic love. A Saint in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Valentine's story comes to prominence when, under house arrest of Judge Asterius he prays for healing for the Judge's daughter. She is healed, and the Judge, his family and 44 members of his household are baptised. Then under Claudius II he is again arrested for preaching the Gospel and martyred in 269AD.

It's only an anecdote of a letter written to Judge Asterius' daughter shortly before his death, that gives his story any link with romantic love. Far more prominent in his story is his love of the good news that Jesus had come to seek and save the lost. God expresses his unconditional love for us through the life death and resurrection of Jesus. Valentine's commitment was to tell of this sacrificial 'agape' love of God as far and as wide as he could, no matter the cost.

1 Corinthians 13 is all about love. The word for love used here is also 'agape' (in the original Greek). It's an active love, not just a feeling. The passage reminds us that without this love, life loses its meaning and shine; we become simply a resounding gong or clanging cymbal. This love is our response to God's saving work in Jesus. 'Agape' love is expressed in our lives through loving God and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

The life of St Valentine challenges us that a life of love is the way of the cross. But his impact on Judge Asterius and his family encourages us that a life of love means that others can come to know God's love for them. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13) Many people haven't yet heard of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and of God's love for them. Where are we, as churches and as individuals, being called to express God's love today?

### Rev'd Claire Reynolds, Diocesan Advisor for Disabilities and Additional Needs

Do what we can to help...Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her: "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."

"Thank you," she said. "But really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen...."

#### God's army

Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly, "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!"

Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."

Still water and still religion freeze the quickest. – *Anon* 

Christianity is the total commitment of all I know of me to all I know of Jesus Christ. — William Temple



## **Mothers' Union Report**

We started our December meeting by watching the Westcliff Primary Academy Christingle service, and afterwards heard the story of the first 'nativity play' in 1224 and looked at cribs brought by Members. These were then blessed by the Revd Caroline Luff. Also blessed was our 'Posada', a travelling crib which was passed round members during December, spending a night in each home. Housebound members were particularly pleased to host Mary, Joseph and the donkey overnight.

The 'Posada' was brought back into church during the Crib Service on Christmas Eve and blessed with the church crib, and a display was mounted at the back of the church throughout December, showing all the homes that had been visited.

In January, 16 of us met for a post-Christmas lunch in Reflections, much enjoyed by everyone. Our Branch is one of the largest in the Diocese, though only half our members are healthy and mobile enough to attend our regular meetings. As an experiment in 2024 we are moving our monthly meeting from the 1 st to the 2 nd Tuesday afternoon of the month, starting in March, and we are also hoping to provide a 'Warm Space' in the Upper Narthex on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

We have been asked to host a Diocesan service for Mary Sumner Day, 9th August, and for this we have booked St. Mary's Hall in Dawlish Warren (Mary Sumner founded Mothers' Union). The choice of venue is likely to be particularly popular because for many years the MU caravan was situated in the grounds of St. Mary's Hall, offering holidays to families who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford one.

Ann Leigh Branch Leader



## St George's News

" Happy New Year from all at St. George's".

St George's Church was adorned for Christmas with beautiful floral arrangements. Our thanks to the Thursday Flower Club. Together with both the traditional Christmas Tree and our Christmas Tree entry to the St. Greg's Christmas Tree Festival - thanks to Val, Liz and Angela for their beautiful designs. Both the Carol and Crib Services attracted full congregations. Thank you to Sonia who played the Harp to introduce and close the Carol Service.

The first Drop In was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January and a happy group enjoyed chatting, completing a Jig Saw and enjoying a cup of tea and yes more mince pies! The Next <u>Drop In</u> to the Church Rooms will be <u>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2 – 4</u> <u>pm.</u> All welcome.

The January "A Warmer Place" on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January saw 24 folk braving one of the coldest days to come along to the Church Rooms to enjoy a selection of Homemade Soups, rolls and cheese scones with a cup of tea. Thank you to the soup/scone makers (most people attending sampled at least two!) and donations raised £100 to our nominated charity The Children's Hospice South West. Marilyn Chamberlain.

St George's Carol Service and a Christmas window.

January daffodils



Ladies' Lunch

Tuesday 20th February 12 for 12.30pm Amelia's, Cofton. There is a new menu!!

Open to all ladies connected with our churches in any way. For details or to say that you are coming, please contact Valerie on 07970 255712 or Chris on 07771 842334.



## Small changes save urban church thousands of pounds in energy bills

"Small differences over time have made a huge difference - meaning we can love nature, love people and express our love for God."

A busy city church has saved thousands of pounds on its energy bills thanks to making a number of small changes to reduce its carbon footprint and help care for God's creation. Over the last year, Priest in Charge Revd Sera Rumble and a team of passionate volunteers at St Deny's Church, on the edge of the inner city of Southampton, have made subtle changes to reduce the church's energy consumption and as a result have saved an estimated £5,000 off their annual £20,000 utilities bill. The changes have included switching halogen lightbulbs for LED lighting; replacing kettles for tripleinsulated urns; insulating pipes throughout the building; monitoring electricity use through smart meters, buying heated pads for office chairs and installing automatic timers for lights and electric heaters.

St Deny's Church is housed in a large Victorian building attached to a 1990s church community centre - both are open and used seven days a week from 9am to 10pm serving the local neighbourhood through food projects, free Sunday dinners for the community, local arts and crafts, memory cafes and toddler and parent groups. The needs of the food projects and hospitality mean there are at least seven fridges and freezers onsite, and commercial ovens and multiple urns that are used heavily (and sometimes left on) – leading to high energy costs, which spurred the church to start tracking its energy consumption and identifying its 'hidden electricity drinkers.'

Revd Sera and volunteers - mechanical engineer Mike Strickland and historic buildings advisor Frank Green have been at the heart of all the changes, alongside the congregation and community. Revd Sera explains how they got started: "A lot of us are passionate about the environment and we do care. We had to take out a new electricity tariff and our electricity rates were going to go up huge, so it was an environmental and a financial push — they were the pull factors. And a few passionate people, including Frank, Mike, and other volunteers Dave and Rod, who were willing to make things happen."

Mike added: "We're the victims of our own success in a way. It's the fact we're serving our community and using our building which has pushed up our energy use. There's so many reasons as a church as to why we are tackling our energy use and doing our bit to reduce our carbon."

"Loving the local people, loving the planet, loving the people in this world who are struggling with conflict, loving our community and to be able to afford to do this and keep doing it. All of these reasons kind of build on the church's mission — we're not just doing this because we are 'greenies' (although we probably are!) - but this is part of loving the world out there and loving the world around here."

The church's mission to reduce its carbon footprint supports the Church of England's ambitious national Net Zero by 2030 programme, which aims to reduce carbon emissions from the energy used in its churches, schools, cathedrals, houses and other buildings, saving money by improving the energy efficiency of buildings, and switching to more renewable energy sources.

St Deny's Church has been identified as one of 600 churches across England with the highest energy use and will have access to a fully funded Net Zero Carbon Programme energy audit and a small grant to help fund additional green projects.

The church now plans to look at its heating system, insulation and switching to a greener tariff as it continues its journey to be Net Zero Carbon.

Published on Church of England website, 22nd January 2024—below from A Rocha

Whilst awards help to measure and celebrate progress and maintain momentum, they are not the end goal; rather, **Eco Church helps mobilise churches and Christians to care for the earth as part of our everyday work and witness**. In light of the increasing challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, we'll soon be **refreshing our Eco Church survey**, the framework for action at the centre of the Eco Church programme, to ensure the most impactful actions for God's creation.



## **Eco Tip for February**

<u>Go green for Lent.</u> The weeks leading up to Easter are a time for self-reflection, repentance and emulating Jesus' obedience to the Father. Is there something you'd like to give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet's well-being and enhance others' lives through sustainable, ecofriendly living?

Explore some of these changes at arocha.org.uk/go-greenfor-lent/

A series from the Parish Pump by Canon Paul Hardingham

## What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Exodus

This month we are looking at Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means departure, reminding us that Israel's flight out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part (chapters 1-19 & 32-34) is the story of an oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (chapters 20-31 & 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of God's people. The book introduces us to their *salvation* or deliverance, as *story*. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews His covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (20: 1-17).

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God Himself. In chapter 3 God reveals His name as YHWH or 'I am who I am' (3:14) to Moses. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament, expressed in the title 'the LORD'. To know God's name is to know Him, as well as His character ie His justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is the God who controls history, delivering the people out of Egypt, while the death of the Passover lamb points us to Jesus' death on the cross (1 Corinthians 5:7). God's promises of help remain true for us today: 'Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today' Exodus 14:13.

'This Exodus story continues to be a major means that God uses to draw men and women in trouble out of the mess of history into the kingdom of salvation.' (Eugene Peterson)

#### QUIZ—How much do you know about the book of Exodus?

- 1. Who rescued Moses from the basket in the bulrushes?
- a. Pharaoh's daughter b. Pharaoh's maid c. Pharaoh's wife
- 2. How many plagues did God send on Egypt? a. 5 b. 10 c. 15
- **3.** What was the second plague? a. frogs b. water turned to blood c. locusts
- 4. What is the name of the sea the Israelites crossed to escape the Egyptians?
- a. Dead Sea b. Black Sea c. Red Sea
- 5. At what place did the Israelites arrive to find the water was too bitter to drink and God made it sweet? a. Marah b. Elim c. Horeb
- 6. Which bird did God provide for meat in the wilderness? a. pigeon b. quail c. dove
- 7. What guided the Israelites through the wilderness? a. a star in the sky b. Moses had visions telling him where to lead the people c. a pillar of cloud and of fire
- 8. When there was no water to drink, how did Moses provide it?
- a. from earthen jars b. from his rod c. from a rock
- 9. On which mountain were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments
- a. Mt. Sinai b. Mt. Nebo c. Mt. of Olives
- **10. What Is the seventh commandment?** a. Thou shalt not covet b. Thou shalt not commit adultery c. Thou shalt not bear false witness cont on next page

#### the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself. In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

#### Cont from previous page

## 11. What was on top of the Ark of the Covenant?

a. two cherubim b. candlestick c. Aaron's rod

## 12. What compelled the Israelites to form and worship the golden calf?

a.they wanted to make a statue to the Lordb. they made it as a symbol of their freedom from slavery

b.. they didn't know what had happened to Moses

13. What was the name of a man who was given the Spirit of God, to enable him to become a good craftsman, and assist with the building of the tabernacle? a. Caleb b. Bezaleel c. Buz

**14. Who was Moses' successor?** a. Joshua b. Caleb c. Aaron

**15.** For how many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?

a. 20 b. 30 c. 40

#### Lenten Valentines

This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him.

Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD and that he was martyred on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found: 'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was His meaning.'

		J5: c
Quiz Answers	J : C	6 :4£
	q :9	13: b
	ь:ट	12: c
	J :4	11: a
	3: b	10: p
	d : 2	ь:9
	£ :£	o:8
		•

## Hundreds of Christians arrested under India's anti-conversion laws

The recent anti-conversion laws in India have led to the arrests of hundreds of Christians, according to church sources. UK-based Release International, which raises the voice of persecuted Christians worldwide, warns:

"The persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in India increases dramatically with each passing month." Twelve of India's 28 states have now passed anticonversion laws, and momentum is building to impose a national law across the whole of India. This would limit the freedom of religious minorities, including Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and Sikhs, from sharing their faith. Police are arresting Christians under a law that is intended to prevent conversion by force, but in practise prevents any Christians from sharing their faith – even though their right to do so is enshrined in the Indian constitution.

UCA news report that nearly 400 Christians have been arrested in the state of Uttar Pradesh since the law was passed three years ago. They say most of the 398 Christians arrested are Protestant pastors and church members. Uttar Pradesh is India's most populous state. It has long been a hotbed of 'Hindutva' – 'Hindu-ness' – which is championed by extreme Hindu nationalists who claim that to be Indian is to be Hindu. Observers warn that Hindutva religious nationalism is on the rise across the country. India is set to hold national elections in 2024, raising the possibility of further gains for the Hindu nationalist BJP.

"Given the prevailing trend, the persecution of Christians in India is likely to increase," warns Release International CEO Paul Robinson.

Last year in Manipur, ethnic/religious rioters killed about 175 people, burned down 300 churches, and drove some 60,000 people from their homes.

Release International has launched an appeal to help Christians in India. For more details go to: <a href="https://releaseinternational.org/campaign/thumleima/">https://releaseinternational.org/campaign/thumleima/</a>

See Also Barnabas Fund and Open Doors—Ed

## <u>The war in Gaza-Israel</u> – Bishops urge people to pray – and act

"The first thing Christians can do in response to war is to pray for peace and for those affected." That is the message of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. The Archbishops are praying for "those mourning, those injured, and all those fearing for their safety," and for "restraint on all sides, and renewed efforts towards a just peace for all." The Archbishops and Bishops are also encouraging Christians throughout the UK to join them in prayer, and to consider practical action, by supporting organisations "working to promote peace and human flourishing in the Middle East."

### **Ukraine - Two Years On**

Want to help/ Are you in a position to give a home to a refugee? Contact Ed for info.

Although Russian troops were massing near the borders of Ukraine in February 2022, we naively believed their denial that an attack was imminent. Since then, an all-out war has resulted in tens of thousands of civilian deaths, and hundreds of thousands of military casualties. A quarter of the Ukrainian population has been displaced. Eight million are now refugees, spread across Europe.

Few of us realised that a war between the two countries really started in 2014, when pro-Russian regions of Ukraine rebelled and Crimea was annexed.

Hostilities between the two countries had begun even earlier. Ukraine had joined the Soviet Union in 1922 and ten years later lost more than a million of its population in the 'Holodomor' famine, now widely regarded as genocide inflicted by Joseph Stalin, the Soviet leader. Relationships between the two countries have always been turbulent, and Russia's possessive attitude towards its neighbour is deeply resented.

Ukrainian refugees in the UK are mainly women and children, for their men are needed for war service. So, they have organised themselves into self-help groups, painstakingly learning to read and write in English, as well as working full or part-time and keeping up their morale by organising groups for young and old. Choirs have sprung up, often assisted by British musicians. One member wrote movingly of how singing helped her cope with the mental trauma of her homeland fighting for survival.

Ukrainians are unceasingly grateful for our hospitality, but they fear our compassion may wear thin, as our attention has been diverted by news of the barbarity between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Ven John Barton writing in The Parish Pump

## Exeter Cathedral

Sunday 28 April 2024, 12:30-3:30pm

You are invited to our special Eco Church event at Exeter Cathedral. Organised by our creation care team, it will celebrate the eco church scheme in Devon and all that has been achieved so far. Dave Bookless from.

A Rocha will be sharing a message alongside Bishop Jackie, and churches around the diocese will be sharing inspiring stories. Come along and be encouraged to take action in

your parish and mission community.

Tickets are free, but booking is required.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ecochurchcelebration-tickets

If you are not online talk to a friend who is!!

Two informative, entertaining evenings about our water and coastal location, in aid of our events in Dawlish on 7th, 8th 9th June.



### 7.30 -10 pm, Shaftesbury Theatre

#### Sat 3rd Feb—Wonderful Waters"

Film—Cornwall's Climate Stories: Down the Drain, Presentation from Zero Hour—the campaign for the Climate and Ecology Bill. Interval. Speaker form Exe Esturay Management Partnership. Q&A

### Sat 10th Feb-"Our Coastline"

South Devon Singers Part One, Environment Agency "testing Times", how the waters are tested, Interval, Associate Professor in Physiologiacl Ecology, Uni of Exeter, South Devon Singers, Part Two.

£10.00. 01626 863061; www.shaftesbury-dawlish.co.uk



It is dangerously possible for activity to be no more than a dizzy whirl around a central emptiness. – *Anon* 

No man ever said, at the end of his days, 'I have read my Bible too much, I have thought of God too much, I have prayed too much, I have been too careful with my soul.' – J C Ryle

**???** What do you get if you cross a jeep with a dog?

#### CONTACTS DURING THE VACANCY

There is currently no Rector or Licensed member of the clergy in our three churches. Services are being taken by the Ministry Team (Lay Ministers and retired priests). The service rota is being put together by the Revd Helen Bays. Contact details during the Vacancy are as follows.

<u>Church Office</u> 01626 864322. usually open Tuesday and Thursday mornings. At other times messages can be left. <u>st.gregs@btinternet.com</u>.

**Baptism and Marriage**—enquiries should be made to the Church Office as above.

Funerals—contact Lay Minister Mrs Margaret Noel—01626 863148; oldstok-

eroad57@outlook.com

Other urgent or pastoral enquiries
Please contact one of the Lay Ministers:

Margaret Noel: 01626 863148 Will Halse: 01626 866054 Ceri Lee: 07739 936286

- St Mary's Cofton: If you would like to receive regular news from St Mary's, please contact the Churchwarden, Valerie Jeffery, 01626 890401, valerie@coftonholidays.co.uk
- St Mary's Hall bookings: Rachel Hammond; 07713 929148; bookstmaryshall1@gmail.com

Website: www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

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