

Five Alive



The Magazine of the Redruth Team Ministry
St Euny Redruth, Christchurch Lanner, St Andrew Pencoys
St Andrew Redruth and St Stephen Treleigh
(REDRUTH PCC - registered charity no 1204231)



JANUARY 2025

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FIVE ALIVE MAGAZINE

Subscriptions: £8.00 per year or £1.00 per copy (please contact your churchwarden)

Articles and advertisements: please contact:-

Richard and Rosemary Robinson: magazine@redruthchurch.org.uk

Latest date for articles: FRIDAY 17 JANUARY

Stormy Weather

Last week, Storm Darragh swept through Cornwall, leaving chaos in its wake. Trees uprooted, power lines severed, and homes disrupted—a stark reminder of how storms, both literal and figurative, unsettle our lives. The winds howled, the rain lashed, and many of us found ourselves yearning for calm amidst the turbulence. In these moments, we might resonate with the disciples in Luke's Gospel, panicked as the storm raged while Jesus, seemingly indifferent, slept in the boat. Yet when they cried out, Jesus stood and spoke peace over the chaos, stilling both the storm and their fears.

The story of Christmas is no less disruptive. Mary and Joseph's lives were upended by angelic announcements, an unexpected pregnancy, and a gruelling journey to Bethlehem, only to face rejection and give birth in the raw, unsanitary surroundings of a stable. Luke's Gospel does not shy away from the realness of Christmas—God entering into our mess, discomfort, and vulnerability. Jesus' birth wasn't neat or serene; it was a direct intrusion of divine hope into a fractured and storm-tossed world.

Our lives, too, are filled with storms—unexpected challenges, disruptions, and moments of doubt. Yet the Christmas story reminds us that Jesus is present in the midst of these storms. He is Emmanuel, "God with us," not above or apart from our struggles, but right there in the boat with us. His presence doesn't always eliminate the storm immediately, but it assures us that we are not alone and that He is leading us through it. However, we may know someone who feels lost at sea and surrounded by a storm this Christmas, who may need the hope that Christ brings.

The hope of Christmas lies in this profound truth: God has entered our world through his son to bring redemption and peace. Just as the storm eventually passes and the light returns, coming heralds a new dawn. God does not thunder his way into the world but through a gentle whisper, through a Christ child. His presence in our lives transforms our perspective, giving us the strength to endure and the assurance that He is working all things for good. Maybe these stormy seasons can push us closer to God rather than further away.

As we reflect on this season may we remember God's promise in Psalm 121 which reminds us, 'He will not let (my) foot slip'. He will never leave us or forsake us. This Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming, let us hold fast to the hope that He is with us—he won't let us slip, he sees us through the storms, the disruptions, and the uncertainties. He is not only our calm but our guide, leading us toward a future filled with peace and restoration. May we find in Him the courage to weather life's tempests and the joy of knowing that His light will never be extinguished, his hope is without end. He is the Prince of peace.

God bless & Merry Christmas

Revd Chris Harrigan

ST STEPHEN TRELEIGH



As noted by Mary in the last magazine, we at Treleigh had a lot of things to look forward to: on Wednesday 13th November a group of Ladies enjoyed a browsing and shopping trip to Trelawney Garden Centre, Wadebridge where there was a great festive atmosphere. Lunch was enjoyed prior to our shopping and then tea and cake before the drive home. Our thanks go as always to Mel for being our happy chauffeur. Although the day did not dawn well on Saturday, 23rd November our 'Christmas Fayre' was a joyful occasion in spite of the weather, with fun, enjoyment and background music while stalls were searched for a bargain. Cakes, preserves, books and crafts and raffle tickets were bought, the prizes for which covered the table. Soup lunches and cake and a cuppa were popular, so thank you to all who came and participated in our fundraiser for church funds. The following day we joined the Parish Service at Christchurch for their Patronal Service of Holy Communion. On Advent Sunday, St. Euny congregation joined us for our service of Sung Holy Communion, led by Reverend Chris and the sermon was given by Reverend Becca. The Advent Crown had been beautifully made by Carol and Doreen and the 1st purple candle was lit by one of our young church members who has recently joined us with her family. In the evening, the Advent Meditation Service at St. Euny was a wonderful way to start the season of waiting for the Christ Child. There were Hymns, Prayers and meaningful poems written by Avril, Sheila and Jill. On Thursday afternoon, 5th December, we welcomed Treleigh School Early Years children into church where they performed their Nativity. These children, only 4 or 5 years old, in their lovely costumes, made by parents and staff, gave a heart-warming performance and amazingly remembered all the words and actions of their songs. They were a joy to watch and are a credit to the school and all who teach and care for them. On Sunday 8th December the storm had damaged a power line so we had no lighting or heating. Forewarned, we came wearing extra layers of clothing and Reverend Becca led us in a candlelit service of Holy Communion, with Charlie playing the piano for all the hymns and responses. Tuesday 10th was a busy day with the church full for Treleigh School Christingle at 2pm and the Tea Party in the Hall following that. The next one being on Tuesday afternoon, 14th January 2025. On Thursday 12th December following the 10am service of Holy Communion, the Busy Bees Nursery children filed into church in their authentic costumes to perform their Nativity. Watching these dear little children avidly responding to Fr. Peter's storytelling and 'doing the actions' while singing some Christmas Carols was heart-warming and at times comical. One little girl, only about 3 years old, was Mary and sang the first verse of Away in a Manger, solo, amazing. By the time this goes to print, on 15th December at 6pm we will have had our Carol Service with Treleigh School Choir, a service we all look forward to. On Christmas Eve at 3pm we have our Crib Service which is not only for children but adults also and later at 9pm we have our beautiful Sung Bethlehem Mass. At 10.30am on Boxing Day, we celebrate our St. Stephen's Patronal Sung Eucharist and we hope that some of our friends from our sister churches may be able to join us, however, we understand that many will have family staying or may be away. Fr. Peter has celebrated this service for many years now and we always end with cake and fizz before going home to continue our Christmas celebrations with our families. We wish everyone a Peaceful and Joyful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Christine Cunningham

CHRISTCHURCH LANNER



Christchurch remains open 10.00am– 4.00pm and Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at 9.30am. The third Sunday is a Communion with new music and each Wednesday there is a Prayer Book Communion Service at 11.00am.

The LAST Sunday of each month will continue to revolve through the six worship settings and starts at 10.30am. In addition, the FIRST Sunday of each month will alternate between the settings with their Sunday Service at the same time:

ST ANDREW, REDRUTH & CHRISTCHURCH, LANNER / 9.30am

ST EUNY, CHURCHTOWN & ST STEPHEN, TRELEIGH / 11.15am

THE FLAPJACK COMMUNITY (St Andrew, Pencoy's & Four Lanes Chapel) are already linked at 11.15am.

THE CHRISTCHURCH SUPPER CLUB: Christchurch enjoys a SUPPER CLUB every three months. There is always lots of food etc. brought by the guests and a good time, by candlelight is had by all. The next Supper Club date is to be held on SATURDAY JANUARY 25 at 7.00pm.

OTHER EVENTS AT CHRISTCHURCH: *Margaret's Last Monday Tea Party 2.00pm – 4.00pm.*

You may have missed the November party, so how about coming along to the December one on ***Monday December 30.*** You will be VERY welcome. The **JANUARY PARTY** is on **MONDAY JANUARY 27**

OTHER EVENTS: The games afternoons and the film nights are advertised in the weekly pew sheet.

CURNOW SCHOOL: The gathered congregation was ready to rejoice when the minibuses rolled up and students from Curnow Senior School come to be part of the life of Christchurch. They would have brought their 'interactive' Christingles and would have had a really enjoyable time. **BUT at 9.00am the call came .. NO TRANSPORT.** So, FP and Linda went to the school and had a wow!!!

THE FESTIVAL OF THE PRESENTATION: Although February 2 is one of the traditional days to create Christingles there are some diary clashes. This means that the service at Christchurch may have to be delayed. More details when they are known.

STOP PRESS: THE LIVE NATIVITY DATE IS YET TO BE FINALISED, BUT IT WILL NOT BE AS HOPED ON THE FESTIVAL OF THE EPIPHANY, JANUARY 6 2025.

With God's blessings to the parish, and to Rector Rebecca especially as a new year begins. May we all greet 2025 with open hearts and open minds.

Continued

..... **CHRISTCHURCH** *continued*

TRESWITHIAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

The 'Don't Stop Believing Young People's Theatre Group' (DSB) began about 12 years ago. The group began as SEARCHLIGHT ended and at its height worked with over 30 young people. You may remember the pantomimes performed in Porthleven, concerts at Christchurch and the amazing 'Theatre Weeks' that formed part of the SEARCHLIGHT Summer Holiday Project. But all that was before the pandemic. During that time the young people grew up, moved away, started to train at drama and dance colleges, and lost contact.

So, now there are SEVEN faithful members. They meet each Saturday at Christchurch, 3pm – 5pm., and remain a community group. That small group was invited to provide a Nativity Tableau for the annual Treswithan Memorial Service. The seven young people worked hard on the Tableau, as well enjoying workshops in puppetry, set building and mask making.

The young people, joined by Reuben, Rev'd Rebecca's son as the narrator, presented the Tableau on December 9. They were with a community choir, members of Redruth Town Band, two Funeral Celebrants and staff from Cornwall Funeral Services.

The young people performed the Christmas message with great style and enthusiasm. Their work offered a beautiful contrast to the rush and spending that so dominates our preparations for Christmas Day.

WELL DONE DSB. YOU DID SO WELL, AND, THANKYOU FOR STAYING WITH THE GROUP.



ST EUNY

Well, that was some wind on Saturday 7th December. Not quite hurricane force, but enough to blow us off course if we let it. The brave people of Redruth failed to be deterred, however, and our numbers attending wreath making exceeded previous sessions, so a huge thank-you to all who helped in any way, it was a great team effort, and a thank you to all who came to support our event. At the time of writing we have not yet held our second Saturday Christmas wreaths, soups and stalls, so do not know our total takings, but a healthy sum has already been raised. This will, we hope, pay a large contribution to our heating bill which will enable us to continue to open on Wednesdays for Open Café and at other times.

The Advent Carols Event (ACE) with Meditation was well received, with several 'poems written and read by members of our wider congregation. It was most impressive seeing the talent displayed in writing and presenting this moving start to the Advent season.

The Christingle service at St Euny will be held at 3.00pm on the afternoon of Sunday 22nd December. This is an earlier time than in previous years, so please do take note of the time and invite anyone of any age to come along and enjoy this custom. Although it is relatively new in the United Kingdom, the practice originated in the Moravian Church in Germany (originally from modern Czech Republic), one of the oldest Protestant movements in Europe. In 1747 it was used by the Bishop Johannes de Watteville, priest, as a physical way to demonstrate to children the love and happiness of the message of Jesus. It has become so well known in our country that it offers a wonderful opportunity to open the church doors to the wider community and to explain the Christian message at Christmas time in a different way. The Moravian Church was the first Protestant Church to send missionaries and so their priests thought imaginatively about how to explain and spread their beliefs. They travelled to many places, including North and South America, The Caribbean, Africa and the Far East, and also to England. Their missionary work to Labrador in northern Canada was rooted in England and permission given by George 111 with the aim of decreasing tensions between the traders and the Inuit people in that region. In recognition of the German roots, we will serve German Christmas biscuits for refreshments after the event.

At 6.00pm on Christmas Eve we will hold a service of lessons and carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. We hope that we will welcome as many as we did last year.

As advertised previously, Open Café will not be open on Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day. We will be open as usual on the following Wednesday, which is New Year's Day, from 2.00-4.00pm, when we will have a celebratory festive tea.

On 29th December, the first Sunday following Christmas Day, the Cornish Carol Service will be held in St Euny at 3.00pm. The service sheets will be bilingual, so everyone can follow the words. This year the last lesson, traditionally read by the Grand Bard, will be read by our own Jenefer Lowe. Please do try to support this event and advertise it amongst your friends, Everyone is welcome.

Looking forward to 2025, 'Sapphire and the Knockers' will be performed three times, on Friday evening 10th January, Saturday matinee and Saturday evening 11th January, It promises to be as riotous as last year, so please do ensure that you save the date.

Linda Beskeen

St. Andrew Pencoys with Four Lanes Methodist Church

'FLAPJACK'

Worshipping, praying and working together as 'One in Christ'
St. Andrew's Church remains open daily from about 10am until 4pm with optional
Covid-safe precautions in place.

We thank everyone who came to our **First Sunday Evening Event**, the Advent Service at St. Euny Church on 1st December when £150 was raised for the St. Petroc's Christmas Appeal. The next Event will be at St. Andrew's Pencoys on Sunday **5th January** (Twelfth Night) at 6pm, our Epiphany Carol Service when all are welcome. ("If music be the food of love, play on" – from Shakespeare's play of the same name)

Flapjack events and services during **January** will be:
Said Holy Communion each Wednesday at 6pm at St. Andrew's Pencoys

Saturday 4 January	First Saturday Quiz, Pencoys Hall 6pm Tin & Tonic Concert, St. Andrew's Pencoys 7.30pm
Sunday 5 January	Flapjack Holy Communion Covenant Service Methodist Church 11.15am Lighthouse young people's event 3–5pm Methodist Church Epiphany Carols at St. Andrew's Pencoys 6pm (see above)
Sunday 12 January	Flapjack Family Event with Holy Communion 11.15am (St. A.)
Saturday 18 January	Games Evening (Bingo) Pencoys Hall 6 – 8pm
Sunday 19 January	Service of the Word, Methodist Church 11.15am Said H.C. St. Andrew's Pencoys 6pm
Saturday 25 January	Bangers & Mash Methodist Church 11am
Sunday 26 January	PARISH Holy Communion St. Euny Church, Redruth 10.30am Last-Sunday Teatime Celebration Pencoys Hall 4-5pm

Christmas Tree Exhibition: We thank everyone who participated in our Christmas Tree Exhibition, which has given our church a wonderful festive atmosphere, and we wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year in 2025.

Please note that all **Flapjack Sunday morning** services will be held at the Methodist Church from **5th January until Easter Sunday, 20th April** (also at the Methodist Church). Third Sunday and Wednesday evening H.C. services remain at St. Andrew's.

The Warm Wednesday afternoons will continue at Four Lanes Methodist Church from 2–4pm on 15th and 29th January all are welcome.

Jill Tolputt

ST ANDREW REDRUTH

Brassed Off!

A short story in parts by Pie Louis-Smith

Tuesdays had become a permanent fixture in Sally's life. After walking her elderly Jack Russell Monty, it was Holy Communion at St. Jude's followed by coffee at the Garden Centre with whoever was free at that time. Failing that, it was a little light shopping at Sainsbury's. It all helped to pass the time; the sometimes very lonely hours when she felt the day would never end.

Sally had fallen into a vague pattern of life since her husband Brad had died and Tuesdays had become some kind of a life raft. She felt the sameness, the familiar routine of being in church with those that cared for her, lifted her, just for a while out of her abyss of aching sadness. Monty, dear old Monty had been a God send, quite literally. When the long nights seemed to go on forever, accompanied by numerous cups of tea and house prowling, Monty had taken to getting on her bed, wriggling up close to her and nestling under her arm. He seemed to somehow understand her pain. His big brown eyes watched her with concern. This tiny offering of love and caring often brought a smile to Sally's lips, just fleetingly. The pair would then drift into some restless pattern of semi sleep, waiting for the dawn to finally arrive.

Some Tuesdays had also become brass cleaning duties with two of her dear friends, Beths and Angie which they did following Communion. This particular Tuesday it seemed "duty called."

Sally purposely arrived early for church. Old John, she knew, would have opened the heavy, old wooden doors at 8.30am sharp. Sally loved old Johns predictability, something to do with his years in the army no doubt but it made him dependable, someone that she greatly trusted.

Sitting alone on a hard wooden pew Sally could, for a moment, be just mindless, empty, taking in the very familiar and comforting atmosphere and smell. She found herself often slipping into some kind of prayer like conversation. Was it her thoughts or was she really talking to God? She was never quite sure and yet often, very often, she was aware of resolution as if she had received an answer to some cryptic question.

The inner door banged, accompanied by chatter and her peace was shattered. Beths and Angie sashayed down the aisle, gently giggling, their joie de vivre bursting like sparkle filled balloons. Sally found the noise infectious and broke out in a smile. Others began to come through the doors and then Jerry the Vicar appeared.

Beth's and Angie snuck in beside her, reaching out with cold hands to squeeze her arm lovingly and with genuine care. Sally loved this place and these people so very much. She settled back, filled with an inner warmth and waited for the service to begin. She felt ready for whatever the day was about to throw at her even if it was just cleaning the church brasses.

New Bishop of Truro announced

Downing Street has announced that His Majesty The King has approved the nomination of the Rt Revd David Williams as the 17th Bishop of Truro.

David is currently the Bishop of Basingstoke, a position he has held since 2014. Prior to his consecration in 2014, David was a parish priest for over 25 years.

Ordained in 1989, David began his ministry as a curate in Ecclesall, Sheffield Diocese. He was a priest in Dore before being appointed Rural Dean of Ecclesall in 1997. In 2002 he became the vicar of Christ Church in Winchester and was made an honorary canon of Winchester Cathedral in 2012.



On his appointment, David said: “I can't tell you how excited I am to be coming to the Diocese of Truro. It's been an astonishing journey, enriched by so many people I've met on the way, people who clearly have been praying; people who've been seeking wisdom for the future of the church in Cornwall.

“What a remarkable place this is! I've worked in and visited Cornwall many times over the last 30 years and each time have come back feeling refreshed and renewed - both spiritually and physically.

I am, at heart, a parish priest. I want to continue working for the flourishing of local churches. The local church is vital to a local community. It's a place where we encounter God. It's a place where you're encouraged and comforted when you're in trouble. It's also a place where we are challenged and learn how to live in God's light.

“So, as I look forward to coming to this place, I wonder if I can ask you to pray with me, as I will pray for you, that we would be faithful to who God is and what he calls us to be. That we would travel together, would go on a new adventure together to discover the goodness of God, not in some distant place, but in our own localities. May the Lord bless you.”

David, along with his wife Helen, has been warmly welcomed by the Bishop of St Germans, the Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, who has been acting Bishop of Truro since the departure of Bishop Philip Mounstephen. Bishop Hugh said: “I am delighted by David's appointment and am looking forward to welcoming him and working with him. His wealth of experience, love of people and deep faith will inspire us on, as we continue to work for a fruitful and sustainable church in Cornwall.”

It is likely that Bishop David will be installed in Spring 2025 when a service to welcome him as bishop will take place.

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REEF fund Donation

Following approval by the church council we have made two donations from the REEF funds held of £350 each to Cornwall Hospice Care for St Julia's Hospice at Hayle and the DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal.

The monies held in this fund are collected at the Parish fifth Sunday services of which there are about 4 in the year. Thank you to everyone who has supported these important causes.

Richard Robinson
Treasurer

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

11 December 2024	Geoffrey Heather	St Euny
12 December 2024	William Glen Trudgeon	St Stephen Treleigh

INTERMENT OF ASHES

11 November 2024	Michael Bond	St Euny
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CHRISTMAS QUIZ **How well did you do?**

ANSWERS

1.364; 2. Jose Feliciano; 3. Argentina; 4. A gingerbread house; 5. Buche de Noel;
6. December 25; 7. Yule; 8. Sir Henry Cole; 9. 'Twas the Night Before Christmas;
10. A year of Good Fortune; 11. Franklin Pierce; 12. Tinsel; 13. Washington Irving;
14. 2004; 15. This Christmas

BOOK CLUB

Six of us met at Margaret's house on Monday 2nd Dec, to discuss this month's book which is 'In My Father's House' by Joseph O'Connor. This is fiction, but based on the true story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty and the Rome Escape Line, set up in the war to help escaped Allied prisoners (and others) who made their way to Rome hoping to find shelter in the Vatican.

Father O'Flaherty was the subject of a BBC 'This is Your Life' and the author uses the device of statements and interviews with O'Flaherty's colleagues to describe how they saw him and the work of the Line.

Running through the book is the story of a plan to deliver money, on Christmas Eve, to the many helpers and supporters hiding escapees. The tension is palpable – will they succeed; or will the Germans capture O'Flaherty and break the line?

We had a lively discussion and agreed that this is an excellent novel that vividly brings to life the extreme tensions and danger of that time, and the risks ordinary people were prepared to run to help others. We felt that seeing the story from the viewpoints of the different participants is an interesting and revealing way of illustrating the different characters involved and how they interacted.

The story led us to discuss the role of the Vatican establishment in its dealings with the Germans, something that is still contentious. We also went on to talk about the different ways – films and wartime memoirs – which have used this same story.

Altogether an excellent book and a good discussion.

Next month's book club meets on Monday 6th January when we will be talking about 'What are you looking for in the Library' by Michiko Aoyama. Translated from the Japanese, this relates five loosely connected stories of five different people who visit a community library in Tokyo, and find they are changed for the better by an unexpected book recommendation.

Sounds interesting!

In February we are reading Louisa May Alcott's 'Little Women'. This is the first classic we have read and should make quite a change from our usual books.



If you love books and good company, why not give us a try? We meet on the first Monday of every month at Margaret Saville's house, and everyone is welcome.

We are now meeting on the first Monday of each month at 10:00am. To find out more, please ring Margaret Saville on 07930 471 837. We will next meet on Monday 06 January at 10:00am. Do come along, there is always room for more.

Sandra Ager

My way to Compostela

Day 14 part 2

Cardenula to Rabe de las Calzados

We left Burgos via the way-marked route which took us through the Parque El Parral. As we exited the Parque via a small gate, there was a tiny Chapel in front of us dedicated to a French Saint, San Amaro de Peregrino. It's recorded that on his return from Santiago he decided to settle here and dedicate his life to the care of Pilgrims who passed by, a number of miracles are attributed to him. Close by was also the 12th century Hospital del Ray [Kings hospital] a place of care for injured or sick pilgrims. It is now the Law faculty of Burgos University. From this point we had to keep a close eye on the traffic as we navigated our way through the traffic to pick up the route again [this blasted N-120 gets everywhere] before leaving suburbia behind us to pick up the Camino pathway. For the next 2.5Km we trudged along the Camino N.S de Pilar, with a poplar plantation on our right and the State Prison on our left. As I paused for a few minutes to look at its imposing twin watch towers, I reflected on the prisoners that would have been incarcerated there during the Civil War and how many were tortured and murdered by the Franco regime. The history book of the Year 2012 by the historian Paul Preston tells of the untold Holocaust of the Spanish Civil war. More than 200,000 were murdered by the regime and countless more men, women and children tortured and abused by his troops. A telling and disturbing account of what went on during the civil war and afterwards, its ramifications are still present today. Having avoided incarceration we continued on our track passing under a railway bridge and for the next 7Km by way of footbridges and underpasses we avoid the N-120 to reach the village of Tardajos [pop 700] from which we have a glimpse of our intended stop for the night, so for the next 3.3Km we plod on crossing the Rio Urbel to the Village of Rabe` de las Calzadas. Rabe` is the Spanish for causeway as this village straddles what was marsh land. With a population of 190 the village has 2 albergues and one bar, its significance is that it sits at the foot of the Meseta the high farming plateau of this province. Our accommodation for the night consisted of 24 beds in 4 rooms with basic facilities, so it was that we had to head for the one bar for the set pilgrim menu. There we had the pleasure of meeting up with the American couple Oss and Sheri who we first met in Roncesvalles 14 days ago. So after an enjoyable evening we headed to bed in anticipation of the steep 1000metre climb to the Meseta the next morning.

Len Cunningham

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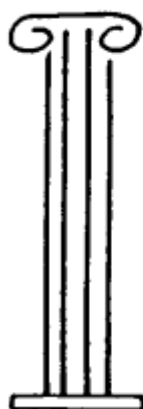


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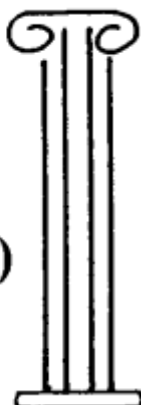
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