

Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

Christ Church, Dalbeattie



Issue No. 10 December 2015/January 2016

Services at Christ Church (unless otherwise stated)

December

| | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|------------|---|
| 6th | Second Sunday of Advent | 8.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 13th | Third Sunday of Advent | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 20th | Fourth Sunday of Advent | 10.30 a.m. | Carol Service & Holy Communion |
| | 6.30 p.m. | | Candlelight Carol Service at Dalbeattie Parish Church |
| | 7.00 p.m. | | Carol Service at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas |
| 24th | Christmas Eve | 4.00 p.m. | Christingle Service at St Ninian's, CD |
| | | 10.00 p.m. | First Eucharist of Christmas |
| | | 11.30 p.m. | First Eucharist of Christmas at St Ninian's, CD |
| 25th | Christmas Day | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| | | 11.00 a.m. | Family Service at St Ninian's, CD |
| | | 12.00 noon | Holy Communion at St Ninian's, CD |
| 26th | St Stephen the Martyr | 10.15 a.m. | Holy Communion at St Ninian's, CD |
| 27th | St John the Evangelist | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 28th | The Holy Innocents | 10.15 a.m. | Holy Communion (Reserved Sacrament) |

January

| | | | |
|------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 3rd | Second Sunday after Christmas | 8.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 10th | First Sunday after the Epiphany | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 17th | Second Sunday after the Epiphany | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 18th | Start of the <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> | | details to follow |
| 24th | Third Sunday after the Epiphany | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 25th | End of the <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> | | details to follow |
| 31st | Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |

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| Midweek Service Thursday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion |
|---|

There is a service of **Holy Communion** at **8.30 a.m.** on the **first Sunday** of the month at **Christ Church** and a service **every Sunday** at **St Ninian's, Castle Douglas**.

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Munches Park Care Home, Dalbeattie | Ecumenical Service 2.00 p.m. |
| Third Sunday in the month | All Welcome |

The Gift of Happiness Yvette Jane

Consider reducing your intake of negative news. Politics, wars and economic fluctuations can be overwhelming and gloomy so, without disconnecting altogether, remember to take a break from the Internet, TV and radio.

A message from our Priest-in-Charge the Revd Canon David Bayne

Dear Friends

As one ecclesiastical year gives way to another on Advent Sunday, it would be all-too-easy to give way to despair over the terrible events of the weeks and months just past and over the prospects for humanity in the year to come. The waves of refugees rolling over Europe and South-East Asia; the growing interference of the great powers in the desperate, multi-faceted conflict in Syria/Iraq; the increasingly sadistic and nihilistic terrorist attacks around the world; the sense of frustrated futility in democratic politics; the evidence of strains of antibiotic-resistant bacteria; the exploding human population - these and many other negative factors combine to make the outlook as bleak as any I can remember. It is easy to see why millenarian Christians are expecting the Apocalypse or the Rapture on a daily basis. And it isn't even safe (apparently) for the rest of us to console ourselves with a bacon sarnie or a sausage roll!

Yet, into the darkening year and the darkening mood, in 2015 as in every year, steals the Advent hope - the coming Christ. A hope heralded by the lighting of a single candle on Advent Sunday and whose fulfilment begins each Christmas Midnight with the spine-tingling declaration in the prologue to John's Gospel that Jesus is the true light coming into the world, "and the darkness has never overcome it." This is not just a memory or a metaphor but, for us, it is living truth: that God became a human being in Jesus to lead us out of the darkness of the human condition by that unconquerable light. The light of Christ, but the dim, warm glow from a stable for now, grows into the Light of the World in his teaching and example, dazzles the senses at the Resurrection, and ultimately bursts into flames of fire at Pentecost, when we, his followers, are commissioned to take his light into all the world.

It is that hope, of a humanity enlightened by Christ, that is our faith's greatest gift to the world - a hope constantly seeking progress in the accumulation of acts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, that St. Paul called the fruits of the Spirit. Like the forests of candles we have witnessed in Paris in recent days: individually, mere points of light, but together, banishing the darkness. I am reminded of the last stanza of A.H. Clough's ***"Say not the struggle naught availeth"***.

And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light;
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly!
But westward, look, the land is bright!

May this Advent bring you hope, and Christmas bring you joy, in the light of Jesus Christ our Lord.

David Bayne

Please turn to page 9 for details about the Advent Studies Course Canon Bayne is holding at St Ninian's in December.



A message from our Honorary Assistant Priest, the Revd. Mark RS Smith

Happy Advent to all our readers !

Advent is the time leading up to Christmas. In the Church's Year it is from Advent Sunday to Christmas Eve **NOT** from the day after Bonfire Night to Christmas Eve as per the supermarket calendar. (Nor does Easter start on Boxing Day.)

Advent means 'coming' and for centuries Christians round the world have used it as a time of preparation for the big celebration. It's a bit like Lent is to Easter, but with less publicity and a lower profile !

Advent highlights the three-dimensional nature of our faith:

1. Jesus came down at Christmas for YOU.
2. Jesus wants to come into YOUR life today.
3. Jesus will come again on the Last Day and wants YOU to be ready.

In our Service of Lessons and Carols, our Christmas Eve Communion, our Christmas Day worship and our regular Sunday Services, we will learn together the truth about the baby born to die – the most precious Christmas gift anyone can receive ... anytime !

Jesus is the reason for the season ... but Jesus is not just for Christmas, He's for YOUR life !

Will the Christ-child be integral to your celebrations this year?

Oh, by the way ... Happy Christmas (when it comes)

May God Bless you

Edith Thorp, Lay Representative reports that:

The AGM of the Galloway Regional Council was preceded by the Celebration of the Eucharist. The President was the incoming Chair, the Revd John Macleod (Annandale Group); the preacher Bishop Gregor spoke about Saint Margaret of Scotland and Sainthood.

After an excellent repast, the Bishop addressed the Council. He had been invited to speak about **the place and function of Regional Councils within the Diocesan Constitution**. As this topic is still in the process of discussion within the Bishop's Staff Group, he was not able to talk about it. He did, however, give a talk that he had given to a Roman Catholic gathering at the time of the celebrations for St John Ogilvie at the beginning of the year and how he, as an Anglican, saw how Pope John Paul II and subsequent Popes were involved in ecumenism. Vatican II was part of this process, and he commented that the present Pope was listening to his people and allowing comments, that might be construed as dissension, to be heard and listened to, and so enabling a wider understanding of the Christian faith today, which could help in the ecumenical dialogue.

AGM business: Appointments - Chair, Revd John MacLeod; Vice Chair, Mr David Rose (Lockerbie). The Treasurer reported £98.99 to hand; signatories to remain as is. Application for grants; Lockerbie's application for monies to replace pews with chairs was granted. Various events were publicised. Reports from Charges, received. The January meeting is to be at St Ninian's at lunchtime; speaker agreed.

The Council's attention was drawn to the Government's draft proposals for changes in NHS/Social Services organisation/provision, and there was urgent need for awareness of these changes. Information could be accessed through the library or the surgery on these proposals and comments be made on them.

A long but enjoyable meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the Christ Church Congregation was held in Church on Sunday, 22nd November during the 10.30 a.m. service of Sung Eucharist.

During his sermon Canon Bayne told the Congregation that the watchword for the next year should be **Christ is King**. Christ is our King not only in the past or for the future but for the here and now.

The main points from the Rector's report:

- ◇ He thanked each one of us for our faithfulness.
- ◇ He advised of the Revd Mark Smith appointment as a Non-Stipendiary Minister (NSM), Mark will be primarily responsible for the pastoral care of the Congregation of Christ Church. Canon Bayne responsible for the administrative work of our charge.
- ◇ The Tower, as we all know, has been the main problem during the last year. The plans have been passed subject to two bat surveys; the first one has been carried out (no bats); the second one will be carried out in the spring. Providing there are no bats the plans for the work will be drawn up and put out to tender. It is estimated that the work will cost in the region of £30K. Grants for funding will be sought.
- ◇ Thanks were given to all the people who have worked so hard to keep the Church 'on the road'.

Main points from the Reports from the Office Bearers and Congregational Groups

- ◇ **Protection of Vulnerable Groups** the training event planned for November had to be cancelled, it is planned that it be rescheduled in the spring of 2016.
- ◇ **Growing with God's Grace MAP Year 2** Bishop Gregor will visit in March 2016 to review Year 2. Edith Thorp asked that we think about how we wish to go forward with targets for Year 3.
- ◇ **Link Visiting** Canon Bayne and the Revd Beryl Scott to discuss the best way ahead for this.
- ◇ **Dalbeattie Hard of Hearing Group** Jenny Edkins reported that she has been invited to the Munches Care Home to assist the residents in situ.

Please turn to the back cover to note the changes to the holders of the various posts.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2015

Our Harvest Festival was held on the 4th October; as last year donations were asked for the Stewartry Food Bank. We were delighted that friends from St Peter's, Dalbeattie and from the wider community joined us for what was an inspiring Service.

There is a box at the back of the Church every week for donations for this worthy cause.



The following is an update from the website of St Peter's, Dalbeattie:

"Thanks to your generosity we now have plenty of all basic items needed for food parcels. However last year we provided 35 Christmas Parcels, so perhaps you could consider this in the donations in the coming weeks."



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Muriel Palmer reports: At **Christ Church**, the Remembrance part of the service was led by the Revd Beryl Scott; the Revd Richard Stephens led the Intercessions and the Revd Mark Smith was the celebrant at the Eucharist. Mr George Sims played the last post and reveille.

This year Nicholas and I decided to attend the Remembrance Service at Dalbeattie Parish Church; this was because we wanted to be in the same church as the British Legion Scotland and the Dalbeattie Uniformed organisations. Mr Brian Woodburn as Chaplain to the Sea Cadets was with the Sea Cadets at the Parish Church. It took us back to the many Remembrance services we have attended in England; especially those at Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock.

In spite of the horrendous weather, about 70 people as well as the Legion and uniformed organisations, attended the Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Colliston Park. Mr George Sims was in action again, after the service I mentioned the weather, George told me it was not the worst weather he had played in; many years ago in Southport there were hailstones!!



The Kohima Epitaph

When you go home,
Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow,
We gave our today.

In the last magazine when I wrote about my father's time in Burma during WW2 I invited stories from readers of the magazine. **Geoff Greenwood** has written a short account of his father's time with the **Chindits**. MP

MY DAD AND THE CHINDITS

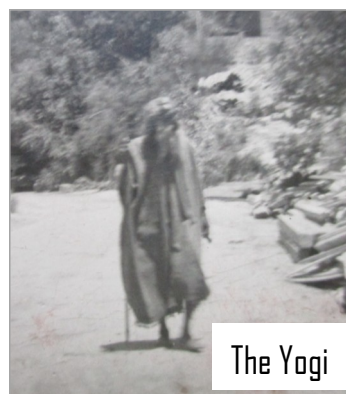
During WW2 my dad, John Nicholson Greenwood, was in the second battalion of the **King's Own Royal Regiment** who were used to make part of the guerrilla unit known as the **Chindits** led by Brigadier Wingate. Quite a change from being a window-cleaner in Bradford! The name comes from a mythical beast which guarded the temples. When Japan invaded Burma, then part of the British Empire, it was decided in 1942 to use the Chindits to disrupt enemy movements and communication from behind enemy lines. As the main war effort was still in Europe, the unit was limited in resources and used a lot of older troops. My father was 27 in 1942, but was A1 fit in army terms. So after training in the south of England the unit was sent to Burma.

The Chindits operated under arduous conditions including swamps, jungles and mountains. Troops, supplies and donkeys were dropped in the jungle by glider. Casualty rates were high, not just from enemy fire. My father had four bouts of malaria and hepatitis. Donkeys were the only practical way of carrying kit and artillery in the jungle. Dad said his best friend was his donkey, so he looked after it! There were no luxuries in the jungle and I remember one photo of him looking like a hippy, tanned with long hair and a beard. He mentioned one occasion when they were marching through a clearing in the jungle they saw a wandering yogi who looked at them and said "Fools!" and walked off. Whoever he was, he made an impression on my dad.

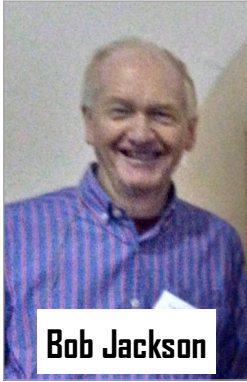
My father didn't talk a lot about the war but mentioned leave or hospital stays in Rangoon. The gory bits, like the horrible traps set by the Japanese, usually involving sharpened bamboo and the number of enemy he'd shot were rarely mentioned. He did once (so I am told) send a bunch of green bananas home to Mum and my older brother but they were a brown mush when they arrived!



By April 1945 the Allies had driven the Japanese out of Burma and talks about Burmese independence started soon after. The Chindit's part in all this is disputed nowadays but my Dad did his bit. I was part of the post-war baby boom, born in 1946. I obviously owe a lot to my Dad but I am interested in yoga, tan easily and I like bananas!



The Revd Mark Smith has written this report on the conference Fill Those Pews !



In October this year Debbie & Mark Smith and Sue Thomas were able to attend a day conference on Church Growth led by Ven. Bob Jackson (from the Centre for Church Growth at St John's College, Nottingham) at St Silas' Church, Glasgow.

This was facilitated by the Diocesan **WINGS Development Team** to help explore the ways in which churches grow and to encourage congregations to find how God wants them to grow today.

A good number attended from a variety of congregations, all hoping for insights into their own particular scenario.

Church growth covers three main aspects – Numbers, Spirituality, Vitality. Over three sessions Bob Jackson highlighted seven factors which are helping churches grow today:

- **Intention to Grow** – recognising that we are a Missionary Church reaching out to an essentially non-Christian culture rather than the mainstream dragging people along.
- **Training to Grow** – learning about how to share the Good News with our neighbours and wider communities (Clergy and Lay together).
- **Leading to Grow** – working out the most suitable models of ministry to facilitate God's people sharing the Good News.
- **Families** – the major growth area in many differing contexts as faith learnt during childhood and young adulthood seems to become a life-long commitment.
- **Inviting & Welcoming** – having the confidence to invite friends to Church events/ services and know that they will receive a genuine welcome into the fellowship.
- **Planting to Grow** – new ventures in the wider community outwith the reach of the current church.
- **Changing to Grow** – the crux of the matter as churches that make changes or go through change are most likely to experience growth.

Through various statistics and studies, Bob Jackson was able to focus on these key areas which have shown to be powerful factors in Church Growth. Pointers to help us find out where God is at work and join in. Guides to what the Spirit is up to and to help us get in step with His work.

We hope to be able to make a more detailed presentation about the conference in the New Year to the Vestry and Congregation.

It is often said that growth is one of the signs of life – this is true for the Church too.

The most important question for us – **do we want to grow as a church?**

On the 26th September this year, **Revd Richard Stephens** reached the magnificent milestone of **being a priest for 50 years**. A buffet lunch was held 10 years ago to mark his 40th Anniversary. So maybe in 10 years time 60 years.

On the 11th October after our church service more than 30 people gathered in the Church Hall to mark this significant milestone in Richard's ministry. Both Richard and Helen said Grace before we enjoyed a splendid buffet catered for by *Caterbirds*; a cake to mark the occasion was made by a member of the congregation.



Thanks to Llyn & Billy Glendinning for the photo of Richard & Helen cutting the cake.



Helen's grace: *"Doon wi yer heid an' up wi yer paws. And thank the guid Lord for ge'in ye jaws. Amen."*

Before the official cutting of the cake, our Lay Chair, Dr Keith Dennison, said a few words about Richard's service to both Christ Church and the wider church.

Helen has shared another prayer that she used a long, long time ago in a magazine and which she thought was rather good and thought might bear repeating some time.

"Dear Lord, make us less like statues, stuck in one position, looking in one direction, posing with hearts of stone. Make us more like seagulls, always on the move, examining problems from all viewpoints, and actively targeting solutions with clearly defined aims. Amen."

Advent Studies: Canon David Bayne is to give a series of three illustrated explorations of some of the Saints whose Feast Days fall during Advent, at 2.00pm on Wednesdays:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| December 2nd in the Hall | The Apostles | St Andrew and St Thomas |
| December 9th in the Hall | The Teachers | St Clement of Alexandria and St Ambrose of Milan |
| December 16th in Church | The Pastors | St Nicholas of Myra and St Francis Xavier |

*Bishop Gregor's Lecture **Figures in Anglican Thought**; was presented at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas on November 9th. Thanks are due to the Revd Beryl Scott for writing this article.*



Each of the important men, chosen by Bishop Gregor for his lecture, belonged to the Church of England, and as well as serving the church they wrote well-known hymns and some were known for their poetry. We heard the background of their lives, their important contributions to the church and mankind.

The first was **George Herbert**, born in Wales in the 16th century, into a wealthy family. He received a good education. Although he originally felt called to the church his oratory and writings at university brought him into attention and he briefly served in parliament before returning to his original calling. He became a well-known and loved caring priest in Salisbury, and famous for his writing and hymns, many of which we sing.

John Newton, born in the 18th century, came from a seafaring family, became a captain of slave-ships. Later he became an evangelical cleric. He wrote many hymns, including **Amazing Grace**. After his conversion Newton eventually renounced slavery and became a prominent supporter of abolition, living to see the abolition of British involvement in the slave trade.

The third person was **George Bell**, born in the late 19th century, a member of the House of Lords and a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement who became Bishop of Chichester. His public declarations regarding bombing German cities made him unpopular in some circles. He was a close friend of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He was considered for Archbishop. His excellent work in the church has been marred by child abuse allegations.

A time of discussion was enjoyed between each talk and we ended by singing one of their hymns, after thanks were given for an enjoyable and inspiring evening.

HELPING STRANGERS – Bishop Gregor's Response to the Refugee Crisis, writing to The Herald:

"There is widespread distress among our communities and in our churches at the continuing plight of the large number of refugees and migrants who are attempting to make their way into and across Europe in search of safety, new homes and a better life. All over our country people are seeking practical ways to help but no doubt also feeling helpless in the face of such a huge movement of people. And, of course in a country already undergoing austerity and cutbacks, there is anxiety about how we can cope with large numbers of new people coming in to our midst

One thing the Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church have done is to write to the Prime Minister expressing our concern and calling on him and the government to respond warmly and generously to the plight of people fleeing from desperate situations in their homelands.

Of course, David Cameron is right to say that the present refugee and migrant crisis can only be resolved by tackling the chaos and disorder driving people from their homelands. Right too in pointing to what the UK is already doing to help people living in

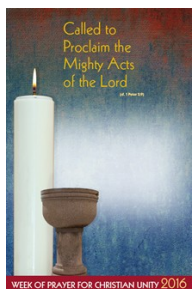
refugee camps in the countries bordering Syria. And right to be responding to increasing demands from the British public that we help by allowing more people to come and be helped in finding some kind of new life here, even if the figure of 20,000 over five years seems, to say the least, inadequate.

The image of a dead child washed up on a Turkish holiday beach had the effect of delivering many of us from seeing only a “refugee” or a “migrant” problem. Now we see human beings, with hopes and longings, just like us. We see children just like our own, and our hearts are broken by the all too obvious dangers that beset their young lives. Of course, policy makers and leaders are bound to try to address root causes, and the politics of all this are enormously complex at a European level, but symptoms remain urgently important, especially when the causes are not capable of cure any time soon, least of all by our own country, and when the symptoms are actually that so many people are in desperate need of help.

It is in trying to alleviate symptoms, in binding up the broken hearted, in giving at least some people hope of a new beginning in life, that our deepest and most abiding values are allowed to come to the fore – human solidarity, compassion, care for the individual. It is in persisting in rescue efforts, it is in Hungarian citizens bringing food and clothing to people walking through their country to the Austrian border that we allow the plight of our fellow human beings to impinge upon us and try to do something about it, without worrying that the cause of their plight is not yet dealt with. What we require urgently is a proportionate and deliverable response which places compassion ahead of short-term political considerations.

In many of our churches in Scotland this past Sunday the story of Jesus being faced with a non-Jewish, gentile woman who wanted him to help her desperately ill daughter was read. At first Jesus refuses but the woman does not give up and Jesus, all resistance overcome by her faith, sees her for what she is – a real person in real need – and helps her by healing her daughter. Perhaps we are learning, as this story suggests, to see people as people, as people not very different from us, people not to be labelled as a problem, but to be helped.

In communities across the land we can all play our part – no matter how small it might seem – in showing compassion to those seeking a place of safety. As Nicola Sturgeon has said “Scotland and the UK have a moral obligation to take a fair and proportionate share”. It is more than a moral obligation, it is a basic human instinct to help one another. The people of Glasgow have rallied round to help each other at times of crisis here in our city; this is a global crisis that we can help on a local level and we will.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th January, 2016

Visit the website of Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute
for more information. www.geii.org

Updates on local services will be posted on the Christ Church Facebook page

CHRIST CHURCH WINTER BAZAAR

7TH NOVEMBER 2015

Jane Greenwood, Convenor of the Winter Bazaar, writes: I would like to thank you all for helping to make a brilliant Winter Bazaar. The Scout Group put up the tables and chairs on Friday evening, which was a massive help. Despite atrocious weather conditions we had 108 people through the door, so well done to all those people for being so brave to support our cause. I thought the whole room looked really festive even though we were still in early November. All stalls were groaning with goodies and the customers were very generous so we sold out on several stalls. We raised a record-making amount of money - **£1477.63**.

Muriel Palmer writes: On behalf of the Vestry and Congregation of Christ Church, Dalbeattie, I would like to thank Jane for her hard work in ensuring that the Winter Bazaar was a success. She can throw away her 'L' plates; she has passed the test with flying colours.



Little Ted's name is Willy



Elizabeth Woodburn busy setting out her stall of delicious cakes and preserves



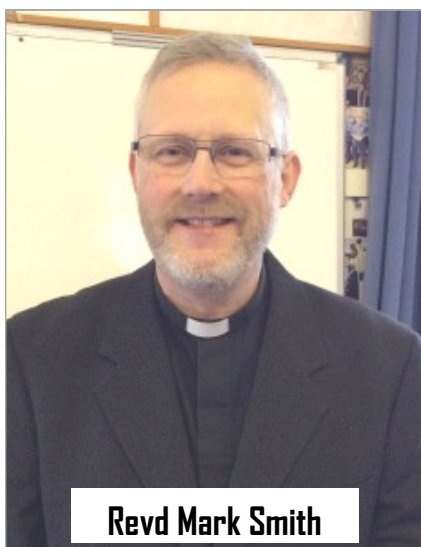
The Tombola Stall: I wonder if the lady was lucky?



'Vintage Ladies'
Sue Thomas and daughter Caroline



'Crafty Ladies'
Ruby Osliff and Miranda Brignall



Revd Mark Smith

The Revd Mark Smith opened the sale and then later he announced the raffle winners—lots and lots of raffle winners. Thanks are due to Ron Newton for the music which provided the perfect back-drop to what was a delightful morning.

On the 14th November Dalbeattie Parish Church held a coffee-morning. The people of Dalbeattie turned out in force again and another brilliant result. £1,405.00. Thank you, thank you on behalf of both Churches.



The Tombola Stall's 'Little Helper'



*The Clergy, Vestry and Congregation
of Christ Church, Dalbeattie
wish all our readers*

*A Happy Christmas
and A Peaceful New Year.*

This is 'the extra article' for this on-line version of our magazine.

It was too late to use this beautiful image as the cover image of this magazine; the image is copyright of Sue Thomas.

Sue is planning to design individual images for each magazine, appropriate to where we are in the Church year at the time of publication.



Thanks are due to Miranda Brignall for the Branch meeting reports and to Elizabeth Woodburn for the Regional Rally report.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Branch Meeting 20th October: speaker Brian Morrell of the WWT at Caerlaverock.

There was a smaller attendance than usual, but it was an excellent meeting all the same. At the beginning Muriel Palmer was enrolled as a member of the Mothers' Union by Canon David Bayne, with the enthusiastic participation of all members.

Following a soup lunch we were well entertained by our speaker, who told us about all the wonderful (and often rare) wetland birds which migrate to this area from Arctic regions. He also mentioned that the BBC Autumnwatch television programme would be based at the reserve this year and that the home at Caerlaverock which was often used by the WWT founder, Sir Peter Scott, is soon to be turned into a museum of all the work he did.

The meeting ended with the grace.

The Regional Rally for this area met at St John's, Dumfries on the **5th November**, 2015. It is always good to get together with other branches and we always enjoy sharing "Fun, Fellowship and Worship" with our friends at St John's.

The meeting began with a Eucharist at which Alison Bayne led the prayers and Ann Gault read the readings for the day. This was followed by a lovely lunch provided by the Dumfries Branch and then "super" entertainment in the church from Kevin and Raymond. We sat and enjoyed a lovely musical interlude which rounded off an excellent visit, one to be remembered.

Branch Meeting 17th November: speaker representing Amanda Saville, "Chariots of Fire"

The meeting opened with a warm welcome from the joint leaders and the prayers and service were led by Judy Duck, who also spoke briefly about looking for God in Africa during her recent visit there.

After our soup lunch (always such a varied selection) our speaker talked about the work of the **Chariots of Fire** organisation, which offers riding sessions to disabled people, children in particular. We watched a video and saw pictures of the activities; there was a particular emphasis on the joy on the faces of the children. There are also opportunities for the children to ride in chariots drawn by specially-trained ponies; the children, of course, always want to go as fast as the ponies will allow! Funding for the organisation comes from the National Lottery and local sources.

Plans for the Christmas meeting were discussed and the meeting ended with the grace.

For more information visit their website - www.chariots.org.uk/specialneeds.html

CHRIST CHURCH ARCHIVES

When sorting the Rectory and the Church Vestry after the retirement of the Revd Kenneth Stephen, two tin boxes of old documents were found. Both John & Kay Gasser and Keith & Julie Dennison have looked at the contents; the boxes are now with Muriel Palmer who hopes to make a systematic examination of the contents. The records span a period of over 40 years from 1883 to the 1920s. In due course these records will be passed to the Dumfries and Galloway Archives.

John Gasser writes: *'In my opinion these are very valuable archive material. I picked out several bundles at random and found that they are complete records of payment and donations for many years. The earliest I looked at was 1883-1885. I came across some in the 1870s and 1920s. They are not only a good financial record but also through references to responses for donations, information on social matters. There are other documents of Diocesan returns and a bond of £250 (worth today at least £25,000). This information should be linked to other sources e.g. Richard Edkin's history of the church and other sources on the rise and decline of the granite industry, again Tommy Henderson is an enthusiast. I hope this brief synopsis will encourage someone to piece together the information in these carefully preserved papers.'*

The larger box contains a lot of routine accounts into the 1920s. Note the salaries paid to the organist, cleaner and verger and also to the clergy. There is correspondence with the Diocese about the Augmentation fund and the amount payable to Christ Church. They also borrowed from the Hall fund which was on deposit.

I think the conclusion is that the contents show the routine payments and a few selected years could be extracted but the real interest lies in the non-routine payments. I hope this is of some help. The entries are in date order and some would benefit from being sorted by years for the various items. The entries also give information on the various treasurers.' **Kay Gasser added a note** saying she liked the record of the Sunday School and Choir outing to Sandyhills "65 present, catered for 50 – tea non too strong".

The Dennisons write: *"A Mission Church set up in Dalbeattie by Revd Walter Ramsey Marlow BA of St Ninian's, Castle Douglas in 1873 under the auspices of Shearer, Smith & Co. Services held in the Commercial Hotel Hall; a harmonium was hired from Glasgow. (The Commercial Hall was above the present premises of Paterson's.)*

Appeal for funds to build own church to accommodate the ever-increasing numbers. Adverts were placed in the Kirkcudbright Advertiser July 3rd 1874 and the Scottish Guardian July 24th 1874 announcing a Grand Bazaar to be held in the Town Hall, Castle Douglas. Quote "The Dalbeattie congregation are among the poorest of the poor." Donations to be sent to the Revd W. M. Ramsey or to G. B. Wittis, Treasurer."

In the next magazine there will be transcripts of some of the documents. Have you any information that can be added?

Q: *Why was the scarecrow promoted?*

A: *He was outstanding in his field!*



Scottish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

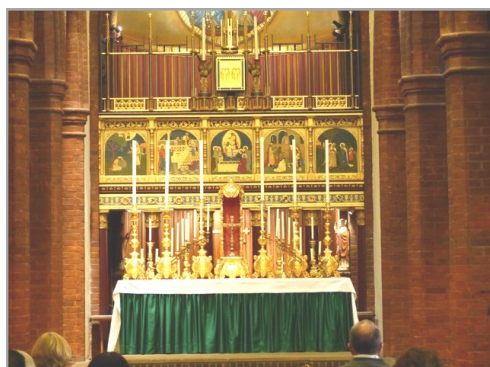
Friday, 25 – Monday, 28 September 2015

Muriel Palmer reports:

Unfortunately I was not able to join the Pilgrimage due to ill-health. Alison Gifford has written a most interesting account of the Pilgrimage and has provided many photographs. The following is just a taster; the full account can be read on the Christ Church website. If you do not have access to a computer and would like a printed copy, please ask.

“The Scottish Pilgrimage gathers together members of any Christian church in Scotland, (but so far, most come from the Scottish Episcopal Church). We meet as groups in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Berwick, then travel together to Norfolk. There is live-in accommodation at the Shrine, and we stay together and participate in the worship of the Shrine for the duration, before returning in a similar way.

The wonderful thing about a Walsingham Pilgrimage is the ability to do as you please. Nothing is compulsory, there is the opportunity to be part of the splendid corporate worship or you can be alone with your thoughts and prayers, or worship only with your group and your own priest. Everything you could want is available, but it is up to yourself to make your pilgrimage personal to you. There is a Walsingham Manual each year. It is a little book with the order of services for all the Shrine services, the congregational prayers, readings and the words of the hymns. With this, you are always prepared for whatever you attend.”



Left: High Altar in the Shrine Church



Right: Sunday afternoon procession

As I was unable to go on the Pilgrimage I went for a few days to the Carmelite Retreat House at Preston. I have been there before and it is a very special place to go to, to recharge your batteries and/or to escape the pressures of busy lives for a few days. (Turn to page 18 for Food for Thought: on the subject of Pilgrimages.)



Tabor Carmelite Retreat House,
169 Sharoe Green Lane,
Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8HE

Telephone: 01772 717122

www.carmelite.net



For me it has the added advantage that it is relatively close to where my sister lives and it is close to where family members lived over a hundred years ago and it is now close to where Alison Coolican lives.

I visited Alison over the weekend of All Saints Day. It was wonderful to see her again and to see how happy she is in her new home. She sends her best wishes to all her friends at Christ Church. On Saturday we enjoyed a pub-lunch at Old Langho; after lunch we visited the redundant church of St Leonard's. The church is now in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust.

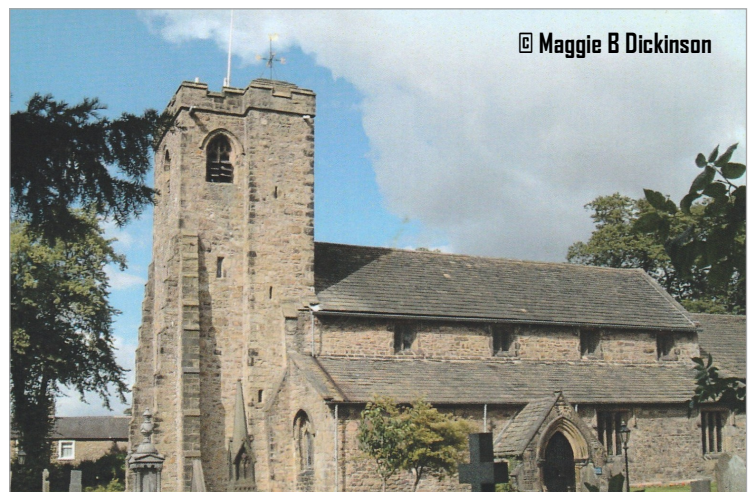
On Sunday, November 1st, we went to St Mary's Church, Whalley, the church of which she is now a member has many family connections for Alison. The day which just happened to be the day that Canon Norman retired meant there was cake with the coffee after the service! It was also a Sunday that the Sunday Club met; they had made votive candles to which we were invited to help ourselves - I did not need asking twice. Another pub lunch was enjoyed.

I had a wonderful weekend with Alison. I was truly grateful that Alison's son-in-law gave me a lift back to the Retreat House. (I travelled to Preston from Dumfries by National Express and then used Preston and Lancashire County Council service buses.)

I was very lucky with the weather because apart from getting rather wet when leaving Rockcliffe the weather was good, especially on the Monday when my sister, brother-in-law and friends came to Preston — guess what another delicious pub lunch!! Good job I did a lot of walking as well as all this eating!!!!



Left: St Leonard's, Old Langho



Right: St Mary & All Saints, Whalley

When the bus goes into Carlisle City Centre it passes St Paul's Elim Church, Carlisle - the Church has a hoarding that displayed the following saying:

Jesus operates a great adoption service for those who feel alone.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: PILGRIMAGE

One cannot disagree with the Oxford English Dictionary definition of a pilgrim as being

- A person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons or
- A person who travels to a place of particular personal interest or
- A person regarded as travelling through life

Also it is not very difficult to define a pilgrimage as a pilgrim's journey. The word pilgrimage comes from the Provencal PELEGRINAGE, meaning a religious journey, a holy expedition or a crusade. A related word is the Latin PEREGRINATIO, meaning travelling in foreign countries.

Life itself is a pilgrimage and, from the day of our birth, we all undertake our own pilgrimage, though not all of us are conscious of this or do it willingly.

In the past a pilgrimage was perhaps considered to be a religious journey, especially a trip to the Holy Land; nowadays pilgrimages cover journeys to religious sites, of course, but, in an increasingly secular age, they are also trips to scenes of disasters or tragedies and many have lost their religious associations, or have they? On the anniversary of, say, the Hillsborough disaster or the Heysel Stadium tragedy, surely a very large number of the Liverpool fans who visit these two places offer a quiet prayer to God to help them remember a lost friend or loved one.

For over 1000 years pilgrim routes have existed. The most important one of all for English Christians was the **Via Francigena**, which ran from Canterbury to Rome, then on to the harbour at Apulia to catch a ship to Jerusalem and the Holy Land; every Christian wanted to do this, but it would have been beyond the reach of many people, because of the cost involved, though free board and lodging would have been available along the way.

For many Europeans the most important route would have been the road to **Santiago de Compostela**, and this remains the most popular of all pilgrimage routes. In medieval times pilgrims on this route wore the symbol of a scallop shell on their hat or clothes, as it was the emblem of St James; they also took with them a scallop shell to use as a scoop, at religious houses along the way, for obtaining a portion of meal.

In England, of course, there was **The Pilgrim's Way**, running from Winchester to Canterbury, to allow visits to the shrine of St Thomas Becket (and, from here, of course you could always continue on to Jerusalem!).

In Britain today there is also **St Cuthbert's Way**, from Melrose Abbey to Lindisfarne and **The Saints Way**, from Padstow to Fowey.

No pilgrim route was created specifically for the purpose of pilgrimage; they all follow well-established trading routes dating from thousands of years ago; they were adopted as pilgrim routes because of their convenience.

For most British Christians today the most popular pilgrimage routes are those to **the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham** and across the sandy causeway to Lindisfarne.

The theme of pilgrimage is woven into many of the books which make up the Bible. It is a multi-faceted concept which includes ideas of journey, experiencing exile, living as a pilgrim or sojourner and the quest for a homeland.

Perhaps, in future magazines, you might like to share some of your own pilgrimages.

THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL INSTITUTE (SEI)

The service of dedication in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, was led by the Bishop of Argyle and the Isles, the Rt Revd Kevin Pearson, who serves as Convener of the SEI Council. The new Scottish Episcopal Institute has been dedicated by the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church with a challenge that the contexts of ministry that people are being called to will become ever more complex and demanding.

The SEI is tasked with the formation of those preparing for a variety of lay and ordained authorised ministries in the Scottish Episcopal Church. It will also train lay and ordained leaders in the United Reformed Church in Scotland. The SEI says it is "shaping vibrant missional ministers for today's world" by encouraging "an ethos of ongoing learning for all involved in ministry, both through its oversight of Continuing Ministerial Development and in the encouragement and resourcing of lifelong enquiry in a learning church." The SEI operates from its Provincial Office in Edinburgh, and throughout all seven dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

In his sermon, the Primus of Scotland, the Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane said ***"This is a moment of celebration and hope. The launch of the Scottish Episcopal Institute is an important moment for our church. We have planned, worked and prayed. Now we celebrate with joy."***

For a full account of the service visit www.anglicannews.org



The Gift of Happiness

Yvette Jane

Consider joining in with community events, local clubs and other group activities in your town. A sense of belonging is one of the keys to happiness.

Thanks are due to Graham Brignall for the following item, from a parish magazine in the Diocese of London:

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind he had a special niche. My parents were complimentary instructors: Mum taught me good from evil and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger ... he was our storyteller; he would keep us spellbound for hours on end with mysteries, adventures and comedies. If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to our first major football match; he made me laugh and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes Mum would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he was saying and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. I wonder now whether she ever prayed for the stranger to leave. Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obliged to honour them. Profanity, for example, was never allowed in our home, not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our long time visitor, however, got away with 4-letter words that burned my ears and made my Dad squirm and my mother blush.

My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol, but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive and generally embarrassing. I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

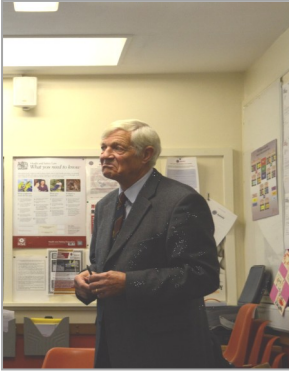
More than 50 years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is no longer as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting in the corner, waiting for someone to listen to him, to talk and to watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We just call him TV. He has a wife now; we call her computer. Their first child was called Cell Phone, their second child iPod and their newly-born grandchild has been named iPad!

In these days of increasing intolerance towards other peoples' views and opinions, when it seems almost impossible to say something in a public forum without "offending" someone, perhaps it would be wise to remind everyone about the quote attributed to Voltaire:

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

LOCH ARTHUR CAMPHILL COMMUNITY



Ron Newton has forwarded Inglis Lamont's report of the Dalbeattie Probus meeting held on the 28th October 2015, Roger Sykes addressed the members on the subject of The Camphill movement's philosophy, based on that of Rudolf Steiner schools, but adapted to the needs of adults with special needs and particularly those with learning difficulties. There are now over a hundred Communities in over twenty countries, forty eight in the UK and Ireland, including more than a dozen in Scotland. In addition there are schools and

colleges. Though part of a loose network, the Communities vary in the way they organise themselves. The first was set up in 1940 at Camphill near Aberdeen by Carl Koenig, an Austrian refugee, that at Loch Arthur in 1984.

The Communities aim to provide social, economic and cultural integration through mutual support, all the members contributing what they can and receiving what they need. This is well summed up by these lines by an anonymous hand as -

From you I receive
To you I give
Together we share
By this we live

At Loch Arthur there are 10 households. There are twenty eight adults with learning difficulties, whose Local Authority benefits go to the Community. Most of the work is done by long or short term volunteers, some forty in all. Each household has one person or a couple responsible for its running, but every member of the 'family' helps with the chores.

There is a large mixed organic farm, cheese making, weaving and woodworking buildings, a farm shop where produce is sold, and a restaurant. Everyone is given work to do, different jobs at different times to give varied experience and different work companions, and all are considered to be of equal value. Members get no regular pay, but are given money when they need it.

There is no question of the Community being inward looking and isolated. Members are encouraged to go home or elsewhere on visits, and to take part in social activities both within and outside the Community. There is often dancing or music in the evenings, and they put on plays and concerts to which 'outsiders' are invited. Everyone is encouraged to perform.

The whole atmosphere is of mutual respect, co-operation, friendship and support.

Visit their Website for more information www.locharthur.org.uk

Dalbeattie Probus Club is a Club for retired men which meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 10am to 11am in the Fire Station, Craignair Street, Dalbeattie.

What's on December 2015/January 2016

December

- December 1st 12.30 p.m. **Theological Reflection Meeting at St Peter's, Dalbeattie**; the speaker will be the **Revd Dr Ewan Kelly**; Lead for Spiritual Care, Dumfries and Galloway.
- December 4th 4-7 p.m. **Dalbeattie Christmas Light Switch-on and Festive Fayre**. Shops will be open late; pipe music from the Galloway Pipe Band; street entertainment from Daffy Dil. Plus much more.
- December 5th 10.30 a.m.-3.00 p.m. **Advent Quiet Day at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas**; see below
- December 8th .. 7.30 p.m. **Heavens' Flock** - A concert of seasonal music by the **Balliol Consort** at **Colvend Village Hall**. In aid of Hall Funds.
- December 15th 12.30 p.m. **MU meeting at St Ninian's, CD** - Christmas Party
7.30 p.m. **Heavens Flock** - A concert of seasonal music by the **Balliol Consort** at **Urr Parish Church**, Haugh of Urr. In aid of Church Funds.
- December 20th various **Midwinter Turning** Feral Choir 2.30 p.m. at Dumfries Museum; 6.30 p.m. at Threave Gardens Visitor Centre
- December 20th tba **Lantern Walk in the Forest; Galloway Christian Centre** details to follow

January

- January 19th 12.30 p.m. **MU meeting at St Ninian's, CD** –Stephanie Dewhurst **Hidden Galloway**.

Advent Quiet Day at St Ninian's Castle Douglas - "Destination Christmas"

The Creative arts team at St Johns, Dumfries will help us explore the journey towards the first Christmas and our own personal journeys towards this Christmas.

Participants are asked to bring their own lunch, but tea and coffee will be provided from 10am.

Please apply to Jennifer FitzGibbon (secretary), Development Team for Prayer and Spirituality, e-mail j2fg@aol.com; phone 01294823992, before 21st November if possible or write to the Diocesan Centre (mark envelope 'Advent Quiet Day').

Jane Greenwood has provided this update of the Chat and Craft Group: The Chat and Craft Group has 5 hard working members. So I would like to thank our group for all their dedication. We are forever looking for new ideas, trying to recycle all the wool, material etc that are donated to us; purchasing new material when we have to. I feel that we have a reputation for producing good quality and original gifts.

***Food for thought:** Forget all the reasons why it won't work and believe the one reason why it will.*

Groups and Activities

Chat and Craft Group

12 Park Terrace, 2.00 p.m.

Contact person:

Monthly on Second Thursday

Jane Greenwood 01556 611144

Hard of Hearing Group

Church Hall 10am-12 noon. Monthly on Second Tuesday

Contact person:

Jenny Edkins 01556 611740

House Groups (Ecumenical)

Islecroft House 10.30-12 noon Monday every other week

Contact person:

Revd Beryl Scott 01556 610283

Strontian 1.45 p.m.

Contact person:

First Tuesday in the month

Brian Woodburn 01556 610519

Struanlea 12-2.00 p.m.

Contact person:

First Thursday in the month

Edith Thorp 01556 610816

Julian Group (Ecumenical)

Savat 2.30-4.30 p.m. Last Tuesday in the month

Contact person:

Sue Thomas 01556 612863

From the Editorial Team

Miranda Brignall & Muriel Palmer

You can contact Miranda by e-mail at g.brignall14@btinternet.com

Please keep the articles coming in. There is a new addition in this magazine **Food for Thought**; this is to become a regular feature.

- ◇ Updates from our various Group Leaders needed.
- ◇ We want to hear about what is happening in the local community; we need to look outwards in order to grow as a Christian Community.
- ◇ Material to use as fillers needed serious and humorous.

Articles accepted in any format **do not let the fact that you have not got a computer stop you from providing an article.** Ideas and suggestions for the magazine welcomed. Copy for the next magazine needed by the 7th January, 2016.

In 2016, we will start to include an **advertising 'supplement'** in our Church magazine to help defray costs, and support local businesses. If you would like to place an advert for your business - typically 1/16 A4, at a cost of £10 for 6 editions in the year, please contact Muriel Palmer (muriel.a.palmer@gmail.com), or leave a message via our Facebook page for her to contact you.

Who's Who

| | | |
|--|--|--------------|
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| Honorary Assistant Priest | Revd Mark RS Smith | 01387 760263 |
| NSM | Revd Beryl Scott | 01556 610283 |
| Diocesan Reader Emeritus | Mr. Brian Woodburn | 01556 610519 |
| Lay Representative/ Munches Park Co-ordinator | Mrs. Edith Thorp | 01556 610816 |
| Alternate Lay Representative | Mr Alfred Thorp | 01556 610816 |
| Honorary Musical Director/ Organist | Mrs Margaret Kelt | |
| Honorary Secretary | TBA | |
| Treasurer | Mr Mark Parry | |
| Gift Aid/Free Offering Recorder (envelopes) | Mr Alfred Thorp | 01556 610816 |
| Rector's Warden/Health & Safety Co-ordinator | Dr. Keith Dennison | 01556 630413 |
| People's Warden | Mr. George Sims | 01556 612069 |
| Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator | Mrs Helen Stephens | 01556 610627 |
| Vestry Members | Rector's Warden (Lay Chair) Lay Representative Alternate Lay Representative People's Warden | |
| Elected Vestry Members | Mrs Robin Charlton | 01556 630265 |
| | Mr Anthony Duncalf | 01556 612322 |
| | Mrs Llyn Glendinning | 01556 610676 |
| | Mr Ron Newton | 01556 611567 |
| | Mrs Helen Stephens | 01556 610627 |
| | Mrs Sue Thomas | 01556 612863 |
| Property Working Group | Canon David Bayne, Dr Keith Dennison, Mrs Sue Thomas and Mr Alfred Thorp | |
| Bible Reading Fellowship | Dr Keith Dennison | 01556 630413 |
| Brass & Vestry Cleaning Group | Mrs Robin Charlton | 01556 630265 |
| Chat & Craft Co-ordinator | Mrs Jane Greenwood | 01556 611144 |
| Church Flowers Co-ordinator | Mrs Julie Dennison | 01556 630413 |
| Gardening Co-ordinator | Mrs Julie Dennison | 01556 630413 |
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