Pathway

The United Reformed Church

Newsletter of Broadstone United Reformed Church
August & September 2021

Dear Friends

This autumn has the potential to be a time for taking significant steps towards a re-gathered church. At our Elders meeting in September, items high on the agenda will include restarting refreshments after church and setting a date for our first church meeting. Yarn with Yarn have already been gathering together, which is fantastic, Toddlers will be making a return in September and Pop-In the following month. I'm sure that plenty more will happen along the way.

Turning to the Bible for a moment I wonder what stories you might compare this time to? Stop and think for a moment before you read on!

My first thought was about the time between Easter and Pentecost, but actually the disciples spent time gathered together in prayer during that time, so it didn't feel quite right. Perhaps Jesus sending off his disciples in the Gospels? I'm sure that held some of the experience of separation from their friends and anxiety about what might be coming, but the return was free, unrestrained and full of joy.

There won't be a perfect story, but in the end I settled on reading a bit of Nehemiah. Exiled in a foreign land, Nehemiah's heart is broken at the state of Jerusalem, and with bold prayer, fasting and then action he seeks permission from Artaxerxes - whom he serves as cup bearer - to return and rebuild. His permission is granted and he sets off home to begin. The initial survey is under cover of darkness as there is much uncertainty, but very quickly all kinds of people seem to emerge to take on various bits of rebuilding work. Gates and walls are assembled and the work has begun. It's not an easy task and there is plenty of opposition and struggle, but Nehemiah remains faithful and committed.

It has been wonderful to greet more and more people each Sunday at church. The difference in attendance before and after my holiday was significant (I think I might need to go away more…), but - and I never ever though I'd hear myself say this - I'm really looking forward to seeing some completed rotas!!

We could just muck in (and probably will the first few times) but rotas are a great sign of a church sharing its life together. So now is an opportunity. Rotas will be being restarted, so if there is a particular rota you've always wanted to be on… now is the time to step forward!

Thankfully our walls and gates do not need rebuilding, but the doors need opening, the kettle definitely will need putting on and there may be some washing up after. The practical outworking of God's gathered community spending time together!

See you soon!

Andy

FAMILY NEWS

We remember in our prayers those who are, or have recently been injured, unwell or in hospital, including **Margaret van Coller, Ruth Crumpler, Henry Freemantle, John Mogg, Manfred Riechert** of our twinned church Zwöf-Apostel-Kirche, **Phil Taylor**, **Anna Venable, Audrey Wiffen** and **Betty Wilson**.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Paul Venable**, husband of **Anna**, whose funeral was held in July. Our thoughts are with Anna and all Paul's friends and family at this time.

We send our best wishes to **Nancy Cunningham**, and give thanks for her recovery.

An enormous Happy Birthday to **Ann Scriven**, who celebrated 90 years in August!

With a sense of *déjà vu*, we must congratulate **Paul MacDonald** on his graduation…ceremony! Paul actually graduated in 2020, but a year later was finally able to attend an official ceremony. Well done, again, Paul! *Pictures on page 5.*

And finally, wonderful news from **Mark & Aram Shortland**, who gave birth to a son, **Harry**, on 3rd August, weighing 6lbs 13oz. Both mother and baby are home and doing well, and have kindly shared some beautiful photos for us (*page 5)*.

Update on Children's and Youth Work

You may know that I held an open meeting on Zoom a couple of months ago to have a discussion about the future direction of our children's and youth work within the church.

It was lovely to see a large number of people attend and the feedback from the discussion groups was wide and varied. There were three key messages that came across very powerfully from the discussions:-

1. Choose one or two things and do them well.
2. Pop-in and Toddlers have been our particular strengths and those are the things that we should seek to continue to do well.
3. Pop-in is church in its own right, and should not be regarded as a bridge to Sunday church.

It was great to have the support of Ruth White, Synod Youth Development Officer, at that meeting and a number of the follow-up meetings and discussions I organised.

As a result, I have produced a Children's and Youth Work Strategy 2021-22 to take us through the next 18 months. This has three strands:-

1. POP-IN
The Pop-in team have had a couple of meetings, and we are agreed with the aim of ultimately offering monthly Pop-in on the second Saturday of the month. We will work up to this slowly as we get used to coming back together again, and have planned Pop-ins on Saturdays 9th October and 11th December. There are very many advantages to moving to a monthly Pop-in, not least the fact that we will get to know the families much more and be able to invite them to the social aspects of our church life.

2. RE-ESTABLISH TODDLER GROUP
We have met and planned a slightly refreshed look to Toddlers and are aiming for a re-start date of 15th September. Thanks to those volunteers who came forward to offer their support. We have sufficient people to start a rota for the autumn term, but if you are willing to help out occasionally, Janet Meachin would love to hear from you.

3. CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH FORUM
We will look at this in the autumn as we seek to establish whether this group still has a role within the church, and if so, what that role should be.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?
Firstly, please can we ask for your prayerful support as we travel the journey through the restart of our children's and youth activities. If you are willing to help out at either Pop-in or Toddlers, even if it's not every time, please do contact either myself (for Pop-in) or Janet Meachin (for Toddlers).

Gill McDonald
Children's and Youth Work Co-ordinator

Open Garden is back!

After a break last year for Covid, we are once again opening our garden for tea and homemade cake. We welcome you to join us this weekend on Sunday 29th August at 2.30pm.

Will you be able to spot further developments of our garden over the past two years of lockdown? Ian has been putting his retirement to good use under the watchful eye of the Head Gardener!

Gill McDonald

Health and Social Care

As our thoughts dwell ever more on the our health and the health of those around us, Charles Meachin has written his thoughts on the history of the NHS and our health and social care today. On page 4, you can find a scan of the NHS card that he and the rest of the country received in 1948.

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (NHS)
On the 5th July 1948, the NHS was born. I was 18 years old at the time and from day one I have been a 'member' – subscribing as a taxpayer, and benefiting for more than seven decades.

I remember very well the pre-NHS days: the 'doctor's man' calling weekly to collect payment for the latest visit to the doctor; parents having to decide if they could 'afford' to call the doctor to visit a sick child. Some factories and businesses provided care for employees and their families, but medical care was mainly restricted to those who could afford to pay, or relied on charity hospitals.

In 1942, William Beveridge, liberal politician and social reformer, published his report 'Social Insurance and Allied Services", the basis for a Welfare State. Three years later, in 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared the country could not afford to adopt the Beveridge plan as the cost in money and people of the terrible carnage of WW2 was incalculable, and the nation was 'bankrupt'!

Nevertheless, later the same year, a new Labour government introduced the Welfare State, and in 1948 went bravely ahead, implementing the Beveridge recommendations and the National Health Service (NHS) was 'born'.

The tax-funded NHS has for more than 70 years provided superb health and care for us all. Over the past 16 months in the midst of a pandemic, we have again been reminded of its unparalleled importance and are thankful for the continued dedication, service, skill, professionalism and compassion of all those who staff our NHS.

THE FUTURE - ACTION NEEDED
Some observations on health and social care in the 21st century.

For many years I was Chairman of Poole Council Health and Care Committee, and non-Executive Board member of the Poole NHS Primary Care Trusts, campaigning to include social care into a tax-funded National Social Care Service (NSCS) but, again and again, being told 'we can't afford it'! Sadly there continue to be deep health inequalities and an urgent need for long-term reform of social care. It is ludicrous to have access to tax-funded treatment in hospital while paying for care in a nursing home. For example, dementia and mental illness treatment is tax-funded in hospital, but NOT tax-funded in residential care!! NHS services are provided 'free' at the point of use, while local authorities are restricted to providing means-tested social care services.

Britain has the fifth largest economy in the world (by GDP), but, as the Covid pandemic has revealed, the lowest level of State Pension level! We cannot afford to continue resisting a tax-funded National Social Care Service! The second reading of the Government Health and Care Bill took place on 14th July 2021, seeking 'to remove barriers to integrating services to improve the health outcomes and reduce health inequalities' across the nation.

In 1948, Britain transformed its health care, becoming one of the first and most admired public health services. Today we again have the opportunity to transform care by providing integrated health and social care, a person-centred service, bringing together currently disparate elements of care with an holistic approach to the health and wellbeing of all within our nation.

Rev. Charles Meachin

Nave-I Gazing...

Taken from the Facebook page of the parish church of Tow Law, County Durham, the village where Kathryn Emerson used to live.

The main body of a church has been called the 'nave' in English since the 1500s. Whether direct from Latin, or borrowed from Italian or Spanish, the word came from Latin 'navis' — ship. In the earliest uses it was spelled 'navy', and it shares its roots with modern words 'Navy', 'navigate', 'nautical' and even 'nausea'. However, etymologically its roots go much deeper, to its ancient ancestor 'nau' — Sanskrit for ship. Over 3000 years, travelling across seas and time, its echoes have been heard in Persian, ancient Greek, Early Irish, Old Icelandic and Old English. In many languages today, such as Spanish and Swedish, the word for ship and nave is one and the same.

Early Christian symbolism expanded on biblical links to boats, such as Noah's Ark and St Peter the fisherman, to build a metaphor of the ship as a vessel for a spiritual journey. Standing in the immense nave of a medieval cathedral, or even under the timber-framed roof of a diminutive parish church, it's not hard to imagine how this ingenious construction could have called to mind a ship's technological prowess, as well as the safety of its sanctuary, its sense of community and purpose, the expectation of progress to a final destination, and the shared experience of humility and awe.

First get a recommendation from your family doctor that your eyes need testing. Then hand that recommendation to any doctor with special qualifications (lists will be available) or to any ophthalmic optician taking part in the new service. If you need glasses, these will be provided without charge. For re-testing you can go direct to any of the doctors with special qualifications, or to an ophthalmic optician.

The National Health Service will provide several kinds of spectacles of different types. For specially expensive types you will have to pay the extra cost.

Deafness Specialist ear clinics will be established as resources allow. At them you will get not only an expert opinion upon deafness but also, if necessary, a *new hearing aid* invented by a special committee of the Medical Research Council. Production of these aids is now going on, but will not meet all demands at once. They will be supplied free, when ready, together with a reasonable allowance of maintenance batteries.

Home Health Services Your local County or County Borough Council will, as soon as it can, make special provision for: (1) advice and care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five (for particulars ask your doctor, health visitor, or Welfare Centre); (2) midwifery (ask your doctor or Welfare Centre); (3) home nursing where there is illness in the family (ask your doctor); (4) all necessary vaccination or immunisation (through your doctor or Welfare Centre); and (5) a health visitor service to deal with problems of illness in the home, especially tuberculosis.

Health Centres Special premises known as Health Centres may later be opened in your district. Doctors may be accommodated there instead of in their own surgeries, but you will still have "your own doctor" to give you personal and confidential treatment. He will still come to your home as necessary. At the Health Centre he will be able to use equipment supplied from public funds. These Centres may also offer dentistry and other services on the spot.

WHAT TO DO NOW

1. **Choose your doctor.**
2. **Get application forms from him or from the Post Office, Public Library, or office of the local Executive Council.**
3. **Fill one in for each member of the family.**
4. **Hand them to the doctor.**

ACT AT ONCE

PREPARED BY THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

(93077) Wt. 30108 2/48 Hw.

THE NEW

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

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Your new National Health Service begins on 5th July. What is it? How do you get it?

It will provide you with all medical, dental, and nursing care. Everyone—rich or poor, man, woman or child—can use it or any part of it. There are no charges, except for a few special items. There are no insurance qualifications. But it is not a "charity". You are all paying for it, mainly as taxpayers, and it will relieve your money worries in time of illness.

Choose Your Doctor Now You and everyone in your family will be entitled to all usual advice and treatment from a family doctor. Everyone aged 16 and over can choose his or her own doctor. A family need not all have the same doctor, but parents or guardians choose for children under 16.

Your dealings with your doctor will remain as they are now: *personal and confidential*. You will visit his surgery, or he will call on you, as may be necessary. The difference is that the doctor will be paid by the Government, out of funds provided by everybody.

Choose a doctor now—ask him to be your doctor under the new arrangements. Many will choose their present doctors. Any doctor can decline to accept a patient. If one doctor cannot accept you, ask another, or ask to be put in touch with one by the new "Executive Council" which has been set up in your area (you can get its address from the Post Office).

If you are already on a doctor's list under the old National Health Insurance Scheme, and if you do not want to change your doctor, *do nothing*. Your name will stay on his list under the new Scheme.

But for your family, and for yourself if you are not already in the old National Health Insurance Scheme, now is the time to decide. 'Get an application form for *each* member of the family from the doctor you choose, or from any Post Office, Executive Council Office, or public library. Fill in the forms and give them to the doctor.

Later, your local Executive Council will send a "medical card" to everyone who has been accepted by a doctor. If you want to change your doctor, you can do so at any time without difficulty. If you need a doctor when away from your own district, you can go to any doctor who is taking part in the new arrangements. You will not have to pay.

Help to have the Scheme ready by 5th July by choosing your doctor at once.

For any further information about these arrangements, ask at the offices of the local Executive Council.

Maternity Services An expectant mother can have the services of a doctor who undertakes maternity work (whether he is her usual doctor or not), and of a midwife, as well as general care before and after confinement. If her usual doctor does not undertake maternity work, he, or the Welfare Centre, will put the expectant mother in touch with another doctor. It will be the doctor's responsibility, with a midwife, to give all proper care and (if he considers it necessary or is called in by the midwife) to be present at the confinement.

Hospital and Specialist Services You will also be entitled to all forms of treatment in general or special hospitals, whether as an in-patient or as an out-patient. These include, for instance, maternity care, sanatorium treatment, care of mental health, and *all surgical operations*.

The help of consultants and specialists of all kinds will be made available to you as national resources allow, whether at hospital, at special health centres, or at your home.

Your doctor will arrange this help when you need it.

Hospital charges will cease on 5th July. Where accommodation permits, however, you can pay something for greater privacy (for example, in single rooms or small wards). Or, if you do not want to use the new service itself, there will be private pay-bed accommodation for which you can make your own private fee arrangements with doctors.

Medicines, Drugs, and Appliances Your doctor will give you a prescription for any medicines and drugs you need. You can get these free from any chemist who takes part in the Scheme. In some country areas the doctor himself may dispense medicines.

The same is true of all necessary appliances. Some of them will be obtainable through hospitals; some your doctor can prescribe for you. There will be no charge, unless careless breakage causes earlier replacement than usual.

Care of the Teeth A dental service will be provided, but at present there are too few dentists to make a full service available to all without delay.

After 5th July you can go to any dentist taking part in the new arrangements (there will be a list at your Post Office). You need no application form. Just call, by appointment, on the dentist of your choice when you need him. At his surgery you and he will sign a form for your treatment under the new arrangements. All necessary fillings and dentures will be supplied without fee, but if you want anything specially expensive, and beyond what is necessary, you will pay the extra cost yourself.

Until a full dental service, without delays, can be made available, a special priority service for expectant and nursing mothers and young children is being organised by local authorities (in addition to the school dental service). Full information about this priority service can be obtained at Welfare Centres.

Care of the Eyes Care of the eyes will be undertaken by specialists at hospitals, or at special clinics which will be part of the hospital service, as fast as these can be organised. Meanwhile, a Supplementary Eye Service will be available after 5th July.

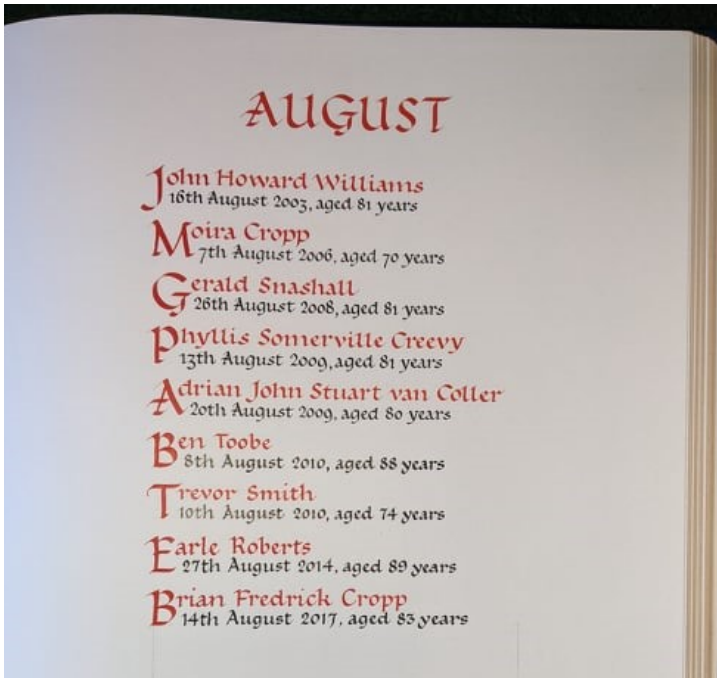
Harry Shortland, born 3rd August to Aram & Mark Shortland, weighing 6lb 13 oz. Joined in the photo on the right by his older brother, Benjamin.

Photos from Paul McDonald's delayed graduation ceremony from the University of Surrey.

The picture on the right is a tribute to the 12 months that Paul and his fellow student Joy spent in France on their placement year – look carefully at their scrolls!

Book of Remembrance

While we still have limited in-person access to the church building, we have started including pages from our Book of Remembrance in *Pathway*, to give people a chance to read, remember, and lift up our departed friends and their surviving friends and family in prayer.



AUGUST

John Howard Williams
16th August 2003, aged 81 years

Moira Cropp
7th August 2006, aged 70 years

Gerald Snashall
26th August 2008, aged 81 years

Phyllis Somerville Creevy
13th August 2009, aged 81 years

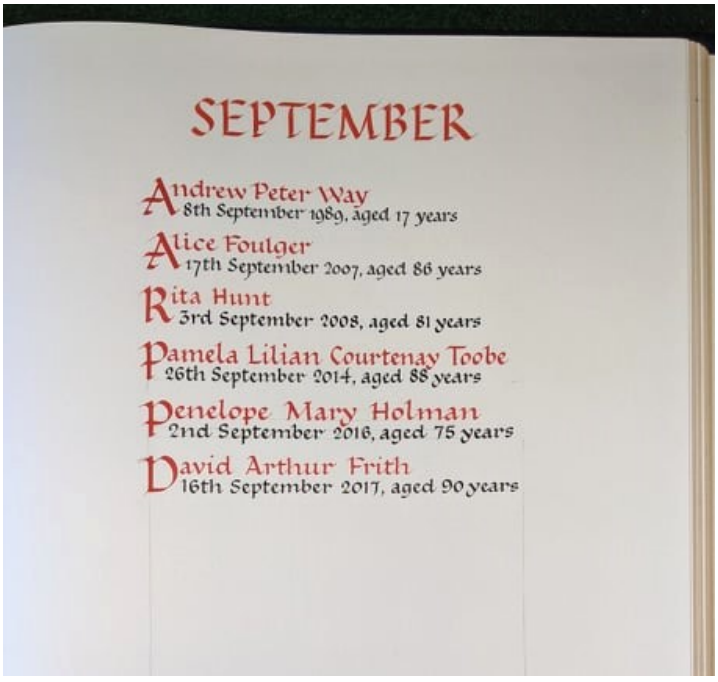
Adrian John Stuart van Coller
20th August 2009, aged 80 years

Ben Toobe
8th August 2010, aged 88 years

Trevor Smith
10th August 2010, aged 74 years

Earle Roberts
27th August 2014, aged 89 years

Brian Fredrick Cropp
14th August 2017, aged 83 years



SEPTEMBER

Andrew Peter Way
8th September 1989, aged 17 years

Alice Foulger
17th September 2007, aged 86 years

Rita Hunt
3rd September 2008, aged 81 years

Pamela Lilian Courtenay Toobe
26th September 2014, aged 88 years

Penelope Mary Holman
2nd September 2016, aged 75 years

David Arthur Frith
16th September 2017, aged 90 years

Wessex Summer Camp memories

This year's Wessex Synod Summer Camp in Beaulieu has been cancelled due to Covid-19 again, however, next year will hopefully be back on. I remember my very first summer camp at Avon Tyrrell in the New Forest when I was 11, and I have been involved ever since. I arrived with my parents and my brother Phil driving down a dirt track into a big field full of cars and tents near a lake. I didn't actually sleep in a tent, I was quite lucky and stayed in a caravan with Cathryn Blunt (then Meachin). Everybody was introducing each other when arriving, we played games, sang songs around the camp fire, held Bible study, and had adventure activities throughout the weekend. For the last 10 years or so, the location has changed to Beaulieu, except for one year at Chandler's Ford.

When I was 15-16, I was called into ministry with the Youth Exec for the Wessex Synod. I was no longer a participant as such, although I did join in with everything, however I had responsibilities leading the camp. Over my years of having leadership responsibilities, we had many camp themes, many activities, many young students, and many Bible studies. I have lots of memories of camp as a whole: Saturday banquets with fun games, activities and themes, from a pirate theme, a Retro theme, to a Disney theme. There were lots of different food themes for our meals as well! American, Italian, BBQ, British, Chinese, and Indian, cooked by lots of talented cooks. The camp gave me opportunities to go raft building, kayaking, high and low ropes, jungle cooking, cycling, and lots of other things. Many Bible studies covering nearly every subject under the sun led by different leaders have been enriching.

There's one Bible study which stood out for me (as you might tell from my other article in this issue) led by Ruth White. We were learning about our ancestors' rituals and customs in the Judeo-Christian tradition, celebrating Passover Seder, following the prayers and rituals of this special tradition, remembering the great story of Passover in Exodus, rediscovering our ancestors' courage, hope and faith whilst escaping the ten plagues and travelling to God's promised land. For me Christianity is built on the foundations of Judaism, they go hand in hand, and understanding Jesus' Jewish upbringing and traditions can only help living out God's word as Christians.

Here's to next year's camp, let's have courage, hope and faith just as our ancestors had in Exodus. "When you pass through water, I am with you, and in rivers, they shall not overflow you; when you go amidst fire, you shall not be burnt, neither shall a flame burn amongst you." — Isaiah 43:2.

Saz Holland

Rosh Hashanah

A second series on the festivals and traditions Jesus would have known, from a Christian perspective

How did Jesus celebrate the New Year? You might be thinking, why on earth am I talking about New Year during the sunny hot month of August?! Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, takes place near the start of Autumn in the Northern Hemisphere, usually in September.

Also known as the Feast of Trumpets or the Day of Judgement, Rosh Hashanah begins the "Ten Days of Awe", which conclude with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. During this time, it is customary to greet each other with the phrase, "L'Shanah Tovah Tikateyvu" meaning "May you be inscribed in the Book of Life." This high holiday is both solemn and joyous since it is a time of self-examination and repentance leading up to the Day of Atonement, but it is also the birthday of the world.

Rosh Hashanah is celebrated over two days. On the first day, some Jews practise a custom called "Tashlikh", which involves going to a natural body of water (lake, ocean etc) and emptying one's pockets or casting bread crumbs into the water. This is symbolic of Micah 7:19, "And you will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." A family meal is held which includes honey cake, wine, and apples dipped in honey to symbolise hope for a sweet and happy year. On the second night, a fruit not yet eaten that season is served. Challah bread, in a round loaf symbolising a crown, is another traditional food.

In synagogues and some churches, the major focus is introspection and repentance. It is a time for recognising one's own faults and turning from them. The blowing of the shofar (horn) is a central feature in the service, calling the worshippers to turn to Almighty God. It also announces that a great event is about to take place. The story of God's command to Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, as told in Genesis chapter 22, is read on the second day.

Rosh Hashanah is a chance to find God's way again, and the Almighty God has provided the new covenant through Jesus the Messiah. We can rest from our own tasks and efforts to be accepted by Almighty God, the Source of all things. Our own good works cannot save us, as even the traditional Jewish song from the liturgy, Avinu Malkeynu (Our Father and King) says: "We have no good works of our own; deal with us in mercy and kindness and save us." The ultimate Day of Judgement will come when the trumpet shall sound and Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God returns to judge the earth. We are called to repent and celebrate the New Creation that has begun in the Messiah and will come in fullness when he returns.

Look out for the next festival in our series, it's Simchat Torah!

Saz Holland

From '*Inherit the Mirth*' by Cuyler Black

Items for the October & November 2021 issue of *Pathway* should be given to Dominic Casey by Sunday 26th September 2021

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