

Radical Plan

At the 2018 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Council of Assembly brought forward a plan that was supposed to map out the future of the Church for the next ten years. In dramatic scenes, the plan was thrown out! Commissioners to the Assembly were unimpressed. They felt that the plan didn't go far enough, that it lacked teeth and that it failed to acknowledge the seriousness of the situation facing the Church. The plan talked of what should be in place by 2030 to which commissioners responded: 'If we don't act now, there might not be a Church by 2030!!'

And dramatic as that may sound, that's exactly what will be the case if the current decline continues at the same pace.

So, with its tail firmly between its legs, the Council of Assembly was sent away to think again and to come back with something more far-reaching and radical to the General Assembly this year. And that's what's been happening in the intervening months. We await the outcome, but all the indications are that a radical plan is exactly what's coming - in acknowledgement of the fact that it's too late for tinkering at the edges. Time will tell. Will the commissioners at this year's Assembly (of whom our minister will be one) be bold enough to embrace an exciting future?

The interesting thing about the word 'radical' is that its meaning is 'roots.' In other words, when people speak about being radical, they're not speaking about looking for something new; really, they're talking about going back to their roots. And that's exactly what is required of the Church at this point in its life. It's time for us to rediscover our roots - our original purpose and calling. And that, of course, is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ - in word and deed. We could go further and declare that our ONLY reason for being is that we might point to Christ in a country that has lost sight of him.

Sadly too many congregations are intent only on surviving; looking after themselves. They are doing nothing by way of mission and members aren't looking much further than, 'Well, as long as it's still here to see me out!' Too many members in too many congregations are concerned only with what they want their church to be like - with no concern for the missing generations and for the 95% of Scots who are miles away from the Church.

Let us hope and pray that the Radical Action Plan that will be revealed in May will indeed get the Church of Scotland on to a forward footing, ready for mission and to give itself for the glory of God and for the needs of the world.

This may be our last chance to tackle the decline and to turn things around. Will there be a Church at all for our children and their children? It's in our hands. Let's make sure they are praying hands.

Alpha FA



IMPORTANT DATES ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH CHURCH OFFICE: 431135 APRIL EDITION Member Records ADMINISTRATOR Handwritten/typed articles should be handed in to March 2019 the OFFICE by the FIRST date and NOT to Editor. Linda Hunter: 431135 Baptisms and Blessings - None Word Processed files, as attachments, can be sent Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri: 9-12noon Weddings - None directly to the Editor or via office by second date. Funerals - None MINISTER Please DO NOT embed articles in an email as Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD Martin and Ian, our pastoral assistant, conducted these then need additional formatting work. other funerals though none were of members of PASTORAL ASSISTANT our congregation. Nonetheless, we remember Thursday 21st March (Written, preferably typed) the bereaved families in our prayers. lan Gray: 01674 677126 Monday 25th March (Word-Processed file) **CLERK TEAM LEADER** Joan Hainsworth: 875409 TREASURER **Soup Lunches** Heather Black: **Service Core Group CHURCH OFFICER Eco-Sabbath** The following are planned for this year -Janis Clark: 878594 For one day, afternoon or hours a week, 24 March Boys Brigade YOUTH WORKER don't buy anything, don't use machines, Dalitso 28 April Carla Ingram: 07762740317 don't switch on anything electric, don't 26 May Havilah cook, don't answer your phone and, in 22 September Mum & Me general, don't use any resources. HAVILAH PROJECT 27 October Dalitso 24 November Havilah LEADER Tracey McLeod: 434088 HAVILAH PROJECT Organisations will alert members when groups resume after holidays or when WORKER changes to venues are made. David Cohen: (\mathbf{r}) SUNDAY HAVILAH SUPPORT 10.15 am - Gathering for prayer. WORKER 11.00 am – Morning service (with short communion on the third Sunday of the month) Karen Reaney: 01307 818277 with Tea/coffee after. Sunday Club - Elaine Fair (873238). FOR EVERY FABRIC CONVENOR Crèche – up to age 3. Infants – ages 3 to 5. Juniors – ages 8 and 9. Seniors – ages 10 and 11 Pending 7.30 - 9.00 pm – Youth Group - Carla Ingram (07762740317) SUNDAY CLUB Elaine Fair: 873238 Monday to Friday - 12.00 – Havilah: Drop-in Centre – Community Spirit (434088) FREEWILL ENVELOPES MONDAY lain Roberton: 877519 2.00 pm - Dorothy Dobson Over 50's Exercise Class 6.00 pm – Rainbow Guides – L Hadden (875379) 7.30 pm – St. Andrew's Guild: Fortnightly – Shona Kemp (878526) SAFEGUARDING 7.30 pm – Flower Club: Fortnightly – M McIntosh (876993) Eleanor Jakobsen: 01382 477318 WEDNESDAY 10.30 am - Midweek Meeting Point - M. Fair (873238) FLOWER CONVENOR Margaret McIntosh: 876993 THURSDAY 2.00 pm - Friends Club : first Thursdays - J Lonie secretary (07712 538 306) PRAYER PROMOTERS 6.00 pm – Anchor Boys – S Jamieson (431942) Judy Spink: 872395 6.00 pm – BB Junior Section – W Ewart (876114) Anne Matthew: 876008 7.00 pm - Church Prayer Group 7.30 pm – BB Company Section – M Clark (437758) SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR Janis Clark: 878594 FRIDAY **BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER** 9.30 am - Coffee morning Linda Hunter: 431135 **MAGAZINE EDITORS** Intimations, changes of address, hall bookings etc., please contact the lain and Amy Scott Church office, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and for 15 minutes after Quest@arbroathstandrews.org.uk Sunday Service, telephone 431135.

Martin Fair

March 2019

Dear Friends,

We've embarked on what is going to be a hectic season of outreach work among primary school children. In an age when fewer and fewer children are being associated with the work of Sunday Schools etc., it's vital that we find new and imaginative ways to connect with the children of our nation.

1. Bible Alive

This is a Scripture Union programme, aimed at p5-6 pupils, which takes the children on a whistle stop tour of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. It includes lots of opportunities for participation and the evidence to date is that the children love it!

We started using Bible Alive last year. Adele Marr, our youth worker, attended and passed the training course and became accredited to deliver the programme. She piloted it in Warddykes Primary School where it was a big success.

As Adele headed off on maternity leave, Carla Ingram - who is providing maternity cover - underwent the training and she too is now accredited to run Bible Alive.

So, right now, Carla - along with some volunteer help - is going in to Warddykes, Ladyloan and Hayshead schools to bring the Bible alive to around 160 children over a seven week period. Brilliant!

2. Holiday Club

As usual, we're running a holiday Club for primary school children during the first week of the Easter holidays, 8-12th April, from 10-12noon each morning. This year the theme is 'Wild, Wild West' and each day the children who attend will get to learn about a character from the New Testament who had their life turned around through an encounter with Jesus.

We're hoping that we'll have upwards of 50 or 60 children attending the club and online booking opens soon. Brilliant!

3. Easter Code

Then, as if that wasn't enough, in the week after Easter, we'll be running the hugely successful Easter Code event for p6 children. Carla will head up the team leading Easter Code and, as in previous years, we'll be running it in conjunction with other local churches.

This year, we're expecting around 200 children through the doors over the course of the week! Wow! That's a lot of kids who'll be getting to hear the truth of what Christians celebrate at Easter. Brilliant!

All of this amounts to what might be called 'seed sowing' ministry. We may never see all of the results of it but if we never plant then we'll never see any harvest at all!

Within all of these programmes there are opportunities to volunteer, to support financially, to provide craft resources etc. and to pray. Success will depend on everyone playing their part. Let's get it done!

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

Ask Theophilus

Question:

Before I retired I got the top job for a secretary as the boss' PA. Occasionally, I was asked to check business contracts and correspondence. I suppose I was acting as a 'proof-reader'. I learned to check every word. Now I am tending to do this as I read my Bible. I think I have found several 'typos' in the Psalms. For example, sometimes 'Lord' is spelt in lower case, and at other times it is spelt in small capitals as 'Lord'. The word 'God' is the same. I found it spelt as God in Psalm 69:6, yet in the sentences before and after it is spelt as 'God'. Has the proof-reader or type-setter slipped up?

Theophilus answers:

Obviously, you have been using the translation called the English Standard Version (ESV). No, neither the typesetters nor the proof-readers have made a mistake. Those spellings are deliberate. You need to understand that, as far as possible, the ESV is a literal 'word for word' translation, the translators aiming to keep as close as they could to the original languages of both Old and New Testaments. By contrast, the New International Version (NIV) is a 'thought by thought' translation, for its translators have tried to interpret the meaning as they have translated.

Young People in Church

In the summer of 2017 I noticed a Facebook post looking for young people aged between twelve and thirty to apply for a Church of Scotland Working group which was going to be looking at how young people could and should be involved in decision making at all levels. It sounded right up my street so I sent away my application and waited to hear back. A couple of months later I heard that I had been successful and at the end of October I headed to Stirling for our first meeting.

For the last year and a half I've served on the working group. It has been hugely challenging and extremely thought provoking. Our initial task of sending out surveys and then collating the data often resulted in great debate, as did the next task of deciding what we wanted to put forward to the Mission and Discipleship Council about the future plans. The task from our final few meetings has been to put together the report for the 'Blue Book' to be presented at the General Assembly, another huge challenge.

What have I learned from the experience? I've learned A LOT about church structures and law. There were things that I thought would be really straight forward and obvious, only to be told that because of church law they wouldn't work.

I think the most important lesson I've come away with is that St Andrew's church is pretty special. I've been blessed to serve in various leadership roles since I was about seventeen and have been on the Leadership Group for the last few years. The survey showed us that there are churches out there that either don't have any young people or have young people who aren't allowed to serve. The reason for the difference between the lower case 'Lord' and 'God' and the small capitals 'Lord' and 'God' is to help the reader know which name of God is in the original.

God has revealed himself through different names. Here are some of them: God Almighty (Genesis 49:24), The Lord who Provides (Genesis 22:14), The Lord Who Heals (Exodus 15:26), The Lord Who Sanctifies (Leviticus 20:8), The Lord Our Peace (Judges 6:24), The Lord Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 33:16) There are quite a few others. But each name for God tells us something more about his nature, the kind of Person he is, and how he acts towards his people.

However, there are certain names for God which occur again and again. The first is simply 'God' (Elohim) and refers to the Creator God, mighty and powerful—used 224 times in Genesis. The second is 'Lord' (Adonai) and tends to be used when the subject is God in action generally in the world—used 155 times in Genesis. The third is 'Yahweh' (YHWH) and tends to be used of God's actions towards his chosen people; it is the name that means 'I am who I am' (Exodus 3:14), or sometimes it is just 'I am'.

So that readers will know which of these three names is being used in the original language, the ESV translators use 'Lord' for Adonai, 'Lord' for YHWH—'I am', and 'Lord God' for 'Lord YHWH'. (Incidentally, the NIV uses 'Lord Almighty' for 'Lord YHWH', though in Ezekiel NIV uses 'Sovereign Lord'! Best just to stick to one translation; it is a bit of a word-puzzle trying to compare NIV and ESV, but at least ESV is consistent, whereas NIV can vary.) Well done for your question and spotting these differences!

How amazing that we have young people that are able to serve in various capacities throughout our church. The value of these opportunities should not be undervalued: my own experiences have had a huge impact on my faith but also on my life at work.

We have one more meeting and then we will present our report to the General Assembly. I'm really proud of what the group have achieved in what feels like a relatively short time. They might accept what we propose but they might not. Either way, I've met a great bunch of folk, the youngest being Emma who is twelve and one of our number a young man named Somer who is currently seeking asylum in Scotland. They've not been on the group as a token gesture, Emma in particular has made her presence known on the group and I really admire her faith and confidence to speak out when she doesn't agree with one of the oldies. I feel like I'm leaving the group having said my piece. My voice has been heard and hopefully I'll have made my mark on the future of the church.

When I was offered my place on the working group I was given the option of stepping aside because I was due to have Ruaridh a couple of weeks later. It wasn't great timing, the second meeting was just a few days after Ruaridh was born so needless to say I didn't make that one. I'm so glad I did accept my place. Ruaridh has been a constant reminder of the importance of making sure the church is a place where young people are welcomed, valued and their voices heard. My hope and prayer is that he will one day reap the rewards of the hard work done by the Young People and the Church of Scotland Working Group that I have so enjoyed being a part of.

Amy Scott

GUILD NEWS

On the 4th of February who invited Ian Wren from 'Horseback UK' to be our speaker and what an interesting and inspiring evening we had. 'Horseback UK' helps rehabilitate wounded service men and women by introducing them to horses in the wonderful countryside around Aboyne. In this setting they start to rebuild their lives after being mentally and physically scarred by war. 'Horseback UK' has recently become an SQA accredited centre so that veterans can work for an official qualification which is internationally recognised.

On 18th February, in keeping with our theme 'One Journey, many Roads' we enjoyed a Taste Night. Food was prepared from the seven continents of the world with fruit from Africa, bagels and cream cheese

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none came. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood.

But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened; all he'd had was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!"

Bible Alive

February has marked the beginning of our Bible Alive programme with the P6 children in some of our local primary schools. This programme is run by Scripture Union and has been specifically designed to fit in with the Curriculum for Excellence, achieving some of the learning outcomes which relate to the study of Christianity and a few from the Judaism section. Bible Alive allows the children to see the Bible as a whole as we attempt to cover the key parts from Genesis all the way through the Revelation. This is done in seven one-hour long sessions with an additional Q&A and feedback session at the end. The sessions are extremely interactive and participation heavy with the children having opportunities to dress up, act out, read out loud or simply hold up some props to demonstrate our stories and assist in truly bringing the Bible to life.

We are providing Bible Alive for around 150 children which is a fantastic number of children to be reached in this way. One class of P6's in Warddykes, one and a half classes in Ladyloan and three classes in Hayshead. We are so thankful that these schools are open to us coming in to their classes to provide a Christian context for their Religious and Moral Education slots. from North America, a Taco dish from South America, four different cheeses from Europe, sledging biscuits from Antarctica, Lamington cake from Australia and Naan bread with dips from Asia.

The Bible passage chosen for the evening was from Psalm 34 v 8 'Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him".

We had our Soup Lunch on the 24th of February when donations went towards our projects.

Our next meeting will be on the 4th of March when members of the Flower Club are going to help us be creative with flowers.

Please come along to enjoy the evening with us.

Early the next day, however, he was wakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal" they replied.

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but don't lose heart, because God is at work. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground - it just may be a smoke signal sent by the grace of God.

We have completed two weeks of our programme and it is amazing to see how enthusiastic the children are about what they are learning and how they are so keen to get involved. We have a question box available which will then be used in our Q&A session and it is very heartening to see the depth and spread of the questions they are asking already. It is clear that they are really thinking about the stories we are telling and how they show who God is and his character.

Bible Alive has involved many people I would like to say how grateful I am for the help I have in these sessions from the helpers who accompany me: Louise Smith in Ladyloan and Joan Finlayson in Hayshead and Warddykes. I would also like to thank the people who have assisted in decorating props and creating costumes!

Please pray for the remaining sessions and for each child we encounter, specifically that we can communicate the Word of God and that He will speak to the children through us.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about our youth work!

Carla Ingram (standrews.yg@gmail.com or 07762740317)

SOUPER Sunday's

As you will know, we enjoy a monthly soup lunch after our Sunday worship. But we're not alone in doing that! Indeed many congregations do 'Soup Sundays' and one of the key beneficiaries is the Church of Scotland's HIV and AIDS Project. Here's the story.

The Church of Scotland has raised more than £500,000 to tackle HIV and AIDS by serving hundreds of thousands of bowls of soup.

Volunteers in congregations across the UK and further afield are using their culinary skills to literally change the world for people living with the virus "one spoonful at a time".

Souper Sunday, part of the Church's ground-breaking HIV Programme, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this month.

It is a special act of worship led by church elders to raise awareness of the many issues around HIV, a virus that weakens the ability to fight everyday infections and disease, followed by a simple lunch of delicious hot soup and bread.

Diners donate what they can to the HIV Programme, which was established by an act of the General Assembly in 2002 and currently supports 17 projects in 13 different countries including Scotland.

Carol Finlay of the World Mission Council, which runs the project on behalf of the Kirk, said: "No-one should die of AIDS but we know a million people a year still do. "The tools to end the epidemic in our lifetime are available but not yet accessible to all.

"The Church of Scotland HIV Programme supports our partners in Scotland and around the world as they continue to work towards an AIDS free generation.

"With much hard work on the part of soup-makers across the land, Souper Sunday has done so much to support HIV-related partner projects all around the world, from Scotland to the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

"Church members should be rightfully very proud of this achievement through the act of simply serving bowls of soup.

"We are changing the world – one spoonful at a time."

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Official statistics from 2017 suggest that 101,600 people are living with HIV in the UK and globally, an estimated 36.7 million people have the virus.

Through the HIV Programme, church congregations are provided with thought-provoking and engaging educational materials to help raise awareness among people of all ages about the impact of the virus at home and abroad.

Ms Finlay said: "Since 2002, we have made great strides in churches in terms of understanding and have raised £501,087,03 so far.

"Hopefully today, members are much more aware of the nature of the virus and the opportunities for care, support and treatment and opportunities to counter stigma and discrimination."

HIS Glory, HIS Peace

Take a moment in this quiet place to rest and feel our God's embrace. See HIS Glory, feel HIS Peace. Perfect blessing which will never cease. Open your eyes and see HIS Glory, HIS Peace for you and for me.

It is glowing in the sky, so blue. It is rustling in HIS trees, swaying in HIS gentle breeze. In all you say and do acknowledge Him and feel HIS Glory, HIS Peace around you.

It is trickling in HIS streams, surrounding you in your dreams. It is blooming in HIS flowers. It is with you always, not just hours.

In answered prayers, blessed gifts, smiling babies newly born. All the pain He lifts, and mends the hearts once torn. It is climbing on HIS hills, it is in His deepest ocean, and it is dwelling on HIS earth where HIS Glory, HIS Peace rules on.

Blessings fall day by day, from our God mighty King, following Him in His way. Of HIS Glory, HIS Peace we sing.

It flows on and on and on.

HIS boundless love will never cease.

One thing certain we lean upon HIS Glory, HIS Peace. It is twinkling in the night stars, His hand created bright. Full of His power and His might.

Oh what glory! Oh what peace!

Be humbled by HIS Glory, and receive HIS peace.

AMEN

MARCH

Sunday 3 11 am - Worship Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 10 11 am - Worship Service - Guest speaker, Tim Mineard

Sunday 17 11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 24 11 am - Worship Service, inc Service of Blessing

Sunday 31 11 am - Worship Service 4 pm - Messy Church

April

Sunday 7 11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 14 11 am - Palm Sunday Service

Thursday 18 7 pm - Maundy Thursday Communion

> Friday 19 7 pm - Good Friday Service

Sunday 21 11 am - Easter Day Celebration

Sunday 28 11 am - Worship Service 4 pm - Messy Church

Sunday services are streamed live through our website or can be watched

on 'catch up' at our YouTube channel.

Midweek services, take place every Wednesday at 10.30am followed by tea/coffee.

Evening services have been replaced by 'The Big Worship Night In' on a termly basis.

Thy Kingdom Come

Congregations, church members, and families across the country are being invited by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to take part in Thy Kingdom Come, a global prayer movement in 114 countries.

During the period from Ascension to Pentecost (30 May - 9 June 2019) Christians around the world from South Sudan to South Korea will be encouraged to come together in prayer.

Events will take place worldwide during this time such as round-the-clock-prayers, special walks, prayer stations and family activities.

In a letter sent to ministers this week, Rt Rev Susan Brown said it would help church members to "be effective in our witness" and "for the spread of the Gospel in Scotland".

"In my own ministry at Dornoch Cathedral we have actively participated in Thy Kingdom Come in previous years," she wrote.

"So, when I signed the joint statement to state that: 'The Church of Scotland now commits to encouraging all its parishes and people to join in Thy Kingdom Come in 2019 and beyond', I found myself affirming what I had previously sensed God calling us to do in the place of my own ministry.

"Equally, in seeking to encourage every parish in the Church of Scotland to consider participating in Thy Kingdom Come in 2019, I am commending a Global Prayer Initiative that I know has touched the lives of many."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, said: "I am thrilled and delighted that the Church of Scotland is encouraging every lay and ordained member to join in Thy Kingdom Come. "Over the past three years more and more worshipping communities around the world, of every denomination and tradition, have rediscovered the riches of the tradition of praying 'Come Holy Spirit' between Ascension Day and Pentecost.

"I hope that this is a great blessing to the Church and bears fruit throughout the years to come in our effective witness to Jesus Christ."

Those who wish to join Thy Kingdom Come can 'Pledge2Pray' via the Thy Kingdom Come website.

In November, Mrs Brown signed a joint statement with the Archbishop of Canterbury affirming that 'the Church of Scotland now commits to encouraging all its parishes and people to join in Thy Kingdom Come in 2019 and beyond'. Begun in 2016 by the Church of England and now involving 65 different denominations, Thy Kingdom Come hopes that "people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ."

The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Most Rev Mark Strange, has also joined with the Church of Scotland to commend Thy Kingdom Come.

"One of my abiding memories of childhood was every evening - in a not particularly Christian household - sitting down with my father and saying the Lord's Prayer together and that sense of calling for 'Thy Kingdom to Come'.

"So it's with great delight that we as a denomination, the Scottish Episcopal Church, have been involved in Thy Kingdom Come, primarily at a provincial level, but we're now working that down towards charge level.

"It's also with great delight that we share that experience with the Church of Scotland, our partners in mission.

"I ask them, as I know we will do for the Church of Scotland, to pray for each other, as we work through the importance of being able to pray to God and say 'may thy kingdom come'."

Thank You Trauma Teddies

A very big thank you to the ladies who knitted trauma teddies.

They will be delivered to the Police Station later this month.

We're ready to go!

The first of our mental health projects is about to get started. A well- being choir, (Còisir Sunnd) will start on Tuesday 19 March in Community Spirit at 7pm.

This is for anyone (and their carers) who is feeling low, isolated or just wants some company.

Pastoral Care

In the last edition of QUEST, we referred to our desire to enhance our congregational pastoral care. We know that there is LOTS of wonderful caring taking place but we know too that there are gaps.

To aid us in this, we're keen to recruit new members to our pastoral care team - and to get members of the existing team active again, where possible.

This was a good opportunity for the church to help our community.

Thank you Pam Drever, Service Core Group

It is well documented that singing helps improve mood and a feeling of well-being.

Còisir Sunnd is different, you don't have to be able to read music, or in fact be a good singer. We are not planning any performances. Just come along and join in. There will be refreshments and plenty time to sit and chat and make new friends. We can't wait!

Of course there are certain skills involved in exercising pastoral care and with that in mind, we'll offer appropriate training. But most of all, what we're looking for are people with big hearts - people who care.

You don't have to be an 'expert' to be a pastoral visitor but you do need to be able to listen and able to enjoy a cuppie and a natter!

Please speak to the minister or leave your name at the church office if you'd like to think about serving in this way.

www.arbroathstandrews.org.uk More in pictures

Martin and Elaine and the boys





The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and Rt Rev Susan Brown, Moderator of the General Assembly





Carla (and former VVs Matthew and Ewan) at the recent residential event for CofS youth workers



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