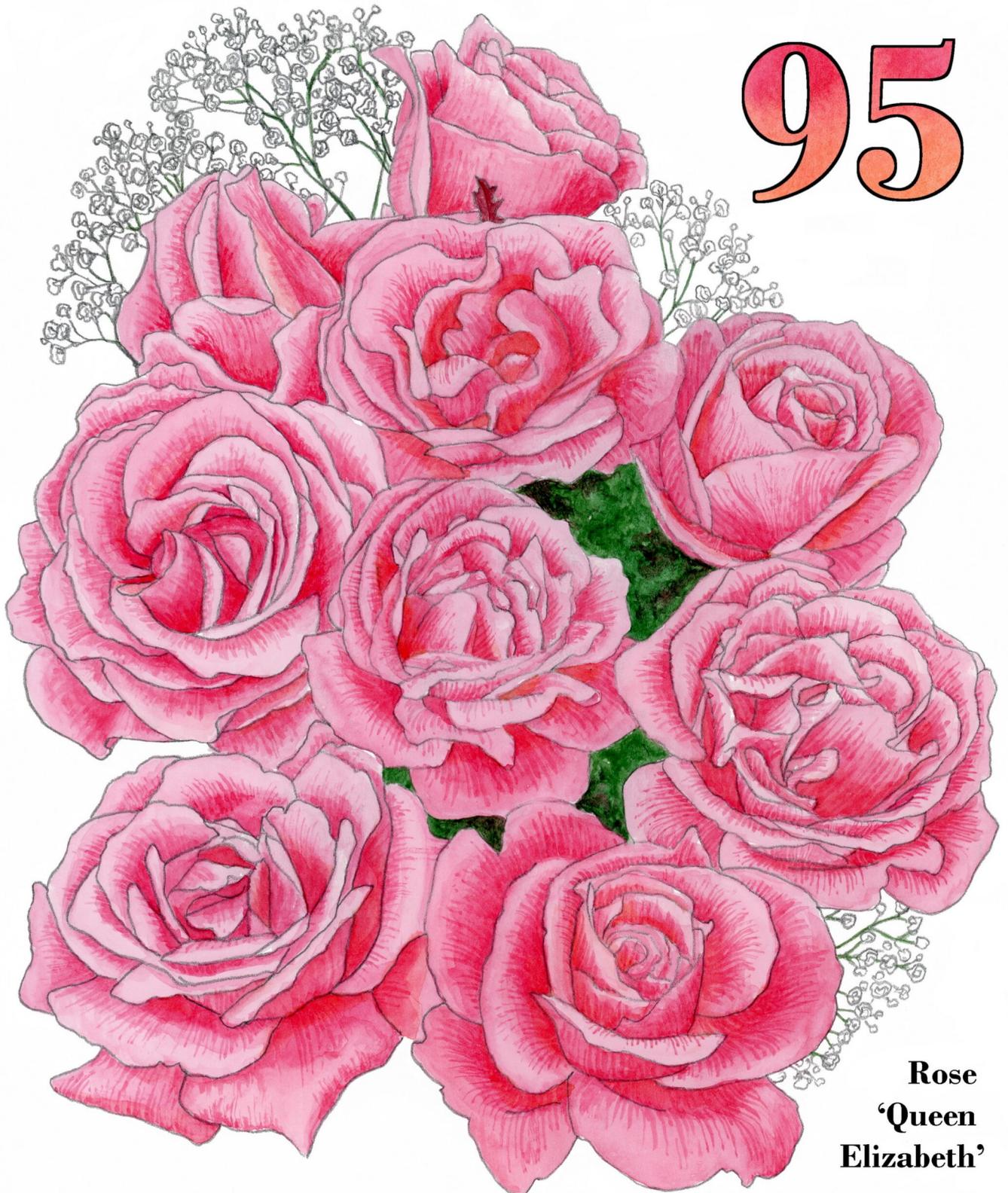


# St Mary the Virgin—North Shoebury

**JUNE 2021**

**95**



**Rose  
'Queen  
Elizabeth'**

**FRIDAY 2ND JUNE— MARCONI PATENTS THE RADIO**

**THURSDAY 6TH JUNE-WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

**SUNDAY 20TH JUNE—SUMMER SOLSTICE**

**SUNDAY 20TH JUNE—FATHER'S DAY**

**THURSDAY 24TH JUNE-BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**



**The Church garden work party this month will be on Saturday 12TH JUNE from 2-4pm**



**It is official—you should be there!**

According to a recent study conducted by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and two universities, people who garden every day have well-being scores 6.6 per cent higher, and stress levels 4.2 per cent lower than those who do not garden at all.

Dr Lauriane Chalmin-Pui, RHS well-being fellow and lead author says, “The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the more frequently you garden, the greater the health benefits.

“In fact, gardening every day has the same positive impact on your well-being as undertaking regular, vigorous exercise like cycling or running.

“Gardening is like effortless exercise: it doesn’t feel as strenuous as going to the gym, but we can expend similar amounts of energy.”

## “Vicar’s” Letter June 2021

### Trinity

We now enter the long period in the church year that is known as Trinity. The colour of the altar frontal and vestments in church are now green. This year in our Sunday Services we are learning from the Gospel According to St. Mark.

But it has been an intensive time since we started to prepare for Christmas at the beginning of December. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter seem to pass by like a fast train, and suddenly they are gone.

At this time of year, the question is, “What should we be doing in the long period of Trinity?” Well, I suppose the answer is “grow”.

The church year reflects the agricultural seasons of the year and were established before industrialisation. The seeds have been sown, so now we nurture them in the hope that they grow. We should already be preparing for a plentiful harvest in the Autumn.

But how do we grow as people? Most of us would say that we are “grown up”, but are we?

When do we stop developing, learning, becoming more wise? I really hope that we never do stop. I have long held the belief that a day spent without learning something new is a wasted day.

At St. Mary’s Church there are several events that it would be good to see when it is safe to do so. Maybe a “Harvest Supper”, maybe a summer picnic at East Beach, maybe a Christmas Crib Festival. If you have a good idea, share it.

To mark the ending of the pandemic, some people have been talking about trying to put on a display of items related to North Shoebury. We have a long history. Wikipedia has an entry for North Shoebury:

**SHOEBURY (North)**, a parish in [Rochford](#) district, Essex; on the coast, 3½ miles E of Southend r. station. Post town, [Southchurch](#), under Southend. Acres, 2,131; of which 1,045 are water. Real property, £2,518. Pop., 193. Houses, 40. The manor belongs to G. A. W. Welch, Esq. The living is a vicarage in the [diocese of Rochester](#). Value, £185. Patron, the [Lord Chancellor](#). The church is ancient but good.

— *John Marius Wilson's Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales (1870)*

It is clear that the detail of the story of St. Mary's needs bringing up to date. Maybe we can discover new items of interest about the area that we live in and improve on this description.

If you have memories of the area, contact us so that we can share them and add to our story.

I wonder if we could also collect thoughts and reflections of life in the pandemic? We have all been touched in some way by this. This might be written, photographic or as we now live in an Internet age, maybe sound or film.

But the pandemic is not yet over. No one is safe until we are all safe. So, we need to continue with caution.

St. Mary's is slowly opening up. Mid-week services have started again with Holy Communion at 10.00 am each Thursday morning.

The Thursday Community Coffee Morning has restarted. There were eight at the first event, it would be lovely to see this grow.

It would also be wonderful to see us all grow in knowledge and understanding of ourselves, our church, our area, and maybe even our faith.

Please keep in touch.

**God bless**

**Rev. David Pierce**



## **St Mary the Virgin Church North Shoebury**

In the last 30 days your cause has raised **£33.22** and recruited no new supporters.

You have your very own cause page where you can sign up new supporters. Share the link below and get more people on board.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarynshoebury/>

### **Make more of this opportunity to support the church and it's growth in 2021**

There are many ways you can help (even if you yourself are not an “online shopper”). Please this week invite new members to support our cause these could be:-

- Family or friends
- Work colleagues
- Suppliers or businesses

Other charity organisations you support (they form their own account but St Mary's get a bonus (at no cost to their fundraising or their own supporters)

You can share by, social media (facebook, twitter, whatsapp, email, text message or best of all face to face). Suggested formats and adaptable templates are on the site see here:-

[Refer-a-Friend | easyfundraising](#)





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St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Since your parishioners mostly live in an area of half a square mile, where their only concern in getting to church is whether to take the underpass, or to risk a dash across the ring road, you may have little understanding of the problems our folk have in travelling our long country lanes to church, especially as we are keeping our social distance from each other.

Several parishioners have decided that they can't possibly share cars even with their own spouses, as in their 15-room homes they have successfully (and in some cases, happily) avoided each other for months. So the lane outside the church has filled up each week with Mercedes nudging Audis, and Land Rovers easing in between Bentleys.

Others arrive on horseback. But they are careless about leaving their horses to graze in the churchyard, and I have had to remind them twice that flowers in memorial vases are not fodder. The horses do help to keep the grass down, but unfortunately our verger now objects to standing outside during Mattins, holding the reins of half a dozen horses. He says it is not part of his job description, which only confirms my view that there is entirely too much fuss these days about having job descriptions at all.

Major Crompton's devotion to his new sit-on lawnmower has inspired him to travel to church on it. Since he is unable to uncouple the mowing apparatus, the tarmac on his two-mile drive is acquiring interesting patterns. His drive at two miles per hour along narrow lanes means he arrives leading a procession of cars with drivers given the opportunity to exercise the Christian virtue of patience.



Mrs Pendleton, on the other hand, leads a small but select group from the Mothers' Union who are all keen cyclists. They all arrive on a whoosh of fresh air, their hair in total disarray, but with pink cheeks glowing with health. Nobody in church minds sitting near them, as anyone who can manage to peddle an old three-gear bicycle up the hill to our church is most unlikely to be sickening for anything.

Finally, of course, the majority arrive on foot, having negotiated fields, stiles and assorted cattle on the way. The countryside may well praise God, but one does wish they wouldn't bring quite so much of it into church.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

## **Feed the birds—care for our habitat and heritage.**

British birds are in big trouble. 80 per cent of our most popular species are in severe decline, according to recent data from the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch.

The world's largest wildlife survey has found that 16 out of the 20 most spotted garden birds have been in decline since 2020. There are now concerns about the greenfinch and chaffinch, which were seen in their lowest ever numbers this year.

The top five birds seen in people's gardens were: house sparrows, blue tits, starlings, blackbirds and wood pigeons. Only robins, blackbirds, carrion crows and the song thrush grew in number in 2020.



## English Puritan church leader

If Richard Baxter were alive today, he would probably be contributing to the Thought for the Day on Radio 4, because he had a gift for the sound-bite. Try these memorable quotes:

*Preaching a man a sermon with a broken head, and telling him to be right with God is equal to telling a man with a broken leg to get up and run a race.*

*If God be not enough for you, you will never have enough. Turn to Him more, and know Him better, if you would have a satisfied mind.*

*When I compare my slow and unprofitable life with the frequent and wonderful mercies received, it shames me, it silences me, and leaves me inexcusable.*

*I preached as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men.*

As it was, Richard Baxter lived from 1615 to 1691, and so instead of broadcasting, became a well-known English Puritan church leader, poet, hymnodist, theologian and controversialist.

His 19-year ministry at St Mary and All Saints Kidderminster was very influential – he was an impossible preacher to ignore!

After the Restoration in 1660, Baxter, who had helped to bring it about, settled in London, and the power of his preaching and his skill as leader was well respected. He had been made a king's chaplain, and was offered the bishopric of Hereford, but as a moderate dissenter to the C of E, he refused. He was then barred from preaching, but turned to writing, and in all produced some 168 works.

He died peacefully in London in 1691.







**Congratulations to Ken & Dorothy !**

**Who have sponsored this month's magazine in celebration  
of their 61st Wedding Anniversary.**



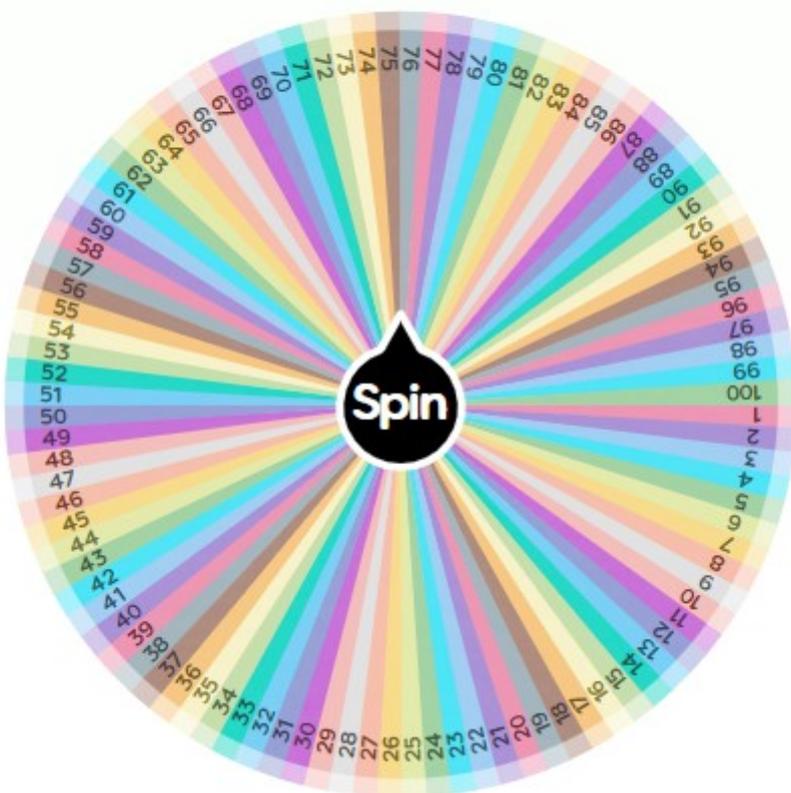
## Preparing the way for the Messiah

John the Baptist is famous for baptising Jesus, and for losing his head to a woman. He was born to Zechariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the foretelling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, we hear nothing more of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan c27.

John was a lot like an Old Testament prophet: he lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request. When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.

John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.

### numbers 1 - 100



### Winning numbers

in May were:

**1st Prize £20.25**

**Number 34 JT**

**2nd Prize £12.25**

**Number 46 JD**

## CONTACT DETAILS

For all enquiries, including weddings, baptisms, blessings etc. please, in the first instance, contact Pat Fitch.

01702 585289

Phone numbers are all area code 01702 unless stated

<b>Lead Minister</b>	<b>Revd. David Pierce</b>	07305 710265 david@revdavidpierce.net
<b>Churchwardens</b>	<b>Craig Hunter</b>	07932 503644 chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk
	<b>Tony Pond</b>	07960 678219 tonypond899@gmail.com
Hall Bookings	Phyl Wickenden	582185
	Francine Johnson	589244
PCC Secretary	Michelle Waters	589026
Church Finance & Gift Aid Secretary	Francine Johnson	589244
Electoral Roll Church Diaries & Flowers co-ordinator	Sue Arnold	586453
	Wendy Shipperley	588319
Social, Hall & Fundraising	Francine Johnson	589244
	Phyl Wickenden	582185
Readers, Chalice Assistants & Sides persons Rota Parish Magazine	Churchwardens Craig Hunter	07932 503644 chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk
Churchyard Safeguarding Officer	(Vacancy) Pat Fitch	585289

THE CHURCH WEB SITE

[www.stmarynorthshoebury.org.uk](http://www.stmarynorthshoebury.org.uk)

## Wonders of the Living Wor(l)d

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like “your genetic blueprint” or “survival of the fittest”, but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase ‘The Snuggle for Existence’ as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These ‘mitochondria’, as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

‘The Map of Life’ is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms’ family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That’s not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.



None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there's an overarching physical law we don't yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

## **Prayer for Encouragement in June**

Father,

At this time of year, we remember Barnabas, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, who encouraged people to stay true to you – and others to trust you for the first time.

Lord, we have gone through difficult days. The pandemic has taught us that we are not in control. We don't know what each new day might bring. As we move into June and the hope of more normality after the restrictions of Lockdown, we too need encouragement.

Help us to have courage to step forward with confidence and common sense. Most of all help us to stay true to you and to trust you, knowing that you are the security we need, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us. Help us to be en-couraged!

In Jesus name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*



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## The Ancient Church

Sometimes I sit within my pew  
And gaze upon an ancient view  
Of stones, which, set by mason's line  
Have stood through centuries of time;  
Of glass, whose colours, vivid, bright  
Have told their wondrous tales of light  
And filtered sunshine's timeless rays  
To countless eyes through countless days.

The pulpit where, through long past years  
God's servants preached to faithful ears;  
The lectern and its Bible read  
Aloud to both the quick and dead;  
The feet, which down that aisle have trod  
To worship everlasting God;  
The angels, as they downward gaze  
Have heard ten thousand songs of praise!

Songs of joy, and infant cries  
As they gathered to baptize,  
Songs of love and celebrations  
In marriages and confirmations,  
Songs of sadness and of loss  
Sung before the Saviour's cross.  
So many lives have come, then flown  
Within this ancient house of stone.

So, as I sit and wonder how  
Such history should guide me now?  
Such faithful worship through the years  
May move me to shed humble tears.  
These ghosts bring me joy, not fear  
I know I'm just a tenant here  
And in one way they are my guide –  
They keep me free from pompous pride!

*By Nigel Beeton*



## The parable of the Great Banquet

One thing that we've probably missed over the past year is parties. Well, this month should enable us to party again! Lots of Jesus' parables focus on parties, as they are a picture of the joy, hope and life of the kingdom of God. The parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14: 15-24) challenges us not to miss out on this.

In Jesus' day, when people accepted an *invitation* to a banquet, they were only told the actual time on the day: '*Come, for everything is now ready*' (17). Jesus' invites each one of us to share in the life of His kingdom.

However, the guests made *excuses* for not coming. At the time, this would have been extremely insulting to the host. They said: '*I have just bought a field; I must try out my new team of oxen; I have just got married*' (18-20). These are all good things in themselves, however they reveal their priorities were elsewhere.

We too can be pre-occupied with our own routines of work, family, retirement, holidays, friends, home, social media, that we forget God's priorities for our lives. Jesus calls for total commitment from His disciples. *What priority in my life is holding me back from accepting His invitation?*

How did the host *respond*? He ordered His servants to '*Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.*' (21). He invited the unexpected and unacceptable people to His banquet. Jesus makes the point that *God's kingdom is open to all!* Thinking about our family, friends, colleagues and neighbours, even if they're not like us or show little interest in God: *Are we willing to offer them God's invitation to share His love and life?*

**David has suggested in his newsletter a summer celebration ...an East Beach barbeque, St Mary's Lawn picnic...any takers to be the organiser?**





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