



IMPACT REPORT

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD,
CARSHALTON BEECHES



Good Shepherd
CARSHALTON BEECHES



PEACE IN A WORLD IN PIECES

2 WHAT'S THE STORY? FROM THE VICAR

"Seeing people grow." That was my answer. What was the question?
"What is your favourite thing about your role at the Good Shepherd?"

It's a short story, but contains much truth. After all, there is a reason why our vision and values are organic images - rooted, growing, fruitful. Because I see my role here a bit like a gardener, overseeing a fascinating garden, with its constantly changing and evolving ecosystem of people all at different ages and stages of faith. It is a privilege to see growth in faith, in stage of life, in depth of faith and relationship with God, and of course in number of drummers.

Growth in faith comes through discipleship, which is a fancy word for training, practice, for a deepening friendship with Jesus and an expectation of encounter with God through the Holy Spirit. It is faithfulness that comes first, leading to fruitfulness. We are not a business seeking to expand, or an influencer looking for clicks, or even a social action project looking to help others; but first and foremost we are followers of Jesus. But when we focus on that, things change. Lived-out discipleship brings hope; hope-filled people bring change. Faithfulness leads to fruitfulness.

Some of us were able to explore this in our Away Day in October, when we spent time using Lego - yes, Lego! - to explore who we are as a community, what our values are, where our identity is to be found. From this we discovered that it is important to us as a church to be honest about the **messiness of life**; to spot places where we can be **bridges** between church, community and faith; and to do this standing on the **firm foundation** of Christ. This isn't always easy, life can throw us some curveballs, but we stand alongside each other in these moments. Our identity is to be found in who we are in Christ - loved, adopted, chosen. In that soil we grow.

I want to thank you for being planted in this garden with me, whether you are long established or a newly emerging seedling. Thank you for seeking to live with your roots by the stream, continually rooting yourselves in Christ as we gather to worship, growing in faith as everyday disciples, and being fruitful in love as we seek the well-being of our community.

I especially want to thank those that make it possible for me to do this role I love - for Ian, Anne, Peter G and Mike R; for Cheryl H and Anthony T as Wardens; the PCC; Fran & Michaela, and all the many teams that enable all the things that are detailed throughout the Impact Report and so many more. You enable me to also be a Training Incumbent, Area Dean, Trustee of Sutton Schoolswork, Member of the Bishop's Advisory Group on Liturgy, and you make me proud to be your vicar. **May we bring peace to a world in pieces.**

*"Blessed are they who trust in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. **It does not fear** when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought, and never fails to bear fruit."
(Jeremiah 17.7-8)*



Kevin

Rev Kevin Lewis,
Vicar

WHAT'S THE STORY? FROM THE CURATE

I have continued working closely with others from various Christian denominations as part of the Churches Together initiative. The Good Shepherd Church has been actively represented, not only by me but also by other congregation members, fostering a spirit of unity and joint purpose within our wider faith community.

In 2025, I led a small team tasked with organising the annual walk of witness. Additionally, I chaired a group that hosted a stall at the Eco Fair. The stall featured several interactive elements, including a prayer tree, inviting visitors to pause for prayer or reflection amidst turbulent times. These activities encouraged engagement and offered a space for spiritual connection.

The success of both the walk of witness and the Eco Fair was made possible thanks to the dedication of volunteers who played vital roles in planning and coordination. Their commitment is greatly appreciated and integral to the smooth running of these events.

During autumn 2025, the Start course took place, comprising three groups of five to eight participants. Across six sessions, the course blended videos, images, and thought-provoking questions, facilitating lively discussions in both large and small group formats.

While feedback indicated that the course length was appropriate, some concerns were raised regarding the cohesiveness of its structure and complexity of content. Materials were perceived as occasionally fragmented, making it challenging to fully engage participants and cater to their differing needs. I extend sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the course, whether by leading groups, welcoming attendees, providing refreshments, or offering prayers. Your involvement was deeply valued.

From 5th to 14th June 2025, I participated in a mission to Ukraine with Flame International, a UK-based charity committed to alleviating the trauma and suffering caused by war, terrorism, and oppression. The charity's mission focuses on healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation, reaching individuals and communities alike. The trip enabled us to equip and encourage local leaders, empowering them to make a positive, lasting impact. Witnessing the resilience and hope among the Ukrainian people was profoundly rewarding.

Home groups continued to thrive in 2025, providing a welcoming space for questions, Bible exploration, and meaningful conversation. Discussions about establishing additional groups highlight their ongoing demand and positive influence within the community. Continued prayer and support will be crucial for the growth and success of these groups going forward.

Ian

Rev Ian Nott,
Curate



FAITH IN PICTURES 2025



4 WHAT'S THE STORY? FROM THE WARDENS

We are so grateful for the inspiring leadership of Kevin, Ian and Peter, under whose guidance so much of our church life is thriving. We were also delighted to welcome Anne Doerr back into the leadership team. This year, we have seen incredible growth across many areas—particularly in our vibrant ministry with children and young people.

Our young people's faith is flourishing, supported by activities such as the Satellites Youth Camp, and it is wonderful to see them actively serving and contributing so much to our church life. The energy, creativity, and commitment they bring is a true blessing.

We are especially thankful for our congregation this year. Amid financial pressures, the response has been overwhelming: following a moving sermon by Peter and answered prayers, giving has risen to cover the costs needed to run the church. This generosity is a powerful testament to the faith and care of our community.

Across the week, our church family continues to grow and serve together. In small groups exploring faith, in support initiatives like **BEES** and **Holy Roast**, and in fellowship and fun through Game On, Wednesday Club, Shepherd Singers, Youth@5, AOP and Bishop's Lent events. Together, we are embodying our call to worship, serve, and care - rooted, growing, and fruitful in all we do.

Every one of these activities, our wonderful charity fairs, and most importantly our Sunday Services are underpinned by the tireless and largely unseen efforts of so many in the congregation. There is rarely a day in the year when the church isn't full of folk preparing for services, tweaking tech, practising songs, arranging flowers, tending the gardens...the list goes on and on. You are all wonderful and we thank you. Most particularly we thank Janet Hill and Chris Nutting whose selfless devotion on maintenance and financial matters respectively are now the stuff of legends.

We thank the Premises Team for their work. Compared to other years 2025 was comparatively quiet although we did, of course, need to spend lots of money on installing a new heating system (this time the South Extension).

We are also deeply grateful to Fran and Michaela, whose unwavering dedication keeps the day-to-day life of the church running smoothly and with such love and kindness. Their care and commitment, together with the many ways our congregation serves, form the backbone of our vibrant and thriving community.

At Good Shepherd - faith is alive, ministries are flourishing, prayers are being answered, and together we are nurturing young hearts and building a church that serves, supports, and inspires.



Anthony & Cheryl

Anthony Thompson & Cheryl Hudson
Wardens

WHAT'S THE STORY? FROM ANNE & PETER

Words from Peter G....Toward the end of 2025 I sailed past the second anniversary of being licensed as your Lay Reader. However, I had been lurking for some time before that. It is over three years since Bishop Rosemarie confided in me, 'I think you would be very happy at the Church of the Good Shepherd.' She was right!

Looking back, three words spring to mind - art, generosity and laughter. Why art? Because some of my happiest memories are associated with it. I was invited to give a talk at the Wednesday Club called Painting God. I agreed to do it because I would be able to show some of my favourite paintings on the big screen. I spoke about how artists for 2,000 years have tried to do something impossible - make visible the invisible God. It turned into a memorable occasion in which I was able to share why Jesus is the most compelling figure in human history, and why I have found him to be the way to hope and fulfilment. It led to two trips to the National Gallery, in which I led groups to explore some of their greatest treasures.

Why generosity? Because to my delight I was entrusted with devising a financial appeal. It was made clear to me how important it was because, for the past few years, inflation has meant that the amount the church spent was £20,000 more than we gave. Working with Chris Nutting and Fran Lewis, I decided that rather than using numbers and guilt to plead with people to give, we would talk with laughter and joy about what a blessing it is to give. After all, St Paul tells us that 'God loves a cheerful giver'. I was overwhelmed by the generosity with which the congregation responded. We can now rejoice together at what we will be able to do to serve our community because, for the first time in some years, we have set a budget in which we plan to receive as much as we spend.

Why laughter? Because when people ask me, 'What is Good Shepherd like?' I always say, 'Well, we laugh a lot.' This usually irritates them because what they really want to know is whether we use incense or have long processions. I preach a lot, and on the many occasions when I am missing on a Sunday it's because I am preaching somewhere else. Wherever I go I always talk about our church. And every single time I write my column in the Church Times I mention Good Shepherd, speaking of the joy it brings to worship God as part of such a welcoming congregation. And every word is true!

Anne, Peter

Anne Doerr, Peter Graystone
Retired SSM with PTO
Lay Reader



FAITH IN PICTURES 2025



6 HOW ARE WE ROOTED, GROWING AND FRUITFUL?

Rooted in Christ: Gathered Worship

Our Christmas theme was **Ordinary Girl, Ordinary Boy, Extraordinary God**, and we followed that in Epiphany looking at **Calling** – as Mary & Joseph were called, so were the apostles and then us – ordinary people, with an extraordinary God. In our Lent theme we **followed Jesus into the wilderness**, exploring what it is to be lost, and what it is to be found, called, and anointed. On Sunday evenings during Lent we did the **Jesus Story | Foundations**, a course exploring the sermon on the mount as Jesus' radical, transformational teaching, the foundation on which we grow.

Easter was a joy, as we told the story, hosted **Easter Family Fun**, washed feet on **Maundy Thursday**, reflected on **Good Friday** through our all-age service and walked the **Carshalton Walk of Witness**, and to top it off celebrated **Easter Sunday** with a baptism! The Easter season saw us looking at **Resurrection Lives** including Thomas, Peter, Tabitha and Lydia, culminating in **Ascension** and **Pentecost**. We followed with the imaginatively titled **If you're looking for God, this is what he looks like...**, looking at the character of God as one of love, justice, restoration and forgiveness.

Over the summer holidays we looked at **Six Children Who Changed the World**, including Moses, Miriam, and the boy with the picnic, whilst the young people once again went to **Satellites**. As the Autumn leaves fell we considered the **Season of Creation**, and moving on to our core values of being **rooted in Christ, his covenant love and transforming Spirit**, which accompanied our **financial appeal**, which Peter excellently led. We completed the year's cycle into the Advent theme **Back to the Future**, and Christmas theme **Peace to a World in Pieces**, with once again well supported Christmas services.

Thank you to everyone involved in our gathered worship, including **Morning Prayer** on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**, **Zoom Listening Prayer** on **Fridays**, and services on **Wednesdays** and **Sundays** @ **8.30, 10.00, and 6.30**.

Growing in Faith: Everyday Discipleship

Our faith does not only exist in our gathered worship, and we continue to prioritise growing our faith through **everyday discipleship**, happening through **our small groups and we so value all the facilitators** who enable **prayer, bible study, discussion** and helping each other navigate life through the lens of faith. Trying out the **Start course** was another way of growing in faith.

This is helped by all the various other groups and activities, some of which are more 'in-house' and some are open to the wider community, all forming part of our whole-life discipleship, as well as Auction of Promise and Bishop's Lent Appeal events which build faith and grow community. Thank you to everyone involved in leading, facilitating hosting, catering and enabling it all!



7 HOW ARE WE ROOTED, GROWING AND FRUITFUL?

Fruitful in Love: Community Well-being

Community health and well-being are often reported in our press as significant ways of improving lifestyle. Good Shepherd seeks to be an enabler of these things not only through our Sunday worship, but through our many weekly activities. Singing is a significant way to enhance life and gathered singing has been proven to lift spirits and support mental health. Singing at our 10am service every week and singing at our monthly **Shepherd Singers Group** are ways of enabling the art of singing to continue and welcomes others to walk through the doors. The scratch Christmas choir has also been a wonderful way to use skills and talents of our congregation and welcomes other local people to join in.

There are many examples of individuals being fruitful in love in our community particularly the **Tea Party team** who enable folk in vintage years who may feel isolated to gather for wonderful afternoon teas once a month. Led by Miriam and Linda the team of 22 volunteers including our Parish Nurse, serve those who have spent their lives serving others. This team has been serving for 10 years this year.

If ever you are driving past the church on a Wednesday morning do pop in to see how lively it is. **Wednesday Communion** and **Twiglets** share the space and anything could happen. The ponder points from the Vicars, the chats over coffee, the toddlers discovering spaces outside of home, their grown ups finding adult conversation, every week the church seeks to be a relevant welcoming space. And don't forget the wonderful Emma from Rescue Mums who comes and helps us keep the southside clean.

Being fruitful also includes fundraising, and along with our **Summer and Christmas Fairs**, which continue to support Homestart Sutton, Cry in the Dark, Sutton Schools Work, Sutton Community Works, Diamond Centre, Christian Aid there were also many events for the **Bishop's Lent Appeal**, the **Auction of Promises, shoeboxes** for **Cry in the Dark** in Romania, our **Harvest** offering for **Creating Hope (CAP) and New Ways**, and Christmas offerings for the **Children's Society**.

We continue to seek to be a church community looking inwards and outwards, being open to the Spirit's guiding us and taking our everyday ordinary lives and placing them before God as our offering. As we practice surrendering our ordinary lives to God, who is love, we discover more of how Holy Spirit uses us within every interaction, communicating love, wide, wide as the ocean. Keep on welcoming all who walk through our doors with a smile and a listening ear.



8 HIGHLIGHT ON THE HALL

It's been a real joy to open the ChurchSuite calendar this year and see how busy the hall has been week after week. The hall is much more than just a physical extension of the church – it's a shared space where everyday life happens. It's where groups gather, relationships form, and our faith is lived out in gentle, practical ways. The hall is a vital part of our story.

We work hard to make sure the hall is a place where everyone feels welcome, valued and safe. Through proactive administration, attention to safeguarding, and a spirit of hospitality, we successfully create an environment where people feel welcomed and included. I have noticed that often it is in quiet and consistent work that our faith is lived out.

Monday to Friday, the hall functions as a vital hub that aligns with the diverse needs of the local community. A significant portion of what is on offer is dedicated to children and young people, providing a secure and nurturing environment for their development. Furthermore, a substantial percentage of hall usage is focused on health and wellbeing initiatives that promote physical activity and social connection. This includes specialised groups supporting individuals with additional needs, ensuring an inclusive environment for all. Complemented by regular bookings from local organisations, charities, local government, and commercial partners, the hall remains a primary point of connection between the church and the wider community.

At weekends, the hall continues to be a popular place for parties and celebrations, with people gathering most Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year. These occasions bring so much joy and it's always lovely to see the space being used in this way. We are especially grateful for our dedicated team of volunteers, whose faithful service makes this possible. They give their time so generously to making sure the hall is safe, prepared, and welcoming for everyone who walks through the door. Through their care and commitment, they offer a ministry of hospitality that reflects everyday discipleship—faith expressed through simple acts of service.

“Thank you so much for all your help in getting us organised for this party! It was all very smooth and we are looking forward to having my elder daughter's party here next month...A friend of mine loved the hall so much she's asked me for details to book her daughter's party here. Look forward to having the other party here soon.” Party hirer, May

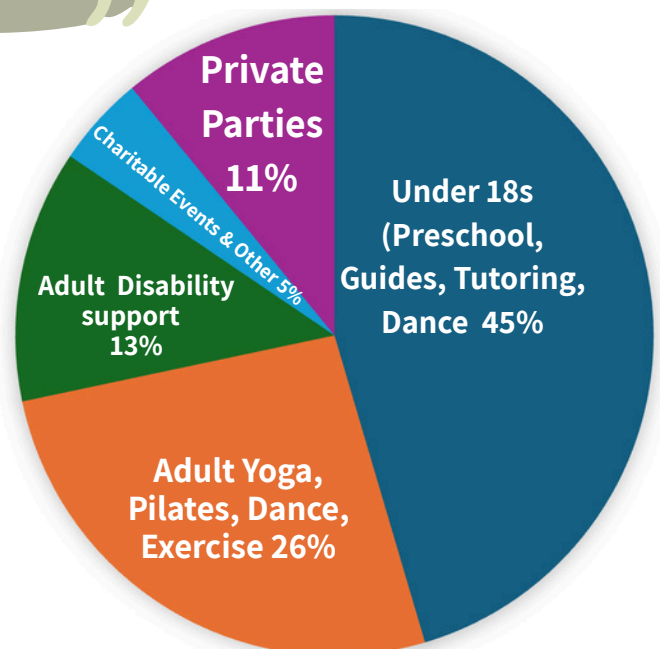
“Thank you very much for your venue yesterday - everybody loved it and had a great time. Martin was also lovely and so helpful.” Party hirer, February

“Thank you so much and we had a great time, it's a lovely space and Janet was super helpful! Party hirer, June

As we look ahead, we're excited to keep offering the hall as a unique space where people can gather, build relationships, and experience something of God's love in everyday life. It remains an important part of our shared life as a church, helping us continue to know Christ and make him known.



Michaela Strivens
– Church Centre Coordinator



THE STORY OF THE YEAR - 2025

Holy Roast | Lent Events | Coffee and Craft | Bereavement Course | BEES | Twiglets | Tea Parties
 Small Groups | Wednesday Communion | Sunday 8.30am | 10am | 6.30pm | Kids@10 | Youth@10 | Youth@5 | Everyage Team | Baptisms | Funerals | Pastoral Care | Morning Prayer | Friday Zoom
 Listening Prayer | WhatsApp Groups | Live Stream Services | LOAF | Wednesday Club | GAME ON | Church BBQ | School Visits | Shepherd Singers | Hospitality Teams | Parish Nurse & Wellbeing | Youth on Team | Volunteering with CAP, Homestart, Food Shop, Foodbank, Prison Fellowship, Oasis bookshop, Linking Lives, Creating Hope, MAPS, Refugee & Migrant (and many others) | Winter Shelter | Flower Team | Premises Team | Tech Team | Garden Team | Pastoral Visiting | Church Open Team | School Assemblies | Grill a Christian in High Schools | Supporting Charities | Scratch Choir | All the many welcomers | Auction of Promises Events | Many volunteers making lots of things happen | Enabling groups to use the facilities | Hall hirers |

January: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Prayer and worship into the New Year | Winter Shelter

February: Railway Children Sleepout (Anthony and Keith) | Winter Shelter

March: Baptism | World Day of Prayer | Ash Wednesday Reflections | LENT Course: Foundations in Jesus | Bishop's Lent Appeal Events, Big Breakfast, Loaves for Lent, Ginny's Dog Walk, Horsham Lunch, Bake Sale, Bluebell Breakfast, Lent Doodle | Winter Shelter | Church Funeral Elsie Green

April: Informal Reflective Service | Maundy Thursday Service | Twiglets Easter Service | Easter Family Fun Morning | Good Friday All Age Service | Good Friday Walk of Witness | Postbox Topper | Easter Celebration | Church Funeral Clive Nicholson | Churches Mob Match

May: Election Polling Station | Anne Doerr joins the team | Various AOP events

June: Bishop Rosemarie confirmation service for Luke and Manas | Pentecost Summer Fair | Church Funeral David Jefferson | Ian's trip to Ukraine with Flame International

July: Ukraine Evening | Kevin's 20 Years Deacon Anniversary | Holy BBQ | Youth@5 Smores | Womens world cup final

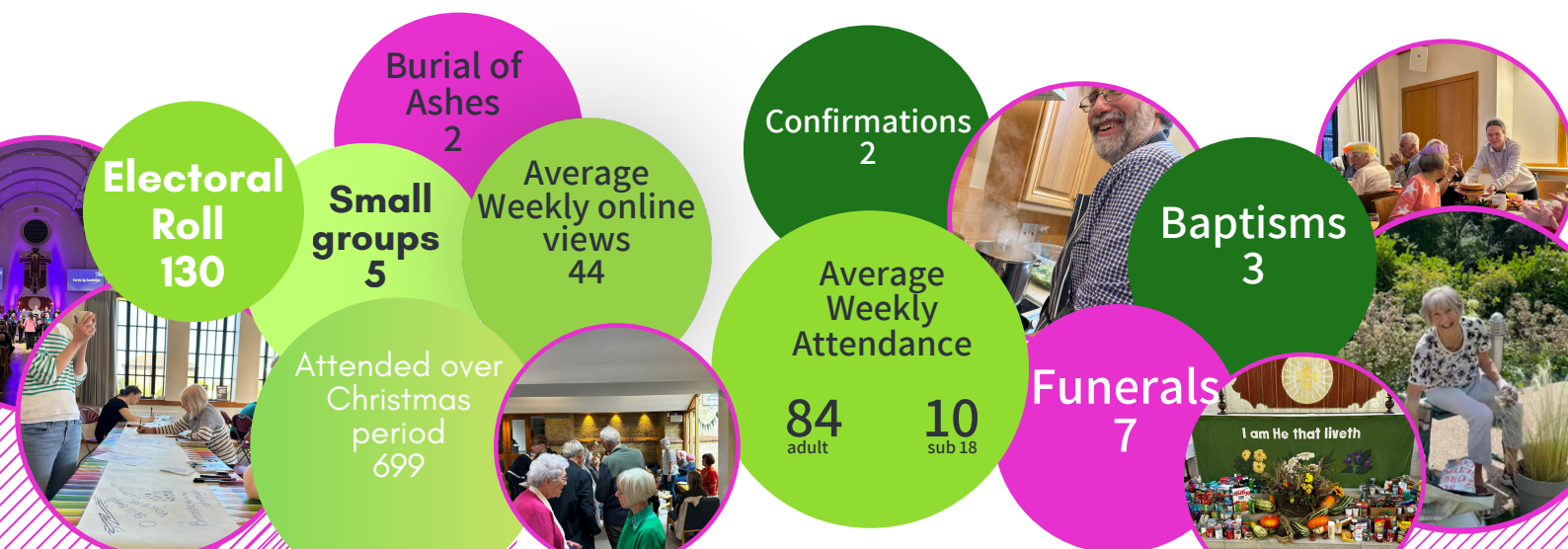
August: Youth at Satellites | Bishop's Certificate Service for Margaret | Peace doves at Southwark Cathedral

September: The Forge | Tab's Fund Raiser for Soundlounge |

October: Harvest | Parish Away Day | Start Course | Racial Justice Croydon Area Service | Shoebox Sunday - Cry in the Dark children's boxes

November: Remembrance Season | Hope Remembered - Memorial Service | Bereavement Course | Oasis Popup Bookstall | Southwark Cathedral Illuminate Lights | St Paul's Paula Gooder's Advent Reflections

December: Advent Reflections | Christmas Fair | Church Funeral Michael Todhunter | Twiglets Christmas Special | All age Christingle | Carols by Starlight | Carols by Candlelight | Nativity | Midnight Communion | Christmas Celebrations





2025



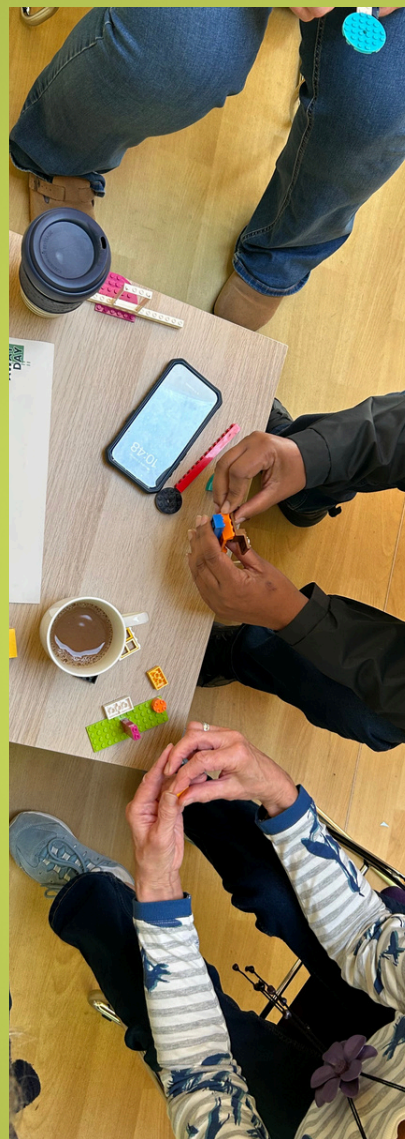
THE STORY OF THE YEAR Rooted in Christ





2025

THE STORY OF THE YEAR Growing in Faith





2025

THE STORY OF THE YEAR Fruitful in love





Learning to catch the Wind



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