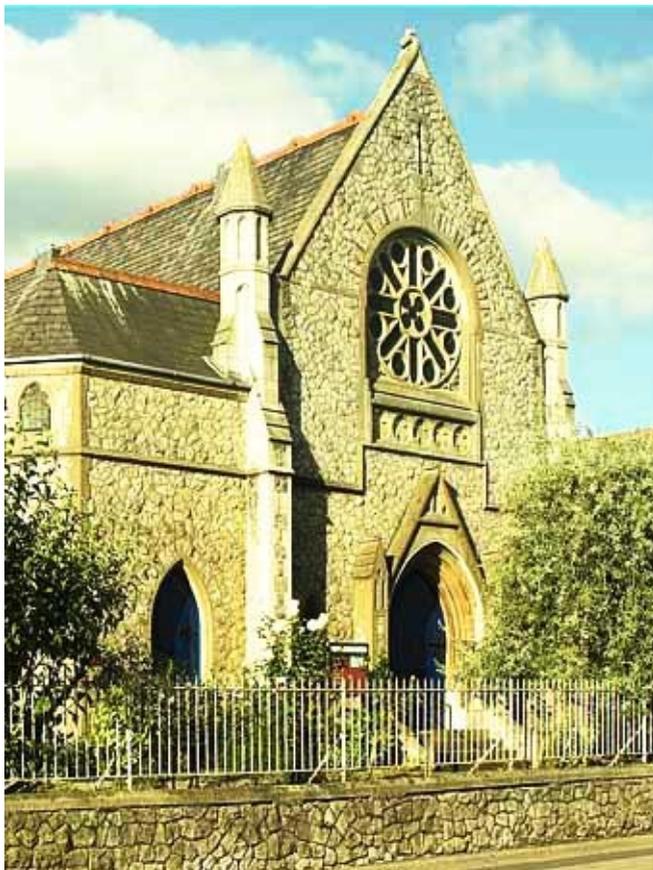


THE
OUTLOOK

JUNE - AUGUST
2021



Emmanuel Church Sidcup
Methodist and United Reformed

Letter from the Interim Moderator

We still await the verdict of the Scoping Committee but that should not be too long in coming. Maybe before you read this letter. May I add that your elders did Emmanuel very proud with the prepared documents and in the manner that all questions were answered.

The United Reformed and Methodist churches are variable bodies. Some churches are very heavy on theology while others prefer an address containing references to current events. I took a service at Sutton Baptist two years ago. The pulpit secretary sent the details of the service but outlined in red next to “address” were the words “please note that our attention span is limited to twenty minutes”!

Notwithstanding, prayer is an absolutely integral part of any church service. The word “prayer” is written 114 times between the Old and New Testaments. This does not include the words “pray”, “prayed”, “prayers”, “prayest”, “prayeth”, and “praying”!!! One of the most encouraging verses is Luke 18, 1 where Jesus expounds a parable to His disciples “that they should always pray and never become discouraged.” There are no ‘rules’ to follow about how we should pray and it is good to try new ways that challenge or change our understanding of prayer. Perhaps that is a challenge to many churches. Look at new methods of praying to our Father. God must find it refreshing to view congregations which are actively trying to stimulate worship. New ways of approaching Him.

I took this quote from a Methodist church web-site - "Prayer is the spiritual gymnasium in which we exercise and practice godliness." Guy H. King (author of “Prayer Secrets”) is quoted as saying, “No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it but he suffers from it!” Or, as William Inge states, “Prayer gives a person the opportunity of getting to know someone he/she hardly ever meets. I do not mean his/her Maker, but himself/herself.”

I read books where the writer seems to have an endless dialogue with God. “The Father’s Kiss” is one such book. The author seems to have a daily, friendly chat with God. Having been a Christian all my life I can honestly say I have never heard God’s voice directly in the same way

as certain others. But we must always believe that God answers prayer. If not then give up praying. The answer may come in a very subtle way but it does arrive.

Isn't it amazing how effects become simple when we listen carefully to Jesus - either we believe Him and receive His peace or we don't. Now the state of mind is such that *millions of people on this earth* would pay *billions* to achieve. Think of all the soothsayers charging exorbitant fees. We must be willing to go out and grasp all opportunities. Not simply offer up a prayer to God and expect a suitable answer to float serenely down from heaven!

The words of our Lord were translated from another language. Much was translated from the original Aramaic into Greek then into English. (Key in "Bible translations" to Wikipedia and you find an excellent series of articles about this topic). Translation from one language to another does tend to lose original sharpness. "Shalom" is a brilliant example. Peace is a wonderful gift from God. It is there to be grasped and there to be treasured. Every time we meet God in prayer we should feel more at peace afterwards: we should be uplifted. If we do not have more peace and enthusiasm after praying this seems to suggest that we are not meeting God at a deep level and need to review how we pray.

We pray for peace in other lands. Is this a flippant prayer? Does God say to Himself, "I hear those people praying for peace in Afghanistan, Syria, the Middle East but they have not achieved this peace in their own hearts." I like the comment which described peace as "that perfect inward serenity which comes from reconciliation with God." And I challenge anyone to put it more succinctly than that. We sometimes tend to forget that the Gospel has moved the world.

The peace of Jesus is far greater than that described in any other context. And surely that is the real peace. The peace to which we must all aspire. It is indeed impossible to describe the real peace to which we Christians can attain. Words simply fail to describe the sense in its truest meaning.

Unfortunately children of God do not play very happily at times!! I was Interim Moderator at a south-west London church some years ago. A minister had shown interest in the vacancy and a meeting had been arranged with the elders. We all prayed for the people at the meeting, that God would hear our prayer and lead us to a fruitful outcome. The meeting was very, very acrimonious. It ended up with the URC minister writing to the then Moderator about the manner in which he had been interviewed! Was prayer offered in the right manner or was God telling us not to touch this minister? I have not fabricated this story – it is entirely factual.

Anything that is free or low priced is viewed with scepticism in our material society and, in many cases, rightly so. But the peace of Jesus which should come through personal prayer is really free. It is something that the Church offers. But it is not a gift that people can take home; nicely wrapped up. It is something for which they must strive. Perhaps when we are trying to attract people into or back into the church that we miss the real jewels that we have to offer. Perhaps we concentrate on other issues that do not have the same benefits.

Let's face it. We all have our problems. The Doctor told my wife that if she had no worries she would go out and find some. She was not pleased!!!!

Peace with God. Peace with others. Let us pray that more will come to desire this peace. It can only be found through Jesus. And the church is the very best way to augment the seeker on his or her way to this peace.

Colin Watson

Cradle Roll

Maya Harper Duguid will be 4 on Aug 5th
Happy birthday Maya !



Easter Sunday



The Easter Sunday service on April 4th was led by Deacon Maureen Spinks. For the last hymn Maureen suggested we go outside to sing.

Photo by Liz Rees

A moment of reflection inspired by a walk through Newlands Valley

After having to stay at home for most of the last year, a return to our beloved Cumbria was looked forward to with excitement. We knew the mountains would still be there to welcome us back, but we weren't expecting them to look even more beautiful.

On May 5th we decided to repeat one of our favourite walks in the Newlands Valley. The unusual and crazy May weather seemed somewhat confused, but the unexpected arrival of frost and snow came as a bonus to us. The snow-capped summits covered in pure whiteness had an unbroken clarity. During each cold night there had been a fresh covering of snow and in the brightness of the morning sun the views seemed magical.

It was as if the mountains had multiplied and extended as far as the eye could see. All the crags and crevices, the gullies and rocks seemed etched on the pristine whiteness. The feeling of peace and tranquillity reflected in the unbelievably beautiful panorama. In the lush green fields on the valley floor the sound of the Herdwick sheep, calling to their new-born bleating lambs, resounded through the silence.

It all seemed like paradise to me! These were moments to treasure which I felt I wanted to share.

*All things bright and beautiful, All things great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.*

Judith



OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

JUNE

Nancy Mary Martin	1980
Esme Muriel Heath	1989
Raymond Edwin John Heath	1990
David Victor Martin	1990
John Treacher	1981
Eleanor Caroline Norman	1986
Ethel Louise Davies	1988
Dorothy Harris Kelley	1988
Harold Gerrard Kelley	1988
William John Baker	1980
Henrietta Millward	1992
Leonard George Griffiths	2002
Kenneth Greenway	2004
Georgina Griffiths	2006

JULY

Arthur Cecil Morton-Hooper	1969
Emily May Kearsley	1973
Percival Charles Gibbs	1977
Edith Elizabeth Newman	1983
W. Arthur Young	1984
William T. Rippon	1987
Gilbert Greenway	1967
Gertrude Greenway	1980
Raymond Greenway	1971
Thomas Lenard Allen	1972
Frederick Sydney Morley	1989
Colin Vaughan	2001
Ronald Sidney Hall	2001
Dorothy Brawn	2004
Andrew John Mulliss	2008

AUGUST

Henry Carl Osborne	1965
Elizabeth Edith Osborne	1980
Amelia Emma Long	1998
Doreen Ida Blades	2001
David Oatridge	2010

(David's name will be found in the Book of Remembrance
below his wife Margaret's entry in December)

Christian Aid Pastorate Sponsored Walk

Members from the three churches in the Pastorate - Bexley, Geddes Place and Emmanuel - met at Geddes Place on the morning of Saturday 15th May. There were 18 of us in total - 7 from Emmanuel.

Led by Paul and Ursula Ayliffe we covered paths most of us had never walked along, avoiding roads for most of the way. We all had packed lunches with us and stopped at Bexley URC to eat them where we were also given welcome cups of tea or coffee. From Bexley we walked, via the Footscray Meadows, to Emmanuel where Marion, Jenni, Doreen and Mandy had tea, coffee and biscuits waiting for us! We were very lucky with the weather and all enjoyed the walk and being able to meet and chat with members of the other churches.

Thanks are due to Paul and Ursula for organising the walk, to the refreshment ladies at the two churches as well as to our members who have sponsored Emmanuel's walkers and helped raise funds for Christian Aid.

Jennifer

The walk raised £179 from sponsor donors at Emmanuel.

The Christian Aid envelopes, organised by Peter Thornton, raised a further £202 making a total of £381 which has been sent to Christian Aid.

Judith



Leaving Bexley Village.



Walking by the river in Footscray Meadows,
just before Jacob went for a dip in the water.

Service for Christian Aid Week

Paul Ayliffe led the morning service on the Sunday morning following the sponsored walk. His theme was based on the importance of Christian Aid. A film from Kenya showed how the money from Christian Aid has been used to make life easier for people there to grow crops. The film introduced us to Florence who had struggled to feed her four children after her husband died. She had to walk for six hours to get water every day. Thanks to help from Christian Aid an earth dam was built in the village, showing what a difference access to water made to the life of Florence and her friends in the community.

Thank you Paul for giving us a brief insight into the need to support Christian Aid.

It was also good to learn that £140 had been collected by Emmanuel to support Water Aid. Our thanks to Pat George for organising the collection. It had been gratefully received by WaterAid.

Judith

Revised Common Lectionary

Liturgical Date	Calendar Date	First Reading and psalm	
2nd Sun after Pentecost	Jun-06	1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) Psalm 138	
3rd Sun after Pentecost	Jun-13	1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13	Psalm 20
4th Sun after Pentecost	Jun-20	1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 Psalm 9:9-20	
		or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16	Psalm 133
5th Sun after Pentecost	Jun-27	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27	Psalm 130
6th Sun after Pentecost	Jul-04	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	Psalm 48
7th Sun after Pentecost	Jul-11	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	Psalm 24
8th Sun after Pentecost	Jul-18	2 Samuel 7:1-14a	Psalm 89:20-37
9th Sun after Pentecost	Jul-25	2 Samuel 11:1-15	Psalm 14
10th Sun after Pentecost	Aug-01	2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a	Psalm 51:1-12
11th Sun after Pentecost	Aug-08	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	Psalm 130
12th Sun after Pentecost	Aug-15	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	Psalm 111
13th Sun after Pentecost	Aug-22	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84	
14th Sun after Pentecost	Aug-29	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

The full Lectionary can be accessed on line at
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=B&season=Lent>
 Make sure you get the correct year

Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Alternative first and Psalm		Second Reading	Gospel Reading
Jun-06	Genesis 3:8-15	Psalm 130	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
Jun-13	Ezekiel 17:22-24	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15	2 Corinthians 5:6-10,	Mark 4:26-34
Jun-20	Job 38:1-11	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
Jun-27	Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 or Lamentations 3:22-33	Psalm 30	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43
Jul-04	Ezekiel 2:1-5	Psalm 123	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
Jul-11	Amos 7:7-15	Psalm 85:8-13	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
Jul-18	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Psalm 23	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Jul-25	2 Kings 4:42-44	Psalm 145:10-18	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21
Aug-01	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	Psalm 78:23-29	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
Aug-08	1 Kings 19:4-8	Psalm 34:1-8	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
Aug-15	Proverbs 9:1-6	Psalm 34:9-14	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
Aug-22	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	Psalm 34:15-22	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
Aug-29	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	Psalm 15	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15,

Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting was held on 18th April.

The accounts were approved and all officers and Elders were re-elected.

The Covenant Service was held on 9th May and was led by Rev. Terry Wright.

Pastoral News

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Paul Laundry, the husband of Mandy, on 1st June. Our thoughts are with Mandy and their daughter Claire-Leigh. Please remember them both and Paul's family in your prayers.

Paul was a National Trust volunteer at Ightham Mote, a job which he loved. He had been on duty at the weekend and was in good health, but in the early hours of Tuesday he had a severe heart attack and died later that morning in hospital.

Paul was well known in Sidcup and his death has come as a great shock. He had led an active life and as well as volunteering he had given talks about his work to raise money for charity. We send our deepest sympathy to Mandy and Claire-Leigh and the rest of his family.

Syd Howlett is very poorly and both he and Maureen need us to continue praying for them. Maureen is as cheerful as ever but it is a very anxious time for her and she is grateful for our prayers and the support of her family.

Marion Parfitt is in a lot of pain with her shoulder and is awaiting referral for further treatment. We hope treatment will be successful and give her relief.

Rev. Juliet has had a difficult time recently. Her younger sister died in Australia and, having been led to believe she would be allowed to go to the funeral, she flew to Australia and on arrival was put into quarantine detention which was a very unpleasant experience. In her absence Rudado had been able to cover Juliet's preaching appointments. Juliet's name was written in our prayer book and we hope she is safely back home. In her e-mail she wished to be remembered to everyone at Emmanuel and is looking forward to coming to see us as Covid restrictions ease.

We also remember in our prayers Freda Skinner and Lorna New in St. Margaret's Care Home and Doris Willson in Baugh House. It is lovely to see Freda smiling and we give a wave to her when passing the home. She seems to be as busy as ever knitting and enjoying other crafts.

It is good to see people back at Church despite still having to observe restrictions. We were pleased to see Ella at Church with her daughter recently.

It is still understandable that not everyone feels ready to come back yet. Thankfully, apart from one or two minor ups and downs, everyone has kept well.

The Women's Fellowship have postponed their return to regular meetings until September, but Marion has kept in touch with members regularly and copies of Outlook have been distributed to them.

Friday coffee mornings have resumed and it is good to see people enjoying a chat and a cup of coffee as well as welcoming visitors from the local community.



Subject to change due to Covid-19

Services for June

6	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	
13	10.30am	Mr Colin Watson	
20	10.30am	Mrs Sue Cope	
27	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	Communion.

Services for July

4	10.30am	Mr John Twidale	
11	10.30am	Dcn Maureen Spinks	
18	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	
25	10.30am	Mr David Ball	

Services for August

1	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	Communion
8	10.30am	Mrs Maggie Ayres	
15	10.30am	Mrs Joan Mayes	
22	10.30am	Mr John Twidale	
29	10.30am	Elders	Songs of Praise

Friday Coffee Morning Returns

Every Friday in the Church Hall from 10.30am to Noon. Come in for a coffee & biscuit and have a chat with friends. On fine days there may also be a bric-a-brac stall outside. All for church funds.

More volunteers to serve coffee are needed desperately. Please see Marion Parfitt if you can help.



Sunday Coffee has also resumed

Coffee will continue to be served in the church after morning service every Sunday.

Donations to Church Funds

ROTA

Jun 6	Roger & Christine	July 18	Roger & Christine
13	Ann & Maryia	25	Ann & Maryia
20	Pam & Jennifer	Aug 1	Pam & Jennifer
27	Ethel & Kathy	8	Ethel & Kathy
July 4	Judith & Mandy	15	Judith & Mandy
11	Pat & Marion	22	Pat & Marion
		29	Roger & Christine

Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? (Theological Version).

I cannot vouch that every quotation is accurate but most are!!

Rick Warren: The chicken was purpose driven.

Pelagius: Because the chicken was able to.

John Piper: God decreed the event to maximize His glory.. OR . . . it was an act of Christian hedonism. The chicken realized that its greatest joy would only be found on the other side.

Irenaeus: The glory of God is that the chicken is fully alive.

C.S. Lewis: If a chicken finds itself with a desire that nothing on this side can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that it was created for the other side.

Billy Graham: The chicken was surrendering all.

Pluralist: The chicken took one of many equally valid roads.

Universalist: All chickens cross the road.

Martin Luther: The chicken was fleeing the Antichrist who had stolen the Gospel with his papist lies.

Tim LaHaye: The chicken didn't want to be left behind.

James White: I reject chicken centred eisegesis.

John Wesley: The chicken's heart was strangely warmed.

Joel Osteen: The chicken crossed the road to maximize its personal fulfilment so they it could be all that God created it to be.

Roger Olson: The chicken recognises no clear evangelical boundaries.

Driscoll: A [bleeping] chicken crossed the road to go get a beer.

Gary Demar: The chicken was fleeing the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. That's it.

Emergent: For this chicken, it's not the destination that's important. It's the journey itself.

N.T. Wright: This act of the chicken, which would be unthinkable in British barnyards, reeks of that American individualism that is destructive to community.

Al Mohler: When a chicken begins to think theologically, it has no other alternative but to come over to the Calvinist side of the road.

Michael Horton: The chicken was forsaking the kingdom of this world to live solely in the Kingdom of Christ.

John Frame: The chicken had an existential need to change its situation according to a new norm.

T.F. Torrance: The inner logic of the incarnation proved an irresistible draw to the other side of the road.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: It was abandoning cheap grace for the costly discipleship of risking the dangers of crossing the road.

Karl Barth: The crossing of the road, like all true theology, was done for profoundly Christological reasons. Because Christ came as the judge to be judged, all chickens cross the road in the end.

Paul Tillich: Because it sensed that the other side of the road represented the ground of all being.

New Ager: Because it saw the light beckoning it forward.

Fundamentalist: Because its pastor told it so.

Elevation Church: Because Pastor told it to get in the line on the other side for a spontaneous baptism.

Colin Watson

Remembering Winifred Pater

The new pulpit fall in memory of Winifred will bring back happy memories to all those who knew Winifred during the many years she was a regular member at Emmanuel. She died in March 2019 after living in a care home nearer her family for her last years. Her funeral service took place in Emmanuel, giving us the opportunity to say goodbye to her in the place she had loved for many years

Winifred was involved in Emmanuel for many years, in the Women's Fellowship, using her calligraphy skills on the Cradle Roll and in running the bric a brac stall on a Friday with her good friend Audrey Fish. Audrey says she still misses Win's friendship today.

After talking to Audrey about the times they had shared, it was obvious that she had loved her garden and the walks they had enjoyed together, especially amongst the trees in Footscray Meadows. Together Audrey and I looked at many different designs of pulpit falls before making a decision. The "Tree of Life" design, on the one we finally chose, seems a fitting memory of such a lovely lady. We sent a photograph of it to her daughters. They are

delighted with it and hope, when travelling is easier, to be able to visit Emmanuel. We look forward to seeing them again when they can come.

The beautiful work of art was made in the small town of Much Wenlock in Shropshire at the ecclesiastical outfitting business of Julie and Brendon Quinn, who are also both very involved in the musical side of the parish church in the town.

In between ordering the work and its completion there had been flooding in their workroom and then the pandemic arrived. It had been a very difficult time for the business!. This explains why it took a year to carry out a decision made at the AGM in 2019! I remained in regular contact with them by phone and was delighted when I got the call to say it was ready to be dispatched.



From the Guides

This is a photo of the 4th Guides on a weekly zoom meeting displaying the cards they made for Mothering Sunday.

The guides have also cooked pretzels, enjoyed a talk from a female tunnel engineer, competed in quizzes, scavenger hunts and worked through taskmaster challenges.

We are hoping to meet outdoors soon.



Regards Maggie & Liz

WALK ON

Walk alongside the cornfield, and past the leafy stream
Walk on through the meadow. Preserve it in a dream
Between the hedgerows in the month of May
Breathe lilac blossom on a sunny day
Walk across the heather, treading bracken dry
Watch seagulls flying homeward across an evening sky
Walk amongst the oak trees, the sycamore and birch
Walk through a country churchyard and into an English church
Walk towards the altar, kneel down and say a prayer
Pray for all those things you've just passed by, stay forever there.

Elsie Goodman

Property Update

After a visit from our insurers we had to have the Lightning Conductor tested and then had to add extra earth conductors so that it passed the test.

As you may have noticed, the Church is partly covered in scaffolding. This is to allow the exterior to be re-painted and also to permit some repairs to the roof of the Hall. It is amazing how much scaffolding is required just to paint the small amount of wood on the Gable. I hope you all appreciate the work involved to keep our Church in good condition. Exterior painting should be repeated at 7 year intervals according to the Methodist Property Rules.

Tony



Please Note

The closing date for copy for the **Sep / Oct / Nov** Outlook will be
Thursday 19th August

Earlier contributions will be welcomed.

Please plan ahead and make sure that I am aware of any events or meetings that need to be included on the calendar.

Tony Howard

Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com

Fair Exchange

Know it's stolen property;
I ought to be ashamed.
The sight of gold just lured me on —
I really can't be blamed.
So though I'm very sorry, bees,
To plunder from your hive,
Your honey I just can't resist
However hard I strive.
So could we make a bargain, bees?
To save me from your glowers,
If I may share your honeycombs,
Then you may share my flowers.

By Maggie Ingall

contributed by Pat Brace

Weekday Activities

Before Covid-19

Monday	2. 00pm	Woman's Hour (except Bank Hols)
	5. 45pm	3 rd Sidcup Beavers
	6. 30pm	3 rd Sidcup Cub Scouts
	7. 30pm	3 rd Sidcup Scouts
Thursday	10. 00am	Ladies Morning Club
Friday	10. 30am—noon	Coffee Morning
	1. 30pm	Parents & Toddlers Club
	4. 45pm	6 th Sidcup Rainbows
	6. 00pm	6 th Sidcup Brownies
	7. 30pm	4 th Sidcup Guides



MINISTER

Awaiting new Minister

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