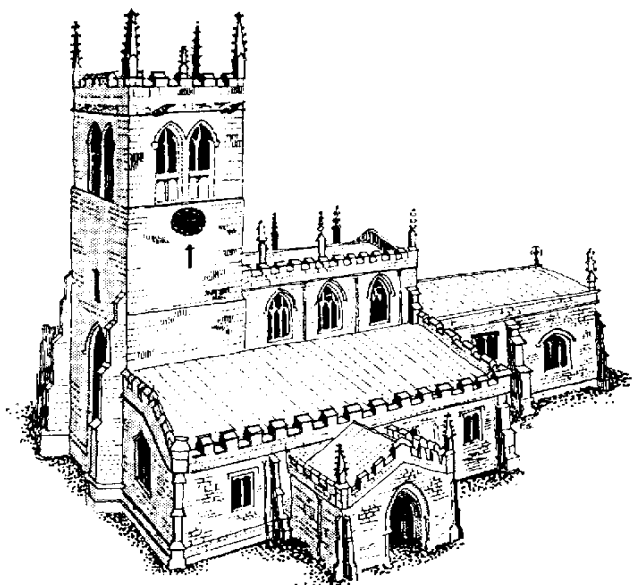


***The Parish Church of St Peter,
Conisbrough
with Clifton Church***



Annual Report for 2019

19th October 2020

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VICAR

This report has been produced in circumstances that nobody could ever have imagined. Our anticipated APCM at the end of April was unable to go ahead due to Covid. Now that we have been in some form of lockdown for over 6 months, it is hard to think back to how things were last year. Our annual report usually covers the period from January to December and it is right for us to keep it that way. Sadly, this does mean that almost everything you'll find in this annual report has seen significant change or may not have continued beyond March 2020. My plea is that you will not be discouraged. I say this because the God who has called us to do His work in Conisbrough and Clifton hasn't changed. He is still the same Lord who is seated at the right hand of God and who is in control of everything that happens in our world. Like before, God continues to work out His purposes and for reasons unknown to us he has brought about the circumstances we are now living in. Our task is to persevere in faith, so that, in the words of James, we might become mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:4).

Looking back at 2019 we must give thanks to God for the way in which he has continued to grow the church numerically and spiritually. Despite ongoing declines across the Diocese, our Church family continued to grow. Moreover, it continued to grow younger, with an increasing number of babies and toddlers who joined us and became part of our regular worshipping community. This continues to be particularly important as we need a next generation of faithful Christian believers to carry on the work God has called us to.

During 2019 our Worshipping Community (people who attend Church at least once a month, or who would attend if they were able), including Clifton, grew from 141 to 161, and the average usual Sunday attendance (excluding Baptism services and special festivals) grew from 102 to 105. Along with increasing Sunday attendance, many people met midweek for fellowship, Bible study and prayer; more people were serving in different ways, and there was a growing fringe who attended Church at Christmas and Easter, or who wanted to find out more about Jesus. In addition, we continued to be blessed with our two Diocesan employees: Amanda Brewerton, supporting our mission as Administrator, and Lydia Proudman, running our Youth Group 'Ablaze' and the after-school Club 'Launchpad' at Morley Place Academy. On top of this God sent Sam Brown to us who joined us on 24th February 2020 to take over from Lydia Proudman and work with us as full-time Children and Youth worker.

I said last year that 'the future is bright because the future is . . . Jesus.' Despite the pandemic this hasn't changed. Indeed what it has done is forcing us to re-evaluate what we're about as God's church and what it looks like for us all to 'consider it pure joy whenever we face trials of many kinds' (James 1:2).

Revd Martijn Muggé

CHURCH

Church Wardens

Pete and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped to keep the ship afloat in this strange year. We're still sailing and 'fishing for men'.

We are still trying to further the community link with an improved visual system. This is not yet in place in spite of many meetings and trips to Diocesan Office by Pete but we live in hope of it becoming a reality. However other things have progressed as you will see in Pete's buildings report.

As both of us anticipate stepping down as wardens at the APCM we want to say again thank you all for your practical help, love and support throughout another busy year.

Pete has served for many years doing a myriad of unseen jobs around the church and buildings. We owe him a big debt of gratitude. Thankyou Peter. I have no idea how many thousands of steps he has climbed the tower to wind the clock and service the bells, his knees could probably tell the tale! I am delighted that as his wardenship ends, permission has been given for the clock to be automated and a firm found to do it. This work will begin shortly. A fitting tribute to Pete that Conisbrough will still see the correct time on the church tower as they pass.

We ask God's blessing on the incoming wardens and ask for your prayers, love and support for them too, as they begin to serve the Lord, and us, in all He has planned for St.Peters in the years ahead.

God bless, Jenny and Peter

PCC Secretary

This year we have once again conducted meetings bi-monthly which has worked really well. Vicar Martijn has very helpfully continued to cover a Vicar's Briefing distributed well before each meeting giving PCC members a good chance to look over and prepare for any discussion points and questions that may arise. The meetings have been constructive as we grappled with many different items for improving our church life. PCC members have contributed at each PCC meeting with thoughtful discussion which has been really helpful in our discussions.

All our meetings start with a Bible reading with thoughts on that, followed by a time of prayer, thus setting the tone for all the following church business.

Mostly decisions that have been taken throughout the year were unanimous after discussion.

Martijn has continued to inform the whole church of the main points of discussion and decisions taken through written information which has been made freely available, usually within a week of the meeting.

We have continued to have away days at Clifton Church always on a Saturday morning. There is never enough time to cover everything planned but they are always constructive and beneficial to us as we work together and prayerfully seek ways forward for the church family both at St Peter's and Clifton church.

We are grateful to all PCC members who voluntarily give time and effort trying to help with so many different things within our church year, from Health and safety, Safeguarding, events, obtaining Faculties, Finance and general direction of the church to name but a few; and as church members and as Charities Trustees, which carries further responsibilities,

I wish to thank all PCC members for their dedication and commitment to the tasks undertaken throughout the year, as together we have sought faithfully to work together as a church family.

God Bless, Denis

Treasurer

Upon reviewing our 2019 accounts we are showing a small increase in our Unrestricted and Designated Funds. From the Fabric Fund we have paid £1637 for repairs to the masonry of the building, £240 upgrading our CCTV and £450 to our Architects. We have paid our Common Fund in full with thanks to your

generous giving. At our P.C.C. meetings we continue to monitor our financial position on a regular basis. This is my last year as your Treasurer and feel very sad but I have realised that my health is deteriorating and I decided it would be better to leave while I was still well enough to hand over. Joanne Parker has worked with me for most of this year and she now has a good knowledge of our accounts and procedures. I wish Joanne every success and hope she continues for many years and thank you all for your support.

Margaret Henderson

Electoral roll

This year we have 82 members on the Electoral Roll. Should you be a regular church attendee and wish to be included on the Roll please contact Revd Martijn or Sam Brown.

Buildings

Both the Church and the Hall are in very good condition structurally but both building require continual repairs and maintenance.

At the north west corner of the Church the lintel above the window is cracked. It has been necessary to consult a structural engineer for their advice. The engineer gave three options of which we decided on option C which is to install a permanent support so that the original lintel can be kept in place. The other major works to be carried out is to automate the Church clock. Both works required a faculty to be submitted. This faculty has been approved and once the present restrictions are lifted, we will be able to complete the works.

In the Church Hall there are two outstanding maintenance jobs required; one is to replace the fire door in the main part of the hall. The guttering and wall in Steptoes are in need of repairing and pointing, respectively.

Due to the age of both building there will always be necessary minor repairs to be carried out and we should have a contingency plan within our budget to cover these costs.

Peter Henderson

Bell Ringing

On the 29th June 2019 we hosted an amazing 26 learners and teachers up the tower for a 'learners day' to give people from around the Doncaster area (and some from Bradfield!) a chance to ring the wonderful bells. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and was well received by all involved

Over the last year the tower has rang out 5 peals and 6 Quarter peals with all ringers involved commenting on how well the bells sound and their ease of ringing.

Our regular Sunday evening practice and service ringing slot has gone from strength to strength recently, starting out with just experienced ringers for the first month or so, growing to 2-3 new recruits (1 of which has now achieved their level 2 in bell handling, not an easy achievement!) and more recently thanks to more recruiting via social media we now have another 3-4 new recruits coming regularly. This is particularly exciting as once they are competent in ringing the bells, we would have a full band of ringers with the odd teacher mixed in to oversee the team.

Currently I am aware that the funds for the clock electrification have been raised and we offer any help and support required including cleaning the tower etc. We will continue to wind this on a Sunday until such a time we are advised not to. We have re-roped the 5th bell due to the rope snapping due to wear and we are currently monitoring other ropes for wear too.

We are currently looking to man all towers in the area to ensure bells are rung and once we have the confirmed date and time, we will finalise the plans with the church

All in all, we are fairly positive in our tower, lots of events planned and looking forward to a busy few months teaching and growing as a band!

Our learners are now progressing well and are coming up to the standard we would like to achieve for weddings to support the weddings in the future.

Ross Havenhand, Local Teacher

Clifton

Clifton church continues to provide a welcoming place of worship and whilst not great in numbers, one that offers friendship and fellowship to all. Reverend Sue Rose enables communion services to take place, this past year on the second

Sunday of each month and other services led by a rotation of church members and with the sermon recorded at St Peters and played here.

The church also acts as Clifton's community building with various church and secular activities taking place throughout the year, these include Lent lunches, Harvest supper and carol concert, the local and national election polling station and quiz night.

The Lent Lunches provide our main platform for charity fundraising and also a very enjoyable social event. Firefly has been the most recent beneficiary of this effort. We also have a strawberry tea to raise income for the church and this takes place weather permitting in Malcolm and Jan North's garden nearby.

Jeremy Leigh

Music Group

Although we are now a much smaller group of musicians together, we support the Worship each week in church. 11.15 services are mostly set up in the main Hall using YouTube clips action children's songs and a lot of inter activity. We also provide music whenever possible for any extra services throughout the year.

I am very thankful for Rodger planning and leading 6.30 worship. The 9.30 songs are mostly planned by me and then Micah, Miriam along with Benjamin really enjoy playing as we worship together each week, and this is rewarding to us as we develop in particular any new songs to introduce

Towards the end of this year we have been called upon to do a lot of prep work with backing tracks as Matthew moved on from St Peter's in December and we wish him well at his new church and thank him for his very supportive role during his time with us. We also are now making more use of Video and songs via modern technology to enhance some of our services we have upgraded our licences to cover any further developments and can now show certain films YouTube clips and new songs in this way.

Rodger is still writing songs and some of his previous offerings are in the white Book with new songs. We had hoped to be extending this booklet with more new songs that have become established in many different churches as well as

on social Media but this was just not possible but hope to look at it in the future.

The church hall is now used more extensively each Sunday we have fixed a more suitable white combined amp/speaker as well as hand held mic and clip on mic for using Puppet Bella, this does away with cables hanging around My thanks go to Stephen for all his help and advice with this. Finally, we look forward to another year of Blessing in Worship together

God Bless Denis/Rodger

Safeguarding

As a Church we have again complied with the ever-changing world of safeguarding. This is regularly assessed by PCC. who as trustees are responsible together with the Vicar for this important area of work to safeguard children and adults.

I have been assisted in the physical safety checks of the buildings by Mike and Pete, for which I am very grateful. We have complied with the duty to have "due care and regard" to the House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance.

Jenny Downing
Safeguarding Officer

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORK

Our work with young families continues to be an important priority for us. St Peter's Playgroup continued to be well attended and during 2019 we have had the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with 6 Baptism couples through baptism preparation in the Church vestry. We have also seen several of our young families grow in their faith through Growing Together and Bible Study.

Engaging and nurturing young families and their children in the Christian faith will continue to be a top priority for the Church, not least to ensure a Christian witness in our Parish for generations to come.

All-age services including Treasure Chest

Our Sunday morning all-age services at 11.15 have continued to provide the right environment for young families to attend. By providing a creche facility and younger age teaching in the Alpha Rooms, adults have been able to engage more deeply with the Bible. The services themselves haven't changed much and we continued to cover the same sermon series as at our other services.

Peter Rabbit Playgroup

2019 has been different in many ways. We have had a large number of babies as all the older children left to go to school. I've usually had older children as well as babies but this year it's been nearly all babies so play group had to alter to fit in with this. Craft has been put to one side for the time being, but this has freed me up to be able to have a chance to talk to the mums. We're still in need of others to come and spend some time with them so I'm still praying that some others will come to help talk to the mothers. As always I would like to thank the people that give up their time to help with setting up in the mornings take the money, serve in the kitchen and put things away after the play group is done. I hope that after we're open that we will be back as all with all the little ones enjoying Granny's Bible stories and singing and playing the musical instruments. As I've already said it's been a very different year but as always in God we trust to bring us all safely through.

Pauline Evans

Ablaze

The Ablaze youth group has seen some great joys and hard challenges this year. Of particular note, new members have joined the group, and some have experienced new spiritual life and growth. At the same time, other members have decided to step back from the group for the time being. On the whole through the year the young people have engaged well with activities and Bible studies and are increasingly comfortable with each other and the leaders.

We began this year with a gospel outline. From there we finished listening to Jesus' 'I am' statements in John and looked at Exodus 20 with the 10 commandments. From September we met Jesus in Luke's gospel and looked at God's big picture for the world in Genesis.

A small number of the group came away in the summer to a Ventures Camp, another member came to the Higher Tour in March, and another couple of members took themselves to The Oakes for a weekend camp. They each enjoyed these experiences and came away having heard and engaged with the gospel in a different way.

Laura and I have been supported through the year practically and prayerfully by a great team of people. My thanks to Imelda, Pauline, Margaret Harrison, Jenny Downing and Rodger and Ann Fisher, and all those who have supported the group in so many ways. Glory to God, and may His name be known in the next generation!

Lydia Proudman

Assemblies, Cubs and Brownies

We continued to have excellent relationships with the local schools, and delivered several special assemblies at Rowena Academy, Morley Place, Castle Academy and Ivanhoe Academy.

All primary schools put flyers for Easter and Christmas into the bookbags, and De Warren Academy put information out throughout the school and on their pupils and staff network.

We have had a few visits from a number of schools and from the local Cubs and Brownies where we have been able to explain different aspects of the Christian faith in an engaging way.

We have also had the opportunity to run a Christianity course at Morley Place for Year 5, which has been very well received. The course was developed by the Centenary Worker at St Mary's Doncaster and is based on the Epic Explorers material by Christianity Explored. It consists of 5 one-hour sessions followed by a visit to Church.

Growing Together

Growing Together is our family discipleship group which has been meeting for an hour on Monday afternoons. Our time starts with half an hour of play, with a wide range of board games, table football, shuffleboard, craft, playdough, and colouring. We then tidy up and everybody sits down to learn together from the Bible and how it applies to our lives today.

In 2019 we covered large parts of the Old and New Testament as we thought about who God is and what it means to trust him and live for him. We have been wonderfully supported by a small team of helpers, including one of our young teenagers, and it has been a delight to watch the young families - parents and children alike - grow in their faith and in their relationships with one another.

DISCIPLESHIP

Growing as disciples (which means being learners and followers of Jesus) is an essential part of being a Christian. There are many ways in which we do so, including meeting together on Sundays, in mid-week Bible reading and prayer, in Bible studies and Growth Groups, in men's and women's groups, as well as in prayer and serving one another in various areas of Church life.

Ladies' Titus 2

It has been a pleasure to watch new women being welcomed into the church family and especially younger women with families who have been well cared for and supported by all our women, using the different gifts that God has given them.

We enjoyed a meal out at the Pastures in July, enjoying each other's company, but also deepening relationships. We hope to meet again for more evangelistic events - encouraging each other and not yet Christian friends with what God has been doing in our lives.

Let's keep up the good work of loving and caring for one another.

Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship had another good year in 2019, with a wide range of activities, both indoors and outdoors, including adventure golf, bowling, BBQ, walk and games.

The aim of Fellowship is to encourage the men in Church to get to know one another better and through various activities grow in faith as well as reach out to non-Christian friends with fellowship and the good news of Jesus.

Growth Groups

Our Tuesday Evening Growth Group continued throughout 2019 with up to 20 people meeting on a weekly basis.

In the Spring term we completed The Bible Course from The Bible Society and in the Autumn, we dug deeper into 1 Corinthians, following our Sunday teaching.

We also held prayers meeting on most first Tuesdays of the month, which were encouraging and generally well attended.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PASTORAL CARE

Reaching out to the Community and to one another with love and care is an important part of following Jesus. Much of this care consists of visiting people, supporting them with practical help, praying for them and encouraging them to keep trusting in Jesus.

Along with one-to-one pastoral support, we also continued throughout 2019 with the following initiatives, providing pastoral care and evangelistic outreach:

The Tea Leaf Club

We have continued the Tealeaf club this year with a steady number of members, gaining one new member but sadly losing a much-loved lady just after Christmas.

We meet every Tuesday afternoon between 2.30 and 4.30 in the Alpha rooms, always having lots of fun, laughter, and fellowship. We start with a cup of tea and then have a short prayer, three or four hymns, followed by bingo, a quiz, and a raffle, finishing off with more tea, freshly made sandwiches and lots of cakes.

Again, this year we have been entertained by Rodger and Dave who sing and give a short talk. Some people make their own way, but lifts are always available.

We have been to Seafish for a meal and the Lord Conyers twice where we had our Christmas party.

Crafty Corner

Crafty Corner has maintained a regular attendance of eighteen ladies on a Thursday afternoon during 2019. We are a varied group with members coming from outside Conisbrough and not all are members of St. Peter's Church. Each of our ladies have a variety of skills including sewing, embroidery, knitting, crocheting and patchwork. It never fails to amaze me how each member contributes to our Crafty Corner table and to both our Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayre. We have raised over a thousand pounds from our sales and I wish to thank all those who have supported us during the year.

The Craft Team

Coffee Mornings on Saturdays

Throughout 2019 we continued to be open on Saturday mornings and a big thank you goes to all those who have worked hard to positive social space for the community to come to chat and meet friends.

Family Choir

The Family Choir has once again been very active in the life of the church and the community, singing at Memorial services, Easter, Harvest, the summer, and Christmas concerts, along with Baptisms as they occurred.

On English Heritage day the Choir sang in Church dressed in Victorian costume which suited the occasion really well and many people came into church and stayed to listen to the singing whilst visiting the church, it proved to be a really enjoyable time.

We sang Carols once again at the Christmas market in the village dressed up in Victorian costume, which also went down really well then followed that by singing in the church where all the Craft items were displayed and sold both these events were well received and much appreciated by all. We also sang Christmas Carols at Stringers Garden Centre as customers did their Christmas shopping. The choir also Sing at Turners Christmas Memorial event now every year and this is now a regular commitment each year,

You will all be aware now that the Family Choir has an open door policy singers can join for a season or longer and also return for a second or third spell with a reliable solid core of singers remaining constant; this gives many different people an opportunity to enjoy singing with us. I am so grateful for this element with the lovely welcome and acceptance of all who try it. From time to time some of our previous members help us out at one off events, and that has been invaluable to us as we serve the Lord.

This year has seen some completely new members joining us who love to sing together as the choir develops We give thanks to the Lord for this growth and the sense of purpose each person feels as we sing to bless others, please remember us all in your prayers. As choir leader I am very grateful for all the encouragement we receive with positive feedback; finally can I thank the church for your on-going support and encouragement as we continue to reach out to all people for the sake of the Gospel. God Bless you all,

Linda Birkin: on behalf of the Family Choir.

Weddings, Funerals and Pastoral visiting

In 2019 we have had 12 weddings, 63 funerals in Church, 6 funerals at a crematorium and 1 burial of ashes. We continued to provide bereaved families with a little gift consisting of a card, wooden cross, the Lord's Prayer, and a small booklet with Bible readings called 'Daily Strength'. These were once again very well received and have sparked a number of conversations with people carrying a cross with them after the funeral. We also continued to pray for bereaved families in the month of the first anniversary of their loss, and we have seen a number of widowers joining the Tea Leaf Club which they found out about at the funeral visit.

A lot of pastoral visiting, and pastoral support continues to be provided by all members across the Church family, which is a real blessing and a wonderful witness of our love for one another. In addition, our weekly Bulletin included prayers for particular people who were unwell or recovering.

Events

Many of the events that we have put on are mentioned in other parts of this report. In addition to those events, we had a Spring Fair and a Christmas Fair, which were both very well attended.

Once again Easter and Christmas flyers were distributed through the bookbags in all the Primary Schools, and DeWarrene Academy distributed flyers through their pupil and staff network.

The Children's Society and C.A.R.T.

A great big thankyou to all who have supported the Children's Society. A total of £197 has been donated through the Christingle service collecting boxes and donations. As you will know the money is used to help children who are less fortunate.

A huge thank you also to everyone at St Peters for the donations of wool and knitted squares that have been handed in to make up the blankets, and of course to Sue who sews them altogether. They are always appreciated by everyone who receives them. We are always looking for volunteer knitters or anyone who has any DK wool to spare.

Margaret Harrison

Steptoos

Steptoos is part of St. Peter's Church and all money raised through the sale of goods is donated to charitable causes. The sales area continues to improve and is kept clean and tidy which encourages customers. We have continued to open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings with Ann, and Dawn working voluntarily, and we pride ourselves in providing good quality clothing and bric-a-brac at a very low cost. We also provide a friendly environment in which people, young and old, can come and have a chat and on Saturday mornings teas and coffee is available in the Alpha Rooms.

If you are aware of a local charity or group who you believe would benefit from a donation, please contact Revd Martijn or one of the ladies in Steptoos.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

In November 2019 we sent 85 boxes from St. Peter's Church which went on to be delivered to needy children in Romania.

Our running total is now 5018 which have been donated over the past 18 years.

The cumulative total from the Doncaster churches this year was 3526 which again was a wonderful effort and very much appreciated by our local organiser.

Cash donations enabled us to cover the cost of all our boxes and to make a small donation to Samaritans Purse.

Thank you from Margaret, John, and Mavis

WIDER CHURCH

Conisbrough and Denaby Churches Together

In 2019 Churches Together once again organised Carols at the Cenotaph. The weather was better than last year, and the event was well attended and enjoyed by all. Throughout the year we continued to have a weekly prayer meeting on Thursday mornings, alternating monthly between the Baptist Church and St Peters.

Rita Dudhill

West Doncaster Deanery Synod

There have been two Deanery meetings this year.

At the Synod meeting held on 30-4-19 Canon Ian Smith gave a presentation entitled Setting Gods people free. Setting God's People Free (SGPF) is a programme of change to enable the whole people of God to live out the Good News of Jesus confidently in all of life, Sunday to Saturday.

The programme seeks to implement proposals from the Setting God's People Free report presented to General Synod in 2017. These proposals seek effective ways to build up the whole people of God, with a confident faith and vision for the Kingdom of God, which is lived out in homes, schools, communities, and places of work. The full 'Setting Gods people free' report can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/sgpf>

At the Synod meeting held on 2-12-19, after receiving a report from the Diocesan Synod, the main topic was Modern day Slavery given by Joy French and Judith Daley (Modern Slavery team, Sheffield).

It is estimated that there are 40.3 Million people in the world who are Modern day Slaves. This is worth about £32 Billion annually and all this 200 years after the abolition of the slave trade. In the UK there are at least 136,000 people who are Modern Slaves.

It may take the form of people being trafficked into the country or vulnerable people already living here who are forced to work long hours for minimal pay, threatened with violence if they try to object to their treatment. Often vulnerable people are unaware of their rights with regard to labour.

All of us need to keep our eyes open and to ask ourselves: Who is cleaning my car? Who made my clothes? Who is painting my nails? Who is mending my drive? If we suspect that a person is being exploited, that they may be Modern day Slaves what can we do? The Clewer initiative is enabling C of E Dioceses and wider church networks to detect modern slavery in their communities and helping to provide victim support and care (visit <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/> for much more information including the safe carwash app and the soon to be unveiled nail bar app.

Churches need to consider focusing on the problem of modern-day slavery at least once a year, perhaps using Freedom Sunday (usually toward the end of October). We are called to be a church that 'proclaims liberty to the captives....to set the oppressed free' (Lk4:18)

Rodger Fisher.

Making disciples who make disciples.

Matthew 28:19-20



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with Clifton Church

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