

**St Thomas' Church Henbury and Broken Cross
Sunday 25 February 2024 – Sunday Next Before Lent**

*Our Mission Statement: To provide a focal point within Henbury and Broken Cross for the community
to engage in and develop Christian worship and fellowship*
<https://www.stthomashenbury.org.uk/>



Worship

Coming Up

- Sunday 25 February – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 3 March – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 10 March – All-age Worship Mothering Sunday – Hellen Watson and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 17 March - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 24 March - Holy Communion Palm Sunday 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 31 March – Holy Communion Easter Sunday 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 7 April - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant**
- Sunday 14 April – Baptism of Ebony 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig (this takes the place of our usual All-age Service but it is open to everyone. We hope you will be able to come along to this child-friendly service during which we will welcome Ebony into the Church)**
- Sunday 21 April - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 28 April - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**

Most of the 11.00 a.m. services listed above also take place at St John's at 9.30 a.m. each Sunday.

These services are accessible via Zoom for anyone who is not ready, or able, to attend services in person.

Members of St Thomas' Church are very welcome to share in this online worship.

If you would like the **Zoom** link, please ring **427453** or email

lawrobinson@btinternet.com or **stthomashenbury@aol.com**

Other Events

Tuesday 27 February – Lent Group *Praying* 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon at St John's – all are welcome – each session is a stand-alone unit, so drop in when you can.

Wednesday 28 February – Sunbeams Mums and Tots Group at St John's

10 a.m. – 11.30 One hour play, 15 mins snack time, 15 minutes circle time £2

Friday 1 March – C.A.M.E.O. at St John's 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday 5 March – Lent Group *Worshipping* 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon at St Thomas' – all are welcome – each session is a stand-alone unit, so drop in when you can.

Wednesday 6 March – Sunbeams Mums and Tots Group at St John's

10 a.m. – 11.30 One hour play, 15 mins snack time, 15 minutes circle time £2

Tuesday 12 March – Lent Group *Writing and Speaking* 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon at St John's – all are welcome – each session is a stand-alone unit, so drop in when you can.

Wednesday 13 March – Sunbeams Mums and Tots Group at St John's

10 a.m. – 11.30 One hour play, 15 mins snack time, 15 minutes circle time £2

Friday 15 March 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. - CAMEO at St Thomas' Hall (all welcome)

Sunday 17 March 12.15 p.m. – Lenten Lunch in St Thomas' Hall

Tuesday 19 March – Lent Group *Unifying and Peacemaking* 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon at St Thomas' – all are welcome – each session is a stand-alone unit, so drop in when you can.

Wednesday 20 March 8 p.m. M.A.S.T (Men At St Thomas') – Blacksmith's Arms Henbury

Wednesday 27 March – Sunbeams Mums and Tots Group at St John's

10 a.m. – 11.30 One hour play, 15 mins snack time, 15 minutes circle time £2

Wednesday 17 April – Sunbeams Mums and Tots Group at St John's

10 a.m. – 11.30 One hour play, 15 mins snack time, 15 minutes circle time £2

Wednesday 17 April 8 p.m. M.A.S.T (Men At St Thomas') – Blacksmith's Arms Henbury

Friday 19 April – C.A.M.E.O. at St Thomas' 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday 20 April 3.30 – 5p.m. – Messy Church at St John's

Wednesday 24 April – Sunbeams Mums and Tots Group at St John's

10 a.m. – 11.30 One hour play, 15 mins snack time, 15 minutes circle time £2

Catch Up with our Online Services

If you've been unable to attend Church, you can catch up with our online services recorded at St John's. Here are the links to the last two weeks' services:

Sunday 11 February – The Sunday Next Before Lent – The Wow Factor – All Age Service – we apologise that due to technical problems there is no recording of this service.

Sunday 18 February – The First Sunday of Lent – Holy Communion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0Q9YRtQh1c>

Rota for Readers, Intercessors and Sidepersons

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor	Sidesperson
25 February Second Sunday of Lent	Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16 Jacky Toms	Romans 4.13-end Roy Waller	Di Waller	Colin Marlow
3 March Third Sunday of Lent	Exodus 20.1-17 Janet Tute	1 Corinthians 1.18-25 Jackie Booth	Tony Dewdney	Janet Tute
10 March Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1-10 or Samuel 1.20-end Anne Brown	2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17 Hellen Watson/Linda Craig	Hellen Watson/Linda Craig	Lawrie Brown
17 March Fifth Sunday of Lent	Jeremiah 31.31-34 Janet Tute	Hebrews 5.5-10 Roy Waller	Di Waller	Tony Dewdney
24 March Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a Jacky Toms	Philippians 2.5-11 Bob Toms	Tony Dewdney	Christine Glynn
29 March Good Friday	Isaiah 52.13-end of 53 tbd	Hebrews 10.16-25 or Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9 tbd	tbd	Colin Marlow
31 March Easter Sunday	Acts 10.34-43 or Isaiah 25.6-9 Judith Dewdney	1 Corinthians 15.1-11 or Acts 10.34-43 Tony Dewdney	Linda Craig	Janet Tute

If you would like to join the team of people who deliver the readings and/or intercessions at these services, please contact: Tony Dewdney on **01625 439753** or tjdewdney@talktalk.net

Readings for 25 February – The Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16 New International Version

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty^[a]; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. **2** Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4** “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5** No longer will you be called Abram^[b]; your name will be Abraham,^[c] for I have made you a father of many nations. **6** I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

15 God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. **16** I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

Romans 4:13-25

New International Version

13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. **14** For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, **15** because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. **17** As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.”^[a] He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”^[b] **19** Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. **20** Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, **21** being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. **22** This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” **23** The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, **24** but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. **25** He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Mark 8:31-38

New International Version

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Henbury Mothers' Union Lenten Lunch

We are holding our Lenten Lunch this year on Sunday, 17 March at approximately 12.15 p.m. in the Church Hall. This will consist of a choice of soups with French bread followed by cake and tea/coffee. Tickets are £6. each and available from Di Waller (07725 760491) or Lynne Hibbert (07578 355321).

Any proceeds raised will go towards supporting the Cheshire Without Abuse Refuge in Macclesfield. If anyone purchasing a ticket has any dietary needs can you please let Di or Lynne know, please.

Lent Course 2024

Our Lent course for 2024 began last Tuesday. The theme is Unity and over five sessions, we are exploring how Christians can live with love and unity, in a world full of anger. We are doing the same course as some of the other churches in Macclesfield, so if you cannot make our sessions, others are available. As before, the sessions are not based on preaching but on presentations, group chats and reflections. Each session will be a stand-alone unit, so you can drop in whenever it's convenient to you. All are welcome.



2. Praying - Tuesday 27th February St John's
3. Worshipping - Tuesday 5th March St Thomas'

4. Writing & Speaking - Tuesday 12th March St John's
 5. Unifying and Peace-making - Tuesday 19th March St Thomas'
 If we can't make any of these sessions, the same material is being used in the following churches at different times, and you are welcome to join them.

Thursday evenings starting 22nd February
 7.30-9.15pm St Michael's Church (Market Place, SK10 1DY)
 Contact Church Office (01625 421 984) for further details

Monday afternoons starting 26th February
 2.30-4pm St Paul's
 Contact Church Office (01625 501 773) to confirm venue details

Weddings and Christenings

Are you celebrating a wedding or a christening in 2024? If so, you might like to look round our beautiful Victorian church. We would be delighted to show you round. To see some photos of past events, have a look on our website:

<https://www.stthomashenbury.org.uk/life-events/>

For more information please contact our vicar: **Rev. Canon Simon Bessant** on **07957211319** or email stthomashenbury@aol.com



Hymn of the Week

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word
 What a glory He sheds on our way!
 While we do His good will, He abides with us still
 And with all who will trust and obey
*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey*

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies
 But His smile quickly drives it away
 Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear
 Can abide while we trust and obey
Trust and obey...

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
 But our toil He doth richly repay;
 Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
 But is blest if we trust and obey.
Trust and obey...

But we never can prove, the delights of His love,
 until all on the altar we lay;

For the favour He shows, and the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey...

Then in fellowship sweet, we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do; where He sends, we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey...

Source: <https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/582>

Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve refreshments after our Sunday services throughout the year. This has been greatly appreciated. New volunteers are welcomed, so if you are interested in becoming a member of the team, please contact **Carole on 01625 611477**.

Home Communion

Are you, or anyone you know, unable to come to church. If so, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact us and we will arrange to visit you. Contact: **Linda on 01625 424505** or **Carole 01625 611477** or email **stthomashenbury@aol.com**

For our Prayers

The Sick: Pat Wain, John Louca, Anthony Westnedge, Margaret Williams, Dylan Belt, Melissa, Jane Burghall, Glenys Crabtree, Christina Klatsia, Avril Arrowsmith, John Smyth. Michael Louca, David Harrison, Keith Littler, Mike Moore.

Quiz Questions

This week all the answers begin with the letter 'A'. Many thanks to Jackie Hulme for compiling this brain teaser for us. Good luck!

1. The first letter of the Greek alphabet
2. Swedish pop group
3. Presents the quiz show, Pointless
4. Channel Island
5. Mozart's middle name
6. Inert gas
7. In the Bible, he was the father of Seth
8. Book of maps
9. Capital of Ethiopia
10. Rhododendron-like shrub

Answers to last fortnight's quiz:

1. Aquarius
2. Latin
3. 14th
4. 1917
5. Decimalisation
6. Purification
7. cheque
8. August
9. amethyst
10. February 29th

A great big thank you to everyone who has sent in contributions to the newsletter over the last three years. Please continue to do so – all contributions are most

welcome – memories of St Thomas' or Macclesfield, musical memories, poems, quizzes etc. Anything that you think might be of interest to our readers. Please email stthomashenbury@aol.com



The St John's annual bedding plant sale order forms are now available as paper copy or online by request.

Orders will be ready for collection from church on **18th May** and **orders are needed by 7th April.**

Order forms are available in church or by email from:
stjohnsplants@btinternet.com

Please give full names and contact

Other News

Broken Cross Dementia Club

Broken Cross Methodist Church has started a club on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month (1.30 to 3.30 p.m.) for people with dementia and their carers. It includes singing, music, craft work, games, and armchair exercises, as well as refreshments.

Further info: John Morrell 07915 252535 or Jean Sillifant 01625 402446

The Hope Centre – 16-18 Park Green - Sells cards, gifts and Christian resources. Opening times are Tues – Fri 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. There is also a café which sells drinks and snacks.

Do You Have a Heart for our Community?

If so, the Hope Centre invites you to come along and regularly bring the needs of our community before Almighty God through Praise, Prayer and Testimony. These events will take place on every third Sunday of each month 5.30-6.30 p.m. at 16-18 Park Green, Macclesfield SK11 7NA.

Clergy PA and Administrator Needed – St Michael's Church

Title: Clergy PA & Church Administrator
Accountability: Team Rector and Churchwardens of St Michael & All Angels' Church.

Salary: £15.00 per hour

Hours of work: 20 hours per week. Ideally this

would be 5 half days, but this is open to negotiation. Some flexibility to be available on the occasional evening would be welcomed but is not essential.

Holiday Entitlement: 28 days including statutory holidays (pro rata). Where there are other office-based employees in post, arrangements should be made such that all are not on leave at the same time.

Pension: St Michael & All Angels operates the NEST work placed contributory pension scheme which meets the new Auto-Enrolment legislation.

St Michael & All Angels is a Major Parish Church located in Macclesfield's Market Place, and is part of the Macclesfield Team Ministry (comprising All Saints, St Barnabas, St Peter's and St Michael's). As the Town Centre Church, it is the first point of contact for many seeking a church in the town. It has strong links with Macclesfield Town Council and the local community; the church hosts a number of town-wide events and worship services, and also welcomes the worship of a number of our local schools.

As Clergy PA, the post-holder will support the Rector of St Michael & All Angels' Church, who as Team Rector is the "face of the church" at many of these events. This element of the role will be both inward, and outward facing, and will involve coordination with members of other churches and the Town Council. Anglican Churches in Macclesfield are considering how they might work more closely together and the post-holder will have a key role as this evolves.

The Church Administrator will support the ministry and vision of St Michael's, which has an electoral roll of approximately 160 and involves many activities. This role will involve supporting clergy and volunteers, enabling the church to better serve our church family and the wider community.

The post-holder will be expected to be a key face and voice of the church.

For this post we are looking for someone with experience as a Personal Assistant, Office Manager or Administrator who is able to take initiative, suggest improved ways of working and communicate with a wide range of people.

KEY TASKS

1. Administrative Support for the Macclesfield Team

a. To provide PA support for the ministry of the Team Rector, eg. forward-planning of diary commitments, filtering and responding to correspondence and minutes of meetings, etc.

b. To carry out all office administration for Baptisms, Funerals, Confirmation, and Weddings for the churches in Macclesfield Team Ministry.

c. Practical administration (arrange vergers, organist etc) for Life Events in Team churches.

d. To be a lead recruiter for DBS checks for the Team.

2. Administrator for St Michaels' Church

a. To be the primary contact for St Michael's Church community, including civic and Town Centre functions, facilitating interaction with other church members as necessary.

b. To coordinate appropriate methods of communication for members of St Michael's and the wider public, including digital media, notice boards and newsletters. This communication to be in accord with the vision, ministry and mission of St Michael's.

c. To ensure in advance that resources (people, paper or electronic service sheets) are in place for worship at St Michael's church.

d. To manage and develop the iKnow Church Management System.

e. To manage the church office: post, phone calls, supplies.

f. To cover for St Michael's related matters when others are on leave.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Clergy PA & Church Administrator is based in the office at St Michael's Church but has the equipment and flexibility to work from home, by agreement. A DBS Disclosure will be required for the successful candidate.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

1. Essential

In sympathy with the aims and objectives of the Church of England.

Demonstrable experience as a PA, office manager or administrator.

Strong computer skills and ability to operate office equipment.
Ability to keep confidential and sensitive information.
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
Ability to handle stress and solve problems; a “can-do” attitude.
Demonstrable ability to work in a team.
Skilled in appropriate use of social media

2. Desirable

Knowledge and understanding of the structures of the Church of England.
Able to work flexible hours
Keen eye for detail and accuracy
Skilled in design and formatting of social and print media
Ability to work on own initiative and prioritise workloads

APPLICATION FORM

Available from:

Rachel Mayers rachel.mayers@btinternet.com or 01625 420716
or Martin Stephens teamrector.macc@gmail.com or 01625 426110

Applications should be returned by 5pm on Friday 1st March 2024

Interviews will take place in the week beginning 11th March

SilkLife FoodBank

Your support for the SilkLife Foodbank is greatly appreciated. It provides a vital service to the people of Macclesfield throughout the year, so please, if you are able, please support them by leaving items in the box at the back of church.

Road Closures

Whirley Road from the junction of **Birtles Road** to the junction of **Belmont Avenue** will be closed on Sat 24th to Sun 25th February for United Utilities work. The alternative route will be via Whirley Road, Chelford Road, Church Lane, Whirley Lane.

Andertons Lane from the junction of **Church Lane** to the outside of The Mount will close to allow necessary work to be carried out by Electricity North West. The alternative route will be via the following streets: – Andertons Lane, Whirley Lane, Chelford Road, Pepper Street. Work is scheduled to start on Tuesday 5 March for up to 5 days. Pedestrian / cyclist access to any premises situated within the temporary closure will be maintained at all times. Vehicular access will be maintained for emergency vehicles and residents where possible.

Thank You from the Millennium Green Trustees

A big thanks to all **Friends of the Green** who joined in on Saturday 3 February, to start sweeping winter away from the Green. A dozen adults concentrated on :

- Clearing brambles that were smothering young trees, and cutting down a couple of fallen trees in the Pepper Street Wood
- Clearing wayward growth of blackthorn and trimming the hedgerow alongside the sundial.
- Weeding and tidying around the sundial.
- Cutting back grass that's overgrowing the footpath in places.

It's amazing how much was achieved in a couple of hours by working together, helped of course by a few enthusiastic children working a bit , then playing a bit too. And all enjoyed a brew at half-time thanks to Rachel.

There's still more to do and some of you thought it would be a good idea to meet up once per month or so to keep the Green in good order.

We very much agree with you!! And we'll be in touch soon with a date for mid-March. If you would like to forward your email address to any of the Trustees we'll be glad to keep you posted . Many thanks again and hope to see you soon.

Your Millennium Green Trustees

A Prayer for Resolving Conflict

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:
Look with compassion on the whole human family;
take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts;
break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love;
and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth;
that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your
heavenly throne;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for our King

Father of mercies,
grant to Charles our King,
comfort and sure confidence in you,
and keep him in perpetual peace and safety,
through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

Closing Prayer

God the giver of life, give you hope,
Christ the Redeemer, give you peace,
The Holy Spirit who inspires all, give you joy.
Amen.

God bless,

Rev. Canon Simon Bessant (07957211319), Bob (07753583555), Carole (611477) and Linda (424505)

For Church bookings please contact: **Bob 07753583555**. For Church Hall bookings please contact: **Lesley 07789 744473/lesley-brown@hotmail.co.uk**

We would like to thank all of you who have been contributing financially to the mission and ministry of the parish. It is much appreciated. If you'd like to make a donation, you can either post it to Mr Bob Toms at 48 Grasmere, Macclesfield SK11 8PL or, if you prefer online banking, our details are St Thomas' Henbury Parochial Church Council, sort code 20 53 77, account number 40775819. Many thanks for your support.

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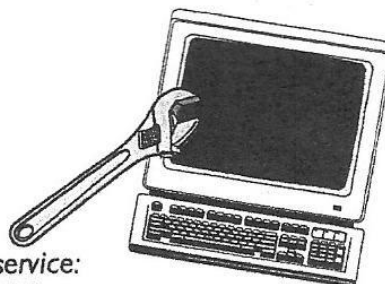


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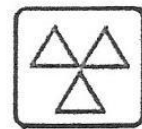
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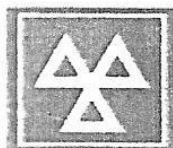
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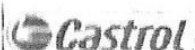
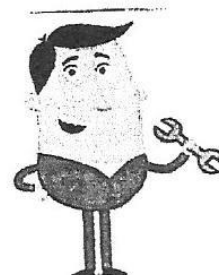
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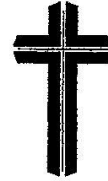


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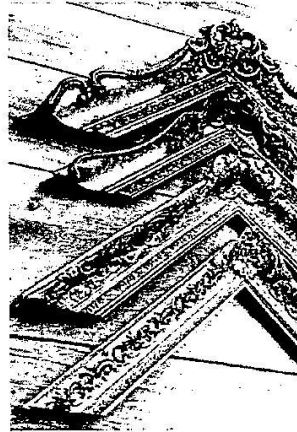
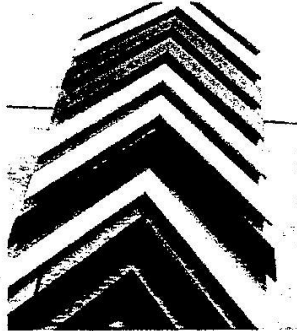
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