



st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

Parish Magazine

SUMMER 2022

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Living God's Love

Summer 2022 in this issue

Ministry letter	5
Parish registers	7
Charitable giving update	10
Highlights from the churchwardens' reports 2020-2021	11
St John's cookbook coming soon!	13
St Luke's Cell prayer group	14
Parish Centre update	15
Eco Church news	17
Little Acorns news	21
Junior Church is back!	22
Mothers' Union news	23
Calendar of events	24

Our magazine is published four times a year and is delivered free to all homes and businesses in the parish.

We are very grateful to those who write contributions and the many volunteers who distribute and deliver the magazines, come rain or shine, to everyone in the parish.

We welcome advertisements and are delighted to be able to provide full colour.

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Ministry letter



"It's walking season! We're in Rogationtide, the time of the year when we steer parallel with our pagan ancestors and ask God's blessing on our crops for a bountiful harvest. One of the ancient traditions associated with Rogation is the beating of the parish boundaries, circumnavigating the limits of our little patch of creation".

These are not my words (though I agree with them fully) but those of someone I'm lucky to call my friend, the Revd Colin Heber-Percy, vicar of Savernake Forest in the diocese of Salisbury. During lockdown, way back in 2020, Colin took to writing daily reflections on whatever moved him, and you can read more about them in his book *Tales of a Country Parish*.

'Beating of the bound' is an ancient custom, although with St John's parish created as recently as 1936, we cannot claim any medieval pedigree. Although, on the plus side, we can claim a far shorter walking route (roughly 8 miles I think).

We intend to 'beat the bound' of the parish, meeting at 2pm outside St John's on Sunday 22nd May, and hopefully this magazine will have arrived at your door in time (and you'll have had a chance to read it) before that date arrives.

Everyone's welcome, whether religious or not. Why join us? Well, I believe there is something about walking with others at rogation which was picked up by George Herbert in his timeless 17th-century pastoral-care handbook *The Country Parson* where he writes of the "manifested advantages" of this practice.

"First a blessing of God for the fruits of the field". In this age of bountiful plenty we don't often get the chance to see the fields where crops are grown and ask for good news upon them (so we can be properly thankful when harvest comes).

"Secondly, justice in the preservation of bounds". Luckily, we have no

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neighbours trying to steal our land, but seeing the boundary between town and country, and preserving it justly, is important for our care of creation.

“Thirdly, charity in loving walking and neighbourly accompanying one another, reconciling differences at that time, if there be any”. Walking and talking is good therapy.

“Fourthly, relieving the poor by liberal distribution and largess, which at that time is, or ought to be used.” Those who are poor or in need are not always visible, but we know even in Harpenden that many people rely on foodbanks and we are called to serve those with generosity as we are blessed by a generous God.

The last which George Herbert didn't go on to mention is that we will of course be finishing our beating of the bound with a well-earned drink in the pub!

Whether you can make it or not, this side of Harpenden has some wonderful places to walk and experience beauty in creation.

May is also when the annual St Albans and district Sustainability Festival takes place, from the 15th to 31st, and St John's is hosting two activities on Sunday 29th May. We will be holding another litter pick (11am to 12 noon) and a Traidcraft stall (10.45am to 12.15pm). Visit www.sustfest.org to find out more.

At rogation we ask not just God's blessing on all life that lives within this parish, but also for justice, love and generosity in our community. It's at the heart of the Easter message - the sort of place that Jesus wants us to build as his kingdom, and what we aspire to at St John's.

Rev. Tim

Parish registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of God

26th February 2022

Dylan Christopher Jarman

27th February 2022

Harry Robert Childs

27th March 2022

Zoe Lily Stott Soul

17th April 2022

Finn Kieran Crowley

Marriages

Joined by God

9th April 2022

Elena Suarez and Jeremy Cuff

Funerals in Church

May they rest in peace

17th February 2022

Joan Allen

4th March 2022

Ian Halliday Ross

4th March 2022

Isobel Faulds Ross

30th March 2022

Barbara May Greaves



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You are cordially invited to the
Festival Eucharist
*on the occasion of the celebration of
the birth of our patronal saint*
St John the Baptist

11am
Sunday 26th June 2022
Followed by lunch

Please respond to vicar@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk



St John's Church, 5 St John's Road, Harpenden, Herts. AL51DJ

Charitable giving update 2021 and 2022

Every year at St John's we commit to giving 10% of our voluntary income away to charity. We currently do this by asking people in the church to recommend charities, either local, national or international, and then asking people to vote for the one they favour.

Earlier in the year we voted for the following charities to receive a share of the 10% from our 2021 and 2022 income.

2021:



2022:



We plan to award the donations at a special evensong service in October. Details to be announced, so do look out for them.

Do you know of a charity we could support in 2023? Our vicar, Tim, would be pleased to hear from you.

Fundraising event Summer Bridge Drive

Tuesday 30th August in St Nicholas Church Hall, Harpenden, 1.30pm for 2pm. In aid of The Children's Society. Tickets £15 each, and include an afternoon tea. Enquiries: 01582 766824

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT 2020-2021



At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 20 March 2022, the outgoing Churchwardens presented their report. Here are the edited highlights from that report.

Without doubt, the most important event was the arrival of our new incumbent reverend Tim Vickers. Tim was licensed by Bishop Michael in September and together with his family Sophy, Jem and Laurie, Tim was soon settled to the challenges and opportunities here at St John's. We have been greatly blessed and we look forward to Tim's ministry and guidance for many years to come.

Already there are many more opportunities to worship not just on Sunday but during the week, and there is a particular encouragement to young families and children.

So that the choir could once again enliven our worship, a minor rearrangement of the church furniture

was made so they can sing safely.

For eight months of 2021 we had been without a vicar (or a curate) and it had also been a time of coping with the coronavirus pandemic. We had lockdowns, then easing of restrictions, but throughout the changing scene we endeavoured to keep the wellbeing of our congregation paramount. Despite these challenges, and due to the huge goodwill of many visiting clergy, the parish eucharist was celebrated in church every Sunday (though not always with a congregation present) and it was live streamed so that any who were unable to be present in church could still be part of the worshipping community.

Outside our worship of almighty God, other activities have continued apace. Our **Eco Church team** attained a bronze award from A Rocha for their policies and practices aiming to make us more green. And now they are aiming for a silver award. Our **sound system**, which

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The Old Cock Inn	Tuesday 3-530pm
Inn on the Green	Wednesday 1030-1pm
The Cabin, Southdown	Friday 1030-1230pm & 4-6pm

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was showing signs of ageing, has been given a new lease of life, but more is needed there. After a most encouraging start, fundraising for our **new parish centre** came to a halt because of the coronavirus. The deteriorating state of our existing hall has caused us to accelerate our plans for the next phase of fundraising, which will be rolled out later this year. We have been diligent in observing **safeguarding** guidelines and all PCC members have attained the required level of training. We continue to ensure that we are compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Charities Commission guidance. And it is wonderful to see many activities that were dormant for so long have now come to life.

Like all parish churches, the pandemic meant fewer people coming to church and that resulted in lower collections. However, partly due to the fact the curate's house was let and that we ran a giving campaign, we achieved a very small surplus. We are determined that we will pay 10% of our donated

income to outside charities and that we will always pay the full amount of the parish share to the diocese. Fortunately, both those objectives were realized. Yet we are presently reliant on short-term rental income and congregational giving needs to increase modestly so that our financial position is acceptable when the next curate arrives.

There are too many to name individually who make a contribution to the life and witness that we see at St John's. On behalf of the congregation, we thank all of you for the part that you play.

Finally, it is appropriate to remember the friendship and faith of those of our congregation who have died in the past year, and to record our grateful thanks for the influence and contributions that they made to the life and ministry of St John's over many years.

Jane Donati and Heather Nye
Churchwardens

St John's cookbook coming soon!

Over the last few weeks the cookbook team have been busy collating and typing out the many recipes you have sent in. We would like to send a tremendous thank you to all those who have contributed to the book.

Plans are now well under way for publication and the cookbook will be on the shelves in September. It will make a wonderful Christmas gift to all those who love browsing through a cookbook to find delicious recipes and those who are new to cooking - every taste has been covered!

The cookbook team

St Luke's Cell prayer group

Would you like us to pray for you?

We pray for anyone in the parish who has asked for our prayers for themselves or for their loved ones. St Luke's Cell prayer group is named after the disciple and physician Luke, who is the patron saint of doctors. We are continuing to pray individually at present, instead of meeting in person as a group, and we include members from St John's and Southdown Methodist church.

If you would like us to pray for you, or someone else, please get in contact with Michael Hughes on 01582 765576



*You are our hope and strength, Risen Lord.
We come to you for refreshment and renewal.
When we are weak, may we trust in your strength.
When we are fearful, may we turn to you and your light.
We pray for all who are struggling at this time.
We remember before you the troubled in mind and the distressed in spirit.
Lord, let the reality of your love transform their lives,
And may we and others be with them to help.*

(David Adam, from Prayers for Healing, Kevin Mayhew Publishing, 2013, 14, adapted)

Our new Parish Centre - picking up where we left off



Good news! Fundraising for our new Parish Centre will begin again this year after a hiatus due to the pandemic. The new Parish Centre will be a wonderful new resource, serving the church and local community.

Our project relaunch will take place on Sunday 26th June at our celebratory festival service for St John the Baptist. This will be followed by a barbecue on the vicarage lawn to which everyone is invited.

- Come and see the plans and architect's drawings

- Find out about our fundraising programme for the coming five years
- Talk to the team and discover how you can be part of this ambitious and transformational project for our local community.

For more information, visit: www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/about-us/parish-centre/ Or email the campaign office at projectparishcentre@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk



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Eco Church news

Welcome to a round-up of the Eco Church activities over the last few months.

Recycling

Medicine blister pack recycling continues to be a great success. St John's is one of the collection points in Harpenden for empty medicine blister packs, which are collected by the Lions Club and taken to Superdrug, which works with a recycling partner. Many thanks to all who contribute, reducing plastic sent to landfill. There is a collection box in the church porch, please ensure all packs are empty and only drop off when the church is open (10am to 5pm every day). We also have containers for recycling **candles**, **greetings cards** (not Christmas cards) and **postage stamps**.

We also provide a public drop-off point for flexible packaging for dishwashing, cleaning and fragrance from **Dettol**, **Finish**, **Vanish** and **Airwick**, through the TerraCycle scheme. Only packs from these brands, not packaging from other companies, is accepted. Please place in the box in the church porch. Please don't leave items outside the church if it is not open, as they soon blow away!

You may be interested in **The Big Plastic Count** which runs from May 16 to 22, when we can count and report on the amount of plastic we are using and having to throw away, a step towards stopping the plastic crisis. See thebigplasticcount.com for more details.



Litter picks

We regularly hold litter picks in the local surroundings. The next will be on **Sunday May 29th**, as part of the St Albans Sustainability Festival, from 11am to 12 noon, all welcome, and suitable for families. Litter pickers and bags provided, but please just bring your own gloves. For more details, contact eco.church@stjohnharpenden.org.uk

Fairtrade

Faith groups are key supporters of Fairtrade, and St John's has recently become a **Fairtrade Church**. This means we are committed to using Fairtrade products, including tea, coffee and sugar, and promoting Fairtrade. What is Fairtrade? For farmers and



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workers, Fairtrade means workers' rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay. For shoppers, it means high quality, ethically produced products. Look out for the Fairtrade logo when you do your shopping and you can change the world a little bit every day. Locally, the Co-op has a good selection of Fairtrade products.

The charity **Traidcraft** was one of the first to promote fairly traded goods, and we will be holding a Traidcraft stall at St John's on **Sunday May 29th**, at 10.45am to 12.15pm, as part of the St Albans Sustainability Festival. All are welcome to buy our selection of food, tea, coffee, and household goods. Check out the Traidcraft catalogue at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk, and if you would like to order anything in advance please email eco.church@stjohnharpندن.org.uk

Encouraging wildlife in the church garden

You may have noticed that much of the grass around St John's was not cut during May ('No-mow May'), allowing the wildflowers to bloom, which provides food for bees and other pollinators.

Last year, the 'slope' area between the church and vicarage was not cut until September. We then raked off as much cut grass as we could, and with the advice of a local botanist, sowed a native wildflower mix suitable for grassland. Hopefully this summer we will be rewarded with a wider range of flowering plants to encourage more insects. Steve, who looks after the north flowerbed, has installed many 'bee hotels' to provide nest sites for solitary bees. The bed has a wonderful



selection of plants to encourage bees and other insects.

If you have your own garden, or even a window box, there are lots of opportunities to plant for wildlife. Top choices include lavender, catmint, borage, marjoram and buddleia, as well as the humble ivy. Try to avoid 'double' flower varieties, which generally don't produce any pollen or nectar, so are useless for wildlife. Providing water is also vital, both winter and summer. And finally, a plea to **avoid buying any compost that contains peat**. Our peat bogs, both in the UK and Ireland, hold huge amounts of carbon, store water, and provide important habitats for wildlife. They are our equivalent of a rainforest. But once they are dried out, dug up, and turned into garden compost, this habitat is lost and the carbon is released, contributing to climate change. There are plenty of alternatives, but check the small print, as composts described as 'organic' often contain lots of peat.

Happy gardening!

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St John's Hall Hire

Are you looking for a hall or meeting room to hire on either a regular or occasional basis?

St John's Parish Hall will once again be available to hire during weekdays and is ideal for a playgroup or other group needing a large space. Our meeting room is perfect for smaller numbers.

Please contact: parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk or phone (01582) 712776 for further details or to arrange a viewing.

Little Acorns news

Find out what's been happening with the toddler group Little Acorns



This has been a busy term. We celebrated Valentine's Day by making cards.

Our Pancake races were a great success. It wasn't about winning but taking part. Taking part was rewarded with receiving a medal and everyone enjoyed their pancake either before or after the race.

We had a record 33 children that day!



We celebrated International Women's Day with fantastic cakes and biscuits made by Sophy, wife of our vicar Tim.



We recently asked our attendees what they liked about our group. We had 100% positive comments which was very rewarding.

Singing,
birthdays,
parachute,
coffee are all
good!

Pancake
races were
fun!

We enjoy the
friendliness and
there are always
plenty of toys

At the time of writing this we are looking forward to celebrating Mothering Sunday and Easter. We return on April 26th at 10.00 in St. John's Hall.

For further information contact our vicar Tim, or Christine Kenyon.

YOU'RE INVITED



**All primary school-age children are invited to come to
Junior Church @ St John's**

When? 9:30 am, in the hall at St John's
12th June and 10th July
(come for one session or come for all)

We are pleased to tell you that St John's is re-starting its Junior Church sessions, initially meeting once a month. The aim of Junior Church is to develop and nurture the faith of children and their families by sharing the story of Jesus Christ. We will use story, song and activities to share the good news.

In May we're talking about – surprise! – who Jesus is. Not just talking but also using art - our own and others'. We will gather in church at the beginning of the service and then move to the hall, returning to church in time for communion, when children can sit with their family or can stay with Junior Church leaders.

Email Lauryn (lauryn.awbrey@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk) or call her on 01582 624823 with any questions or to register your interest. But you're welcome to come along anyway, even if you've forgotten to do that!

Mothers' Union news



We were delighted to welcome Kathie Lally, the diocesan communication lead, to our meeting on 3rd March. Kathie talked about 'transformation - now!', inviting us to consider how we personally could move forward in the coming months and what new initiatives we would welcome as a branch. As we have fairly recently changed the day and the time of our meetings and changed the meeting room as well, we had to think hard about what other changes we might welcome. Ideas were written down and have been saved for future discussions.

The day after, several of us attended the World Day of Prayer service at the United Reformed Church on Vaughan Road. We received a warm welcome and enjoyed the well-planned service which included some of my favourite hymns. On this special day, Christians around the world, from many denominations, pray together. Seven candles were lit during the service, one for each of the seven regions of the World Day of Prayer family.

On 25th March we were invited to St Mary's, Redbourn, for a Lady Day service. This celebrates the annunciation to the blessed Virgin Mary. We were then treated to a delicious tea, prepared by MU members.

On Mothering Sunday, posies were distributed in church after the service and it was heartwarming to see small children handing posies to their mothers and grandmothers. Everyone was welcome to take one home and attached to each posy was a small label on which was written, 'Made with love by members of Mothers' Union'.

The morning before, MU members had arrived at the hall bearing arms full of greenery and wearing big smiles. Di Borthwick and Alison Gardiner provided everything else that was needed to make enough posies to fill five large containers. Members worked efficiently, having done this many times before, and there was much chatter and plenty of laughter as well as coffee and tea to make the work even more enjoyable. This was MU at its best as members worked to bring joy to families and to give thanks to God for mothers everywhere.

On April 7th we heard a talk from Rachel Simkin from Youth Talk, a charity that provides free, confidential counselling to you people aged 13 to 25 in the St Albans area. All were welcome to attend.



Carol Cooke, branch leader

St John's Harpenden Calendar 2022

Key dates in the Parish of St John's Harpenden for 2022

January

Easter magazine deadline	Friday 7 th
Standing Committee	8pm Monday 10 th
PCC	8pm Tuesday 18 th
Christingle service	4pm Sunday 23 rd
Holocaust Memorial Day	Thursday 27 th
T@3	3pm Friday 28 th
First communion	9.30am Sunday 30 th
Candlemas	Sunday 30 th

February

MU AGM	2.30pm Thursday 3 rd
Volunteer fayre	Sunday 6 th
Faith and Light	4pm Sunday 6 th
Racial Justice Sunday	Sunday 13 th
Spring half term	14 th – 18 th
Family service	4pm Sunday 20 th
Fairtrade Fortnight	22 nd February – 7 th March
T@3	3pm Friday 25 th

March

Ash Wednesday	10.30am and 8pm Wednesday 2 nd
World Day of Prayer	Friday 4 th
Faith and Light	4pm Sunday 6 th
Standing Committee	8pm Tuesday 8 th
APCM	11am Sunday 20 th
Family service	4pm Sunday 20 th
PCC	8pm Thursday 24 th
T@3	3pm Friday 25 th
Posie making	9.30am Saturday 26 th March (MU only)
Earth Hour	8.30-9.30pm
Mothering Sunday	9.30am Sunday 27 th

April

Summer magazine deadline	Friday 1 st
All-age eucharist	Sunday 3 rd
Faith and Light	4pm Sunday 3 rd
MU meeting	2.30pm Thursday 7 th
Easter holidays	1 st – 18 th
Palm Sunday	Sunday 10 th
Evensong	5pm 10 th April
Maundy Thursday	Thursday 14 th
Good Friday	Friday 15 th
Easter Eve	Saturday 16 th
Easter Day	Sunday 17 th

May

All-age eucharist	9:30am Sunday 1 st
Faith and Light	4pm Sunday 1 st
MU meeting	2.30pm Thursday 5 th
Junior church	9.30am Sunday 8 th
Standing Committee	8pm Wednesday 11 th
Family service	4pm Sunday 15 th
Christian Aid Week	15 th to 21 st
PCC	8pm Thursday 19 th
Beating the bounds	2pm Sunday 22 nd
Commission PCC	9.30am Sunday 22 nd
Ascension Day	Thursday 26 th at St Nicholas, Harpenden
Summer half term	30 th May to 3 rd June

June

Jubilee Weekend	Thursday 2 nd – Sunday 5 th
All-age Pentecost	9:30am Sunday 5 th
Afternoon tea at the vicarage	3pm Sunday 5 th
Stewardship	Sundays in June – why we love St John's

June continued

Junior church	9.30am Sunday 12 th June
Confirmation service	9.30am Sunday 19 th June
Family service	4pm Sunday 19 th
MU Wave of prayer	3.30pm Thursday 23 rd
PCC social	8pm Thursday 23 rd
St John's patronal	11am Sunday 26 th

July and August

All-age eucharist	9.30am Sunday 3 rd July
Faith and Light	4pm Sunday 3 rd July
Standing Committee	8pm Wednesday 6 th July
MU outing	Thursday 7 th July
Junior church	9.30am Sunday 10 th July
PCC	8pm Thursday 14 th July
Autumn magazine deadline	Friday 15 th July
Pet blessing service	4pm Sunday 17 th July
Summer holidays	21 st July to 4 th September
MU picnic	Thursday 4 th August

September

MU meeting	2.30pm Thursday 1 st
All-age eucharist	9:30am Sunday 4 th
Creationtide	Sunday 4 th September to 2 nd October
Faith and Light	4pm Sunday 4 th
Family service	4pm Sunday 18 th
Standing Committee	8pm Tuesday 20 th
PCC	8pm Wednesday 28 th

October

Harvest festival	9.30am Sunday 2 nd
Faith and Light	4pm Sunday 2 nd
MU meeting	2.30pm Thursday 6 th
Christmas magazine deadline	Friday 7 th
Family service	4pm Sunday 16 th
PCC social	8pm Thursday 20 th
Autumn half term	Monday 24 th – Friday 28 th
All Saints Sunday	Sunday 30 th

November

MU meeting	2.30pm Thursday 3 rd
All Souls'	3pm Saturday 5 th
All-age eucharist	9.30am Sunday 6 th
Faith and Light	4pm Sunday 6 th
United Nations Assoc.	6.30pm Sunday 6 th
Standing Committee	8pm Tuesday 8 th
Remembrance Sunday	Sunday 13 th
PCC	8pm Wednesday 16 th
Family service	4pm Sunday 20 th
First communion	9.30am Sunday 27 th
Advent Sunday	Sunday 27 th

December

MU meeting	2.30pm Thursday 1 st
David Nye 40th anniversary	Sunday 4 th (David has been a Reader at St John's for 40 years!)
Faith and Light	4pm Sunday 4 th
Nativity	9.30am Sunday 18 th
School terms ends	Wednesday 21 st
Christmas Day	Sunday 25 th

st JOHN'S
Living God's Love





Regular Services at St John's

Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel
9.30 am Parish Eucharist (*also live streamed*) followed by coffee in the hall.
All age Eucharist, *normally 1st Sunday of the month*

Wednesday

- 10.30 am Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the Lady Chapel

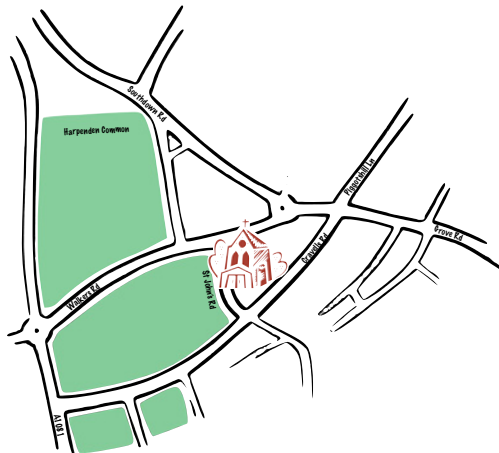
Monday to Thursday

- 9.30 am Morning prayer is said
5.00 pm Evening Prayer is said

Church is open every day from 10am to 5pm.

Service times may change so please check our website or sign up to our weekly newsletter.

Watch our Parish Eucharist and other special services on our YouTube channel - search for "St John's Church, Harpenden" or visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/StJohnsChurchHarpenden>



PARISH OFFICE

For enquiries, including marriages, baptisms, funerals and hall bookings, please contact the parish office.

Anna Chambers

Telephone: 01582 712776
parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

If you are in need of help or know anyone in need of support, please contact support@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

Parish Directory

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stJOHN'S
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