## **Our Parish** Aston-Cum-Aughton with Swallownest and Ulley



The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed - it is the smallest of seeds, but when it grows, it is big enough for the wild birds to come and build nests in its branches. Matthew 13:31-32

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#### On why it is so hard to read.

The Rectory St James the Least of All

My dear nephew Darren,

Your suggestion that every month at clergy meetings, someone should review a book of theology they have been reading, was bound to be greeted with uneasy resistance. It would mean that the majority would have to start opening books, rather than just occasionally dusting them. Possessing books does not necessarily imply that they are ever read.

Your high church colleagues will only read the Racing News, low church members the Railway Review, liberals the Knitting Weekly and those with tendencies towards non-conformism, the Vegetarian Times. Clerical studies may be lined with books, but they are largely for effect – and to hide damp patches on the wallpaper. Anything with hard covers will have been bought with the best of intentions – but somehow the vicarage lawn or the church hall drains will have taken precedence. And from what I know of your colleague over at St Crispin's, the only books he will buy will be to colour in.

I do try to keep up with my reading, but sleep mercifully intervenes after the first 10 minutes. On those days when I sit by my study window, so passers-by can see me deeply occupied in intellectual activity, it is most useful that my large tome on the letters of Eusebius can easily conceal an Agatha Christie inside it.

I confess that I was once gloriously put down when I tried to impress one of our blue stockings by mentioning a new edition of a Dostoevsky novel. She replied: "I have never read Dostoevsky in translation." It only confirmed my suspicions that she had worked as a Russian spy in earlier years.

I was hugely impressed when, during the bitter cold of last winter, the Earl of Stowe, whose library would comfortably contain one of our cathedrals, told me he was slowly getting through its contents of tens of thousands of volumes. It was only some time later that I discovered he meant he threw the occasional one on the fire, when he was running low on wood.

No, my dear Darren, the only literary activities that will spark interest will be crosswords for the majority, or diocesan reports for the truly dedicated – with weighty tomes being used as door stops.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

## ALL SAINTS ASTON SERVICES IN AUGUST 2023

#### Wednesday 2 August

9:30am Holy Communion

#### **Sunday 6 August**

10:30am All Age Worship

#### Wednesday 9 August

9:30am Holy Communion

#### **Sunday 13 August**

10:30am Holy Communion

#### Wednesday 16 August

9:30am Holy Communion

#### **Sunday 20 August**

10:30am	Morning Worship
6:00pm	Said Evensong with Hymns

#### Wednesday 23 August

9:30am Holy Communion

#### Sunday 27 August

10:30am	Holy Communion
6:00pm	Said Compline with Hymns

#### Wednesday 30 August

9:30am Holy Communion



## Holy Trinity Church Ulley Services in AUGUST

Sunday 6 August 9:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 13 August 10:30am Morning Worship

Sunday 20 August 10:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 27 August 10:30am Morning Worship

All Services are now in Church and will be available on ZOOM Meeting ID : 751 676 3956 Passcode : 266293

#### WHO TO CONTACT AT HOLY TRINITY

#### **Church Wardens:**

Gwyneth Hodgson: 0114 287 2150, Gwyneth.sampson@outlook.com Sue Hubbard: 0114 287 3846, suehermec@hotmail.com

**Weddings:** If you want to talk about getting married, or to book your wedding please E-mail Hazel on office@allsaintsaston.com. Wedding couples can ring: 07934 101538

**Baptisms:** If you would like to arrange a Baptism please E-mail our Baptism co-ordinator, Gloria Hope on Baptism@gloriahope.uk

**Funerals:** To arrange a Funeral please speak to Gwyneth Hodgson: 0114 287 2150, Gwyneth.sampson@outlook.com



#### A Plea to the Community of All Saints Church

A warm welcome awaits you whenever you wish to visit our beautiful Grade 1 listed 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church. Here at All Saints Church Aston we have Services every Sunday and during the week for those people who wish to extend their faith, or cannot make our Sunday Services.

We welcome the residents of our Community. Many of our children visit and play under supervision at our various organised groups. Many of these groups and services are highlighted in this Monthly Parish Magazine.

Our church is run by the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Aston, which comprises elected members of the Congregation, Clergy and Licensed Lay members. The PCC meets every month to discuss our finances and how our money should be spent to benefit and improve our church.

These meetings cover matters from the day to day running of our church, to the safety of every person who enters our church, and the ongoing repairs and main-tenance needed to ensure our church is fit for purpose.

We receive many wonderful testaments from visitors who visit our church; from those who have been to a Service, a Wedding, a Baptism, a Funeral or just decided to look around our Church when in the area or staying at Aston Hall Hotel.

Like many other organizations, our Church continues to have challenges to maintain the fabric of the building and the requirements for our Church and Community's future.

We are grateful to members of our congregation and friends who donate to assist in all that we try to do in the development and the continuing pathway work of our Church. These donations are made by a monthly bank direct debit, a weekly envelope scheme or by cash in the collection tray. All monies are used to help in the running of our church.

We hope you too would like to consider becoming part of the continuation of our work and the future of our Church by donating whatever you feel you can afford. Being a charity, if you are a tax payer each £1.00 donation you give attracts 25p from the government, which as you can understand is of great help to us.

If you would like further information on how you can help by making a monthly bank direct debit donation, by weekly envelope contribution, or a one off donation to our church we would be very grateful for you to contact our Gift Aid Secretary or our Admin Assistant

Contact details as follows:

Gift Aid Secretary : Glyn Sands Mobile phone 07835 240870 or glynsands@aol.com

Church AdminAssistant : Hazel Winstanley by email at office@allsaintsaston.com or phone 07934 101538

About 700AD the people of Aston embraced Christianity and built a church: probably of wattle and wood. After the Norman Conquest in 1066 the Norman Lord erected a Hall and rebuilt the Church in Stone

> **Together with your assistance** we could help to ensure that our Church will continue into the future

#### **ROTHERHAM FOODBANK**

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#### I am your ship

Lord, I am your ship. Fill me with the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Without you I am empty of every blessing, And full of every sin.

Lord, I am your ship. Fill me with a cargo of good works. Without you, I am empty of every joy, And full of vain pleasures.

> Lord, I am your ship. Fill me with love for you.

By John Sergieff (a priest in Russia; lived 1829 – 1908)

## ROTA FOR SIDESPEOPLE

#### AUGUST 2023

- 6 ALL AGE
- 13 HOLY COMMUNION
- 20 MORNING WORSHIP
- 27 HOLY COMMUNION

Sheila Brown & Ann Mason Glyn Sands & Pauline Martin Paul Moakes & Marjorie O'Neil Bill Mawson & Sheila Brown

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON



## ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

# COFFEE MORNING



In the Narthex

Every 2nd Friday of each month

10:00am -12:00pm



#### 6th August : The Transfiguration of Jesus - A Glimpse of Glory

The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking Him out. But on this day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His friends. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was – immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our listening to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Why Moses and Elijah? Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by His coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.

The Eastern Churches have long held the Transfiguration as a feast as important as Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension and Pentecost. But it took a long time for the West to observe the Transfiguration. The feast starts appearing from the 11th and 12th centuries, and the Prayer Book included it among the calendar dates, but there was no liturgical provision for it until the 19th century.

#### 17th August : Jeanne Delanoue, caring for the poor



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#### Saint Jeanne Delanoue (Saint Joan of the Cross)

It is the Spirit of God which animates you and prompts you to this penitential life. Henceforth, then, be without fear and follow your inspirations.

Delanoue was born in Saumur, located in the region of Anjou, France, the youngest of twelve children. Her parents had a shop not far from the shrine of Notre-Dame-des-Ardilliers. Her father was a draper, who died when she was six years old. She helped her mother run the shop selling religious goods, catering to pilgrims to the shrine. She took over the business at the age of 25 when her mother died. She also provided accommodations to pilgrims who were visiting the shrine. A skilful businesswoman, she kept the store open even on Sundays and holydays, which was considered somewhat scandalous in 17th century France. Her early life was characterized as one of self-centeredness, pride and avarice.

On Pentecost 1693, Delanoue encountered Francoise Fouchet, a poor widowed pilgrim from Rennes, who predicted that Jeanne would one day spend her life caring for the poor. She greeted this prediction with some skepticism; but as time passed, caring for the less fortunate began to take up more of her time. She began by visiting the poor in her neighbourhood. Eventually she closed the family business to commit herself more fully to this work. Her house, near the Loire, had caves and cellars similar to those of wine merchants, in which she provided shelter for orphans, the sick, the aged, and the indigent. Delanoue gave particular attention especially to abandoned single mothers and prostitutes. A landslide during the earthquake in 1703 destroyed her home, but undeterred, she found another. Many of the poor could only find shelter in the caves carved out of the tuff along the Loire. She made them as comfortable as she could.

In 1704, she was joined by a few other young women who shared her vision of helping the needy. Thus was founded the Sisters of Saint Anne of Providence of Saumur. Her work was endorsed by noted preacher Louis de Montfort. Delanoue founded Providence House, which during the famine of 1709, cared for about 100 people.<sup>[5]</sup> That same year, Michel Poncet de La Riviere, Bishop of Angers approved the constitutions of the small congregation. She took the name in religion of Joan of the Cross.

In 1715, she established Saumur's first home for the poor. Worn out by her labours, she died on 17 August 1736 at Fencet, France, of natural causes. At the time of her death there were 12 communities of her sisters, spread throughout France, serving the poor and needy.

"The poor and the Lord are all one." -Jeanne Delanoue/Joan of the Cross..

#### 28th August : Augustine of Hippo, the Christian for all seasons

After St Paul, who was the most influential Christian writer ever? St Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430), whose feast-day is on 28th August. He lived and wrote in a time of social and spiritual chaos. The Roman Empire was collapsing, the world was about to slide into the dark ages and the Church was under serious threat from both heresies within and paganism without.

What St Augustine wrote at this time helped the Church both to avoid perversions of Christianity, and to stand strong and unafraid amongst the violent tumult of the times. His writings held sway over Christianity for the next 15 centuries or so, and still influence us heavily today.

Augustine was born at Tagaste, in modern Algeria. His father was a pagan, but his mother, Monica, was a Christian. After studying rhetoric at Carthage to become a lawyer, Augustine instead became a scholar-philosopher. He abandoned Christianity for Manichaeism, and lived with a mistress for 15 years. He moved to Rome and then Milan to teach rhetoric, but slowly grew disenchanted with Manichaeism.

After a long interior conflict, vividly described in his 'Confessions', Augustine was converted and baptised a Christian in 386-7. He returned to Africa in 388, and joined some friends in establishing a quasi-monastic life. He was ordained priest in 391, and four years later became coadjutor-bishop of Hippo. From 396 until his death in 430 he ruled the diocese alone.

Augustine had a brilliant mind, an ardent temperament and a gift for mystical insights. Soon his understanding of the Christian Revelation was pouring forth in his many voluminous writings.

So what did he write? Most famous is 'The Confessions', the sermons on the Gospel and Epistle of John, the De Trinitate and the De Civitate Dei. This last, 'The City of God', tackles the opposition between Christianity and the 'world' and represents the first Christian philosophy of history.

Many other works were undertaken in his efforts to tackle various herises: Manichaeism, Pelagianism, or Donatism, and led to the development of his thought on Creation, Grace, the Sacraments and the Church.

Augustine's massive influence on Christianity has mainly been for the good. Few others have written with such depth on love, the Holy Trinity and the Psalms. (The preamble to the marriage service in the BCP is closely based on Augustine.) But his views on Predestination and some of his views on sex (that it is the channel for the transmission of Original Sin) have since been mainly ignored by the Church.

As bishop, Augustine fearlessly upheld order as the Roman Empire disintegrated around him. By the time of his death, the Vandals were at the very gates of Hippo.

#### **Sleep Well**

If you have babies and young children cause sleeplessness. They cry because they feel hungry, feel sick or else just feel like crying. They are up with the lark in the morning and are no respecter of your bodily rhythm. Even if they go to bed late it makes no difference. They can then keel over and have a nap later when you are wide awake.

As we age, normal changes occur in our sleeping patterns, such as becoming sleepy earlier in the evening or after one less glass of wine. But if you snooze and your loved one finishes watching the murder mystery, do they delete it on Netflix so the killer remains forever unmasked? Do they turn the light off and leave you to wake up as the central heating cools - a lonely sailor marooned on a dark and desolate beach? I suspect this is a common story.

I also rarely have an uninterrupted night or else strangely wake up at precisely 6:24 for the call of nature. The plumbing is clearly not what it used to be. This is disappointing. We wake up earlier as we age, especially in the spring and early summer when it gets light all too soon and the birds start dancing jigs in tiny invisible hob nail boots on the roof.

Blessed sleep, which is just as important for good physical and mental health as it ever was, can seem scarce. The following tips may help overcome age-related sleep problems:

- 1. **Maintain a consistent sleep schedule**. Go to bed and wake up at the same time each day, weekends included. 'Bedtime' on your iPhone can remind you when to go to bed and when to get up. Perhaps set it to Church-bells and not birdsong.
- 2. Keep busy. Social activities, visiting family, volunteering and learning something new can keep the mind and body active but also makes us more tired later in the day.
- 3. Watching TV or looking at computer type screen in the hour before bedtime can reduce melatonin levels affecting sleep. Also avoid arguing with the TV late at night.
- 4. Diet and exercise can improve sleep. Eating a healthy diet and monitoring what you have in the run up to bedtime can give you some useful 'clues'. A lot of salt and/or water may mean you need to go to the toilet more often in the night.
- 5. Soothing bedtime rituals. A nice bath, playing music or using a relaxation technique such as deep breathing can help relaxation. Having a light read also works well be it a novel or an instruction manual for a Barbie carriage. If you ever tried to make one you will understand.
- 6. Avoided caffeine late in the day including coffee, tea, some soft drinks and chocolate.
- **7. Get out into the sunshine**. Sunshine regulates melatonin levels and affects sleep cycles. Moving a chair into a sunny spot of the room is helpful if you cannot get out in the day.

Don't worry about sleep. Have a word with your GP if you are concerned.

David Coldrick is owner of Home Instead Senior Care Rotherham 34 Moorgate Road S60 2AG. Telephone 01709 837170 <u>david.coldrick@homeinstead.co.uk</u> All views his own.

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#### **RESTORATION WORK IN ASTON CHURCH FROM THE DIARY OF REV. GEORGE KIRK**

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The renovated Saxon Altar

In **1966** major alterations were made to the interior of the Church. The Victorian choir stalls were in a bad state of decay because of woodworm and dry rot. For about two years discussions were held whether to simply replace them with new choir stalls in the same position or to take the opportunity to re-plan the Church so that the altar could be seen from almost every pew. This would mean placing the altar on the existing chancel steps or in the middle of the nave. There were many consultations with the architect Mr George G Pace of York and the Bishop's Advisory Committee before the decision was taken.

The existing shape of the building and especially the narrow chancel arch made it impossible to devise a perfect scheme. It was agreed to place the altar in a central position on the chancel step and to place the choir in the east end. When not in use for the choir the chancel could be used as a chapel capable of seating up to 25 people. The free-standing altar could be used for services in the chancel or nave or in both. The work began in Spring 1966 and took fourteen weeks to complete.

#### Altar

It was advisable to reduce the length of the stone medieval altar. It was badly fractured in the middle and this was tidied up and the altar reduced by about eighteen inches.

#### **Choir Stalls**

The choir stalls originally came from St Michael's Neepsend, now demolished. They then went to St Ann's Netherthorpe which is now closed. They were then repaired and bleached for Aston.

#### Wrought Iron Work

The existing altar ornaments had been made by Dowson according to Pace's design. It was found necessary only to adapt the altar crucifix into a hanging cross and to provide a set of communion rails. This work was also done by Dowson.

#### **D'Arcy Window**

This needed re-glazing and the work was done by Mr Allen of York according to Mr Pace's instructions.

#### Pews under the Tower

These were brought from St Clement's Newhall, now demolished.

#### Paving

Stone paving in and before the chancel was completed and the opportunity taken to renew the central heating installation at that end of the church.

#### Memorials

Part of the new furnishing was provided in memory of members of the Church who had died during the past four years:

The D'Arcy window was restored in memory of Cyril Layne. The New English Bible for use on the altar was given in memory of Eric Loxley. The annotation of Epistles and Gospels was done by John Hanstock. The choir stalls were provided in memory of Reginald Rawlings-Smith.

During alterations, traces were found of a flue below the cell of the south window of the chancel nearest to the chancel arch. Is this what remains of a fireplace in the Rector or Squire's family pew which was there in the 18th and 19th centuries?

#### 1968

The stonework of the west window of the church porch was restored in December by John Hanstock and at the same time sufficient stone was purchased for the restoration of the porch which is to be spread over many years.

#### 1969

Work was completed on the restoration of the mullions etc. of the two windows in the porch and the ordering of glass. Restoration was also carried out on the arch stones above the capstones, together with the ordering of stone to continue work on the arch. Glass was fixed in the porch by Mr. Allen of York.



#### 1972

The tower and north aisle were redecorated. The cloakroom and toilets were completed.

#### 1973

The dial of the tower clock was painted by William Potts.

#### 1974

Two windows were replaced in the north aisle. To cure damp a cavity wall was built at the east end, and the choir, nave and north aisle were decorated with emulsion paint. All electrical installations were rewired.

#### 1975

The two windows in the clergy vestry were replaced by Mr. Robertson of Sheffield. John Hanstock replaced decayed stonework mainly on the north aisle with "stitching" and also the west end of the north aisle which was considerably decayed.

#### 1976

Re-pointing and repair of the north wall of the church, the mullions of two windows of the south aisle and the provision of a gas boiler for the central heating.

#### 1978

Replacement of decayed stonework to both windows on the south side of the nave. The stone was from Stoke Quarry, Grindleford. The windows were replaced in clear glass by Mr. Robertson to a design by Mr. Sims. Re-pointing work was completed on the north side of the church. Digging out and providing better drainage was done on the south aisle walls to try to reduce rising damp. The organ was completely overhauled.

Ann Key Secretary Aston-cum-Aughton History Group



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## **Groups and Societies**

#### YAS - Youth Club (11-16 years)

Meets monthly in the Narthex of All Saints Church: 6 to 8pm. Silly games, discussion, food and prayer.

#### **Aston Footpath Walkers Association**

Local friendly walking every Thursday. Contact Mel Partridge on 0114 438 1493.

#### **Aston Ladies Circle**

Meetings are at 7.15pm on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Hall or 'OUT' on trips. Contact Audrey Jones 0114 287 5518

#### Aston-cum-Aughton History Group

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 - 9pm, William Layne Reading Room, Aughton Lane, Aston. Visitors welcome.

#### Aston-cum-Aughton Ladies Group

Meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at 1.45pm in the Narthex at All Saints Church. New members / visitors welcome (small fee). Contact : Val on 0114 287 3214

#### **Chatterbox Activity Group**

for pensioners, carers and over 55's. *See pg.23 Tuesdays 10am to 12.30, Central Methodist Church Hall, Lodge Lane, Aston. £2 Transport available. Extra help always welcome. Contact Janet on 07989 370593* 

#### **Dinnington & District Horticultural Society**

Evening talks in Anston Parish Hall, Ryton Road, North Anston S25 4DL at 7.30pm. Non members £2.50. For more details contact : 01909 567326.



#### **Friends of Ulley Country Park**

Sunday Café: 11 am to 3 pm. Homemade refreshments including soup, crusty bread, coffee, tea, fruit cordials, cakes and scones. We hope to host a special event at each Café day. Details on the website.

#### 5th Age (charity number 1068378)

This social group meets every Tuesday, 2 - 4pm at Heighton View Community Centre (off Turnshaw Avenue in Aughton). Open to anyone over 55. Just drop in: ask for Julia. Membership free. Contact : **enquire5thage@outlook.com** 

#### Prospects@Central

An inclusive service with those with learning difficulties. All welcome! We learn stories from the Bible, (sometimes acted out); sing songs together in worship and celebration and end with cake. Swallownest Baptist Church 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm. Contacts : **Malcolm 07720 776081** or **Elizabeth 07594 410801** 

#### **Little Angels**

Playgroup for babies and pre-school children at All Saints Church, Aston Termtime every Monday 9.30 - 11.00am in Term time and every Thursday 9:30 -11:00am at Holy Trinity Ulley in Term Time. Admission FREE, but donations welcome Contact : **Gloria Hope 07553 504806** or **gloria(agloriahope.uk** 



Our Parish Office Number is 07934 101538

## From the Registers

#### Baptisms :

Margot Edie Clayton Jack Gordon Tarron Wilf Hitchen Nancy-Mae Gilbank George Dawson Grace Dawson

#### Funerals :

Mavis Justin



#### WHO TO CONTACT AT ALL SAINTS

If you want to talk about getting married, or to book your wedding please telephone **07934 101538** 

If you would like to arrange a Baptism please E-mail our Baptism co-ordinator, Gloria Hope on **Baptism@gloriahope.uk** 

To arrange a Funeral please speak to Jim Nuttall **nuttall.jim@gmail.com** tel 0114 287 6047 Remember you can view this magazine In full colour online www.allsaintsaston.com

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## 

#### **REGULAR SERVICES SUBJECT TO COVID GUIDELINES**

#### THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS ASTON CUM AUGHTON

SUNDAYS:	All Age Worship Parish Commun Morning Worsh When there is a Evensong (2nd Compline (4th S	10:30am 10:30am 10:30am 10:30am 6.00pm 6:00pm			
WEDNESDAYS:	Holy Communic	9.30am			
PARISH CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY ULLEY					
SUNDAYS:	Holy Communion (1st Sunday) Morning Worship (2nd Sunday & 4th Sunday) Holy Communion (3rd Sunday)		9:00am 10.30am 10.30am		
TEAM STAFF					
LAY MINISTER:	Peter Hutchinso	on 17 Front Street, Treeton S60 5QP	0114 4425 340		
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