

# Welcome to St. John's

## Your church next to Stoneleigh Station

Greetings! I am delighted to welcome you to St. John's Church, your spiritual haven nestled in the heart of Stoneleigh.



**Who Are We?** St. John's is the parish church of Stoneleigh, part of the Church of England. The church is located next to Stoneleigh station, but we are much more than a building. St John's is a family, fostering a sense of belonging and inclusiveness, where everyone is embraced with open arms, regardless of age, background, or beliefs. We take pride in being an integral part of Stoneleigh life, weaving the threads of togetherness and creating a tapestry of shared experiences.

**Our Mission:** St. John's exists to proclaim and demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ in the community of Stoneleigh. We do that by creating a nurturing environment that fosters spiritual and personal growth and by providing our community with a place to meet and participate in a wide range of social events and activities. We strive to be a source of inspiration, a helping hand, and a welcoming place where everyone can find companions for their journey.

**What We Provide:** This information pack will tell you all you need to know about 'What's On at St John's' (which also happens to be the name of our church magazine, published twice a year and delivered to every house in the parish!). From traditional and contemporary worship services, weddings, funerals and baptisms to fun social events (eg quiz nights, film nights, concerts); from community meeting spaces (St John's café and Baby & Toddler group) to a venue that hosts dance and exercise classes as well as being available for celebrations and children's parties.

**Stay Connected:** Explore life at St. John's through our website ([www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk)), on our Facebook page, newsletter and What's On magazine. Discover inspiring stories, event highlights, and valuable insights that reflect the vibrant spirit of our church family.

We look forward to seeing you!  
Best wishes and blessings!

**Rev Geoff Andrew**  
Vicar

[www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk)  
Telephone 07468 096 350

St John's Church, Station Approach, Stoneleigh KT19 0QZ.

# Services and Worship

## Sunday Services

Join us for a variety of worship experiences every Sunday. Our usual weekly pattern is outlined below, but please check our website or contact us ahead for any changes, especially on special occasions like Easter and Christmas

### 9:30am Holy Communion

Experience the richness of tradition with hymns, prayers, sermon and Holy Communion. This service is also broadcast live online at [www.Stoneleigh.tv](http://www.Stoneleigh.tv)

### 11:00am Worship for Everyone

A relaxed and informal style of church service with worship songs, videos, a talk and a time to reflect and pray. Our KidZone group makes this a great service for toddlers and primary age children and families.

## Weekday Services

### Monday 9:30am Morning Prayer (said)

Join us at the start of each week for a period of prayer and reflection.

### Wednesday 9:30am Said Eucharist

A 30 minute Communion service using the rich and poetic language of the Book of Common Prayer.

### Open Doors at St. John's

Our doors are open daily from Monday to Saturday from approximately 8:00am until 4:00pm, creating a sacred space for private prayer and reflection, regardless of your faith or background.

## Stay Updated

Check our website [www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk) or give us a call to ensure you have the latest information, especially for special occasions.



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# St. John's Who's Who



**Rev Geoff Andrew**  
Vicar of St. John's

## Clergy

Geoff became a full-time minister after spending 30 years in the hotel industry. His business experience helps him connect the Christian message of God's love with the challenges of everyday life. Geoff joined St John's in July 2021.



**Adrian Coppin**

## Churchwardens

Our Churchwardens are lay officials and volunteers and are responsible for the day-to-day management of the church. They are elected by members of the church and serve a set term of office.



**Claire Cornell**

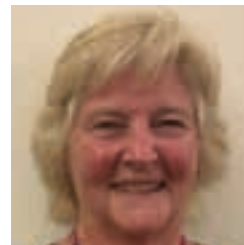
## Church Support Team



**Chris McInnes**  
Office Administrator



**Tim Rogers**  
Treasurer



**Jean Tutton**  
Parish Safeguarding Officer



**Sue Pennington**  
PCC Secretary



**Anne Andrew**  
KidZone Leader



**Gin Yershon**  
Young Families Worker



**Jan Davey**  
Young Families Worker



**Chris Webb**  
Director of Music

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# St. John's Council & Volunteers

## Parochial Church Council (PCC)

There are currently 13 members of the St. John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) who look after the religious and secular matters of the church and are responsible for its financial affairs and maintenance of its assets.

A PCC is the executive committee of a Church of England parish that consists of clergy, church wardens and representatives from the congregation. Its members are elected by members of the church and serve a set term of office. Details of the current members of the St. John's PCC can be found on the notice board at the back of the church.

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## Our Volunteers

There are many who play an active role in contributing to the warm welcome at St. John's from our welcomers and greeters, to dedicated individuals managing various committees, events, and community outreach programmes.

Each person at St. John's brings a unique set of skills and passion, contributing to the rich tapestry of our community. Together, we seek to create an environment where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

We're always looking for new volunteers, whether you are part of our worshipping community or not. As we continue our journey together, let's celebrate the diversity of talents and the spirit of collaboration that defines St. John's.

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# St. John's, Stoneleigh

## A Proud History

The roots of St. John's can be traced back to the consecration of the building in May 1939, with the Parish of Stoneleigh being constituted in 1948 to meet the needs of a growing population in the area. However, the seeds of community and worship were sown even earlier.

In 1935, a Sunday school took root at Sparrow Farm School (now Meadow Primary). A year later, in 1936, the Church opened its doors in a hall in Dell Lane, becoming a sacred space where regular services echoed with prayers and hymns.

The cornerstone of our present spiritual abode was laid in 1938. Over the years, the structure has evolved. In 1958, the Church witnessed expansion with the addition of the tower, gallery, and porch. Technological enhancements arrived in 1998 with the installation of a hearing loop system and sound system, enriching the worship experience.

In the years 2000 and 2012, the Church underwent physical transformations. In 2000, the glass doors at the west end were installed, a memorial to a cherished member of the congregation, welcoming both light and reverence.

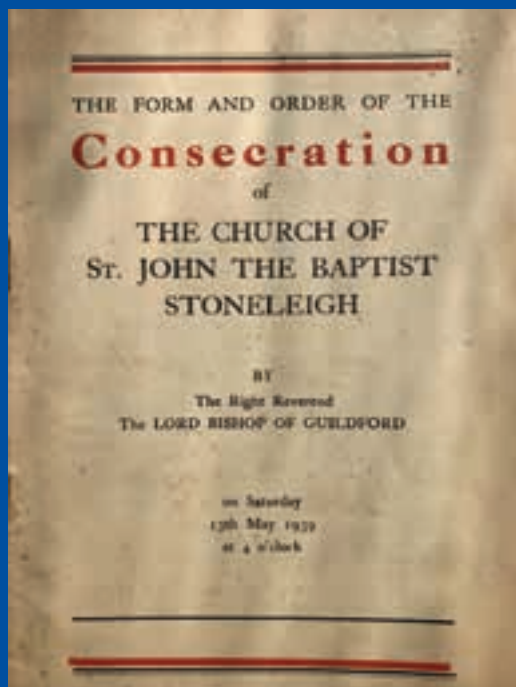
In 2012, the Open Doors project saw the removal of the choir pews and an enlarged dais was built with a new Communion table that enabled the Eucharist to be taken at the Chancel steps. Glass doors were also fitted at the north entrance.

While the red brick exterior stands as a testament to time, the interior of St. John's unfolds in beauty and simplicity. The Chapel on the north side, a haven for services and private prayer, echoes with the whispers of devotion.

Further technological advancements were made in 2021 with the addition of large screens and a sound desk which provide great flexibility in worship, especially for the contemporary service with its worship band and use of visual imagery.

The soul-stirring notes of the original pipe organ, that was refurbished in 2022 through the generosity of the Pavey Family, resonate through the Church, adding a musical layer to our worship.

The Parish Centre became an integral part of our story in 1995. With its excellent facilities, it weaves connections within the Church and extends its influence into the wider community here in Stoneleigh. As we walk through the chapters of our history, St. John's Stoneleigh stands as more than a physical space; it's a living narrative of faith, growth, family, and community.



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# St. John's Café

Every Thursday in the Parish Centre  
1:30pm to 3:30pm

Join us every Thursday for an afternoon of connection and conversation at St. John's! Our volunteer-run community café offers tea, freshly brewed coffee, and a tempting array of delicious homemade cakes, all for a very reasonable price. It's the perfect place to relax, chat, and make new friends in the welcoming atmosphere of St. John's.



ST JOHN'S  
*café*

**Tea, Coffee, Cold Drinks,  
Cakes and more...**

If you're looking for good company and a good coffee (or another favourite beverage) at a very reasonable price, come along to our community café. Everyone welcome!

**Every Thursday, 1:30–3:30pm**  
St John's Church, Station Approach, Stoneleigh KT19 0QZ.  
07468 096 350 office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk

[www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk)  
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# St. John's Craft Group

Third Monday of the month

10:00am to 12:00pm

The Craft group meets in the Parish Room in the Parish Centre. Everyone brings their own craft, be it knitting, card making, crochet, sewing, mindful colouring to name a few.

With lots of chat and tea and coffee we craft the morning away. All are welcome, so bring your crafting and join us.

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# Baby & Toddler Group

Tuesday during term time

10:00am to 11:30am

## Looking for a fun activity for your toddler?

Come and be a part of our Toddler group in the Parish Centre on Tuesday from 10:00am until 11:30am. It's a fantastic opportunity for parents, grandparents and childminders to connect, while babies and toddlers explore, learn, and have a blast with various free-play activities.

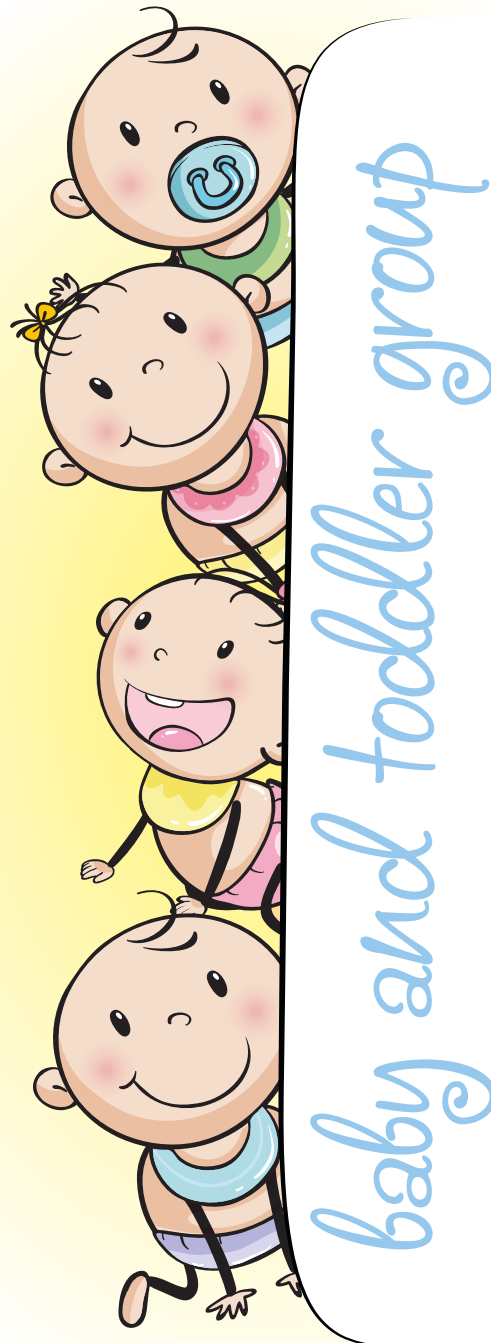
## There's no need to book – just come along

### What to Expect:

- **Free Play:** There is a large range of toys including a home corner, see-saw, slide, ride-ons, books, puzzles, transport, farm and animal toys and a good selection of baby toys in the baby area.
- **Craft Activities:** Engaging and creative crafts to spark imagination and something to take home and show off!
- **Refreshments:** Enjoy a coffee break with fellow adults while your little ones have a snack.
- **Singsong:** Wrap up the session with a lively singsong for everyone!

**Cost:** £3.00 for the first child and £1.00 for each additional child and additional adult.

**Contact:** [babyandtoddlergoup@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](mailto:babyandtoddlergoup@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook St John's Church Baby and Toddler Group Stoneleigh for more information.



**Experience the joy of learning  
and playing together!**

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# Toddler Praise at St John's

Tuesday during term time

9:45am to 10:00am

If you're coming along to our Baby & Toddler Group on a Tuesday, why not come a little early and join us in the main church for 15 minutes of worship for children with a couple of action songs, a Bible story and a prayer?

The children will love meeting Becky the bunny and Sean the lost sheep!  
And it's a lovely way to start the morning.



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# St. John's Parish Centre

## The Perfect Venue for your Event or Activity

Two event spaces are available to meet the unique needs of your gatherings.

### Main Hall

#### Capacity: 100 Guests

- Ideal for children's events and celebrations
- High ceiling
- Kitchen available
- Wifi connectivity
- Thoughtfully designed for accessibility with disabled access and toilets



### Parish Room

#### Capacity: 30 Guests

- Perfect for more intimate gatherings
- Kitchen available
- WiFi connectivity
- Accessible with disabled facilities

### Book Your Event

Whether it's a grand celebration\* or a more intimate affair, St. John's Parish Centre provides the perfect setting. Contact us today to secure your preferred date and make your event memorable.



For inquiries and bookings, please email [hire@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](mailto:hire@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk) or contact Kerri on **07913 891 434**.

Check the website for more details [www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk)

\*Unfortunately, we cannot take bookings for adult parties.

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# Baptisms at St John's

## Embracing New Beginnings

### What is Baptism?

Baptism (also called christening) is a beautiful sacrament; a visible and public sign of an inner commitment to start following Jesus on a life journey of faith in response to His love for us. If the one being baptised is an infant, then parents and godparents make a commitment to raise the child in the knowledge of God's love and guide them to follow Jesus as part of the Church. This ceremony marks a new beginning in the family of the Church, expressing gratitude for the gift of new life.



### Who Can Be Baptized at St John's?

If you live in Stoneleigh parish, are a regular worshipper, or have a connection with St John's, we would be delighted to discuss baptism with you for you or your child.

### The Baptism Service:

Baptisms take place during our regular 11:00am Sunday service. The Baptism ceremony involves the minister pouring water over the head to symbolise being washed clean to start a new life with Christ. A lighted candle, given at the end, symbolises Christ's love, as the light of the world and can be lit on each baptism anniversary. A bible is also offered as a gift to help people deepen their relationship with Jesus.

### Godparents:

If you've been asked to be a godparent, congratulations! For parents choosing godparents, we're here to provide advice. There should be at least three godparents with both genders represented. Godparents must be baptised. If someone is not baptised, they can still be involved as a sponsor but the minimum number of godparents is still required.

### How do I arrange a baptism?

Please contact the church office [office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk) for more details and to arrange an initial chat.

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# Weddings at St. John's

## Bringing two hearts together with God's love

### Celebrating Your Love

If you have recently got engaged, congratulations on this joyful occasion! We're thrilled to hear about your plans and would be delighted to help you make your wedding day truly special.

### Getting Married at St John's

**The First Steps.** If you dream of exchanging vows at St. John's, our team is here to support you. The initial step involves checking if your particular circumstances enable you to marry here. There are a number of legal checks and 'qualifying criteria' (see overleaf) which the Vicar will happily guide you through, ensuring you meet the necessary requirements.

### Planning Your Special Day:

We will schedule an initial meeting with the Vicar. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss the practical aspects of the service and delve into the profound significance of marriage. Your unique love story will shape the ceremony, making it a meaningful and personal experience.

### What does it cost to get married in church?

At time of publication, fees for a Church of England wedding are £531, not including extras such as bellringing, organist or flowers.



### Enquiries and Questions:

Feel free to reach out to the Parish Office **07468 096 350** or [office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk) for any inquiries or questions regarding weddings.

[www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk)  
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# Marriage at St. John's

## Qualifying Connections

At St John's, we cherish the opportunity to be a part of your special day. To be married at St John's, you can meet the criteria if:

### Living in the Parish:

If you reside in our parish, you are eligible.

### Regular Worshipper:

If your name is on the electoral roll and you are a regular worshipper, you are warmly welcome.

### Qualifying Connection:

You can establish a qualifying connection with the parish through the following:

- A. **Baptism:** If you were baptized in our parish (except in a combined rite including baptism and confirmation), or your confirmation is recorded in our register.
- B. **Residence:** If you had your usual place of residence in our parish for at least six months at any time.
- C. **Attendance:** If you have habitually attended public worship in our parish for a continuous period of not less than six months.
- D. **Parent's Residence or Worship:** If a parent had their usual place of residence in our parish for at least six months during your lifetime, or if a parent habitually attended public worship in our parish for that period.
- E. **Parent or Grandparent's Marriage:** If a parent or grandparent of yours was married in our parish.

### Definitions:

**Parent:** Includes adoptive parents and individuals responsible for the care and upbringing of the person establishing a qualifying connection.

**Grandparent:** Includes the grandparents of the person seeking a qualifying connection.



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# Funerals at St. John's

## In God's loving embrace

If you find yourself in the difficult position of arranging a funeral, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. Here is some guidance on the process:

### Contact Funeral Directors:

The first step is to reach out to a funeral director. They will assist you in making arrangements and can coordinate with St John's for the funeral service. Whether you prefer a service in church or at a crematorium led by our Vicar, funeral directors will handle the initial coordination.

### Direct Contact:

If you prefer, you are always welcome to contact us directly. St. John's is here to assist, especially if you have a connection to the parish or wish to discuss the service details.

### Funeral Service in Church:

Our Vicar officiates at funerals for those who lived in the parish or have a connection to the church. We are here to provide support and ensure the service is a meaningful tribute to your loved one.

### Annual Remembering Loved Ones Service:

Every year on the nearest Sunday to All Souls' Day (2 November), we hold a special service at St. John's. During this service, the names of departed loved ones are read out and remembered. It is a time for reflection and support. Keep an eye on our website or contact us for more details.



During this challenging time, St John's is here to assist you with compassion and understanding. Feel free to reach out to us directly or through your chosen funeral directors.

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# Community Events at St. John's

## Join the Celebration

At St. John's, we believe in creating strong connections and fostering a sense of community. Throughout the year, we organise a variety of events where everyone is welcome, and newcomers are especially encouraged to join in the festivities.

### Quiz Nights:

Gear up for an evening of fun, friendly competition, and brain-teasing challenges at our Quiz Nights. Bring friends, family, and neighbours for an entertaining night in the warm and welcoming atmosphere of our church community.

Whether you're a trivia enthusiast or a casual participant, our quiz nights promise laughter, camaraderie, and a chance to showcase your knowledge.

### Magical Movie Nights:

**Sing-Along Extravaganza:** Embark on a musical journey with our Sing-Along Film Nights like no other! Get ready to be entertained, sing your heart out (no talent required!), and enjoy a movie experience beyond the screen. Whether you're a solo crooner or part of a choir, these events guarantee an evening of joy and fun.

### Harmony Unleashed:

**St John's Season of Music:** Prepare to be enchanted by a musical spectrum from soulful solo performances to the electrifying energy of the Epsom Rock Choir! Each autumn, St. John's presents a series of concerts that captivate audiences of all tastes and ages. Our concert line-up has something for everyone.

### Other Social Events:

Join us for various social gatherings, including our Summer Fair, Easter hot cross buns at Stoneleigh Station, Halloween hot chocolate and marshmallows for trick-or-treaters, and carols around the Christmas tree, plus carols at The Station pub add to the festivities throughout the year.

**ST JOHN'S SEASON OF MUSIC**

|   |  |           |
|---|--|-----------|
|   | <b>MAMMA MIA SING-ALONG</b><br>Saturday 30th September 7.30pm<br>Adult: £10 inc. a glass of fizz, under 18's £5 inc. a soft drink. (Raffle 1st prize: 2 tickets for Abba Voyage)<br>Mamma Mia! It's sing-a-long night at St John's! Time to channel your inner Dancing Queen and enjoy the music of Abba. Imagine yourself on a Greek island where a local girl is about to be married. Imagine she discovers that any one of three men could be her father so and so invites them all to the wedding without telling her Mum. Imagine the chaos!<br>Bring friends, bring a drink and snacks...70's outfits, disco dancing and loud singing highly encouraged. Our main raffle prize is 2 tickets for Abba Voyage, an astounding show of technical wizardry that will convince you you're watching Abba play live. | SEPTEMBER |
|  | <b>JONATHAN VEIRA</b><br>Saturday 28th October 7.30pm – £10<br>(wine and soft drinks available for a donation)<br>The amazingly talented and versatile international singer Jonathan Veira is coming to Stoneleigh as part of his Unlocked Sessions Live Tour. You can expect a stunning evening of music and laughter. With a voice like melted chocolate, Jonathan sings songs from Billy Joel to gospel and everything in between: ballads, blues, rock 'n' roll, jazz and even opera – everything sounds completely authentic and exhilarating. Accompanying himself on the piano, his glorious singing frequently moves people to tears and then they later find themselves weeping with laughter!  | OCTOBER   |
|  | <b>BRYN HAWORTH</b><br>Saturday 25th November 7.30pm – £5<br>(wine and soft drinks available for a donation)<br>Back by popular demand! Following last year's fabulous concert at St. John's, legendary slide guitarist and singer songwriter Bryn Haworth returns with his inimitable brand of gospel, country rock and blues music which makes for an inspirational and entertaining evening. Bryn has made numerous radio and TV appearances, especially in the 70's when he recorded sessions for John Peel and appeared on the BBC's Old Grey Whistle Test.   | NOVEMBER  |
|  | <b>ROCK CHOIR</b><br>Friday 15th December 6.30pm – £5<br>(plus charitable appeal to support Andrew Amukowa, founder of RUSH Academy Kenya)<br>Rock Choir at Christmas has become a tradition at St John's, and this year is no exception. Join us outside for carols and mulled wine around the Christmas tree, then head into the church at 7.15pm for a fun-filled, infectious and awe-inspiring vocal performance by the massed ranks of the Rock Choir. The evening includes a collection for Andrew Amukowa, the founder of RUSH Academy in Kenya which educates orphaned children.   | DECEMBER  |

To purchase tickets, or more information on the Season of Music, please visit our website  
[www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/music](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/music)  
St John's Church, Station Approach, Stoneleigh KT19 0QZ

### Save the Date:

Follow our updates and event dates on the church website, in the newsletter and on our Facebook page. We look forward to welcoming you, sharing moments of joy, laughter, and community spirit.

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