

# KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2026



Kersey: by Maitland Mason, reproduced courtesy of David Anderson

Down the steep hill where the waters play  
Past timbered beams of pink and grey  
In Kersey town, the minutes creep,  
Where quiet shadows softly sleep.

# CONTACT NUMBERS

## **Parochial Church Council**

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clement .....revgclement@gmail.com or 01473 657316

Secretary: Linda Newbigging..... 01787 210137

Church Warden: Rachel Wells ..... 01473 822230

**Bellringers** – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell..... 01473 822616

**Forget-me-nots** – Organiser: Veronica Partridge ..... 01473 823188

**Tuesday Club** – Rachel Wells ..... 01473 822230

**Table Tennis Club** – Adrian Blyth ..... 01473 827805

## **Parish Council**

Chairman: John Hume ..... 01473 810098

Clerk to the Council: Sarah Partridge...clerk@kerseyparish.gov.uk 07765916162

**Footpaths** – Chairman: Kevin Pratt ..... 07854 390658

**Kersey Community Playground Committee** – Jonathan Marsh..... 01473 822927

**Newsletter: Production, Editing and Advertising**—Colin Grannell ..... 01473 829074

## **Village Hall**

Chairman: Philippa Harris ..... 01473 827079

Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blyth . . . . nablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805

## **VPA (Village Produce Association)**

Chairman: Pete Partridge ..... 07901913932

Secretary: Rachel Wells ..... 01473 822230

## **Grays Trust**

Chairman: Mary Pearce..... 07947079422

Secretary: Philippa Harris ..... 01473 827079

**Nightingale Trust/Allotments** – Info: Natalie Blyth ..... 01473 827805

**School** – Joint Headteachers: Jess Damant and Claire Dunnell Paley ..... 01473 823397

**Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe)** – Mark Pertwee..... 01473 810227

**Kersey Community Website**.....www.kerseyparish.gov.uk

**Hadleigh Health Practice** ..... 01473 822961

**West Suffolk Hospital** (Bury St Edmunds)..... 01284 713000

**Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust**..... 01473 712233

**Police** ..... The non-emergency number to call if you want to contact the local police is 101 (when it's less urgent than 999) .

**Defibrillators:** There are THREE cPAD (Community Public Access Defibrillators) accessible 24/7 in the Parish. 1) The Bell Inn, Kersey IP7 6DY. 2) West Sampsons Hall Farm, Uplands, Kersey IP7 6EN. 3) Kersey Mill IP7 6DP. A further one is available at Kersey School IP7 6EG when the school is open.

<p><b>Newsletter Donation:</b> If possible please create a standing order or electronic payment to Kersey St Mary Parochial Church Council: 30-13-52 00694777 quoting KPN and your surname. Next content submission date: 24th March 2026</p>
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## **St Mary's Church**

Dear Friends,

It's that time of year again, when I get asked "What are you giving up for Lent?" To be honest, I'm not planning to give anything up, rather to take on certain things, which if I'm honest means giving up certain things.

Lent holds profound significance in the Christian calendar as a forty-day period of spiritual preparation leading up to Easter. This sacred season, which mirrors Jesus's forty days of fasting in the wilderness, offers believers a dedicated time for reflection, repentance, and renewal of faith.

At its core, Lent invites Christians to journey alongside Christ toward the cross. Through practices of self-denial, fasting, and prayer, believers share symbolically in Christ's suffering and sacrifice. This intentional discipline helps Christians detach from worldly distractions and redirect their focus toward spiritual growth. Whether giving up certain foods, habits, or luxuries, these acts of sacrifice serve as daily reminders of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for humanity.

The season also provides an essential opportunity for self-examination and repentance. Many Christians use this time to honestly assess their lives, confess their shortcomings, and seek reconciliation with God and others. This penitential aspect prepares hearts to fully appreciate the joy and triumph of Easter resurrection.

Beyond personal discipline, Lent encourages Christians to deepen their prayer life and engagement with Scripture. Many churches offer special services, Bible studies, and devotional resources during this season. This communal aspect strengthens the bonds of Christian fellowship and reminds believers they are part of a larger body of faith walking this journey together. Importantly, Lent isn't meant to be merely about temporary restrictions but about lasting transformation. The habits formed during these forty days—increased prayer, charitable giving, Scripture reading—are intended to continue beyond Easter, fostering genuine spiritual maturity.

In our fast-paced, consumer-driven culture, Lent offers Christians a countercultural pause. It creates sacred space to remember what truly matters, to hunger for God rather than material things, and to emerge spiritually strengthened, ready to celebrate Christ's resurrection with renewed gratitude and faith.

To go back to my original statement, I shall be taking on: reading those theological books I've been meaning to read but keep finding excuses not to read "just yet". I shall also make more effort to open my eyes to the glories to God around me, in nature, in the people I meet and in the work I do. Whatever you have planned for Lent, I hope it brings you every blessing.

Yours Geoffrey

**- SAVE THE DATE -**

**Kersey Village Hall Autumn Supper**

**Saturday 17th October, 7.00 p.m.**

Please put this date in your diary. This is our annual fundraising event, which helps to keep your Village Hall in 'tip-top' condition, ready for you to hire for your parties, exercise classes, Village events, Art Classes, etc. Your attendance is required to raise vital funds to enable the committee to make improvements when required and for the general daily upkeep. Further information to follow soon. NB

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Church Clergy:**

Rev. Geoffrey Clement  
01473 657316

**Church Officials**

Rachel Wells: Church Warden 01473822230  
Linda Newbigging: Secretary 01787210137  
Colin Grannell: Treasurer: 01473 829074

I have been fulfilling the Treasurer role for almost 12 years, best financial practice says it is time for a change and I need a break. Please get in touch if you are interested, full support provided. CG

**St MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES**

Celtic Morning Prayer:

Held every Tuesday at 9.30am with Rev Geoffrey Clement

Services

1st March	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement
8th March	11.00am	Parish Service	Jim Sephton
15th March	4.00pm	Evensong	Rev Geoffrey Clement
22nd March	No service at Kersey		Aldham 11.00am
29th March	11.00am	Palm Sunday HC	Rev Geoffrey Clement
5th April	11.00am	Easter Sunday HC	Rev Geoffrey Clement

## **St Mary's Church: Parochial Church Council**

The PCC met at 1 Vale Corner on 28th January. Five members of the PCC including Rev Geoffrey Clement were in attendance.

### **Key Highlights**

- The PCC to check records with Diocese to ensure everyone required to complete safeguarding training is up to date
- All Services are planned up to July 2026
- Two weddings have been booked in the Church this year in September and November
- Three funerals have taken place since the last PCC meeting
- The Benefice Archdeacon visitation service is planned for Tuesday 2nd June at 7.30pm
- The 2025 Accounts were reviewed and agreed and are ready for Independent Examination ahead of the APCM scheduled for 1st April at 7.30pm. It was noted that expenditure on church running and utility costs continue to increase. We failed to meet our share of the Diocese quota for the second year running. Plans to increase the use of the building are under consideration
- The churchyard is in good condition and our gardener has confirmed his availability for 2026
- The lightning conductor, fire extinguishers, EICR electric testing, PAT testing records are all up to date. The roof alarm service is has been completed. The quinquennial review with Ecclesiastical Insurance has been completed. Building, Content and Roof Alarm insurance is our biggest cost at £3000+ per annum.
- The lighting programme is now complete, please come and take a look
- Minor works have been booked to repair parts of the lead roof where we have several leaks
- Proposals to dig out new soakaways on the north side of the church have been received. Our church architect has been contacted. Funding proposals are under consideration
- We have been advised that considerable wear and tear remedial work is required on the clock. Several quotes have been received and we are discussing options with the Parish Council. The likely cost is in the region of £10,000 + VAT. For the time being the Government have withdrawn the Listed Place of Worship (LPW) VAT Recovery scheme so VAT may also need to be paid.



### Hadleigh Choral Society

Fierce, emotional, reflective, beautiful, haunting...these are just some of the ways to describe the Requiem in B flat minor by Antonin Dvorak which will be performed by Hadleigh Choral Society on Saturday 28th March at St Mary's Church in Hadleigh. All are invited to attend this concert which promises to be an incredible experience. Joining the choir will be the Colchester Symphony Orchestra along with professional soloists, and Christopher Phelps will conduct the evening which will start at 7:30pm. Tickets are £18 or free for those in full time education, and are available online, at The Idler bookshop in Hadleigh, or through choir members. For more information visit [www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk).

### Kersey Parish Newsletter

We lost another Advertiser this month, Trevor Dodwell who provided a Will writing service has retired aged 86, we wish him well and thank him for advertising with us.

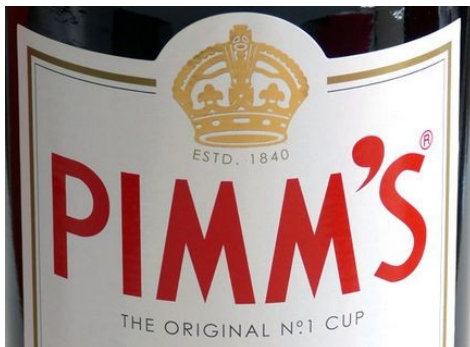
Do you know anyone who might benefit from advertising in our Newsletter?

Would you like to be "Advertising Manager Kersey Parish Newsletter"

**Please** let me know! Colin Grannell hawkcg@hotmail.com

### SAVE THE DATE - KERSEY PROJECTS

would like to invite you to our next event. Pimm's & Strawberries on The Glebe, Sunday 21st June, 3 pm - 5 pm. More details to follow. Make sure you save the date in your diary's. Thank you: Natalie



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## Kersey Village News

### MOVES

Welcome back to Kersey Tom Whymark, Laura and son Ollie. Tom is busy building a home for his family in the grounds of The Haven.

### BAPTISM

Cosmo Samuel Maximos Gibara son of Theo and Richenda Gibara baby brother to Phoebe was baptised at St Mary's in December.

### CLEANING

Week beginning 9th March : Susannah Marsh and Annie Delmar  
Week beginning 23rd March: Linda Newbigging and Gillian Sacker

**SYMPATHY:** We were saddened to hear of the passing of Mavis Harrison wife of the late Rev Gerald Harrison who was vicar here in the 70s 80s.

**TUESDAY CLUB:** Our first meeting of 2026 is on the 3rd March Village Hall 2.30. We will be joined by Roger and Tina Loose from Boxford whose title is "flowers in the Dolomites" This is from the meeting which was cancelled last year because of the hot weather! The club is getting low on numbers and it would be good to see some new faces. Only costs a £1 and includes refreshments.  
Competition "Something beginning with D"  
I am in the process of finalising the programme for the year with something to interest everyone.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Neville Whittell our Bell Captain on his 80th birthday. In celebration a quarter peal was rung by his family on Sunday 22nd February

**RAINFALL** From 23rd January to 23rd February 116mm (approx 4.57in) was recorded in Vale Lane  
Rachel Wells

### DIARY DATES

2nd March 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
3rd March 2.30pm	Tuesday Club	Village Hall
16th March 7.30pm	Village Produce Association	Village Hall
17th March 7.00pm	Parochial Church Council	TBD
30th March 7.30pm	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
1st April 7.30pm	Parochial Church Council AGM	St Mary's Church
4th April	Bridges Farm Open Day	Bridges Farm
18th April 7.30pm	Scary Suffolk Stories	St Mary's Church

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

A Parish Council meeting was held on the 26th January.

**Present** were J. Hume –Chair plus three councillors, clerk and Babergh District councillor for part of the meeting.

**Apologies** were received from three councillors and Suffolk County Councillor.

**Minutes** from previous meeting were confirmed as correct.

**Reports** from SCC and BDC can be found on the website.

**Parish time** A member of the public had raised concerns about road safety due to large potholes. These have been reported but not inspected. Drivers are being forced to drive on the wrong side of the road with no visibility ahead. There is also concern that repairs are not effective as one was repaired three times in 2025 and now needs doing again.

The chair was sad to report the passing of Ian Hattrick. He was a former councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council.

**Planning applications** Progress. Cherrywood, The Tye. Erection of side and rear extension. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against Babergh's refusal for this plan.

The Haven, Unit F The Brick Barn, Kersey Maltings and Leys House have all had permission granted.

**Clerks report** An update was given on the mayoral elections and Local Government Reform. Residents are reminded that the allotments are not open to the public.

**Correspondence** All had been circulated to councillors.

**Finance** Current balances had been circulated these were approved. Councillors considered to change banks and move to on line banking. This was agreed.

**Footpath Working Group** Lawn mowers are being serviced . Volunteers were thanked for their help during last year. The budget was approved.

**KCPC** The mower has been sent for servicing. Budget was approved.

**Consider concerns about speeding vehicles through the parish** There have been a number of complaints from residents about speeding during 2025. There are a small number of residents and visitors who drive dangerously through the village and The Splash. A councillor had completed some research in traffic calming options. Some drivers are residents and a note in the newsletter might help. It was agreed to talk to PC Johnson to raise these concerns.

**Consider progress on how to improve mobile phone reception** Some suggestions have been given by Mobiles UK.

**Consider a response to the SCC Flood Investigation Report** The Parish Council were disappointed with this report as they had not been contacted for any information. The clerk would contact SCC with a complaint and ask they consider their data following the Storm Babet flooding and update the report. There is some advice for residents and links on the website for useful information.

**Consider progress with People and Place Plan** The consultant responses are being incorporated into a document. It is hoped to bring the draft plan to the March meeting.

**Spring litter collection** A specific date was not set as volunteers carry out routine collections during the year. Volunteers will be thanked for their work. Kersey school will be asked to collect any litter near the school.

**Confirm precept amount for 2026/27** This was confirmed as £16,230

**Agree content for Pride in our Parish and Community Spotlight** Pride in our Pride for the March newsletter would explain the precept. FOSM, KVG and footpath group to be contacted for future Community Spotlight articles.

**Training** SALC continues to offer training.

**Reports from other meetings** A councillor gave an update on the Enhanced Bus Partnership Passenger Group meeting he had attended.

**No other business**

**Next meeting 2nd March**

A full report can be found on the website.

Rachel Wells

### St Mary's Church Electoral Roll 2026

It is time for our annual update of the church Electoral Roll, in preparation for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Wednesday 1st April 2026. If you wish to be added to the roll, application forms are available on the notice board inside the church. Alternatively, an application form can be sent to you via email.

**Those currently on roll need take no action to remain.**

Please return completed application forms by **17<sup>th</sup> March 2026** to:

Jenny Partridge, Trickers Farm, Boxford Road, Kersey, IP76EW.

Phone: 07747778608

Email: [jenny.partridge19@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.partridge19@btinternet.com)



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## **News from Kersey Primary School**

Safer Internet Day 2026 took place on the 10th of February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. Each class took part in a variety of activities linked to this theme then the week ended with a visit from PC Mike Harman who talked to the whole school about online safety.

**Oak (Years 4, 5 and 6)** In Oak we looked at online profiles and how we can keep ourselves private online. This also linked into gaming and how we can keep safe when playing online games, such as talking to people we know and not sharing any personal information.

**Sapling (Years 2 and 3)** In Sapling we did two fun lessons on what is the internet really focusing on what world wide web means. We used pictures to differentiate between internet devices and all other ways to communicate and ways we can find things out, shop and research. There was lots of discussion about whether the internet is good or bad and why.

We then found out how to stay safe on the internet by discussing what to do if things make us feel uncomfortable and who trusted adults are.

**Acorn (EYFS and Year 1)** Acorn class talked about voice assistants and what they might use them for. We discussed different devices and what to do if things go wrong or don't feel right. We came up with a list of trusted people we could talk to in school and at home.

**If you would like to know more about Kersey School or would like to arrange a visit please ring the office on 01473 823397, email [kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk](mailto:kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk) or visit our website [www.kersey.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.kersey.suffolk.sch.uk).**

*'On a journey together.'*

St Mary's Church Kersey

# Scary Suffolk Stories

A gorgeous evening of gripping grown-up stories & fantastic tales told by **CB Jackson, Storyteller**

**Saturday**  
**18<sup>th</sup> April**  
**7.30pm**  
Doors open 7pm



Tickets £12 from QR code or Linda Newbigging  
lindanewbigging@btinternet.com  
07905731431  
Not for under 10's!



Just when you thought it was safe!

Please come and support the church for the first event with the complete lighting system in place—and meet a familiar face!

Refreshments will be available

## Five Dinners

Babergh is part of “Feel-Good Suffolk”, which is a collaboration between all Suffolk’s local authorities, and NHS partners. The service has now teamed up with FiveDinners.com.

It is offering households across the county free premium access for this year to the platform which would otherwise cost them £86 a year.

Residents simply have to visit <https://FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity> select the district council area that they live in and then put in their postcode – they won’t be asked for any bank details and they won’t be charged for using the service.

Once registered, they will receive a meal plan every week, tailored to their needs and preferences. This can be personalised for low calories, child friendly, low cost, vegetarian, gluten-free, quick, and easy, menopause friendly and more. Alongside the meal plan, members receive a shopping list for the week ahead.

## Antique Renovations



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## Farming Notes February 2026

**Arable** :We recently made the decision to change our crop spraying machine. These very expensive bits of kit are essential and are used throughout the year (apart from winter) to apply pesticides, herbicides and fungicides to the crops. Timely accurate application is important and making the move to a newer, bigger, better machine will facilitate this and also allow Ryan to do some contract spraying for neighbours.

**Sheep**: Despite the very wet weather over the last few weeks the ewes, which are heavily in lamb, are still out at grass. The fairly small flock are spread over quite a big area which is grazed by cattle during the summer. They have been nibbling and tidying up the winter grass, as well as eating fodder beet which we have been taking out to them on the back of our All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) which travels across wet ground quite well. With lambing due to start at the beginning of March we will house them very soon.

**Cattle** The quiz question in last month's edition about the oldest cow in the world got me thinking about our older cows and the age profile of the herd. We have about 80 breeding females and we add 8 to 10 home bred heifers to the breeding herd each year. As the years go by any cows which do not perform are culled. This is usually because they are not in calf (barren) or sometimes due to calving difficulties, foot or udder problems. Very rarely, we might cull due to poor temperament. Gradually the number of cows from each year group reduces until there is only one left: Our current oldest cow is a crossbred Aberdeen Angus who is 15, since the age of 2 she has had a calf every year and is in calf again now so hopefully she will be about for a good bit longer. I don't think she will challenge the world record of 48 years. Two of her daughters have been retained in the herd for breeding so her good genetics will continue.

Speaking of good genetics our Mum, Naomi celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in February with her 7 children and 5 of their partners. She was also visited or called by most of her 20 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren!

We look forward to welcoming many of you to Bridges Farm for our Family fun day on Easter Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April from 11am when you will be able to get close to our cows and calves, ewes and lambs and hopefully hens and chicks. FoSM will be running the BBQ and cream teas. Have fun while raising funds for St Mary's Church and Meningitis Now. R & C Partridge

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest 500 Club draw results:

### February 2026

1st Prize	Jackie Rigby
2nd Prize	Matthew Grannell
3rd Prize	Mary Pearce

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone in the Club.

For details of the 500 Club monthly lottery and FoSM membership information please contact Mark Pertwee on 07919166782 or email [fosmkersey@gmail.com](mailto:fosmkersey@gmail.com)

Please note the FOSM AGM will take place on Tuesday 31st March at 6.00pm in The Bell. All welcome.



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# Family Fun at Bridges Farm Saturday 4 April 2026

11am - 3pm Bridges Farm, Kersey Tye IP7 6HB

£5 per person (under 2's free) £20 per family

*Cash only  
please*

All proceeds to charity:

Friends of St Mary's Church, Kersey and Meningitis Now

See our animals in the barns and fields while enjoying the beautiful countryside. On our working livestock farm you will see:

Cow with their calves

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Sheep with their lambs

Hens and chicks

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## **Kersey Crime Review**

This month, I'd like to highlight a new service called **Suffolk Connected**. It is a free platform from Suffolk Police that brings local policing news, updates and advice directly to you. During the sign-up process, you can choose which topics matter most and how much information you want to receive, giving you complete flexibility. Suffolk Connected has now fully replaced the older *Police Connect* system. The service is designed to keep you informed about what's happening where you live. It allows police to provide timely updates on a range of subjects, including:-

### **Local incidents and suspicious activity**

Updates may include information about burglaries, thefts, missing persons, vehicle crime, public appeals and other issues affecting your area.

### **Crime prevention advice**

Emails can contain home security tips, seasonal safety reminders, and alerts about current scams.

### **Appeals for information and Local policing priorities**

### **Community meetings, events and engagement opportunities**

You may receive notifications about street meets, drop-ins, Q&A sessions and other local policing activity.

### **Surveys about what matters most to the community**

Officers can ask residents for feedback on local concerns, helping shape neighbourhood priorities.

### **Join or create Neighbourhood Watch groups**

The platform links directly with Neighbourhood Watch schemes, making it easier to get involved, you can join or create a scheme.

The benefits to you are that you get direct communication from Suffolk Police and sometimes direct from your local community police team, it helps you stay safer and builds relationships between police and the community, it helps communities help each other (sharing info and support). Because Suffolk Connected can push alerts across the county, people hear quickly about things such as major incidents, collisions, appeals, and public safety notices. As I understand it, the main bulk of information would come to you via email, there are text message options when signing up, but that function would normally only be used for the more serious incidents.

I would encourage everyone to visit this website [www.suffolkconnected.org.uk](http://www.suffolkconnected.org.uk) to sign up. Kind regards, PC 1293 Johnson – Community Police Officer.

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# Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

Jessie's Marathon Madness for Meningitis Now! On April 26th, I'll be donning my trainers and Mary Poppins outfit to run the London Marathon for the Meningitis Now! charity who have done so much to support and help our family over the last 18 years.

Our daughter, Xanthe, contracted pneumococcal meningitis as a 9 month old and all our lives changed irretrievably at that moment.

The bigger story is on my just giving page, as below:

[WWW.justgiving.com/page/jessie-carter](http://WWW.justgiving.com/page/jessie-carter)

Please help if you can! Jessie Carter



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## The only Centenarian in the Village!

Kersey's oldest resident, Naomi Partridge, celebrated her 100th birthday with a 'small' family lunch on Sunday 8th February. Naomi would like to thank all those who sent her cards and good wishes.



1926

King George V was on the throne, Winnie the Pooh was published, Marilyn Monroe was born. Song of the year was "Ain't she sweet"

**Happy birthday  
Naomi from everyone  
in Kersey!**

St Mary's Church Kersey

# Scary Suffolk Stories

A gorgeous evening of gripping  
grown-up stories & fantastic tales

told by **CB Jackson, Storyteller**



**Saturday**

**18<sup>th</sup> April**

**7.30pm**

Doors open 7pm



**Tickets £12 from QR code  
or Linda Newbigging**

**Not for under 10's!**

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