

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day -
Making music in Larne**

Image of the day

Making music in Larne

The Rector, Rev David Lockhart, welcomes the audience to Larne Concert Choir Christmas Charity Concert at St Cedma's Parish Church. Specials guests were Killyglen Orchestra & Gleno Young Farmers Choir.

News reports

King Charles officially opens church community hub in London, attends Ethiopian Advent service

King Charles spent his Thursday morning learning about how a London church is reaching those in need in its local community.


His Majesty officially opened The King's House, which is a community hub run by King's Cross Church (KXC).

Before unveiling a plaque celebrating The King's House, King Charles chatted to volunteers in charge of several initiatives including debt relief help, supporting the work of the local prison chaplaincy, a cafe serving the street community, and football sessions for refugees and asylum seekers.

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Representatives from UK Christian charities were also present, including Christians Against Poverty, Growing Hope and London City Mission.

"It's wonderful that you take such trouble to make such a difference in so many people's lives, so I can only thank you, rather inadequately for that," King Charles told the crowd.



I wait for the Lord,
my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Psalm 130:5-6

THE ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY

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Hi Majesty also met with church leaders at the event including the Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London, the lead pastor of Jesus House, the Bishop of London, and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Most Rev Justin Welby commended the KXC for its efforts.

"This church is utterly inspirational," he said.

"It's what normal church should be. And it just lifts my spirits to come here".

He added: "I think we don't do it in order to grow the Church, we do it because we love people. And when we love people, we reach out to them and when we love them and reach out to them, then they find out about Jesus. And that's the end."

After the reception at KXC, King Charles and all the church leaders attended an Advent service at the nearby Ethiopian Christian Fellowship Church which included Christmas-themed worship and prayer.

The Bishop of London Dame Sarah Mullally said it was an incredibly special day.

"Advent is a time of looking and waiting for hope, but we don't have to wait for it here, both in terms of being able to meet with the groups that are really supporting people in the community here at KXC in the King's Cross area, but then also being able to worship with Ethiopian church as well, for an Advent celebration.

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"So it's been wonderful. And I know His Majesty, King Charles, was very engaged with people and I think was very excited to hear what people were doing, and he very much appreciated the visit."

In His Majesty's first address to the Nation and the Commonwealth, The King spoke of his continued desire to serve everyone with loyalty, respect and love whatever may be their background or beliefs.

As The Prince of Wales, he typically attended an Advent services each year to celebrate diverse and active Christian communities in the UK. In December 2021, he attended an Advent Service at Holy Trinity Brompton in London and met those who were helping their neighbours in times of need.

NI pro-lifers disappointed by UK Supreme Court ruling on abortion clinic buffer zones

Pro-life campaigners have expressed their disappointment after a ruling by the UK Supreme Court upheld exclusion zones around abortion facilities in Northern Ireland.

Provisions in the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) Bill make it illegal to pray, even silently, offer leaflets with information about alternatives to abortion, and engage in peaceful protest within 100m of abortion clinics in the province.

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The UK Supreme Court was asked to review the validity of the Northern Irish government's ban after Attorney General Dame Brenda King argued that it conflicts with the right to protest.

The ruling by the court on Wednesday allows the Northern Irish government to move ahead with the ban.

Belfast-based pro-life group Precious Life said the ruling was "a travesty of justice" and a "threat to everyone's rights to free speech".

It plans to work on the creation of 'safe zones' for unborn babies and their mothers throughout Northern Ireland in light of the ruling.



Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



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"The Supreme Court ruling to allow Abortion Zones in Northern Ireland will now be used to ban all pro-life presence outside abortion centres across the UK and Ireland," it said.

"This court ruling also has serious implication for the rights to free speech and assembly of all people. If pro-life vigils can be banned and criminalised, then public speech, assembly or protest on any other issue can also be banned and criminalised.

"Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, expression, assembly and association are fundamental human rights, and must be upheld."

Jeremiah Igunnubole, Legal Counsel for ADF UK, said that the ban will leave pro-lifers at risk of "unjust" arrest and prosecution.

He said he was "disappointed" by the ruling "which fails to protect the basic freedoms to pray or to offer help to women who may want to know about practical support available to avoid abortion".

"Peaceful presence, mere conversation, quiet or silent prayer – these activities should never be criminalised in a democratic society like the UK," he said.

"The criminalisation of any kind of 'influencing' is vague, uncertain and reduces the threshold of criminality to an impermissibly low level.

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"Northern Ireland's broadly drafted law hands arbitrary power to police officers, with the inevitable consequence being the unjust arrest and prosecution of those expressing pro-life views, even though such views are protected under domestic and international human rights law."



Advent Newsletter from Eco– Congregation Ireland

Eco–Congregation Ireland’s Advent newsletter is now available, with a round–up of news from parishes around the island, including the hosting of the Climate Justice Candles – which have been shared by Eco–Congregation to raise

awareness about climate change – and local environmental projects from counties Cork, Dublin, Mayo.

Advance notice is also given that the European Christian Environmental Network's Assembly will return to meeting in person from 31st August to 3rd September 2023 in Roskilde, Denmark. To find out more, please visit www.ecen.org as further details will be shared in the coming months.

Group distributes 10,000 Bibles to children in London

More than 10,000 Bibles have been handed out to school children in London in the past three years.

It's due to The Greater London Auxiliary of the Trinitarian Bible Society which began the big distribution effort when it formed in December 2019.

The organisation said in a statement: "London is one of the world's highest ranking cities in many respects yet there are millions of people here who know very little of the Lord Jesus Christ. This has the most tragic effect upon all people, including children, so it is particularly wonderful that so many children are receiving free Bibles".

While the group also gave away Bibles and other Christian resources to hospitals and care homes, the bulk of its efforts have been focused on getting Bibles into the hands of children. When they hand the Bibles out in schools, the

auxiliary follows up with short talks to students about Scripture.

It said interest in requesting Bibles has been stimulated by the offer of special commemorative Bibles such the Platinum Jubilee Bible, which was soon followed by a Bible marking the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

“The Society hopes to produce a commemorative edition for the Coronation of Charles III, and this is also expected to be popular with schools,” it said in a statement.

In July, the auxiliary gave out Bibles in many languages in Trafalgar Square. It’s making plans to reach other areas of London.

Former DfID heads and aid agencies call on UK PM to intervene in East Africa hunger crisis

Rishi Sunak must act now to help prevent a huge humanitarian catastrophe in East Africa three former Secretaries of State for International Development and the heads of the UK’s leading aid agencies have warned in a joint letter to the Prime Minister.

Over 28 million people are facing life threatening food insecurity across East Africa. In drought-stricken Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, it is estimated that one person is dying every 36 seconds from hunger and more than 7 million children are acutely malnourished across the 3 countries.

The letter says: “East Africa is facing a catastrophic hunger crisis caused by one of the worst droughts in living memory. It is looking increasingly likely that a fifth consecutive rainy season has failed in the region, leaving millions of families in a desperate situation and facing starvation (...)

“Although a full-scale famine is yet to be officially declared, what we are seeing on the ground is a famine in all but name. Despite the rapidly mounting death toll, the international response is woefully underfunded and the UK has failed to do its bit.”

Despite an announcement of humanitarian aid to Somalia last Friday, the UK has confirmed an allocation of just £156 million this year for East Africa, less than a fifth (18 per cent) of the £861m provided in 2017-8 during the region’s last major hunger crisis which helped to avert a widespread famine.

The letter is backed by Rev Celia Apeageyi-Collins, Rt Revd Ric Thorpe and Rt Revd Ric Thorpe. They are calling for the UK to step up and show this leadership again before it’s too late.

Rt Hon Hilary Benn, MP and former Secretary of State for International Development, said: “The UK has long had a strong record of leadership in response to acute hunger crises. All of us, across all political parties, have a responsibility to live up to that legacy. There are now millions of people across East Africa who are facing the worst drought in living memory, and their acute hunger is being made worse by the war in Ukraine.

“If the Government is serious about saving lives and persuading others to do more, we must lead by example by stepping up support to those in need today.”

Patrick Watt, Chief Executive of Christian Aid, said: “Millions of people across East Africa are facing a crisis on crisis. Given the growing number of deaths from hunger and starvation, the response to date from the UK Government borders on the grossly negligent.

“East Africa must not be forgotten. It is past time that Government Ministers lived up to their responsibility and ensure that the UK commits its fair share of the aid needed to address this rapidly escalating humanitarian crisis.”

As well as acting now to save lives, the letter’s signatories say it is vital that the UK Government acts to stop crises like this from happening again by investing in resilience building approaches to help people to break the cycle.

Oxfam’s CEO, Danny Sriskandarajah, who recently visited the Somali regions of Sannag and Togdheer, said: “People I met said the situation was the worst in living memory. Communities have run out of ways to cope and families have been stretched to breaking point.

“It is incomprehensible that with hunger likely claiming a life in the region every 36 seconds, the UK Government have failed to respond in any meaningful way. The time to act is now.”

Christine Allen Director of CAFOD, who visited northern Kenya earlier this year, said: “The families I met in Kenya

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were well used to adapting when things get tough, but this drought has been unprecedented, leaving families who otherwise cope finding themselves in desperate situations. People are doing what they can to support each other, but they need aid urgently.

“The scale of need goes beyond what charities can do. The UK must step up. The Government has cut aid to East Africa to well below than in 2017, yet for many the situations is as bad as it has ever been. This cannot go on, without action now millions face losing their lives.”

CARE International’s CEO, Eamon Cassidy, said: “For months on end, women and girls in East Africa have been fighting to stay alive. They often eat less and eat last and are forced to risk their personal safety simply to survive. Their strength, resolve and ingenuity is beyond question.

“For too long, the UK Government has done too little to help women and girls across East Africa in this struggle against



**HOLY TRINITY
GLENCRAIG**

**ADVENT
IN SEAHILL**

Advent Organ Recital
11th December 7pm.

Organist - Orly Watson

hunger and poverty. Increased funding would help provide life-saving food and water supplies, enabling girls to stay in school, reduce their exposure to violence and build a better future.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

King's College commissioned Christmas Eve carol revealed

The commissioned carol for the 2022 edition of A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be a setting of the text Angelus ad Virginem by Matthew Martin, Precentor and Director of College Music at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

The new carol will be premiered by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, conducted by Daniel Hyde, during the live broadcast of the Festival on Christmas Eve.

Winner of the Liturgical category in the 2013 British Composer Awards, Matthew's first disc of choral music (Jubilate Deo) was recorded by Daniel Hyde and the Choir of Magdalen College, Oxford, in 2014, and his more recent work includes a festival anthem (In the midst of thy Temple) for the choir of Westminster Abbey, marking the 750th anniversary of the Abbey's refounding.

"I was delighted to be asked by Daniel Hyde and King's College, Cambridge to write this year's commission for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. I have chosen to set a familiar text and tune - Angelus ad Virginem - and for it to serve as a tribute to the late great Simon Preston CBE (chorister and later organ scholar at King's). The text suggests something descriptive and exuberant, and this arrangement makes use of the original 13th century carol throughout. A colourful organ part is designed to propel the music forward, sometimes twisting and distorting the melody in unexpected ways, hopefully reflecting something of Simon's wit, vitality and stylish energy." - Matthew Martin

This year's commission continues a tradition begun in 1983 by Sir Stephen Cleobury, with a new carol written for the popular Christmas Eve service every year since, except for 2020. The music will be available to purchase from Novello & Co Ltd, part of Wise Music Group.

"A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is of course steeped in tradition and history, but the inclusion of a new work each year upholds our commitment to supporting and building a strong musical future, adding an element of intrigue and excitement every year as we look forward to hearing what the new carol will bring to the service." - Daniel Hyde

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service will be broadcast live on BBC Radio and on other public radio stations around the world – for more information see the dedicated webpage -

[\[https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel/a-festival-of-nine-lessons-and-carols\]](https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel/a-festival-of-nine-lessons-and-carols)

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Hear the Choir of New College, Oxford this afternoon

Join the service of readings and music for Christmas, today at 4pm.

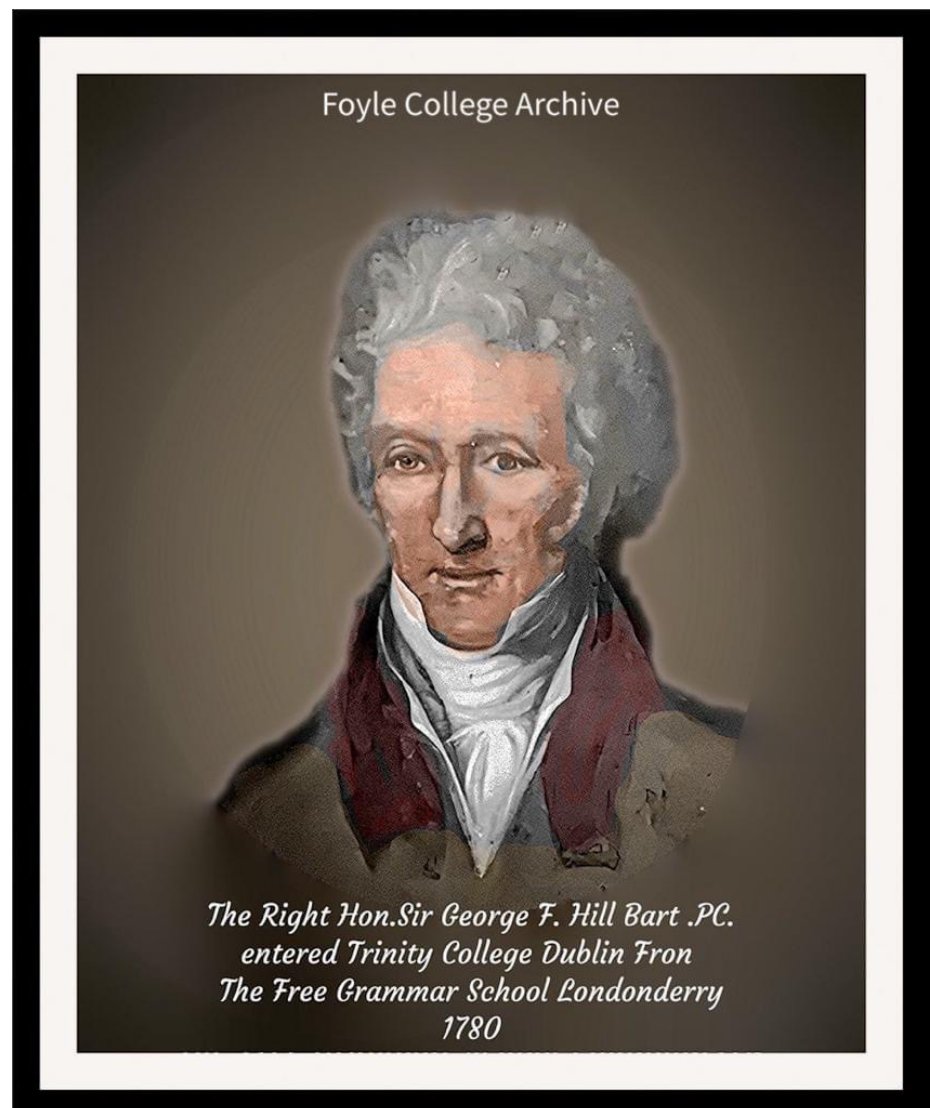
The choir will sing music by Errollyn Wallen, Francis Jackson, Sarah Cattley, Lennox Berkeley, Jean Mouton, Elizabeth Poston and John Rutter.

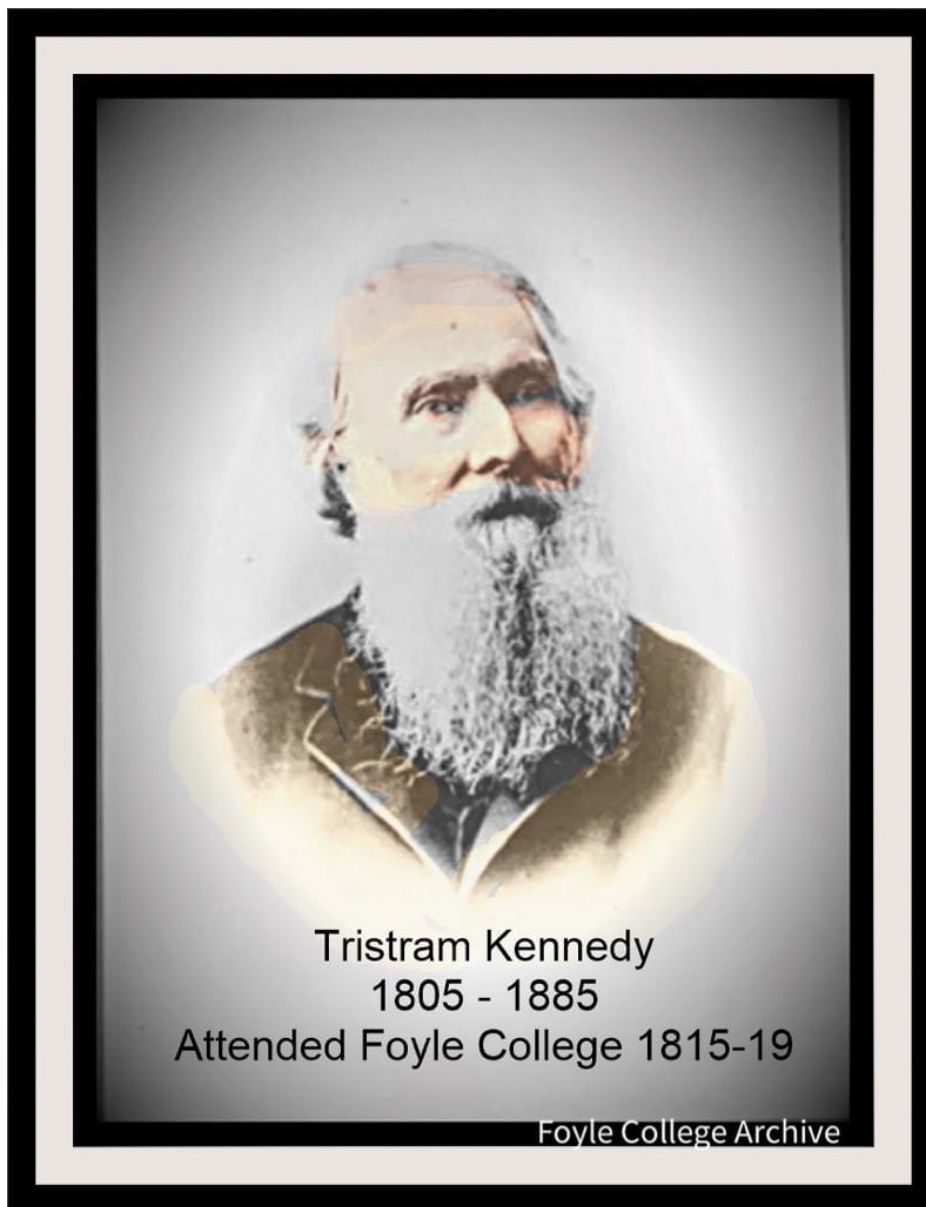
Link here: <https://youtu.be/9lgY8qq4-rk>

Heritage

Insight from Foyle College archives

**Jim Goodman
of Foyle
College
Archive
shares the
following
insight - We
are often
asked to
research
former pupils**





of the school, which includes not only Foyle College but all the associated boys and girls schools.

A group from St. Columb's Park House were interested in former residents, the Pitt Kennedys and the Fitzgerald Hill family. We not only had the

two portraits shown on display in the Archive but were able to provide the following detail.

The Rt.Hon. Sir George Fitzgerald Hill, Bart entered The free Grammar School, Londonderry in 1780 aged 16. He later entered and graduated from Trinity College Dublin and went on to become Governor of Trinidad, St. Vincent. He died in 1839.

The Rev. John Pitt Kennedy entered the Free Grammar School on May 1st 1775 aged 15 and progressed to Trinity

gaining B.A, and then M.A. in 1784. The Kennedys referred to the St. Columb's Park House as Chatham House and it transpired that they were closely related to the Pitt family- William Pitt, (Elder and Younger) who were Prime Ministers and William was the 1st Earl of Chatham.

The Rev John Pitt Kennedy had 13 children, one of whom was Tristan Kennedy who also entered Foyle College in 1815, the year after the Free School moved to what is now known as Lawrence Hill.. He became High Sheriff of Derry in 1828, Lincoln Inn 1839, and was MP for Louth 1852-57 and 1865-68.

We were happy to research these queries and invite others to do so. There is a Foyle College Archive Facebook page.

Trevor Temple added - Sir George Fitzgerald Hill born in 1763 at Brook Hall. Son of Sir Hugh Hill, MP, for City of Londonderry, 1768-95.

Pupil at the Free Grammar School (later Foyle College), under Rev Thomas Torrens. Entered Trinity College afterwards, and obtained BA Degree in 1783. Became MP for Coleraine in 1791. Elected for the City of Derry in 1795, following his father's death, and again in 1797. After the Act of Union, he was elected MP for County of Londonderry in 1801. In 1830 he obtained the Governorship of St Vincent, and later Trinidad. Died in 1839. He is chiefly remembered for recognising Wolfe Tone in 1798, which led to Tone's arrest.

The photos shown were enhanced by David Gallagher

Poem for today

Advent by Christina Rossetti

This Advent moon shines cold and clear,
These Advent nights are long;
Our lamps have burned year after year
And still their flame is strong.
'Watchman, what of the night?' we cry,
Heart-sick with hope deferred:
'No speaking signs are in the sky,'
Is still the watchman's word.

The Porter watches at the gate,
The servants watch within;
The watch is long betimes and late,
The prize is slow to win.
'Watchman, what of the night?' But still
His answer sounds the same:
'No daybreak tops the utmost hill,
Nor pale our lamps of flame.'

One to another hear them speak
The patient virgins wise:
'Surely He is not far to seek'—
'All night we watch and rise.'
'The days are evil looking back,
The coming days are dim;
Yet count we not His promise slack,
But watch and wait for Him.'

One with another, soul with soul,
They kindle fire from fire:
'Friends watch us who have touched the goal.'
'They urge us, come up higher.'
'With them shall rest our waysore feet,
With them is built our home,
With Christ.'— 'They sweet, but He most sweet,
Sweeter than honeycomb.'

There no more parting, no more pain,
The distant ones brought near,
The lost so long are found again,
Long lost but longer dear:
Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard,
Nor heart conceived that rest,
With them our good things long deferred,
With Jesus Christ our Best.

We weep because the night is long,
We laugh for day shall rise,
We sing a slow contented song
And knock at Paradise.
Weeping we hold Him fast, Who wept
For us, we hold Him fast;
And will not let Him go except
He bless us first or last.

Weeping we hold Him fast to-night;
We will not let Him go
Till daybreak smite our wearied sight
And summer smite the snow:
Then figs shall bud, and dove with dove
Shall coo the livelong day;

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Then He shall say, 'Arise, My love,
My fair one, come away.'

World Cup Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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