A photograph of a lush garden path. The path is a narrow strip of green grass, flanked on both sides by dense, colorful flower beds. On the left, there are bright pink and red flowers, while on the right, there are yellow and orange flowers. In the background, a stone urn sits on a small pedestal, and a tree trunk arches over the path. The scene is set against a backdrop of dense green foliage and trees.

Cathedral News

*The monthly magazine of
Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's*

August 2020

St Ninian's Cathedral Who's Who



From the Provost

Dear Friends



Many of us are just beginning to find our feet again after what has been a traumatic and sudden change in our lives. For some time probably most of us will have been using the phrase, 'When we get back to normal,' but the reality is, we cannot return to what has already gone. The bishop in his pastoral letter for the month of May talked about the Church in constant transition, and of course we are constantly changing all the time. Remembering is so important as it's a big part of how we learn, but we cannot relive the past. We have to move on and face the present and future as it really is. At this point in time our reality is a bit scary, but I don't think we need to live in fear. We need to live carefully, following all guidance offered to us. We need to embrace different ways of being and allow transition to take place. And if the Gospel teaches us anything, it's to have hope for a safer and brighter future.

Some cheering news! Many of you will already know that the bishop has made Celia an honorary canon of St Ninian's Cathedral for the work she

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has done both in the diocese and at the cathedral over the past decades. There will be a service in the future to mark this but in the meantime please join with me in congratulating Celia and giving thanks to God for her faith and commitment. The proper way to address Celia is now The Reverend Canon Celia Matthews.

I am delighted to announce that Lis Burke will be joining the cathedral ministry team. Lis is a fully licensed and experienced lay reader. She started off in St John's Episcopal Church in Perth (where she and her husband live) before moving to help with ministry in the Blairgowrie area. Please do welcome Lis. I'll ask her to write a bit about herself for the September magazine, including a photo.

I have included a copy of the liturgy that we will use for the time being. It is a liturgy of lament. It expresses within it some of the sadness we feel at the losses we've all experienced but, as always, it gives us hope for the future. If you can come to the cathedral on a Wednesday or a Sunday at 11.00am, you will find things looking slightly different. The chairs are all



well apart and give a lovely airy feel to the cathedral. At the beginning of the service I shall go over how we will celebrate the holy mysteries together, safely, and how we receive. When you arrive at the cathedral your name will be taken for Track and Trace purposes, should that be needed. This information is retained for three weeks before being destroyed.

My thanks to the bishop for his hard work and support (Bishop Ian has taken his turn allowing the cathedral to remain open), to the

vestry members who helped ensure we were compliant with the guidelines, to our treasurer who has tirelessly helped clean as well as look after the finances and to those who have buoyed me up and kept me going. Special thanks to Wendy Evans (*pictured on the previous page, with Bridie*), who has turned up each day and busied herself sorting things out, and for delivering refreshments from a local café and for putting up with me and my frustrations!

Let's keep each other in our prayers. We have a great congregation made up of many different types of people. Please remember especially those who are housebound. Pray that we can start to emerge from lockdown with a bit more confidence whilst staying as safe as possible.

With love and every blessing,

Hunter

Readings and Collects for August

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 2 August

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 55.1-5, Psalm 145.8-9,15-22, Romans 9.1-5, Matthew 14.13-21

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 9 August

Collect: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: 1 Kings 19.9-18, Psalm 85.8-13, Romans 10.5-15, Matthew 14.22-33

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 16 August

Collect: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent into our hearts the Spirit of your Son. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 56.1,6-8, Psalm 67, Romans 11.1-2a,29-32, Matthew 15. (10-20)21-28

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 23 August

Collect: Almighty God, we are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 51.1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12.1-8, Matthew 16.13-20

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 30 August

Collect: Author and Giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us in all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Jeremiah 15.15-21, Psalm 26.1-8, Romans 12.9-21, Matthew 16.21-28

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 6 September

Collect: Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works, we may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Ezekiel 33.7-11, Psalm 119.33-40, Romans 13.8-14, Matthew 18.15-20



Scottish Liturgy 1982

Suitable for Use at Times of Lament

Collect

Loving God,
you comfort the sad,
and strengthen those who suffer:
hear the prayers of your children
who cry out in tribulation;
and grant, we pray, to all who are
distressed
mercy, relief, and refreshment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God.
It is right to give our thanks and
praise.

Worship and praise belong to you,
Maker of heaven and earth,
in every place and at all times,
in sorrow and in joy.

For, in the beginning,
you put darkness and chaos to
flight,
bringing order to your creation,
in which you are well pleased.

In Christ, your Son,
you know the sufferings of the
world.
He has taken up our pain and
sorrows,
to bring us peace, and heal our
wounds.

Through your Holy Spirit
you proclaim good news to the
poor;
you comfort the broken hearted,
announcing freedom to the captives
and release from imprisoning
darkness.

As children of your redeeming
purpose,
seeking wholeness in our broken
lives,
we offer you our praise
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending
glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your
glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,
most loving Father,
for you have redeemed us through
your Son.

By his life and sacrificial death,
he conquered the powers of
darkness,
transforming our lament
and freeing us to praise you.

By your power you raised him to
new life.
He broke the bonds of sin and
death,
and set your people free
to be his Body in the world.

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his disciples,
he took bread and offered you
thanks.
He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying:
'Take, eat.
This is my Body: it is broken for
you.'
After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks,

and gave it to them saying:
'Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new
covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

We now obey your Son's
command.
We recall his blessed passion and
death,
his glorious resurrection and
ascension;
and we look for the coming of his
Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you
these gifts
and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by your Spirit's
life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of
your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire
of your love
and renewed for the service of
your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the
fellowship of Christ's Body,
to live and work to your praise and
glory;
may we grow together in unity and

love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end.
Amen.

From Bishop Ian

Dear friends,

Many of us are eager to return to worship in church as soon as we can. So many people have told me how deeply they miss receiving Communion, and so many clergy have told me how much they miss being together with their congregations. At the same time, we know that returning will not simply be a matter of opening the doors, but will require careful planning and commitment to keeping everyone safe. And we know that not everyone will be able to come to church because they will need to remain shielded at home for some time yet.

So the Scottish Government's recent announcement that churches will be able to re-open for public worship is welcome, as we await the circulation of the Bishops' Advisory Group Guidance for the possible re-opening of SEC churches. The Guidance may look detailed and complicated, but it is meant to assist us as we consider the very important question of how to return to worship, safely.

We have all suffered the stresses and strains of the last few months, and the clergy especially have been working incredibly hard, providing



worship online or on paper, giving pastoral care, supporting the sick or bereaved, helping congregations to stay in touch. They are now very tired, and just at the time when many people might be taking a well-earned break from work, perhaps going on holiday, they are having to think carefully about re-starting worship in church.

But the Guidance says how we may open, not when we must open. I want to encourage clergy and vestries to take time about this. Some may feel able to open on the first available Sunday, some to start with a weekday service, others to delay opening for worship for weeks or even months. All of these possibilities are fine, and depend on what is realistic.

So congregations will return to worship as they are able, and they will be different from each other about this. But one thing will be the same. And that is our calling to be, in the words of the Ordination liturgy, ‘the People of God, the Body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.’ Yes, our return to worship will heed all the requirements of safety, not because we love ourselves too much to take the risk but because we love others too much to put them at risk. But we should also be clear about this: that we will return to worship together, to breaking the bread and blessing the cup, just as soon as we can, delaying not one day more than we have to. And we will do this because we are called to be ‘the Church, the Body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit,’ and because we are called by Jesus to ‘do this in remembrance of me.’

So as we make our plans to return to worship, let’s be realistic, let’s be kind (especially to our clergy), and let’s be faithful to our calling.

With blessing and prayer,

+ Ian

Cover Illustration

This month’s cover shows the herbaceous border in Perth’s Branklyn Garden, in late July, shortly after its re-opening.

Re-opening the Cathedral

A number of people have been working hard to ensure that the cathedral was as safe as it possibly could have been for its re-opening on Wednesday 29 July. As you can see from the photos below and overleaf, kindly sent in by Christopher Dingwall, plenty of space is now allotted to each worshipper, with many of the individual seats having been temporarily removed, and some of the remaining pews cordoned off. Risk assessments have been done, a one-way system is in operation in the cloisters (keep left!), hand gel is available, an antibacterial fogging machine has been acquired for disinfecting seats and surfaces, and names will be taken for track and trace purposes in the unlikely event of anyone becoming ill with Covid-19 following their visit. As Bishop Ian has said in his pastoral letter, many people - especially the elderly and those still being shielded - will not feel able to return immediately, but those who do can be assured that all necessary steps have been taken to ensure their safety.





Transfiguration and the Bomb

It has long been thought a grim irony that the Christian Feast of the Transfiguration was, knowingly or not, taken as the day on which to drop the atom bomb in 1945. An experience on a mountain in which the disciples were dazzled by the light emanating around Jesus was grotesquely parodied by the light created by human effort around Japan. In both cases a sense of awe was created but with totally different effect - glory contrasts with devastation. Are these both inherent aspects of the apocalypse?



Emperor Hirohito of Japan - the latest in our much admired series of people you wouldn't normally expect to find in a church magazine

The usual justification for the bombing is that it was part of a calculus to end the Second World War and thus save life and end conflict in the long run. That is a view that historians and others still argue over. What continues to amaze me is the risk that those in government took in deciding to use a weapon of hitherto undreamt-of power, balancing innocent lives against the destruction of other innocent lives elsewhere without exactly knowing the results of action taken.

A huge number of political decisions involve risk since, as in the present Covid-19 situation, politicians and experts are working in a state of not knowing very much and yet having to act. It may well be that in a world that throws up almost impossible dilemmas to be tackled, politicians may not be worth a vote, but they are certainly worth a prayer.

John Byrom

Cathedral Magazine

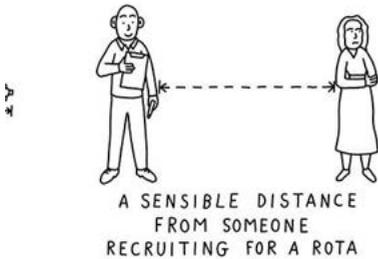
As lockdown restrictions ease and many of us will be returning to the cathedral, members of the congregation will once again be able to collect their monthly magazine from the cloisters, starting in September. If this is not possible for you and you would like to have it posted to your home address, please contact the office on 01738 632053.

Summer Visiting and Doors Open Day

With the relaxation of many of the lockdown restrictions and now at last the pausing of shielding we are looking forward to being able to welcome back summer visitors to the cathedral. Some in fact have been quietly dropping in during the week when the building has been open for private prayer. Visit Scotland is encouraging our reopening and has offered lots of helpful advice about making the cathedral safely accessible to tourists. Plans are well in hand and we hope to be able to be open from 10.00am to 2.00pm, Monday to Friday, from the beginning of August.

**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS** 2020

TWO METRES
WAYS TO MEASURE IT



The Scottish Civic Trust and Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust are keen that we and other historic venues should participate in a slightly different Doors Open Day weekend in September and we are working with them on that. Obviously the situation could change over the coming weeks but at the moment we're planning to be open on the afternoon of Sunday 20 September from 12.30 till 4.00pm. Various

alterations will need to be made to the usual format, but we still hope to be able to offer our visitors the chance to look round our beautiful building and possibly even enjoy some instrumental music and a small display of lockdown artwork (all contributions very welcome!).

If you feel able to volunteer to help keep the cathedral open for either of these ventures your assistance would be very much appreciated. At the moment Hunter and a very small team are working hard to keep us open on weekdays from 10.00am to 2.00pm and I know they would be very glad of extra helpers.

Wendy Duncan

A Poem from Lockdown

Summer skipped into the garden, prepared to laugh and play,
But noticed that the world this year looked different in some way.
The birds, the bees and flowers looked the same, but what was odd –
Were the faces of the people who'd been made by Father God.
Summer spoke to Mother Nature, 'Dearest Mother, may I ask –
Why the countenance of almost all is shrouded in a mask?'

Mother Nature looked forlornly at her daughter, bright and gay,
And said, 'Dear child, let me explain why things are just this way.
No covering of faces is on birds who build their nests -
With only what they really need, no more for them, no less.
And trees, which give with each new year a canopy of shade,
And fruit and homes for growing things in every woodland glade.
Beneath the wild blue ocean, not a creature you will see –
Who has to hide its face in shame. It's nature's harmony.'

'But Mother, all the people, the ones God made like him,
Why must they hide their faces and look sorrowful and grim?'

'The answer is before you child, look closely in the sea,
And you will see marine life swimming through toxicity.
And trees are torn up from their roots, for "progress" to make way,
And bees have no more pollen from wild flowers that would sway.
The cities where there could be hope are covered in a cloak –
Of chemical particulates which strangle and which choke.'
And so
Summer's eyes were opened and away she quietly crept,
And Mother Nature watched her go and quietly she wept.

Annette Cameron

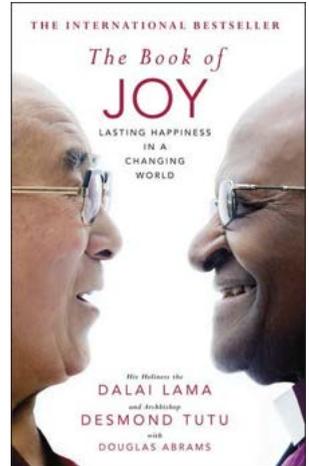


Literature in Lockdown

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World

His Holiness The Dalai Lama
and Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Two spiritual giants, both Nobel Peace Prize laureates who have both survived more than 50 years of exile and the violence of oppression. Yet, despite their horrendous difficulties or, perhaps they would say, because of them, they are two of the most joyful people on the Earth. Archbishop Desmond Tutu travelled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India to celebrate His Holiness's 80th birthday. As they talked, both the Archbishop and the Dalai Lama pose the questions we all ask about our daily life, whether it be anger at those who have wronged us, to sadness at the loss of those we love. We cannot escape pain and suffering, and when our lives are good, how do we live in joy when so many others are suffering? The book attempts to answer these questions and many more. They offer us the reflection of real lives filled with turmoil and pain where in the midst they have been able to discover a level of peace, courage and joy which we can aspire to in our own difficult times. It is a lovely book and I do not want to give too much of it away, so I hope you are able to read it.



Pat Butler

Paintings in Lockdown, part 2

As we were going to have a separate August magazine Jeremy asked me to update him on my ongoing 60-day Isolation Art Challenge. I have now ticked off another 20 paintings since the last magazine. I still have another 10 artworks to do to complete the challenge. Again thought had to be given to the subject titles. You should be able to match some of

the titles to a few of the paintings in the picture: Rain, Balance, Strength, Home, Treat, Warmth, Doorway, Musical and Garden being some. My painting of our garden sadly does not depict a manicured lawn and flowers, but rather our dog digging up the lawn much to our frustration! Perhaps I should be hiring her out to a fencing contractor to dig post holes!

Nancy Brooks



Art in Lockdown

I have usually been able to go on a painting course in Ullapool during the summer, but not this year. So Eleanor, who runs the courses, has been sending by email subjects for me to draw, and I have been able to send them back to her for comment. Also, I have done some paintings (on opposite page) from photographs of friends' gardens and one of the railway bridge over the Tay in Perth. I have enjoyed doing this very much and it was good to grab this opportunity during lockdown.

The Rev'd Canon Celia Matthews





Lockdown in Flowers



We have enjoyed Sunday worship online. Each week we placed a small jar of flowers from the garden alongside the computer. We started way back with daffodils and have since worked our way through narcissi, primroses, bluebells, forsythia, aquilegia, apple blossom, lilac, sweet peas and a

succession of roses, starting with our May-flowering yellow rose from



the front of the house through successive varieties until now, the last bloom, a small Scottish rosette flower. At times, when it was easy to lose track of which day of the week it was, or indeed which week, our flowers reminded us that nature was carrying on as normal.

Heather and David Brand

To Make You Smile

Many thanks to Penny Fenwick for these gems 'out of the mouth of babes'.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.

The epistels were the wives of the apostles.....and so on!

Eddie the Eagle says...

When I flew over to see the editor for a coffee a few days ago I was rather surprised to be met with a barrage of what might be called 'unparliamentary language'. Apparently he had almost finished the August edition - after months of work, he said - when it disappeared from his computer, never to return. And this his 100th edition too! When I said never mind, he could always do it again, there was, for some reason, even more of the aforesaid language. Then when he started complaining about the intolerable weight of literature on his shoulders, and I pointed out it could hardly be heavier than mine, he started throwing rock buns at me. Roll on the September issue!



News from Cathedral Cats

Isla and would like to introduce MacKenzie to the St Ninian's Cathedral pet community! She is a young cat and and we encourage her enthusiastic and determined spirit. Only the other evening we told her that she could achieve anything she put her mind to! The following morning we were both awoken by this....



We think Fugue No.7 in E-flat major from book two of the *Well Tempered Clavier* is an ambitious start to piano playing. However, we all know that practice makes perfect! Having said that, if she could practise at a time that isn't the middle of the night I think we might be more popular with our neighbours!

Maihri Cameron

From the Farquhar Diaries

4 August 1910. After the Chapter meeting I went into the town intending to go on with my visiting, but my nose had given me such pain I was too tired. I am deeply thankful this was so, for I formed the idea of calling to enquire for the Dean. So I climbed the hill [*to Dupplin Terrace - Ed.*] and found Mrs Rorison & her daughter & two sons at afternoon tea. I did not ask to see the Dean and they said he was too tired to see anyone. However he sent to say he would like to see me. I found him

lying in bed looking very worn. But the clearness of his mind was extraordinary. He said he was dying and glad to do so. "This is not like the old Dean, is it? I used to prance through life!" He then grew reminiscent and said "Do you remember the old days at Forfar & the new Church there?" Then, "And there was Perth from '85 to '92!" Here I said "Yes, that was a great time!" "Yes", he said, "it really was!" Of course these references implied a great deal between him and me. Then with reference to the building of the Cathedral Nave in the year last mentioned he said to his daughter, "Edie, we won't let the Canon have back his 'Episcopal History of Perth!'" This, because I have there recorded his great effort in the building of the Nave. "But I must give him a book. Edie, get Southey's Common-Place". When she returned with the four portly volumes, she gave him a pencil & he wrote my name faintly in the first volume and then said I must ink it over. He then said, "When I'm gone, if they think of any little memorial of me, remember that I never thought it right that there should be no stall for the Dean in the Cathedral!" When I got up to go, he took my hand and said "God bless you, George and Nellie, and may you be long spared to do good work for the Church!" and I went off down the hill & through the town with my great bundle of books. I am deeply thankful to have had this parting with the Dean. He always had this good side somewhere concealed about him but it was perpetually eclipsed by his restlessness, changeableness, ambition, want of thoroughness etc and it was impossible to know in what mood you would meet him. But in his death-bed he has shewn up himself in an extraordinarily favourable light and I shall always be glad of this parting scene with him. Who would not be quite dis-armed by it? I have omitted to say how pleased he was this afternoon, when I told him that the Chapter had asked the Bp to convey a message of deep sympathy from them. He asked me to tell him the names of all those who were present.

Our Very Reverend friend was on holiday in August 1920 and made no entries in his diary - hence this month's reversion to 1910. As always, many thanks to Margaret Lye for this rather moving extract from her published edition of The Diary of the Very Rev GTS Farquhar.

Times of Services etc

At St. Ninian's we extend a warm welcome to all those who come to share in the worship of God in the name of Jesus Christ.

SERVICES

(temporarily suspended, apart from those in bold)

Sunday	Sung Eucharist	11.00am	
Monday	Morning Prayer	9.00am	
Tuesday	Morning Prayer	9.00am	
Wednesday	Morning Prayer	9.00am	Eucharist 11.00am
Thursday	Eucharist	9.00am	

GIVING

For all committed giving, envelopes and covenants, please contact Liz Gardiner, our treasurer, who will be delighted to advise.

FLOWERS

Flowers greatly enhance our worship. If you can help (after the lock-down) or donate, please contact Molly or Hazel.

AND FINALLY...

If you have an article for the magazine or a suggestion for one, please either pass it to the editor, Jeremy Duncan, or email it to cathedralmagazine@gmail.com.

The closing date for inclusion in the September issue is 23 August.

POSTSCRIPT

As Eddie the Eagle has mentioned, the editor has been having computer problems. This may mean that this edition will have to be printed from a pdf file and may not be up to the usual standard - editorial apologies if so!

**Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's
Cathedral of the Scottish Episcopal Church in the
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.**

**We are one of the family of Anglican Churches
throughout the world.**

The Cathedral is served by a clergy and lay team:

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Tel : 01738 443173

**Provost
(and Hospital Chaplain)**

The Very Rev'd Hunter Farquharson
provost@perthcathedral.co.uk

Precentor

The Rev'd Canon Dr Carrie Applegath
(at present, seconded as chaplain to the NHS)

Assisting Clergy

The Rev'd Celia Matthews
The Rev'd Richard Sutton

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