



REVELATIONS

Thanksgiving 2026
Volume 26 Issue 3

Ordinary People Learning to Follow Jesus

A Thanksgiving Reflection

Harvest Thanksgiving is an important national holiday where we have the opportunity to make a profound expression of gratitude that is deeply rooted in spiritual and cultural traditions. At the same time, Thanksgiving transcends cultural and religious boundaries, finding resonance with people worldwide as an opportunity to celebrate abundance, share meals, and reflect on the blessings of the past year. As Christians, we understand the importance of gratitude as a central tenant of our faith. Thanksgiving provides us with the sacred opportunity to pause, reflect, and give thanks for all of the blessings in our lives.



Thanksgiving is a spiritual practice that invites us to acknowledge God's abundant blessings and offer gratitude for God's provision. The Bible constantly reminds us to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18) and that every good gift comes from above (James 1:17). This season is a tangible reminder of our dependence on God and God's faithfulness throughout the seasons of life.



As Christians, Thanksgiving – gratitude – is more than a once-a-year observance. It is a daily discipline

that can shape our attitudes and our actions. Cultivating thanksgiving involves intentional practices: practices like keeping a gratitude journal or noticing and naming aloud a handful of things for which to be thankful for each day. It involves prayer, continually lifting up thanks and praise to God for God's faithfulness in our lives.

We can express our gratitude to God through acts of kindness and generosity to those around us, extending God's love in a tangible way.

As we mark Thanksgiving as families, as a church, and as a nation, how will we respond to the sacred invitation to cultivate gratitude and recognize God's blessings in our lives? May our lives be a testament to the transforming power of thankfulness to God for God's love and generosity towards us.

Maggie Makes a Quilt

Submitted by Marie Cheesman

Most Wednesday mornings (and Friday throughout the winter months) you can find me in the quilting room at Holy Trinity Pembroke stitching to my heart's content with our small but mighty circle of quilters. Recently, most of the quilts that we've been working on are for Quilts for Survivors (QFS) but occasionally we are fortunate to be asked to work on commissions, which is a welcome addition to our fundraising efforts.

Maggie, our brave and fearless ACW President at Holy Trinity, frequently drops by after the Wednesday 10 am service to check our progress and cheer us on. When encouraged to pull up a chair she has always maintained that she could



never do what we do. Fair enough. But there are several steps in the making of a quilt that happen before it gets put up on the frame that we knew she could easily do, so we convinced her to join us in a day of sewing to help create a few more quilt tops to include with

this year's QFS shipment. It seemed like the perfect opportunity to invite other quilters, past

and present, to join in the fun, including Reverends Matthew and Gillian. So, Maggie Makes a Quilt Day was born.



In early September, about a dozen of us arrived at the hall bright and early, sewing machines and irons in hand (Maggie, for some reason, brought a healthy supply of band aids; not quite sure what she thought that

we were going to put her through!). Several people had pre-cut pieces in order that we had a number of quilts to assemble so the room was humming in no time. We were also very fortunate to have Doris and Nancy volunteer to press seams for us, which moves things along enormously.

Our sew date happened to align with the first day back to work after vacation for both Rev. Matthew and Rev. Gillian, and they pitched in as well. Rev. Matthew also brought a beautiful and well-loved family



heirloom to share with us: a hand-pieced quilt made by his great-great-grandfather in around 1900. Made predominantly from what appears to be remnants of woolen pants/jackets, we enjoyed examining his handiwork in great detail,

attempting to determine what he had used for the batting.

This was the first time that Matthew had tried his hand at sewing and did a terrific job assembling strips, so obviously the quilting gene runs in his family. Between Maggie and Matthew, and with a little help from me, they had a completed quilt top to their credit by the end of the day.



In total, we completed five quilt tops in our time together (great work Jean, Connie, Naomi and Karen). Maria is ready to sew all of her rows together and Naomi and Karen have taken the pieces for two more quilt tops to sew at home, bringing our total to eight, which is just wonderful. And all without having to break into Maggie's band aid supply!

We had one more silent partner busily stitching in the corner. Helgard busied herself all day hand quilting a baby quilt that we have up on the frame and put us in great shape to finish it up at our next Wednesday gathering.

There were suggestions that we do this again and I believe we shall. Rev. Nick dropped in to check on our progress and mentioned that he has a sewing machine and is keen to take classes so hopefully we can add him to the roster as well. There was also a suggestion that our next workshop include wine; not sure what that would do for productivity...

This ministry of providing quilts to residential school survivors is so important to their healing journey and has become a significant part of our congregation's truth and reconciliation

outreach. We are delighted to have found such an enjoyable way to engage more of our members in our effort.

*On Sunday, September 27th our parish marked the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. At Holy Trinity Pembroke, over 30 quilts, quilt tops, and quilt blocks were displayed and blessed to be sent to Quilts for Survivors.*



Thank you also to everyone all across our parish who wore orange as an outward symbol of our commitment to remember and to walk together in the way in truth-telling and reconciliation.



Thanksgiving Offerings

Each year at Thanksgiving we have the opportunity to respond to God's grace in our lives by faithfully supporting God's mission through our local churches. Many of our congregations provide special Thanksgiving offering envelopes for use at this time.

During the summer months, many of us travel and weekly offerings often decline. This Thanksgiving, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you might offer a gift of thanksgiving to your church. Any gift, large or small, is gratefully received and will be put to good use as we work together in the ministry God has put before us here in the Valley.

The Lyra Ensemble Shares Their Voices with the Parish of the Valley

submitted by Karen Mann and Julie McMillan

The Parish of the Valley was lucky enough to have the opportunity to host two concerts by The Lyra Ensemble in June. They performed at



Church of the Ascension (Killaloe) on June 19th and St John's (Eganville) on June 26th.

The full house attendance at the Lyra Ensemble Concert was wonderful in June at Ascension, Killaloe. The music was unique and enjoyable. I liked

the background information about each piece and that it was performed in multiple languages and genres.

They appeared at St John's Eganville a week later so more people could enjoy their performance.

I met the group when they came to rehearse at St John's.

Standing back and observing them while they were doing some photos outside of the church I was able to quickly see their deep camaraderie. It's no wonder their *acappella* harmonies were so close and precise when they were singing. Under

the direction of Emily Adam they produce a joyous sound. They sang a number of songs from different countries, with a different member of the group providing a short narrative beforehand. That narrative and the musicality of the piece allowed us to feel the story even if we didn't understand the words.

Both concerts were well attended, both by parishioners and other members of the communities. When people were leaving they were glowing from the experience. It is my hope that we will be able to host them again in the future so even more people can enjoy the gift of their voices.



even for two congregations that are *both* Anglican.

I spent three Sunday mornings at Holy Trinity and three Sunday mornings at St. George's, and I interviewed four members of each congregation. In this article, I would like to highlight a few things that I learned through this project.

First, at both **Holy Trinity** and **St. George's**, I learned that the neighbourhood (Pembroke for Holy Trinity, and South Alice for St. George's) looks different now than it did a few decades ago. There are new people, new businesses, and new ways to spend time on a Sunday morning instead of coming to church. Many people expressed concern about their declining numbers, but they also expressed their appreciation for a strong team of clergy who are helping the Parish of the Valley to stay afloat in this season:

We always had the one [priest], and we were very blessed when the group came, because they're so engaged with each other, and they have their own talents, and they all really, really work together.

The [priests] are different in their service, but it's a different that it's enjoyable for us.

Rural Worship Research Project



Worshipping in the Parish of the Valley

Submitted by Mykayla Turner, PhD student at St. Paul University in Ottawa

Last fall, I had the privilege of visiting two Parish of the Valley congregations—Holy Trinity Church in Pembroke, and St. George's Church in South Alice—to conduct a research project. I wanted to understand how Sunday morning worship looks different from one neighbourhood to the next,



At **Holy Trinity**, there is also a deep appreciation for a liturgy that stays the same from week to week, especially as people come and go from a large congregation in an evolving city like Pembroke.

When I interviewed members of Holy Trinity, I

heard rich and detailed descriptions of what they say, do, and sing in worship:

I like the familiarity of [the liturgy]. Like, they always start with announcements, and it's got that kind of "coming back together as a group" feel to it with that, but then you go into the whole formal liturgy with the procession and all of that.

They're very attuned to and reflective of the tradition, the Anglican tradition. So, in terms of the liturgy for Holy Communion, they're keen on observing the historic form of that, including the—what we call a eucharistic prayer, in which the words of institution are included.

It's [a] very familiar-type thing. Like a Catholic service is always the same, it's always the same here. I get more out of it that way by it being uniform. The hymns'll change, of course, and the preaching will change, but it's uniform, and I like it.

The Anglican church liturgy is much more structured. It's the same every week. [...] I really like the fact that there's a lot of music in the liturgy that we use, because music, to me, is the way that I worship.



In comparison, at **St. George's**, there is a deep appreciation for the unique gifts that each person brings on a Sunday morning, especially for such a small congregation at a rural intersection where neighbours are few and far between. When I interviewed members of St. George's and asked them to describe their experience of a liturgy, they often spent the majority of their time talking about the *people*

who are involved in the different parts of the liturgy:

One of our main members of the church had a bit of a stroke, and now—so, I'm on more now: cleaning the church, and I'm on doing the altar, and then I do the chalice, the cup, whenever [she] isn't here.

When Kim does the guitar, that's lovely, and when [Jim] plays, that's lovely. The music really makes a service.

No one else has a guitar-playing musician. That's different, and I think people like the change. I think they enjoy that.

My favourite part [of a Sunday morning] would be just meeting everybody.

Whether there is more of a focus on the liturgy or the people who are involved in it, members of both Holy Trinity and St. George's care a lot about Sunday morning worship. Sunday morning worship brings us face-to-face with our celebrations, struggles, and questions. It is a place where things stay the same, and it is also a place where things change. That is especially true at **St. George's**, where Sunday morning worship has changed since the Parish of the Valley formed. Bringing multiple congregations together as one parish creates opportunities for members of St. George's to worship with new people from across the Ottawa Valley:

The churches seem to have got together now because of the Parish of the Valley.

I really enjoy going to all these other—every one of these congregations. They're just fantastic. They really are so welcoming, so friendly. I just love coming here.

We go to Holy Trinity for all of the special occasions [...] and that's wonderful when you have a full church and music and, you know, there's just a whole different feel to it.

I think there's a real strength in us being able to go to any of the churches in Parish of the Valley and just—we fit right in.



Every second Sunday is a highlight at St. George's, since the regular members are joined by people

from Stafford, Micksburg, and Rankin:

This morning, we were very glad. Like, a lot of members [were] from other churches from Parish of the Valley. Otherwise, there would've been six of us?

With this new amalgamation with all the churches in Parish of the Valley, every second Sunday, we get folks from Lower Stafford, Rankin, and Micksburg to join us, so that kinda doubles our numbers at church every second Sunday, which is very nice.

When we ride these waves together on a Sunday morning, we build hope and resilience. We cannot predict what the future holds for Holy Trinity, St. George's, or any other congregation, but worshipping together is one way to stay both grounded and open to the movement of the Spirit.

I am grateful to both congregations for sharing these insights with me, and I hope that I will find opportunities to visit you again in the future!

Editor's Note: Mykayla Turner will be returning to the Parish of the Valley for a special "coffee time" presentation of her research and an opportunity to engage with her through questions and answers.

It will be held on Sunday, November 29th at 11:30am at Holy Trinity Pembroke. ALL members of the Parish of the Valley are welcomed and encouraged to join in.

Canadian Council of Churches



Ecumenical Connections and the Canadian Council of Churches

Submitted by the Rev. Nick Forte

For the last two years, I have had the privilege and pleasure of serving as one of the Anglican Church of Canada's representatives on the governing board of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). As one of the founding members of the CCC, the Anglican Church of Canada has had a defining role in this national body. But if you have never heard of it, that is not a surprise because the various things it does tend to be in very specific areas of Canadian society, and often behind-the-scenes. So, here's a very, very, condensed explanation.

The CCC brings together 25 different Christian denominations, and 12 associate organizations from across Canada, to collaborate together, learn from each other, and journey together in a constantly unfolding path of ecumenism. Despite such a wide variety of Christian expressions, I always feel it's important to note: every member denomination has actively chosen to join the CCC and maintain their membership. There are clear points of disagreement about a number of things, from topics like abortion, medical assistance in dying, Christian nationalism, and so much more; yet there is, above all, a willingness to sit with each other and talk as friends, trusting in our closeness in Christ to still rejoice in our fellowship at the end of the day.

The CCC meets in-person twice a year, bringing together members from across the country to a central location where we hear reports, discuss the business of the CCC, and often talk about major issues confronting both Canadian and global society - of which there are many.



50 years Of Turning Swords Into Ploughshares

Beyond these two in-person meetings, the CCC convenes “tables” and working groups, specifically to address and do extensive work around key areas. Some of those tables are: Commission on Justice and Peace, Faith and Life Sciences, Project Ploughshares, Committee on Generational Engagement, and each table has multiple working groups to handle particular work the table is focused on. The work that each of these tables do and produce are often in collaboration with other Canadian or international groups; for example, Project Ploughshares, which is a major advocate in Canada for sustainable peace and disarmament of aggressive militarization (a growing problem throughout the world), has made presentations to Canadian parliament, the United Nations, and frequently engages in discussions in Geneva with many of the peace organizations of Europe.

One of the many tasks that the CCC has been working at steadfastly is encouraging more active participation, not just in the CCC and its “tables”, but in society at large. Whether it be with the young, the busy, the retired, or anyone in between, the CCC is trying to encourage Canadians to work for a society that will benefit all, and by extension, a world that is home to all people. It has often been likened to our own churches, do we invite people to church, or do we invite them into the community? Are we creating a comfortable rest-stop on a person’s journey, or are we building a home where they can stay and know they belong.

I invite you to learn about the Canadian Council of Churches and the good work that it does, but also to look around you, who is out there that you might partner with, to do our common work of loving and serving our God?

More information about the Canadian Council of Churches can be found at: <https://councilofchurches.ca/>

For the Beauty of Creation

With notes submitted by Vera Hoyland

Across our parish, we are blessed with beautiful flowers and abundant gardens – at our homes, at our churches, and in our cemeteries! From lovingly picked flowers from our



gardens at the altar to donated flowers adorning our church steps, our churches are full of the beauty of God’s creation.

An oft-asked question at Holy Trinity Pembroke is, “where are all the flowers from?” We have some amazing gardeners around Holy Trinity who have contributed to the landscaping and gardening around the church. It has been a joint



effort to surround Holy Trinity, our place of worship, with this beauty of nature.

For Harold and those sought-after zinnias that border

our walkway; his roses, manicured garden and trimmed hedges, we give thanks.

For Gail and Pat with their salvaged potted plants, we give thanks.

For Gail and her green thumb and bountiful gardens and colourful flowers, we give thanks.

For Gaetan and his landscaping, we give thanks.

For Rick and Vera with diplodanias and red spiked dracaena albatross superstar cordyline to put in our planters, we give thanks.

For Mother Nature for milkweed, goldenrod, ferns, and so much more overflowing abundantly, we give thanks.

And mostly we thank God.

Although flowers are not necessary for worship and praise, we are grateful to be able to share in the beauty of God’s creation. Thanks to all who have kept the plants healthy, green, and growing.



Generosity Is a Practice

Adapted from an article by J. Davey Gerhard, Executive Director of the Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS)

October is the month when stewardship becomes wonderfully concrete. Across the church, congregations are sharing stories of ministry, inviting testimony, beginning to make plans for the year ahead, and asking members to consider how their giving reflects their faith. For many of us, this begins the busiest season of the stewardship year.

But a campaign does not create generosity; it gives us an opportunity to practice it.

We practice gratitude by noticing what God has already given. We practice trust when we loosen our grip on some of what we have received. We practice hope when we invest in ministries whose full fruit we may never see. We practice community when we remember that the church is not simply something we attend or support, but a body to which we belong and through which God is at work in the world.

That is why the most important place to begin is with the stories of what God is doing through our churches: the child who found a place to belong; the neighbour who was fed; the mourner who was accompanied; the volunteer who discovered a vocation; the newcomer who became family. Budgets matter, of course. Buildings matter. Programs matter. But they matter because they make ministry possible. Mission gives the numbers meaning.

October's lectionary gives us language for this practice. Jesus speaks of a vineyard entrusted to tenants and asks what fruit it will bear. He tells of



a banquet and the invitation to come. He holds up a coin stamped with Caesar's image and presses us to consider what belongs to God. And at the end of the month, he brings everything back to love of God and love of neighbour. These are not only stewardship texts. They are reminders that all Christian life is lived in

response to gift, invitation, belonging, and love.

This season we lean into the practice of gratitude, of thanksgiving, and of stewardship where we cultivate a practice where every act of generosity

is celebrated, whether it is a ministry offered, a meal delivered, a prayer shawl blessed, a prayer whispered, or an offering envelope given.

Together we are called to begin to live into that generous life that God calls us to live all year long.

A promotional graphic for a webinar. On the left, a photograph shows an older man, a woman, and a young child walking down a path covered in autumn leaves. On the right, text provides details about the webinar. Logos for the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship), and Learning Commons are at the top. The title 'Supporting the Church You Love For Generations to Come' is followed by the tagline 'Your legacy. God's mission.' Below this, it states the webinar is presented by TENS, hosted by the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, and takes place on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The speakers listed are J. Davey Gerhard, Executive Director of TENS; Ratul Dutta, Investment Advisor and Financial Planner, RBC Dominion Securities Inc.; and Rita Asanugari, Founder and managing lawyer, R.A. Law Firm Professional Corporation. A QR code and a link to register (ottawa.anglican.ca/events) are provided. At the bottom, three boxes contain additional information: 'Ideal for donors, clergy, wardens, stewardship teams, and all who care about parish vitality.', 'The webinar will be recorded and available on the ADO website and on ADOLearningCommons.ca', and a date box for 'Oct 27'.

More Opportunities for Stewardship: Legacy Giving Webinar

Across our Diocese, there is growing interest in legacy giving - the act of making a charitable gift through your will or estate plan - and in finding thoughtful, comfortable ways to talk about it. People are asking good questions about what legacy giving actually means, how it fits within faithful stewardship, and how we can begin these conversations with our families, in our local churches and within our Community Ministries.

At its heart, legacy giving is about much more than finances. It gives us an opportunity to care for the people we love while also remembering the churches, ministries and communities that have shaped our lives and that we hope will continue to serve others for generations to come. With this in mind, the Stewardship Resource Hub warmly invites you to join our legacy giving webinar Supporting the Church We Love, for Generations to Come: Your Legacy. God's Mission. on Tuesday, October 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hosted by Derwyn Sangster, Chair of our Stewardship Resource Hub, the webinar will bring together three guests who will share their experience and expertise:

Canon J. Davey Gerhard, Executive Director of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), will reflect on legacy giving as an expression of Christian stewardship, faith and generosity.

Ratul Dutta, Investment Advisor & Financial Planner with RBC Dominion Securities, will share

practical insights into financial, estate and charitable planning.

Rita Asangarani, Managing Lawyer at Rita Asangarani Law Firm Professional Corporation, will explore wills, estates and the legal considerations involved in leaving a legacy gift.

Our hope is to create a welcoming and practical conversation where people can learn, ask questions and better understand the possibilities around legacy giving.

You can find the link to register for the webinar by going to <https://www.valleyanglicans.ca/events/legacy-giving-webinar/2026-10-27>



Coming Events From Across the Parish of the Valley and our Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

Sunday, October 18th at 3pm

- Reformation Sunday Service at the Rankin Culture & Recreation Centre. Hosted by the Upper Ottawa Valley ELCiC Lutheran Cluster with Rev. Matthew preaching

Thursday, October 22nd to Saturday, October 24th

- Diocese of Ottawa Synod, held in Ottawa

Friday, October 23rd from 11:30am - 1:30pm

- Fall Soup & Sandwich Lunch at Epiphany, Barry's Bay. Homemade soups, sandwiches, and pie for \$12! Eat in or take out (for take out call 613-635-1600)

Saturday, October 24th from 8:30-11am

- Fall Rummage Sale at Holy Trinity Pembroke in the church hall.

Tuesday, October 27th at 11:30am

- Legacy Giving Webinar from the Diocese of Ottawa and The Episcopal Network for Stewardship. Registration required, please see the previous page for details!

Saturday, November 14th at 11am

- Celebrating Women in Leadership at Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa. Celebrate from across the diocese the 130th anniversary of our diocese, the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Anglican Church of Canada, and the 25th anniversary of the Cathedral Girls Choir. Followed by a reception.

Saturday, November 14th at 2pm

- At Christ Church Cathedral, attend the book launch of *Anne Boleyn: Reputation, Revolution, Religion, and the Queen Who Changed History* by The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic (May 2026). Canon Tatarnic explores the life of Anne Boleyn and what her story tells us about women, religion, power, and the enduring impact of how history remembers women.

Thursday, November 19th from 11am - 1pm

- Holy Trinity Pembroke Holly Bazaar and Luncheon. Homemade soup, sandwich, and dessert for \$15. Shop a fine collection of crafts, baked goods, Christmas gifts and decorations.

Saturday, November 21st from 11am - 2pm

- All Saints Petawawa Christmas Tea and Bazaar. A delicious luncheon for \$15. Shop the bake sale, "glitz and glamour," Santa table, and a silent auction.

Saturday, November 28th from 2-5pm

- Epiphany Barry's Bay Wine & Cheese Pairing Event. Delicious wines and gourmet cheeses accompanied by tasty treats. An auction of wines and cheeses will follow the tasting. Tickets available from Shawn & Dave Eagles: shdaeagles@gmail.com or 613-756-6356

Sunday, November 29th from 11:30am

- Hear from Saint Paul University PhD Candidate Mykayla Turner as she presents from her "Rural Worship Research Project" during coffee time at Holy Trinity Pembroke. Mykayla spent 6 Sundays with us in the Parish of the Valley last autumn and now she will share some of what she learned.

Sunday, November 29th

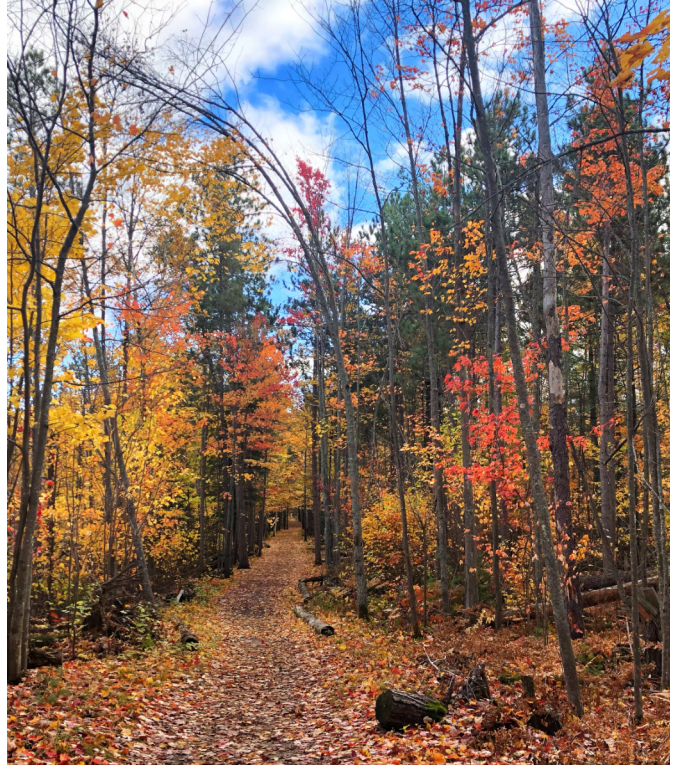
- St. John's Eganville Celebration of Light Evensong. Begin Advent with this beautiful afternoon service. Time to be confirmed.

Thanksgiving

By Malcolm Guite

Thanksgiving starts with thanks for mere survival,
Just to have made it through another year
With everyone still breathing. But we share
So much beyond the outer roads we travel;
Our interweavings on a deeper level,
The modes of life embodied souls can share,
The unguessed blessings of our being here,
The warp and weft that no one can unravel.

So I give thanks for our deep coinherence
Inwoven in the web of God's own grace,
Pulling us through the grave and gate of death.
I thank him for the truth behind appearance,
I thank him for his light in every face,
I thank him for you all, with every breath.



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