

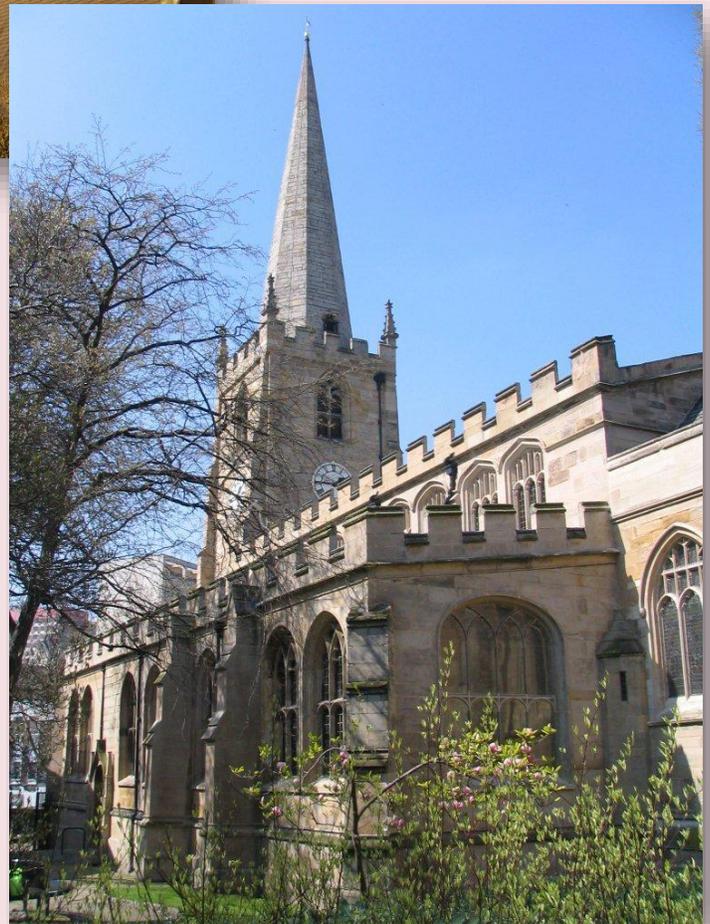


ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



July 2018

Parish Magazine



This magazine is provided free of charge but donations are invited to help cover costs; please use the donations boxes in the churches

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ALL SAINTS, NOTTINGHAM



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From the Rector...

The Reverend Christopher Harrison

On 29th June, the Church celebrates the feast day of saints Peter and Paul. In this parish, Pentecost provides the occasion for the celebration of the Patronal Festival of St Peter's church, when we mark the dedication of our church with a special Eucharist.

I have long found the description of St Peter which we find in the gospels to be a splendid paradigm for the Christian journey of faith. We see a very ordinary person, chosen by Jesus to be one of the first disciples, gradually learning what it means to grow in faith and love, and, in spite of his mistakes, being ultimately entrusted with the responsibility of caring for Christ's flock, the Church. At St Peter's Patronal Festival Eucharist on 1st July, we will sing a hymn to St Peter whose words and music I have written for this occasion (with grateful thanks to Peter Siepmann for his musical improvements):



How could you know that a restless wind would rise from Galilee,
When a stranger's urgent voice cried, 'Follow me'?
You would sail by that wind, with the Lord at your helm;
A fisherman of rare degree.

What were your fears as upon the surging swell you dared to stand,
With a faltering faith in Jesus' outstretched hand?
In that faith you would walk, with the Lord as your guide,
A harbinger of God's command.

Sublime the sight! When in mountain glory past and future shone,
You would hear the voice of God salute the Son.
He would name you the Rock; in His strength you would build
That heaven's work on earth be done.

O sacred feast! When in mandate new your Master bent the knee,
You declared, 'My servant you will never be!'
You were washed by the Lord, fully bathed in his love,
In eucharistic harmony.

How deep the grace, that the resurrected Saviour thrice denied
Should restore a broken follower to his side!
Humbly bearing the cross, you would care for his flock;
And in his name be glorified.

The hymn begins in Galilee, as the Holy Spirit moves like a wind over the lake and Jesus calls Simon Peter to follow him. He is to be a new kind of fisherman, who will bring others to know God. We see him stepping out onto the water of the lake, weak in faith but encouraged and strengthened by Jesus. Peter then ascends the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus; the figures of Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, are seen shining in glory, with God commending his beloved Son. At the Last Supper, Jesus gives the new commandment of love to the disciples; Peter at first refuses to let Jesus wash his feet, but then readily agrees when he understands Jesus' purpose in doing so. We finally see the risen Christ entrusting his Church to Peter, in spite of Peter having disowned him three times. Peter dies a martyr's death, and in doing so gives glory to Christ.

As we reflect upon the life of St Peter, let us find his life and ministry to be a source of encouragement to each one of us. Our faith may at times be weak; our doubts may sometimes be persistent; our failure to love God and one another may be a cause for deep regret. However, just as Jesus restored Peter to the full embrace of his loving kindness, in the same way God is always ready to reach out and bring us back at the very moment when we feel that we are furthest away.

The theme of God's call is also reflected in two further 10.45 am services at St Peter's this month. On 8th July Dianne Skerritt is our guest preacher, and will draw upon themes from her powerful book 'When God calls: Listening, Hearing, Responding'. On 22nd July, Ossie Newell of St Peter's church will update us regarding his work on the care of stroke patients and the role of the Ossie Newell Foundation; this is a field to which he has felt especially called following the stroke he himself suffered some years ago. Do make every effort to come to these services and be inspired by the contribution of our speakers.

The Community of All Sinners and Saints

Alexander McLean

A hesitant, bumbling attempt to try and show a little of the love that Christ models led to my life being transformed by a man I encountered as a teenager. The police had found him unconscious in a market and he was admitted to hospital, apparently in a diabetic coma.

When I met him he had been lying comatose on the floor. For five days I tried to wash him and care for him before he died and was placed in a mass grave on top of all the other people who had no family to bury them. He showed me there are people whose lives are judged to have no value by their community or by governments. The experience of accompanying him and later prisoners like Fred Mburu and Pater Kamya as they died was deeply formative for me and resulted in my first prison visit.

Just over ten years ago I registered the African Prisons Project as a UK charity. Our first years were spent bathing dying prisoners, establishing prison clinics and running education programmes as we tried to simply follow Jesus when he told us that whatever we do for people in prison we do for him. Indeed, Mother Teresa put it that 'in the poor we meet Jesus in his most distressing disguises'. Over time, we began to question why almost all those we were meeting in prisons came from the poorest, most vulnerable parts of society. And why those who made and implemented the law came from backgrounds of greater privilege. Our experience leads us to agree with Bryan Stevenson who said that too often the opposite of poverty is not wealth, but justice.

The prison services we worked with in Uganda and Kenya intimated that up to half of their prisoners are innocent and if asked to conduct executions they couldn't guarantee they'd be killing guilty people. We saw that whatever we did to improve the welfare of people in prison, if they didn't have justice they wouldn't have peace.

Our focus is now shifting from making prisons better, to emptying them. We worked to establish the world's first prison based law college and law firm. Who better to work to make, shape and implement the law than those who have experienced conflict with it for themselves? Prisoners, ex-prisoners and prison staff have unique perspectives on legal systems; yet their experiences are rarely listened to. Bringing them together with prosecutors, the police, judges and experienced lawyers and academics creates remarkable possibilities for good.

By the end of 2018 we will have more than 100 people in prison in Uganda and Kenya studying for University of London law degrees by correspondence and over 100 more who've completed basic training as auxiliary paralegals. In October last year our auxiliary paralegals managed to get every inmate in the women's section of Kole Prison in Uganda released. By 2020 we expect the 3,000 people freed from prison by our community's work to date to be 30,000. Each year we will work to change unjust laws, such as the case of Susan Kigula, our first female law student. She challenged the mandatory death sentence in the supreme court of Uganda, resulting in it being overturned and Susan and hundreds of others being released from death row.

We are a family of prisoners, ex-prisoners, prison officers, lawyers, judges and allies. From different countries, faiths and social groups and guided by our values statement, we are a 'community of servants, accountable stewards and courageous change makers'. We find value in serving others and showing mercy. We are hated by many and expected to hate each other. Instead, we try to grow in love for one another and those we serve, inspired by Jesus' example of loving and serving the outcast.

We are people like Kamande at Lang'ata Women's Prison in Nairobi. When she was imprisoned she was suicidal. Now she says her life has great purpose and value as a paralegal. Rahab, imprisoned as a notorious armed robber, is now one of our most effective legal aid workers, and Pascal, who started studying law whilst on death row, has now completed his degree, is working towards his Master's with the University of London, and will be released in 2019.

As we use the law to serve the poor, despite the personal challenges we face, our own humanity has the chance to flourish. As we serve others and are served by them, we experience transformation. As Jean Vanier of L'Arche Community points out, the broken person will reveal to us our own inner hurt and the hardness of our hearts, but also how much we are loved. Thus the one I came to heal will be my healer. There is no us and them, no beneficiary and benefactor. Each of us is both.

Reproduced with the kind permission of Alexander McLean, Director General of African Prisons Project. "The Franciscan", Volume 30, May 2018.

CALENDAR FOR JULY

Sunday 1st July	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Patronal Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		<i>Tu es Petrus JM Haydn</i>	
		<i>Agnus Dei Haydn</i>	
		<i>Jesus bleibet meine Freude Bach</i>	
	5.00pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing	St Peter's
Monday 2nd	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 3rd	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 4th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 5th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 6th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Sunday 8th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	9.45am	Family Service	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Evensong*	St Peter's
		<i>Responses Tomkins</i>	
		<i>Canticles Sumsion in G</i>	
		<i>They that go down to the sea in ships Sumsion</i>	
Monday 9th	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 10th	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 11th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 12th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 13th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Saturday 14th	11.00am	Family Coffee Break Concert Spacehop!	St Peter's
Sunday 15th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		<i>Kyrie and Agnus Dei for lower voices Solomons</i>	
		<i>Tantum ergo Fauré</i>	
	5.00pm	Taizé Service	St Peter's
Monday 16th	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 17th	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 18th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'

Thursday 19th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 20th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Saturday 21st	10.30am	Mothers' Union Meeting	All Saints'
Sunday 22nd	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		Kyrie & Agnus Dei (Missa Brevis) <i>Lotti</i> Maria Magdalene <i>Gabrieli</i>	
	5.00pm	Compline* O lux beata Trinitas Kyrie (Missa Brevis) <i>Lotti</i> Nunc dimittis tertii toni <i>Victoria</i> Salve Regina <i>Lotti</i>	St Peter's
Monday 23rd	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 24th	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 25th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 26th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 27th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Sunday 29th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist* Holy Communion in E-flat <i>Bairstow</i> A prayer of St Richard of Chichester <i>White</i>	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist	St Peter's
Monday 30th	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 31st	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 1st August	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 2nd	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 3rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Sunday 5th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Songs of Praise	St Peter's

*The Coffee Room and Fairtrade Shop will close for a short summer break on Tuesday 31st July.
They will both reopen on Monday 13th August.*

Remembering Srebrenica

The Caring for our Common Working Group, in partnership with local members of the 'Remembering Srebrenica' charity, is supporting an exhibition in St Peter's in July about the Srebrenica genocide which took place in July 1995 as part of the Bosnian conflict. This was the worst such atrocity in Europe since the Second World War; the 'Remembering Srebrenica' movement aims to challenge attitudes and behaviour which foster division and hatred between peoples.

POEMS

'Faith'

Ann Parker

Small Orang-utan climbing.
Learning from a parent figure
further up the tree. High above
him,
but reaching down an arm,
well extended, with long fingers
for the infant hand to grasp.
Not pulling. The adult hand,
while reaching unfathomably
down,
is static. Relaxed yet strong.
There for the child to reach
beyond itself, using its muscles;
And trusting in a Being
nearly out of reach
but just within its grasp.

Africa O My Beauty

Bridget Obareki

Africa, O my beauty -
Beauty, beauty, in the eyes of the beholder.
Where is that glory? Where is that pride?
Where now is your authority?

Once proud and talked about -
You know not how much you mean to me.
Make me be proud again Africa.

You know I am a proud black.
Black I was born. Black I want to die.
Oh Africa! Sadness fills my heart.
Corruption in the heart of the leaders -
Take back your glory,
Take back your pride,
Take back your authority, I say!

Africa, my children will never know you -
The fear bloodshed day and night,
The fear of rituals and sacrifice -
But still, your blood flows in their veins -
Shine, once again, Africa!

Written for the One World Cultural Celebration at All Saints' Church



Saturday 14th July

11am at St Peter's Church

Spacehop! Family Coffee Break Concert

in association with The Nottingham Chamber Music Festival

Join the Intergalactic Piano Trio in a concert adventure designed for families, babies and children aged nine and under. With music by Bach, Debussy, Holst, and John Williams, children and families can respond as they choose, by sitting, dancing, singing, or moving around, with plenty of interaction throughout.

Magazine contributions are welcomed by **20th of the month** to Adele Siepmann:
office@nottinghamchurches.org

If you don't have access to email, hand written pieces will be accepted!

Please note that it may not be possible to include all submissions

Prayers for July

Rev. James Saxton

At this time of the year many young people are taking examinations, so our prayers are with them at this time.
A reflection on learning:

I long to learn and understand
To see the interwoven interdependence of all things.
I long to dedicate my study and my understanding
To faithfully transmit all truth
In honour of the King of Kings.
I will revisit and revise.
I will question all I thought I understood.

All that we know is partial, sadly incomplete; much more may come to light. So wondering is good.
The times and seasons of my life lie in God's hands, and I am only steward of my days. The worth of my work is His to weigh, the task of today the focus of my plans.

To understand all mysteries would be my great desire, to be more understanding is of greater worth. To see Christ in His beauty, Heaven's Morning Star, is all my life has waited for: for Him I truly thirst...But today, I look before me, see the present task, and I work to understand.

A Prayer for New Priorities:

God as we strive for success,
For wealth, for stability, for status,
Turn our eyes down from the top of the mountain that we may see to wash the feet of the world:
For if we pray, we will believe,
If we believe, we will love,
If we love we will serve.

ST PETER'S FAIRTRADE & CHRISTIAN BOOK SHOP

Whether you are in need of a special gift, special occasion card, new bible or simply a bar of chocolate, the St Peter's Fairtrade and Christian Book Shop has something for everybody. The shop is open Monday-Friday 10.30am-2pm and after the morning service on Sundays.



*Please support this
valuable parish
resource!*

MOTHERS' UNION

21st July

Our Mothers' Union Monthly Meeting. This month the speaker is Reverend Dr Richard Davey, who will be speaking on the theme 'Looking at Art'. Everyone is welcome at this or any of our meetings, we meet at 10am at All Saints Church for tea/coffee and the talk begins at 10.30am. We finish by 12noon.

Almighty God,
We thank you for the gift of your Word and Spirit; may they be for our foundation and guide.
As you have loved us and made us your friends so you have called us to love and serve one another.
Thank you that as we remain in you we are united together.

May our love for the family of Mothers' Union be expressed through prayer, love and action.
It is our joy and our privilege to pray for each other and the world.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

'Waiting for the Last Bus' Reflections of Life and Death

by *Richard Holloway*

Those who have read Holloway's wonderful "Leaving Alexandria: A Memoire of Faith and Doubt" (Canongate, 2012) may not be surprised that he opens 'Waiting for the Last Bus' with a reference to St Mary Magdalene, Newark. What may come as a surprise is his admission that, after his years as a young monk at Kelham and despite frequent glimpses of the great tower from the train as he journeyed between London and Edinburgh, he had never visited the church until recently.

The 'memento mori' panel paintings from the medieval chantry chapel in Newark Parish Church serve as Holloway's way into his powerful and thought-provoking reflection on Life and Death. The skeleton performing the dance macabre is holding a carnation, a powerful symbol of mortality; the dashing young popinjay clutching his purse, more clearly than words can say gives message: 'As I am today, you will be tomorrow'.

'The anguish of dying is hard...but there is no escape from anguish. It comes with the human condition and the self-awareness that is its key component. The secret is how to live with it. Fortitude is one of the most important lessons life teaches and ageing may be our last chance to learn it.'

Holloway in his usual forthright and honest manner shares with us his determination to embrace, in his final years of life, his 'inner scarecrow'. Quoting WB Yeats he looks at the positives of ageing:

'An aged man is but a paltry thing,
'A tattered coat upon a stick, unless
'Soul clap its hand and sing and louder sing...'

Music means much to Holloway. He advises the reader that one way to seek spiritual comfort, away from the chatter and talkativeness of many churches, is 'to find a place (or a service) where they don't talk, they sing- and leave your soul unmolested for an hour. Slip into choral evensong somewhere to experience the music and touch the longing it carries for the human soul.'

One of the joys of this book is the way in which Holloway frequently quotes poetry from Donne to Hopkins, Kathleen Raine, Helen Waddell, Louise MacNeice to Larkin (clearly a favourite), philosophy from Aristotle to Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Cupitt et al as well as the Bible and Shakespeare. This is always appropriate and accessible.

From the book's epigraph an extract from The Venerable Bede's allegory of human life as a sparrow flying quickly through a hall and 'of what may follow and what preceded it, we are absolutely ignorant' (History of The English Speaking People Book IV, Penguin, 1956) through the heart wrenching extract from André Schwarz-Bart's 'The Last of the Just' (Penguin, 1977, page 373) to his final quotation from Helen Waddell's poem 'The Mournes':

'I think that I shall take a road I used to know...
'And when it's almost dark I'll set my feet
'Where a white track goes glimmering to the hill
'And see, far up, a light...'

Holloway's humanity reaches out and talks to our humanity.

Bramcote Bookworm

At one time, as part of a tribute to the NHS, I was involved in producing a trade union booklet in which members were invited to send in their own recollections about its founding. The letter that stuck with me was from an agricultural worker who had lost his legs in a farm accident.

As if the trauma wasn't enough, the family were asked to pay for the artificial limbs he subsequently relied on. They were told this wasn't covered by insurance but might be recoverable against tax. The reply they kept from the Inland Revenue was a classic statement about this pre-NHS world. The letter told them that 'artificial limbs could not be claimed against tax as they were regarded as a luxury item'.

We have come a long way from such dismal days, but today the country needs a new NHS settlement. To begin with, Britain ought to be paying at least the European average (11-13%) of earnings into NHS funding. Better still, we should be matching the best (14%) not languishing at well below 10%. But what Britain has really lost is the sense of inter-generational solidarity.

I remember going home with my first wage packet from the summer job I had in a local factory. I'd expressed dismay at the NI contributions that were deducted from my pay, but my dad would have nothing of it. "My NI is what pays for your grandad's pension" he told me. "Your NI will pay for mine. And one day your kids' will pay for yours. In the meantime they cover all of us if we get sick. It's called social solidarity."

This is a phrase you barely hear today. To survive the turbulent times ahead, it is one we urgently need to rediscover. But the post-war contributions settlement must itself be updated.

From 1948, employee NI contributions were matched by employer ones. We little realised how, ultimately, this would become an incentive for employers to avoid NI payments by replacing people with machines. Today, it would make more sense to replace employer NI with a (1-2%) 'turnover' tax (a system Germany once used, referring to it as their Social Insurance levy). This too was about social solidarity.

Suddenly, all parts of parliament seem gripped by the urgency of rescuing the NHS from its war-wounded state of perpetual underfunding. My guess, however, is that if Aneurin Bevan was bestriding the corridors of parliament today he would be demanding an NHS capable of tackling other 'towering evils'.

Under-funding social care places impossible demands on over-stretched hospital budgets. Having people live in damp, draughty and semi-derelict housing guarantees a conveyor belt of ill-health that dumps people on the NHS doorstep. Trashing the pathways of young people into secure work, within sustainable communities, delivers burgeoning mental health issues that the NHS can barely cope with. Leaving 40million Britons to live in areas with illegal levels of air pollution, guarantees an unending flow of respiratory diseases that was never the legacy we expected to leave to our children and grandchildren.

All of these are resolvable problems. Many will find their solutions are interconnected. But all require Aneurin Bevan figures whose mission must be to re-found the NHS around visions of tomorrow's 'healthy society'.

'Yes', proper funding is critical. And 'yes' Britain can afford it. But the critical test is whether tomorrow's NHS can embrace wholeness and wellbeing rather than just chasing the casualties of our failure to do so. This is the birthday present the NHS deserves.



Regular Activities in our Churches

For regular services, see the calendar pages in this magazine

All Saints'

- Community Coffee Morning (part of the Places of Welcome network): Tuesdays from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
- Women of Faith activities and lunch, first Thursday of every month from 11.00 am – 1.30 pm
- Mothers' Union: Third Saturday of every month, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm
- The All Saints' Drama Club meets from time to time to prepare and present short dramatic items
- Series of 'Saturday Matinee' film showings take place at 2.00 pm from time to time
- The Nottingham University Society of Change Ringers (Bell Ringers): Tuesdays in term time, 7.00 – 8.30 pm
- The Nottingham Enlightening Word Church (Chinese) meets in All Saints' Church on Sundays from 2.00 - 4.00 pm and on Friday evenings from 7.30 pm.

St Peter's:

- Rough Sleepers' Drop-in: Wednesdays from 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
- Gateway Drop-in for anyone with particular mental health needs: Wednesdays from 1.30 – 3.30 pm
- The Thursday communion service at 11.00 is followed by coffee and fellowship
- Bible Study group: Thursdays from 12.15 – 1.00 pm
- St Peter's Bell Ringers: Thursdays 7.00 – 9.00 pm

The Parish Overseas Committee meets every other month; the Caring for our Common Home working group also meets on a regular basis. Please contact the Rector if you would like to know more about these. Our churches also support the work of the Mount Zion foodbank at Bobbers Mill; collection boxes for gifts of food are available in the churches.

PARISH OFFICE

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