

Circuit Life

Harrow & Hillingdon Methodist Circuit

Welcome to the 23rd issue of 'Circuit Life'.

This edition features our Superintendent Minister's reflections on the evolving meaning of the word "Woke" and its impact on the church. Turn overleaf for Lynita's Ponderings on this topical subject.

The Circuit plan for this quarter starts on page 3. In addition to the plan, the Circuit Easter Calendar (found on the website and in each Circuit Weekly e- Newsletter) details all the activities, courses, and special services, open to all across the Circuit

As we step into March, we embrace Bible Awareness Month, which this year focuses on the Gospel of John. This Methodist initiative aims to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Bible, more details can be found inside this issue.

Read about the Baby bank at Wealdstone Methodist Church and its recent appearance on live TV. This wonderful scheme supports families in Harrow and page 8 makes for an inspiring read.

We are excited to introduce Christ Church, Uxbridge's new minister. In this issue, you will find an interview with Revd Sayimani, where he shares his journey in ministry.

Lastly, our Circuit Life magazine is getting a refresh, and we invite you to contribute to its development with your feedback. More detail can be found on page 7, alongside the latest updates to the Circuit administrative team.

For more resources, including updated dates, the Circuit plan, and weekly notices, visit the Circuit webpage at www.hah.org.uk. Here, you will find all the information to help you stay connected and up to date about all that is happening within our Circuit.

We hope you enjoy this issue of 'Circuit Life' and as we journey through Lent and Easter may you know the blessings of the season and discover the hope of Christ's resurrection.



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Weekly Circuit News...

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Service

Evangelism

Learning & Caring

Worship



“WOKE”? WHAT’S THAT?

Anyone who has a basic knowledge of the English language knows that the word “woke” is the past tense of “wake”, as in the sentence: “I woke up at 7 o’clock this morning”. And, of course, the word is still used in this way. However, as languages are dynamic, words take on new meanings. Way back in



1938, after several black men in America were falsely accused of rape, they coined the term “woke”, which means staying awake, being aware, of racial discrimination. Over time, this term was used in other contexts, such as awareness of the rights of other groups, such as women, people of varying sexual orientations and people with disabilities.

Many organisations, including the Methodist Church in Britain, are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that the world can no longer be dominated by only one group of people. And in order to create greater awareness, organisations develop programmes which are called Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). (In the USA these seem to be referred to as DEI). These programmes, in themselves, may not change attitudes, but they are at least an attempt to address the many inequalities which still exist in our society.

Unfortunately, both in this country and in the USA, the original meaning of the word “woke” has been vilified and demonised. It is as if some people feel very threatened by voices that were silent for centuries and are starting to speak up. There are those who dismiss EDI programmes as “woke” in the negative sense of the word. And over the past few weeks, we have seen the rise of the “anti-woke” culture, in which any group that does not fit the majority is scapegoated, blamed, victimised.

But why focus on this topic in a circuit magazine? Surely, this is entering the political arena? To some extent that is true. However, we will soon be starting our journey through Lent towards Easter. Lent prepares us to commemorate the death of Jesus and the fact that he was raised from the dead. But that begs the question: why was Jesus killed? And the answer is that he took notice of and gave dignity to the poor, those in captivity, the oppressed, the blind, lepers, the list goes on. The establishment could not cope with the fact that Jesus placed these groups centre stage. And I would suggest that if Jesus was walking the earth in physical form in our time, he would have been accused of being “woke” in the negative sense.

Lynita's Ponderings

Our challenge as Christ followers and the church, is to reclaim the concept of being “woke” in the positive sense. If we want to be true to Jesus’ agenda, then we must be prepared to be “woke”, even though this may result in our being vilified and victimised.

Dr Michael Waters is the founding pastor of an AME church in Dallas. In a sermon preached just before the 2016 US election, he said the following, words which are appropriate for us now:

“When the church is woke, new life comes to dead situations and overcomes fatal circumstances. When the church is woke, the captives are set free. When the church is woke, signs and wonders follow. When the church is woke, healing and deliverance take place. When the church is woke, the people are not condemned, but they are empowered.”

(This sermon is quoted in a book edited by Phil Snider entitled Preaching as Resistance 2018, Chalice Press).

Revd Dr. Lynita Conradie



Circuit Plan

March 2025 to May 2025 - Abbreviations listed below:

Abbreviations Used: AA = All Age Worship AWC = All We Can AGM = Annual General Meeting Bnd = Band Service B = Baptism CA = Church Anniversary	C&S = Come and See GD = Gift Dedication HC = Holy Communion IG = Inter-generational Worship JS = Joint Service LA = Local Arrangement	MHA = Methodist Homes Sunday P = Parade Service PN = Praise Night SotW = Service of the Word (T) = Transport Needed
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Circuit Plan- March

Dates		2nd March	9th March	16th March	23rd March	30th March
Readings		Exo 34:29-35 2 Cor 3: 12-4:2 Luke 9: 28-36(37-43a)	Deut 26: 1-11 Rom 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13	Gen 15: 1-12, 17-18 Phil 3: 17-4:1 Luke 13: 31-35	Isa 55: 1-9 1 Cor 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9	Josh 5: 9-12 2 Cor 5: 16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Year C		Sunday before Lent	Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	Mothering Sunday
Christ Church (Uxbridge)	early 11am	Welch	Sayimani P AA	Wells AA	Sayimani HC	LA
Cannon Lane	9:30am 11am 4pm	LA	Conradie	@ Pinner	LA Bnd	Reid
Eastcote	9:30am 4pm	Conradie	Conradie	@ Pinner	Hustler	Conradie
Pinner	9:30am 11am 6:30pm	Conradie	LA	Conradie JS HC	<i>Reflective Service</i> Hustler	@ North Harrow
Hayes	11am 6pm	Kingston HC	Dudley	Kingston	Barrow	LA
Hayes End	9:30am 11am 4pm	Kingston	LA	Reid	Kingston HC	LA
North Hillingdon	8 am 9:30am 6pm	LA	Shutt/Kingston IG	Kingston Conradie PN	Kingston HC	Kingston
Yiewsley	11am 4pm	Barrow	Kingston HC	LA	Schoon	Kingston
North Harrow	9am 10:30am 6pm	King HC	@ South Harrow	Shaw C&S	LA	King JS
South Harrow	11am 6pm	Potter	King JS HC	LA	Davies	@ N Harrow
Ruislip	11am 6pm	@ Ruislip Manor	LA AWC King JS	King JS HC	Woods (T)	Barrow
Ruislip Manor	9am 11am 6pm	Dudley JS	Davies @ Ruislip	@ Ruislip	King B	LA
Kenton	10:45am 5pm	Browne CA GD HC	LA	@ Wealdstone	Conradie	Browne
Northwood	9am 10:30am 4pm	Reid	Schoon	Browne HC	LA	Conradie 11am
Wealdstone	10:45am 5pm	Flux MHA WLC	Browne HC	LA JS	Browne SotW	LA
Trinity (Harrow)	10:30am 2pm	Varcoe AA	Varcoe	Varcoe HC	Varcoe	Varcoe

Circuit Plan– April

Dates		6th April	13th April	20th April	27th April
Readings		Isa 43: 16-21 Phil 3: 4b-14 John 12: 1-8	Isa 50: 4-9a Phil 2: 5-11 Luke 19: 28-40	Acts 10: 34-43 1 Cor 15: 19-26 Luke 24: 1-12	Acts 5: 27-32 Rev 1: 4-8 John 20: 19-31
Year C		Lent 5	Palm Sunday	Easter Sunday	Easter 2
Christ Church (Uxbridge)	early 11am	Reid	Sayimani AA	LA AA	Sayimani HC
Cannon Lane	9:30am 11am 4pm	Conradie	LA	Conradie JS HC	Woods (T) Bnd
Eastcote	9:30am 4pm	Conradie	Conradie	@ Cannon Lane	LA
Pinner	9:30am 11am 6:30pm	LA	Conradie	@ Cannon Lane	Reflective Service LA
Hayes	11am 6pm	Kingston HC	@ Hayes End	Wells	Reid JS
Hayes End	9:30am 11am 4pm	Kingston	Davies JS	Kingston HC	@ Hayes
North Hillingdon	8 am 9:30am 6pm	Davies	Shutt IG	Kingston HC Kingston	Kingston
Yiewsley	11am 4pm	Davies	LA	Barrow	Kingston HC
North Harrow	9am 10:30am 6pm	King HC	Shaw	9:30am King HC	LA JS
South Harrow	11am 6pm	LA	King	LA	@ N Harrow
Ruislip	11am 6pm	LA	Churcher JS King JS	Reid	Barrow
Ruislip Manor	9am 11am 6pm	Wells	@ Ruislip @ Ruislip	Rees	King B HC
Kenton	10:45am 5pm	LA	Schoon JS	Potter HC	Dudley
Northwood	9am 10:30am 4pm	Schoon	Browne	Hustler HC	Browne AGM
Wealdstone	10:45am 5pm	Browne AGM	@ Kenton	Browne HC	Conradie
Trinity (Harrow)	10:30am 2pm	Varcoe AA	Varcoe	Varcoe HC	Varcoe

Circuit Plan- May

Dates		4th May	11th May	18th May	25th May
Readings		Acts 9: 1-6 Rev 5: 11-14 John 21: 1-19	Acts 9: 36-43 Rev 7: 9-17 John 10: 22-30	Acts 11: 1-18 Rev 21: 1-6 John 13: 31-35	Acts 16: 9-15 Rev 21: 10, 22-22:5 John 5: 1-9
Year C		Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6
Christ Church (Uxbridge)	early 11am	----- Day	----- Sayimani P AA	----- LA AA	----- Sayimani HC
Cannon Lane	9:30am 11am 4pm	----- LA -----	----- Conradie JS -----	----- @ Eastcote -----	----- LA Bnd -----
Eastcote	9:30am 4pm	----- King -----	----- Conradie -----	----- Conradie JS HC -----	----- Conradie -----
Pinner	9:30am 11am 6:30pm	----- Brazier CA -----	----- LA -----	----- @ Eastcote -----	----- <i>Reflective Service</i> Conradie -----
Hayes	11am 6pm	----- Kingston HC -----	----- LA -----	----- Dudley -----	----- LA -----
Hayes End	9:30am 11am 4pm	----- Kingston -----	----- LA -----	----- Kingston JS HC -----	----- LA -----
North Hillingdon	8 am 9:30am 6pm	----- LA -----	----- Shutt/Kingston IG -----	----- Kingston HC Kingston PN -----	----- LA -----
Yiewsley	11am 4pm	----- LA -----	----- Kingston HC -----	----- @ Hayes End -----	----- LA -----
North Harrow	9am 10:30am 6pm	----- King HC -----	----- LA -----	----- Conradie -----	----- @ South Harrow -----
South Harrow	11am 6pm	----- Wells -----	----- Neto CA HC -----	----- King -----	----- Barrow JS -----
Ruislip	11am 6pm	----- LA -----	----- King JS HC King JS HC -----	----- Hustler -----	----- LA -----
Ruislip Manor	9am 11am 6pm	----- LA -----	----- @ Ruislip @ Ruislip -----	----- Reid -----	----- LA -----
Kenton	10:45am 5pm	----- LA -----	----- Reid -----	----- LA -----	----- Browne HC -----
Northwood	9am 10:30am 4pm	----- LA -----	----- @ Cannon Lane -----	----- Browne HC -----	----- LA -----
Wealdstone	10:45am 5pm	----- LA -----	----- Browne HC -----	----- LA -----	----- Woods (T) -----
Trinity (Harrow)	10:30am 2pm	----- Varcoe AA -----	----- Samuels -----	----- Varcoe HC -----	----- Varcoe -----

Refresh of Circuit Life

Circuit Life is Getting a Refresh! And we need Your Feedback...

Circuit Life is undergoing an exciting transformation! From its first issue released in September 2019, our quarterly magazine has now reached its 23rd edition, marking over five years of Circuit related content. We are thrilled to announce that the next, the 24th issue, will feature a completely new look.

As we redevelop Circuit Life, your feedback and input are invaluable to us. We want to know what you enjoy about our Circuit magazine, and we're eager to hear your thoughts on the existing format. What aspects do you love? What would you like to see changed? Are there any new features or content you would like to be included in future issues?

Please take a moment to share your opinions and suggestions with us. You can send your feedback directly via email to admin@hahcircuit.org.uk or drop it into the Circuit office. Your insights will play a crucial role in shaping the future of Circuit Life.

Thank you for being a part of the journey!



Circuit Office

In recent months, there have been several changes in the Circuit Office. We are pleased to have Laura Pottage back with us after her maternity leave and period of illness. We also bid a fond farewell to Bartek Gozdek, who had been covering Laura's role during her absence. Bartek's contributions were invaluable, and he will be greatly missed by everyone. We extend our heartfelt thanks to him for his hard work.

Please stay tuned for further updates and be sure to check the email address and contact list on the last page of the magazine to update your contact lists with any changes.

Wealdstone Baby Bank



Baby banks are voluntary organisations providing vital support to families in local communities. They receive donations of essential items for babies and children such as clothes, toys, books and equipment which are quickly grown out of and pass them on for free, from one family to another. This has two advantages: firstly, to help parents with the financial costs of providing for young children and secondly, as a way of recycling goods and giving them a longer useful life, which brings environmental benefits.

Wealdstone Baby Bank (WBB) opened at the Methodist Church in April 2021, complying with covid regulations that were still in place then. The numbers of families attending have grown steadily since the beginning and have had to be limited to Harrow residents only. At the end of last year, a second session on Tuesday afternoon has opened to help deal with the demand. Any family can attend, they do not need a referral from another agency but must register on their first visit and then check in each time they visit so we have a record of who is attending. Numbers vary but about 100 families in total usually attend each week. Some people come regularly, others occasionally.



The main age range being catered for is 0-5 years but donations of clothes may include articles suitable for slightly older children. What can be provided is dependent on what is donated. There is seldom a problem with clothing or toys as supply exceeds demand, especially for very young babies. Buggies or pushchairs are a different matter – parents must sign up if they wish for one and there is a very long waiting list. The one item that has to be bought are the disposable nappies and these have been funded through various grants and donations. A record is kept and families can only receive one pack per fortnight. Money, things and time have been donated from several charity shops, local schools and businesses, private nurseries, a school and knitting groups. Thanks also to Pinner Methodist Church for their generous support.

Another linked but separate development has been the establishment of a discussion group which offers mothers in the locality a chance to meet at the church socially as well as discuss a range of parenting concerns or hear from visiting health professionals.



Recognition of the group is increasing. Wealdstone Baby Bank has been a finalist in Harrow's Heroes awards twice in the last three years. In November 2024, Wealdstone Baby Bank was

also announced as one of six winners of a North West London Health Equity Award by the NW London Integrated Care Board, part of the NHS.



In November, WBB achieved fame by being featured briefly, but broadcast live, on ITV's 'Lorraine' morning programme as part of the Big Baby Bank Appeal the show was running to highlight the work of baby banks. We were visited by Dr Amir Khan and the production crew and rehearsals were needed to ensure the timing was right for our 3 minutes in the limelight!

The Baby Bank couldn't be happening in the way it is without the generous support of Wealdstone Methodist Church in providing the venue and storage space. It is a good location being by a bus stop and close to the shops. WBB is run by a team of volunteers whose diversity is one of its strengths. There are those who are retired, often from work with young children and their families, and also younger mums; those of different denominations, faiths and none; those from different countries who bring the advantage



of speaking some of the community languages. There is plenty to do from transforming an empty hall into an inviting hub full of good quality things and then putting all the stuff away again at the end of the session, receiving and sorting donations of clothes, toys and other things as well as

URGENTLY NEEDED!

GOOD QUALITY & CLEAN:

- *Buggies
- *Highchairs
- *Cots
- *Moses baskets
- *Baby walkers
- *Bouncing chairs
- *Baby carriers
- *Baby bath tubs

07727687328
w.babybank@gmail.com



chatting with those coming in and trying to help them find what they need.

With the cost-of-living crisis continuing, it is likely that families will need support from the Baby Bank for the foreseeable future and it is hoped that it will be possible to go on providing this service at Wealdstone.

If you have any items to donate please can these be brought to the church on a Friday morning between 9 and 11am.

Monetary donations are also welcome.

Written By Aelwyn Taylor

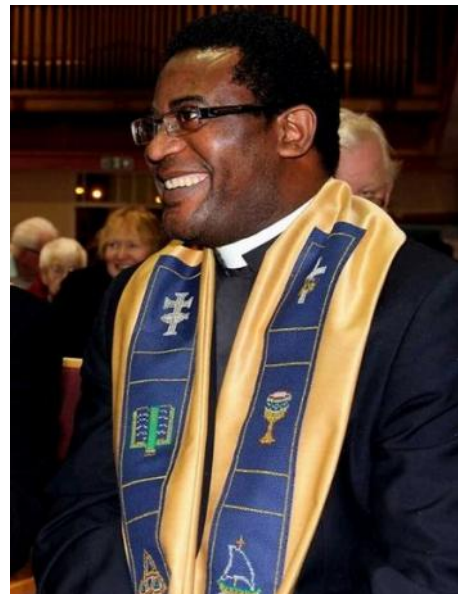
Meet the Minister of Christ Church, Uxbridge

As is custom in *Circuit Life*, we introduce you to the new minister of Christ Church, Uxbridge who joined the Circuit at the beginning of September 2024.

Meet Revd Wilbert Sayimani, United Reformed Church Minister of Christ Church, Uxbridge.

Where are you from?

My name is Wilbert Sayimani, and I come originally from Zimbabwe. Before joining this Circuit, I served as a Minister at Richmond Hill St Andrew's United Reformed Church in Bournemouth. Currently, I am serving at Ickenham United Reformed Church and Christ Church Uxbridge Methodist/URC Church, having been inducted in September 2024.



What were your childhood aspirations?

As a child, I aspired to become a legal practitioner before realizing that God had a different plan for my life. My call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament came in a way that I simply could not resist. Although this is my first experience in Methodist ministry, I have fond childhood memories of the Methodist Church, where my mother was a local preacher.

What do you enjoy about living in London?

Settling into life in London has been a positive experience, particularly because of the convenience of its transport network compared to other places I have lived in the UK. I also appreciate how different churches collaborate in fulfilling the gospel's mission. This spirit of ecumenism is something I greatly value and encourage.

What do you get up to in your spare time?

In my spare time, I enjoy exploring central London, reading, and spending quality time with family and friends.

What message do you want to share through your ministry in our Circuit?



To my colleagues in the Circuit, I would like to extend my encouragement to continue fostering ecumenical relationships, as I have found them to be both enriching and uplifting. They offer opportunities for fellowship, learning, and sharing in our common calling. I look forward to working with you all in ministry.

Blessings, **Wilbert Sayimani**

Bible Awareness Month

The Word in all its fullness

Bible Month 2025: John's Gospel

Written by Ken Kingston

Bible Month has been part of Methodist life for the last few years. It celebrates Scripture by inviting the whole Methodist Church to focus on one particular book of the Bible. In previous years it has included Ruth, Genesis and Revelation amongst others. Now, in 2025, it is the turn of John's Gospel.

Of course, one month cannot do justice to any biblical book, let alone John's Gospel. But it gives people the chance to look at a book through different themes (or lenses), rather than just focussing on particular passages as on Sundays.

Bible Month can be invaluable in deepening both an understanding and love of scripture. The time spent together, digging deeper into God's Word, also builds relationships and is a chance to share and learn together.

The Methodist Church prepares a variety of resources, including house group material, preaching notes, craft ideas for all ages and journalling suggestions, as well as a daily reading guide. It is backed up with short videos, training days and webinars. It is up to churches or individuals to decide how they want to use and engage with the material.

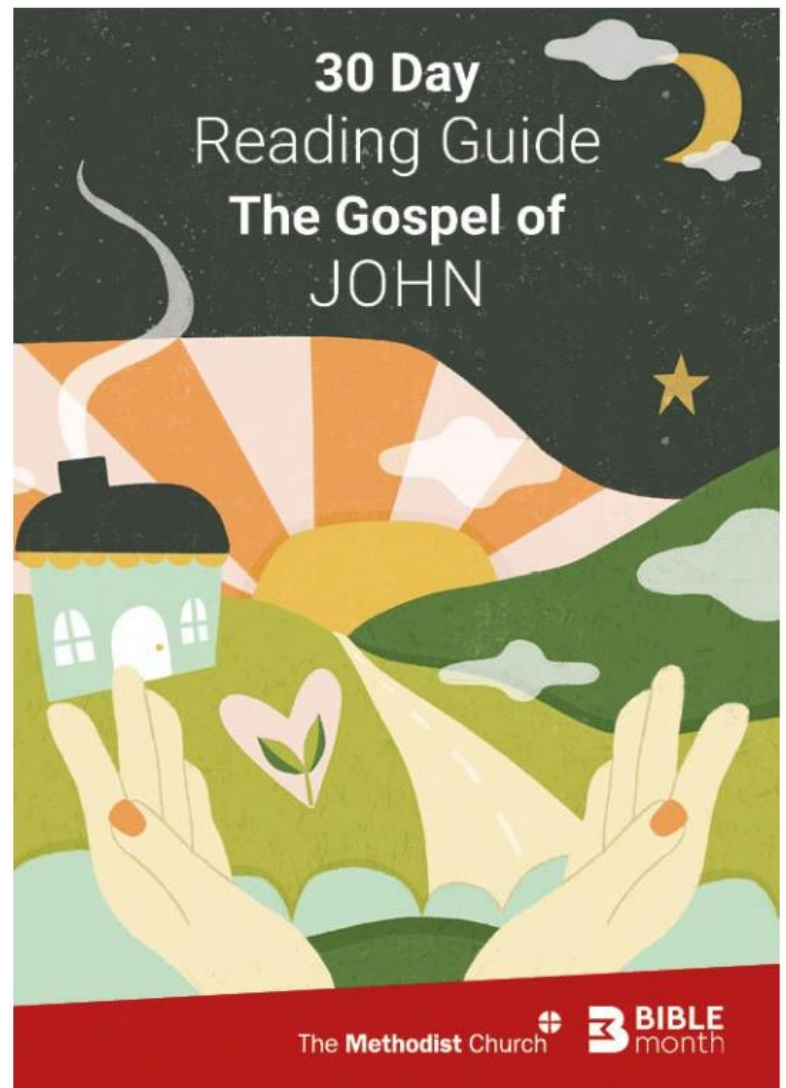
Many churches celebrate Bible Month in June and many of the resources are timed towards that. But you can choose any time of the year.

The resource material has just been published and ministers, local preachers and worship leaders will be looking at it in their March meeting. Ask them or others in your church what you might do together.

In previous years, churches in the circuit have run house groups across a section, and one church has used the selected book for its praise service. But it's entirely up to you.

If Bible Month has whet your appetite to dive deeper into Scripture in whatever way, then it will have succeeded.

For more information, go to www.methodist.org.uk/biblemonth.



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Venue	Time
March 2025			
Wed 12/03/25	Presbyteral Synod	Notting Hill MC	10am
Wed 05/03/25	Ash Wednesday		
Thu 06/03/25	CLT Meeting	Lighthouse	7.30pm
Thu 13/03/25	Circuit Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting	North Harrow	7.30pm
Tue 25/03/25	Circuit Meeting	Northwood	8pm
April 2025			
Tue 08/04/25	Circuit Plan making	Lighthouse	10am
Sun 20/04/25	EASTER		
May 2025			
Mon 05/05/25	May Bank Holiday		
Thu 29/05/25	Ascension Day		
Sat 10/05/25	Representative Synod	MCHW	10am
Sat 10/05/25	Stationing Training	MCHW	2-4pm
Wed 14/05/25	CRN Meeting	Lighthouse	10.30am
Wed 21/05/25	CLT Meeting	Lighthouse	7.30pm
Sat 24/05/25	Wesley Day		
Mon 26/05/25	Spring Bank Holiday		
June 2025			
Thu 05/06/25	Circuit Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting	TBC	7.30pm
Wed 25/06/25	Circuit Meeting	TBC	8pm
26/06 – 2/07/25	Methodist Conference		

Contact Us

Open: 9am—2pm Monday—Wednesday

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