

## The July Letter

It's been a remarkable year – so far – for celebrations and anniversaries, and we're only just moving into the second half of the year! We have all seen the month of June focussing particularly on the Queen's "official" birthday, as it's known, and therefore have seen the most consistent focus on her reaching her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Queen was shown at several events listening with her usual tactfully neutral expression as a succession of nice – sometimes very nice – things were said about her, in the course of very public occasions. She did however give a hint that it would be very good if it had rather slackened off by December!

On a personal level, this has been a year of special celebration for my husband, Richard, as he marked the 50<sup>th</sup> year of his ordination to the priesthood. His time of celebration was made both warm and memorable as friends old and new came together, gifts were presented, and nice things said. He found that both memorable and humbling, and at times he simply didn't know what to say in response.

One of the Queen's special events was the Patron's lunch in the Mall, and as a member of Mothers' Union this was an event that some of my friends and fellow members were able to attend, as the Queen is *our* patron. This year we in Mothers' Union mark a special anniversary too – it is 140 years since we were founded, and this was one of the overlapping special events in our year-long programme of celebration.

As we get closer to September, we see more of the planning for St. Saviour's own 50<sup>th</sup> celebration this year, as we mark the Golden anniversary of our church building – watch out for more information on events planned for that special time too.

All these events underline important points we can take from what we see, and absorb into our church life. Firstly, it is important to mark good work, and to recall those good things that have been done; it is important to share these times with friends and loved ones, because good work done in fellowship spreads out, like ripples in a pond, to further good works that we may know little about, but make a difference for good to other lives.

It is good to see what we've done, knowing that only by continually refreshing our actions and intentions can we serve properly our ever-changing world of today, and tomorrow. We can then hope for further times of celebration, for good work not yet imagined, let alone delivered.

And we need to look back too, to see how God has brought us to this place, at this time, and to ask how we can serve his world and his people here and now. Good work is done in the present, building on the past, and planning for the future. Undertaken in prayer, and listening to God's word, it will have a greater chance of further success than relying only on our own strength.

May God give you his blessing through this year of celebration, and beyond.

*Jean Bailey*

## **JULY PARISH DIARY**

|                           |                    |            |  |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|--|
| <u>SUNDAY 3rd</u>         | THOMAS THE APOSTLE | 10.00 a.m. | Holy Communion<br><i>Revd Richard &amp; Mrs. Jean Bailey</i> |
| Tuesday 5th               |                    | 10.45 a.m. | Holy Communion at Crossley House                             |
|                           |                    | 12 noon    | Knit and Natter  |
|                           |                    | 7.30 p.m.  | Adult tap dancing  |
| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> |                    | 9.30 a.m.  | Holy Communion at St. James's                                |
|                           |                    | 6.15 p.m.  | Cub Scouts   |
| Thursday 7th              |                    | 9.30 a.m.  | Morning Prayer   |
|                           |                    | 6.00 p.m.  | Beaver Scouts  |
|                           |                    | 7.30 p.m.  | Scouts   |

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|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------|---|
| <u>SUNDAY 10TH</u>         | SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY | 10.00 a.m. | Holy Communion<br><i>(Speaker from Langley House Trust)</i> |
| Tuesday 12th               |                              | 12 noon    | Knit and Natter   |
|                            |                              | 7.30 p.m.  | Adult tap dancing   |
| Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> |                              | 9.30 a.m.  | Holy Communion  |
|                            |                              | 11.30 a.m. | Ing's Way Lunch Day   |

|               |           |                          |
|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|
|               | 6.15 p.m. | Cub Scouts               |
|               | 7.30 p.m. | Going for Growth meeting |
| Thursday 14th | 9.30 a.m. | Morning prayer           |
|               | 6.00 p.m. | Beaver Scouts            |
|               | 7.30 p.m. | Scouts                   |
| Saturday 16th | 12 noon   | Garden Party             |

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SUNDAY 17TH      EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

|                            |            |                               |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
|                            | 10.00 a.m. | Parade and Family Service     |
| Tuesday 19th               | 12 noon    | Knit and Natter               |
|                            | 7.30 p.m.  | Adult tap dancing             |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 a.m.  | Holy Communion at St. James's |
|                            | 6.15 p.m.  | Cub Scouts                    |
| Thursday 21st              | 6.00 p.m.  | Beaver Scouts                 |
|                            | 7.30 p.m.  | Scouts                        |
|                            | 7.30 p.m.  | PCC meeting in vestry         |

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SUNDAY 24TH      NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

|                |            |  |
|----------------|------------|--|
|                | 10.00 a.m. | Holy Communion<br><i>(Rev. Richard &amp; Mrs. Jean Bailey)</i> |
| Tuesday 26th   | 12 noon    | Knit and Natter  |
|                | 7.30 p.m.  | Adult tap dancing  |
| Wednesday 27th | 9.30 a.m.  | Holy Communion   |
| Thursday 28th  | 9.30 a.m.  | Morning Prayer   |

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SUNDAY 31ST      TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

**Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal**

It has now become quite a tradition for us to support the shoebox appeal at Christmas, and this year is no exception. To be able to do this, we need a plentiful supply of boxes, so if you are buying new shoes in the next few months, please ask the shop if you could have the box and bring the empty boxes into church at the beginning of September. Margaret Baker will be happy to cover these in Christmas paper so they are ready to be filled; any volunteers to help with this would be very welcome!

Please, also, keep an eye open for small items which would be suitable for inclusion in the boxes whilst you are out and about this summer.

## **The Story of Queen Vashti**

*Ian Mc Alpine.*

A few months ago we heard about the story of Queen Vashti in one of our Old Testament readings during Morning Prayer. Most of what little we know of Vashti, who may not even have been a real historical character, is contained in the first chapter of the Book of Esther, a Jewish lady who prevented the wholesale massacre of the Jewish race within the vast Persian Empire. Esther supposedly lived in the fifth century BC and is thought to have been the second wife of the Persian King Xerxes. The king's name is spelt in a variety of ways - ancient Greek historians called him Xerxes or Artaxerxes. He is called Ahasuerus in most Bibles and modern scholars think that his real Persian name was something like Akhashwerosh. In this short article I'll just call him Xerxes!

The first chapter of Esther tells how King Xerxes gave a magnificent banquet for his officials in the Persian capital of Susa. It lasted for a whole week and the Bible tells us that "there were white cotton curtains and blue hangings tied with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and marble pillars. There were couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, mother-of-pearl and coloured stones. Drinks were sold in golden goblets, goblets of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished in accordance with the bounty of the king. Drinking was by flagons, without restraint; for the king had given orders to all the officials of his palace to do as each one desired. Furthermore, Queen Vashti gave a banquet for the women in the palace of King Ahasuerus (Xerxes)".

On the seventh day, when the king was merry with wine he commanded ... his eunuchs who attended him, to bring Queen Vashti before the king wearing the royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the officials her beauty; for she was fair to behold. (NRSV, Esther ch 1, vv 6 - 11).

And there Xerxes made a serious miscalculation! When the eunuchs conveyed Xerxes' command to Vashti she was furious! And when Xerxes heard about Vashti's refusal to appear at his banquet to show herself off to all his men he "was enraged and his anger burned within

him". Memucan, one of the eunuchs, told Xerxes that Vashti has wronged not only the king but all his officials because of her disobedience. The Jewish historian Josephus (Bk 11, ch. 6) adds more detail, showing that Xerxes and his wife later had a heated argument over Vashti's refusal to comply with the royal command! Persian wives and daughters, said Memucan, led on by Vashti's actions would rebel against their menfolk and there would be a breakdown in the authority which men (in those days) held over women. And so Vashti was sent into exile - effectively divorced - and was eventually replaced by Esther.

Sadly, modern scholars think that the story of Vashti is just that - a story and that the Queen probably never existed. Xerxes' wife was actually called Amestris, not Vashti or Esther. However, I think that the Biblical account of Vashti's disgrace and exile still has relevance more than 2,000 years after it was written. It is not difficult to imagine her angry response to Xerxes. "I'm not showing myself off wearing my crown and some sexy clothes just to entertain your men at a banquet! I'm the Queen of Persia, not a common prostitute! Forget it!"

Although Vashti's disobedience to her husband carried a terrible price, her proud and courageous stand against the exploitation of women as sexual objects surely has a profound message even today.

### **Miscellaneous observations on life today...**

If you can't shine, at least twinkle! - Alistair Begg

Worry is like a rocking chair; it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere. - Anon

You are only what you are when no one is looking. - R C Edwards

You must not always expect the wind to be at your back all the way to heaven. - William Tiptaft

Age: the only thing that comes to us without effort. - Anon

If you will be cherished when you are old, be courteous while you are young. - John Lyly

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# Garden Party

**Saturday 16th July 2016  
12 noon to 2.30 p.m.**

**Entrance Free**

**Games Caribbean Steel Band Cakes  
Books Plants Bottles  
Refreshments Tombola Raffle**

## **22nd July St. Mary Magdalene – the woman with a past**

Later this month Christians all over the world will commemorate probably the most unlikely saint in the Bible, Mary Magdalene. There was something in her background that has always fascinated people. All we are told about her ‘past’ is that Jesus had cast ‘seven devils’ out of her, but on that slender if intriguing evidence she has become the patron saint of ‘fallen women’.

Some see her as the woman ‘who was a sinner’ who washed Christ’s feet with her tears at a respectable dinner party. Of that person Jesus remarked that ‘she had been forgiven much’ and consequently ‘loved much’. Whether she was that woman or not, the description perfectly fits her. No one who has heard or read it could surely fail to be moved by her tearful encounter with the risen Jesus in the garden on Easter morning, the man she had taken to be the gardener revealing Himself in one word, Mary, as her beloved Teacher.

The problem with a good story – and hers is as good as it gets – is that people can’t leave it alone. Down the centuries she has been John the

Apostle's fiancée until he left her to follow Christ. She has gone with Jesus' mother and the same John to live in Ephesus and died there. In art and literature she has become an alluring, sexual figure, disapproved of by the mother of Jesus. There is no historical evidence whatsoever for any of this. In fact, the Gospels suggest the two Marys were close in their shared devotion to Jesus.

Her popularity is shown in the fact that 187 ancient churches in Britain are dedicated to her, and a college at both Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever the details of her story, we cherish it because it shows that having a 'past' is no reason not to have a future.

*David Winter, Former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC*

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### **France's Cenotaph – a reminder that freedom comes at a price**

In July 1836, 180 years ago, the Arc de Triomphe was inaugurated with suitable pomp and ceremony in the heart of Paris. Probably second only to the Eiffel Tower (built over thirty years later), it is a world-wide emblem of that great city and its history. It was built to commemorate and honour those who fought and died in the French Revolution of the previous century, and in the Napoleonic Wars that were of more recent and bitter memory. In a sense, it is France's Cenotaph, a visual reminder to all who see it that liberty, equality and fraternity come at a price. Like the Cenotaph, it is not located in quiet fields or a solemn cathedral, but in the middle of the bustle and roar of the city's traffic. That seems right, because these memorials belong to the people. The individual courage and sacrifice they celebrate are part of the web and weave of life. There is a time for silence at such memorials, but day by day the rush and noise of the traffic reminds us that we are free to enjoy life because others were prepared to lose theirs.

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## **10th -24th September 2016**

We are rapidly approaching the celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of our present building. Festivities kick off with **an afternoon tea on Saturday 10th September**, from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. to mark the launch of the **Festival of Crosses**. The Festival will run all week, finishing on **Sunday 18th** when we welcome the Rt. Revd. Toby Howarth, the Bishop of Bradford, as the Preacher and Celebrant at the special Eucharist at 10.00 a.m. We are delighted that the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bradford, Councillor Geoff and Mrs. Chris Reid, will be our guests of honour. The service will be followed by a Faith Lunch in the hall.

The times the Festival will be open will be announced in next month's magazine, but there should be plenty of opportunity to come along to view the various exhibits. But, of course, we need crosses to be able to display them! So if you have a special or unusual cross you would be willing to lend to us for a couple of weeks, we should love to hear from you. Please, though, don't bring anything of great value. Every care will be taken of the crosses, but we are not equipped to deal with things of high value.

The festivities will conclude with another splendid concert by the **Steeton Male Voice Choir on Saturday 24th September at 7.30 p.m.** This will be their third visit to us and, if the first two concerts are anything to go by, we are in for a real treat. Tickets at £7, to include a glass of wine, are on sale now.

Please email [info@stsavioursfwg.org.uk](mailto:info@stsavioursfwg.org.uk) to book a ticket, offer a cross or for more information.

### **What exactly is 'a lie'?**

A little boy was asked in a school exam to explain what 'lying' is. He wrote: 'A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble.'

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**Thank You!**



I was so proud of St Saviour's at my anniversary service. All our visitors were made so welcome, with the Wardens greeting people as they came in, the sides-persons looking after the congregation with books and service sheets. I would like to thank Bob and the choir for their lovely anthem, and everyone for making our guests so welcome at lunch. I was very touched by the gifts you gave me (totally unexpected), and the kind things that were said.

In particular, I would like to thank all who helped at the service: Dorothy, Dominic, Gloria, Robert, Jean, Kaaren, Patrick and Valerie. Everything went like clockwork. I would also like to thank Sue Freeman who provided the lunch. It was judged just right, with little left over at the end, and that in spite of people coming back for seconds! (That testifies to the quality of the spread, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and many remarked how good it was.)

In particular, I would like to thank Dorothy for not only permitting, but encouraging, me to organise the service, and for her quiet advice in bringing all to a successful conclusion.

We are so glad that we have made our home at St Saviour's.

*Richard and Jean*

## **46<sup>TH</sup> Bradford North Scout Group**

At 11am on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May over 600 Cub Scouts descended upon Bradley Woods Scout Camp near Brighouse for their Cub 100 Camp.

Boys and girls from across West Yorkshire enjoyed an absolutely wonderful weekend full of fun and adventure. During the day there were hundreds of exciting activities to take part in ranging from zorbing and laser quest, climbing and high ropes challenges, the cresta run and bouncy castles to parachute games, badminton and the water slide. Some made alien biscuits whilst others baked scones. A big hit was the hot tub although by the end of the day the water was more like liquid mud! Dennis the mini-fire engine was also very popular. The Cubs could have a ride inside and also put on the helmets and

learn a little about fire safety too. Water Aid came with a brilliant game called pooplah – hoopla but the aim were a dozen toilets – hilarious! Guide Dogs for the Blind brought their education trailer too.

On Saturday evening there was campfire singing – the sound made by so many singing was absolutely great. After this the Cubs could choose to play a wide game or watch a movie. Most opted for the game – they had to seek out leaders in the woods and if they found one play rock, paper, scissors – if they won they received a prize.

After activities on Sunday everyone congregated on the top field to welcome a very special visitor – Bear Grylls. He flew in by helicopter and was almost mobbed as he made his way to the stage to make some presentations and wish us all a happy birthday. Those who managed to get Bear’s autograph on their neckerchiefs were thrilled. After Bear departed we all had our birthday tea and then were entertained by the ‘Bird Man’ who brought along several birds of prey including falcons and owls. The demonstration included the birds seeking out prey. Following this there were four massive pass-the-parcel games and then a birthday sing song, party games and dancing. A Mardi-Gras festival followed all this (no rest for the wicked eh?) with lots of different side shows and games plus a wonderful selection of world foods including pancakes, hot dogs, burgers, pizzas, candy floss, pop-corn, a chocolate fountain, crepes and ice cream. It was gone eleven o’clock before the leaders could finally put their feet up!

Monday saw us strike camp before resuming activities until the closing ceremony at lunchtime.

We certainly celebrated 100 years of Cub Scouting in style and, for once, the sun shone the whole weekend with not a rain drop in sight!

I wonder what the next 100 years will bring?

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We now look forward to a summer full of more fun and adventure with the Blackhills Birthday Camp from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> July. This is for all

members of the movement in Bradford and surrounding areas to enjoy and will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Blackhills Scout Camp, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beaver Scouting and, of course, give us another reason to mark Cubs 100. The theme for the camp is Circus.

Our Group summer camp takes place in August at Blackhills and our theme is the Olympic Games. During the week we will enjoy kayaking and raft building at Doe Park Water Activities Centre.

At the beginning of October we have organised a District Badge Weekend. From Beavers to Explorers children will be able to earn at least three activity badges each and also complete parts of other challenge and staged awards.

*Bev Howard* **GROUP SCOUT LEADER**

### **Christian Aid Week**

A big thank you to all the people who supported our fundraising. Contributions from the church congregation boosted by some house-to-house collecting raised £635 (plus £100 in Gift Aid). This will be used to enable some of the world's most disadvantaged people to help themselves out of extreme poverty, through local initiatives. You really have helped.

*Joyce Ashton*

### **Miss Beatrix Potter – 150 years on**

Helen Beatrix Potter, whose illustrated children's books have sold in their millions, was born 150 years ago in Kensington. Her family were Unitarians, and never sent their daughter to school. As a result she had few friends as a child and was reticent in company, though a sharp observer of both people and nature.

She was remarkably talented in words and drawing, as well as in natural science, but she was a disappointment to her mother, who had hoped for a more conventional daughter. However she was always close to her governess, Annie Moore, and her illustrated letters to Moore's children, particularly her son, Noel, were the basis of the animal books.

The first to be published, in 1902 (after a private printing of 250 the previous year), was *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, and others followed quickly. Today *The Complete Tales of Beatrix Potter* (23 in all) are available as a downloadable, digital audiobook.

The success of Potter's books – she was also a shrewd businesswoman – enabled her to buy land in the Lake District, where she eventually lived with her husband William Heelis until her death in 1943 – being credited among other things with helping to save the traditional Herdwick sheep from extinction. She left her land, including 15 farms and 4000 acres, to the National Trust, and it is as much her legacy as the stories.

Her home, Hill Top Farm, at Near Sawrey, is preserved in accordance with her wishes and open to the public.

### **The Five Fingers Prayer**

1. Your thumb is nearest to you, and without it you are helpless. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you, without whom you, too, would be lost. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the next President of the USA, the UK Prime Minister, the national leaders in Europe, the leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nations and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all. Which is

where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your 'pinkie' (as the Americans call it) should remind you to pray for yourself.

By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

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### **Langley House Trust**

On Sunday 10th July our guest speaker at the 10.00 a.m. service will be someone from the Langley House Trust—which runs Box Tree Cottage at the bottom of Crow Trees Lane. The Trust is a national Christian charity which delivers offender rehabilitation services across England. It was formed in 1958 by a group of Christians spurred by passion, commitment, and a desire to see the lives of offenders changed for the better. Although they adhere to Christian principles their services are for anyone—those with faith or indeed no faith. They have been working in Bradford since 1961.

They support adult male and female offenders and those at risk of offending—enabling them to make positive life changes and live crime-free. Every day they see lives transformed, addictions broken and families restored. We are invited to support them in prayer. For more information visit [www.langleyhoustrust.org](http://www.langleyhoustrust.org)

### **Notes from the PCC**

The PCC met on Wednesday 22nd June to look at various issues.

Plans are continuing for our new rota of services due to start in September. The basic programme as outlined in last month's magazine has been agreed and we feel we need to augment this with some courses to help people develop and talk about their faith. We hope someone will be able to come to speak to us about this further at the next planning meeting on 13th July. We are also looking at hymns as part of our worship. This is always a difficult issue as people's tastes vary wildly. A small group will meet to plan the hymns for services in advance, keeping in mind the suitability of hymns for the part of the service in which they are used.

We have purchased a new 'A' board to use to advertise our events. As we are a little distant from Thornton Road, and have such an extensive boundary, it is not easy to let people know what is going on. The board should give us a bit more flexibility to put out posters that are visible and can be easily changed.

As mentioned in last month's report, we have been asked to look at the organisation of deaneries within the new Diocesan structure. The plans at the moment are for four deaneries within the Bradford Diocesan area, with roughly the same number of parishes in each and of a size that is hoped will be big enough to enable the parishes to offer help to each other, but not so big as to be unmanageable by one Area Dean. Some new partnerships will be developed and old ones broken as groupings are changed, although Deanery boundaries are not exclusive and it will still be possible for cross-deanery co-operation. Our views have been passed on and will be discussed at the next Deanery Synod.

Teething problems with the new finance package have meant that progress in transferring jobs to the Treasury Team has been less swift than we had hoped. Hopefully things are now beginning to move forwards and we will be able to relieve James of his heavy burden. We are immensely grateful to him for continuing to look after the finances during this transition period.

*Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary.*

**Holy Baptism**

Liana Eliza Green

26th June 2016

Freya Georgia Green

26th June 2016

Denver William Gordon Green

26th June 2016

## **July Roll of Remembrance**

|      |                          |        |
|------|--------------------------|--------|
| 1st  | Katherine Harker         | (1978) |
| 2nd  | Irene Hammond            | (1982) |
| 3rd  | Marion Dixon             | (1999) |
| 5th  | Victor Surtees           | (1983) |
| 7th  | George S. Jones          | (1944) |
| 10th | George William Griffiths | (1980) |
| 11th | Sydney Ryan              | (1994) |
| 14th | Francis Lloyd            | (1981) |
|      | Priestley Waddington     | (1968) |
| 16th | Hannah Ayres             | (1991) |
|      | Gwendoline Perrie        | (2003) |
| 17th | Amy Metcalfe             | (1975) |
|      | Margaret Ann Singleton   | (1971) |
|      | Jack Birkby Sugden       | (1976) |
|      | Richard Hartley          | (2003) |
| 20th | Beatrice Alice Renton    | (1981) |
| 21st | Philip Chater            | (1969) |
|      | Tom Smith                | (1983) |
|      | James Ernest Newsome     | (1984) |
|      | John Wilkinson           | (1970) |
| 27th | Amy Chapman              | (1983) |
|      | Beatrice Chilvers        | (1992) |

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