

The Parish Churches of Rodney Stoke and Draycott

February 2020



**Garden
Thoughts
Seasonal Crafts
Whatever
Which road are
you on?
Eco-news from
our readers
Mary's Recipe
and Don's Poem**

50p

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Garden Thoughts *written on New Year's Day*

Isn't the rain beautiful! I will never grumble about it again. The appalling fires of NSW and now Victoria have made me eternally thankful for our climate. But then we have never been flooded at Brangay Farm as others have elsewhere.

Although the ground is too wet to do much except for tidying the old top growth of perennials I still enjoy standing in the garden and absorbing the atmosphere. It is not all about the ground and the plants.

The birds are delightful and their behaviour fascinating to watch. It is thrilling when an unusual visitor, like the goldcrest I saw recently, just briefly passing through, pauses to look around.

Brangay Lane which runs along the other side of our hedge gives an extra aspect to the atmosphere of the garden. Energetic joggers in Lycra, leisurely dog walkers, weekend families, children on bicycles and horse riders keep us company. But don't worry we can't hear what you are saying, even your loud conversations on mobile phones.

The sky presents another enormous presence in the garden. Ever changing, never the same and so, so beautiful. Yesterday we were outside until the light dimmed, the mist hung over the field and the new moon appeared to greet the new year.

When you do get into your borders again it would be lovely if you dug up some pieces of a favourite plant and potted it up to sell or give away. I hope to have a plant sale in April and it would be exciting to have some treasures to sell. Meanwhile let us count our blessings.

Ann Percival

Pastoral Letter to the Benefice from Stuart Burns

Dear Friends,

I feel uncomfortable at present, because in three days I go to the Holy Land for a short training trip for pilgrimage leaders. I go as a citizen of the USA's closest ally, and they have just assassinated a major Middle Eastern (Iranian) leader (who rallied extremist Islamist aspirations throughout the region), this killing massively raising the risk of more war. I feel embarrassed and a bit ashamed as a westerner, because terrorism cannot defeat terrorism.



The Palestinian territories within the Holy Land include a minority of faithful, yet often suffering Christians who, like their Muslim neighbours, struggle for survival in territories cut off by those who surround them. (Next week) I really want to meet these Christians in Bethlehem (which is in Palestine), as well as their Muslim brethren, most of whom want Jews, Christians and Muslims to live together peacefully, all as "children of Abraham" (their common religious ancestor). Abu Dhabi recently opened the Abrahamic Family House, a huge complex housing a synagogue, a mosque and a church, as a sign of hope for future peaceful co-existence - there are other signs of hope in the Middle East, though often unnoticed in the blast of propaganda and aggression (that can emanate from the West, from within "The Holy Land" or from Islamism).

An interesting aside: did you know that Christian Rome banned Jews from Jerusalem for five hundred years, but it was Omar, a friend of the prophet Muhammed, who repatriated the Jewish people to Jerusalem in 637AD? Indeed, the Quran specifically states that Jewish people have the right to occupy the Holy City, Jerusalem.

I write this on the Feast of The Epiphany, which remembers the Magi, or "three wise men". Is it not fantastic that God reached out first to Jewish pauper shepherds, and then immediately to Iranian astrologers, inviting them to come to Jesus! Jesus, who is risen, has ways to help us to forgive, to care and to make peace, one with another. I'm hoping that the Holy Land will refresh me as a follower of the Prince of Peace. Come with me to the Holy Land on our Benefice Pilgrimage, in February 2021, if you possibly can!

Stuart Burns

Letter from the Right Reverend Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells



Pick up your Bible with a new joy

Martin Niemöller was a Lutheran Pastor, best known for his opposition to the Nazi party during the 1930's. As a consequence he was imprisoned between 1938 and 1945, first in the Sachsenhausen and secondly in the Dachau concentration camps. He was fortunate to survive these experiences and, on his release, became a pacifist and a committed campaigner for nuclear disarmament.

A former U Boat Commander, in his book, 'From U Boat to Pulpit', he wrote about what the Bible meant to him during his imprisonment which included years of solitary confinement. He wrote: 'The word of God was simply everything to me, comfort and strength, guidance and hope, master of my days and companion of my nights. The bread that kept me from starvation and the water of life which refreshed my soul. And even more, solitary confinement ceased to be solitary.' These extraordinary words remind me of the hymn 'Lord thy word abideth.'

The Bible is still the most published and the most read book in the world. What makes it unique however, is that the books of the Bible were inspired by the Spirit of God and is the place where Christ is found and proclaimed and where God speaks. And St Paul, writing about the scriptures (The Old Testament) said, 'For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.' (Romans 15:4)

As we come to Lent might I suggest that we pick up our Bibles with a new joy, with fresh eyes and with a renewed determination to spend time each day reading the Bible. If we do we will find, as Niemöller and countless other people before us have done, that the Bible is indeed the Word of Life, the pathway to Jesus and the doorway to salvation. If we are looking for comfort and strength, guidance and hope we can find all those things within its pages.

Peter Hancock

Benefice Events and Notices

Would you enjoy a friendly chat, a bite to eat and a time to appreciate being with others?

Try the SALT lunch at Cheddar Village Hall
12.30— 2.00 pm Monday 27 January 2020



Benefice Lent Groups - 2020

This year the Benefice Lent Groups will start week beginning Monday 2nd March and run for 5 weeks. The course will be a York course entitled “On the Third Day” and it will consider the resurrection and its implications for our living, our praying and our church. Written by Bishop John Pritchard it will cost approximately £3.80 and payment will be collected on delivery. It is also available on Kindle.

There will be seven groups running across the Benefice, including Thea’s “no fixed abode/evening meeting”. Sheets for signing to join a course and order a book will be placed in each of the Benefice Churches during late January/early February. For those wishing to join Thea’s group please contact her direct on 01934 744739

For further information please call 01934 742091 or email pearsonm7014@gmail.com



Another Green First for St Peter’s....

Here are the Mendip Shooting Ground’s alpacas tucking into St Peter’s cast off Christmas tree — for alpacas this is a particularly favourite delicacy.

So yet again it is another Draycott first to add to Bishop Ruth’s catalogue of the Diocese’s Greenest achievements.

Seasonal Crafts Afternoon

2pm – 3.30pm Sunday 2 February St Peter's Draycott

Children and carers of all ages welcome



Samm Richards writes:

'The story behind the "Seasonal Crafts" afternoon was that a few of us thought it would be lovely to try and get some of the younger generations back into church to have some fun. We were fortunate to have SOSP agree to fund and support the afternoon and so we decided to pilot the idea with a free, Christmas themed, craft session in St Peter's with light refreshments.

We were very pleased to have 17 children (ranging from 9 months to 12 years) come and take part with the fun activities including; lolly stick stars, advent calendars and hand painting along with the very exciting candle dipping, clay work and more!

Because of it's success, we are holding the next session on Sunday 2 February in St Peter's 2pm - 3.30pm. Watch out for updates in the Pew notes and on all the following Facebook pages: Supporters of St Peter's - SOSP, St Peter's Church and St Leonard's Church, Rodney Stoke.'



Heads Up is a Mental Health & Well-being charity, based at South Horrington near Wells. It offers a range of services to adults living across Mendip, who have mental health needs. This includes people living with Dementia, Learning and Physical Disabilities.

We offer a Community Day Centre, Memories Workshops, Carer Support Groups, Outreach Work, and we run Mental Health Training Courses for the local community.

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Whatsoever

'Happy New Year' they said**WHAT??!!** ... catastrophic climate change and climate change denial, near-dictatorships all round the world, NHS and social care crisis, food banks, homelessness, our grandchildren's futures ... Happy New Year?

So perhaps we have to begin at home. But here it's all too easy to be smug. I'm sure most of us are comfortably housed, warm and well fed and not awake at night worrying about money.

Well, let's at least change 'smug' to 'grateful' and 'thankful'. That's better, but as we recognise we are a tiny privileged minority in the world's population, let's think what we might be able to do about climate change in how we travel, and how we might conserve the natural world in many different aspects, let alone how we might find new opportunities for helping others.

There has been a common theme in New Year messages, calling for an end to the relentless hatred and outright lying in some quarters around Brexit and the recent election, and I'm sure we can all try to calm down a bit here, however strongly we feel on one side or the other.

Coming down more locally, our two villages are truly full of life and friendship, with a great variety of activity in the Memorial Hall, with a brilliant effort to create a Community Shop, and more and more people becoming involved in varied activities in our two churches, with dedicated work from those involved in Supporters of St. Peter's (SOSP) and Friends of St. Leonards (FOSL).

But at the end of the day, I'm sure that a positive approach to life comes down to personal psychology. We all too easily think that earlier generations were psychologically primitive, but can we really get much further ahead in positive thinking and a Happy New Year than St. Paul, writing to the Philippians all those years ago? -

'I want you to be happy – what I want is your happiness. So now, my friends, whatsoever is true and noble, whatsoever is good and pure, whatsoever is lovable and attractive, whatsoever is excellent and admirable – fill your thoughts with these things.'



Gordon Jeff

Which road are you on?



For a few years in the 1980s traffic on the bridge on the M5 motorway over the River Avon was reduced to a single lane in both directions. It caused the usual disruption to motorists coupled with a lot of annoyance as there did not appear to be any sign of activity. After quite some time a notice appeared, "250 workers underneath," clearly a reference to unseen work in progress.

I have often been reminded of this incident these past months when, yet again, the world portrays an unpleasant, chaotic and tense place to live and work in. However, I try to look out for the positives in the unseen workers "underneath." These are people who are not making headline waves but who, in perhaps a very small way, are nevertheless making a valuable contribution to society.

The Christmas and New Year festivities are once again becoming a distant memory. From my home I can look out onto the Glebe field next to St Peter's Church and, as I write, we have just passed Epiphany and the three wise men who were standing in that field next to the manger have "...departed to their own country by another way." (Matthew, 2, 12)

I wonder what route they will take as they journey home? Surely one which is also out of sight.

Alan Rowntree

Draycott Glebe Field Nativity



Janette and Karen would like to thank everyone from Draycott and Rodney Stoke, who gave their time and creativity in helping to make the first joint Draycott and Rodney Stoke, life sized Nativity so successful. We have received some lovely comments and positive feedback to encourage us to continue next year.

This is a work in progress and we have already identified improvements for next year. If this is a project you would like to be involved in, please look out for announcements later in the year.

Music Matters Youth to the Fore



‘The secret to getting ahead is getting started’ so said Mark Twain over 150 years ago, and as far as music is concerned, he was so right.

It’s an accepted fact that the music heard in the first six years of life is likely to predestine our future musical taste – a fact well borne out by many of today’s musicians, both young and more mature (including myself).

But it’s musical youth that’s in the news at the moment, not least with the recent announcement of the government’s pledge of £85 million, which, so it is claimed, will enable ‘all pupils to have access to musical education, instruments, and opportunities to play’ (Daily Telegraph, 3rd January, 2020).

What heartening news that must be to those schools where music has had to take a back seat or virtually disappeared. And yet, despite a lack of organised music in some schools, there will always be individual exceptions. Take, for instance, the young cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason who at the age of 20 has not only already appeared as a soloist at a Royal Wedding and the Proms, but has also just been awarded an MBE (raising a few eyebrows among those who felt that such an honour usually went with a lifetime of achievement).

And more locally, Wells Cathedral has just put its faith in the younger generation, with the appointment of 28 year old Jeremy Cole as its new Organist and Master of the Choristers, probably making him the youngest Cathedral organist in the country. Mind you, that pales into insignificance when we look at the career of the Georgian church musician William Crotch, who became organist of Christ Church Cathedral Oxford at the age of 15!

And staying local, it’s this time of year when youth and music comes very much to the fore, with the annual Rotary Young Musician Competition, at which David Cheetham and I are privileged to be the adjudicators for the preliminary local round later this month – the winners going on to the County final, and from there to a National final.

Meanwhile, there’s still room for musical maturity, both in age and experience – so please put the date of Thursday 26th March into your diary, for a 7.30 pm evening of instrumental music and song with David (and myself) in Draycott Church. More details in next month’s magazine.

Barry Rose

Eco-News from our readers

This month we have articles from two local contributors brimfull of practical ideas. Judy Pearce, small-scale organic farmer and the mastermind behind our veg box scheme, describes local initiatives for recycling 'hard-to-recycle' materials while Rosie Bloor, Farm Animal Veterinary Practice Manager, tells us why we ought to be proud of UK farming practice.

Rosie Bloor writes:

UK Farming- An Insider's View

'Everyone's opinion is important but what is key is that everyone should have access to the same information so they can make an informed decision.

I am lucky to have grown up in the countryside as a farmer's daughter and to have studied at an agricultural university, learning about the industry here first-hand. I know what practices commonly happen, which farming methods are used less frequently and what absolutely cannot happen.

Most people will not be aware the UK is a world leader in farm animal welfare. This means that if you buy British you can feel proud that you are supporting not just a sustainable industry, but also one that prevents the unnecessary suffering of animals. It is important that we share this understanding. Agriculture is part of the backbone of our country. I am sure many of you will have come across the quote from Brenda Schoepp

"...once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman and a preacher, but every day, three times a day you need a farmer'.

Everything about our countryside has evolved to produce animals for meat in a sustainable way. We have the grassland. It is already here, we don't need to cut down forests or destroy habitats. Properly managed, farming provides ideal habitats for our British wildlife, wild-flowers and insects - they have evolved together synergistically over hundreds of years.

You don't need to stop eating meat to save the world, just buy less, buy local, buy British and be a mindful shopper. Fancy a leg of lamb for Sunday dinner? Spend a few moments reading the label; check where the meat has come from and select the British option. As a consumer you have the power to force change. If collectively you don't buy New Zealand lamb, Danish pork or beef from South America the supermarkets won't stock it!

Education is key if we are ever going to effect change, so do be part of the change.'



Update on recycling Hard-to-Recycle Items

Judy Pearce says:

'Many of us are managing to recycle more of our plastic waste these days, in kerbside collections or at the tip. It sometimes seems tedious sorting the waste, but this 'double-sorting', (ie in the home plus at the kerbside or tip) results in very high-grade materials which are actually much more likely to be successfully recycled than lower grade mixed waste. However there seems to be a hard core of items that is difficult to find a home for. These things are often made of composite materials.

We are now arranging collections with a company called Terracycle, who can recycle many such awkward items. They take the following:



- empty crisp packets, biscuit and cake wrappers
- Pringles tubes including tops
- washed pet food pouches and the flexi-bags the dried pet food comes in
- plastic toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and toothbrush containers.

Initially we shall have one collection point, a marked bin in the carpark at The Rodney Stoke Inn. This started in January, so please do feel free to deposit your items there. If this proves successful there may be further collection sites we can negotiate in the villages. Terracycle items can also be left at Westbury-sub-Mendip community shop in business hours.

Other specific items, which can now be recycled elsewhere, are:

- TEPE Interdental brushes, which are collected at Cheddar Dental Practice
- plastic flowerpots at Dobbie's Garden Centre in Shepton Mallet.

Finally there is some good news on plastic bottle tops that cannot at present be included in the kerbside collections as they are a different type of plastic to the bottle itself and, if screwed on tight, cause downstream problems during reprocessing. They are now accepted by:

- LUSH Stores over the counter in store (Bristol, Bath, Taunton)
- Protomax Plastics by post - Unit E, Vallis Mill Estate, Robins Lane, Frome, BA11 3DT.'

Hopefully by using these facilities we shall all be able to reduce landfill waste a bit more in 2020. '

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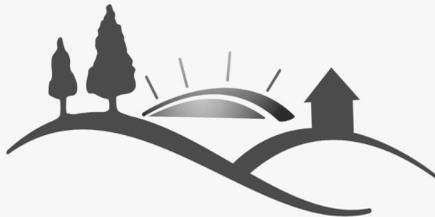
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SOSP & FOSL Coming Events

SOSP (supporters of St Peter's) **invite anyone & everyone** no matter who you are to join us on

The First Saturday of every Month

from 10.30am to 12 noon for coffee/tea of cold drink with cake/biscuits to just get together and "put the world to rights" or just chat,

or even just to enjoy a "companionable silence"!

Please feel free to just drop in & try it out. Don't worry if you have difficulty getting to St Peter's: we can pick you up so if you would like a lift just contact one of us:



Karen 01749 870067, Janette 744945, Thea 744739

We are looking forward to seeing you all there....

Valentine Quiz with Fish and Chip supper

February 15th at 7.00pm

Rodney Stoke Church Hall

Drinks, supper, quiz and raffle.

Tickets Adults £12.00 Children £6.00

Everyone welcome for an enjoyable evening.

Enquiries to Nick Hayes - 01749 870673

Annual Rodney Stoke Pancake Races

February 23rd at 2.00pm

At Lanhydrock on Millway

Races for all ages.

everyone welcome

Enquiries to Nick Hayes -01749 870673

SOSP & FOSL Coming Events

St Peter's Winter Warmer Curry Night

SOSP invite you to join us at **The Strawberry Special** on **Friday February 28th** for another **Curry Night** at **7.30pm for 8pm**, tickets £12.50 (to include meat or vegetable curry & a pudding)

from **The Strawberry Special,**

Draycott Community Shop or Thea Oliver 01934 744739

Please also contact Thea if you can offer to make a pudding...

Thank you

SOSP

(Supporters of St Peter's)
invite you all on

Saturday March 7th

To our monthly **Coffee & Cake** Morning
from 10.30am followed by

12 noon-1.30 at
St Peter's Church

To a:

Lent Soup lunch



Please contact Thea (01934 744739) in plenty of time beforehand if you can offer to make soups or cakes. Thank You

*Raising funds for
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Mary's Recipe and Don's Poem



Today I...

Today I smiled, and all at once things didn't look so bad.
Today I shared with someone else, a bit of hope I had.
Today I sang a little song, and felt my heart grow light,
And walked a happy little mile, with not a cloud in sight.

Today I worked with what I had and longed for nothing more,
And what had seemed like only weeds, were flowers at my door.
Today I loved a little more and complained a little less,
And in the giving of myself, I forgot my weariness. *Anon.*

Lemon Posset



**180ml lemon juice—
about 4 lemons
125g caster sugar
500ml double cream
Slivered unsalted
pistachio nuts or
berries to serve**

1. Strain the lemon juice into a medium saucepan, add the sugar & stir over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved. Take off the heat.
2. Meanwhile, pour the cream into another small saucepan & bring to the boil. Whisk the cream into the sweetened lemon juice until combined. Pour into 8 shot glasses & chill until set, about 3 hours.
3. Serve sprinkled with a few pistachio nuts , or some berries.

Services February 2020			
	Cheddar	Draycott	Rodney Stoke
2nd Feb	8am BCP Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion
Candlemas	10am Morning Prayer		
9th Feb	10am	9.30am Worship followed	8am BCP Communion
3 Before Lent	Parish Communion	with coffee & discussion	
16th Feb	8am BCP Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	3pm Plough Service
2 Before Lent	9am Breakfast Service		
23rd Feb	8am BCP Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11.15am Mattins
Sun. Before Lent	10am Parish Communion		

Readings February 2020			
	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading
2nd Feb Candlemas	24: 1-6	Malachi 3: 1-5	Luke 2: 22-40
Page	61	60	63
9th Feb 3 Before Lent	112:1-9	Isaiah 58: 1-12	Matthew 5: 13-20
Page	67	65	69
16th Feb 2 Before Lent	136:1-9, 23-end	Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 3	Matthew 5: 13-20
Page	86	82	81
23rd Feb Sunday Before Lent	2	Exodus 24: 12-end	Matthew 5: 13-20
Page	90	89	92

Regular Weekly Events		
Monday	9.30am	Line Dancing, Cheddar Village Hall
	10.30am	Absolute Beginners Line Dancing, Cheddar Village Hall
	7.30pm	Draycott Choir Practice, St Peter's Church
Tuesday	8pm	Bell ringing, Cheddar
Wednesday	9.15am	Draycott & Rodney Stoke First School Service in Church (term time only)
	10am	Holy Communion, Cheddar (except 2 nd Weds at 11.30)
	10am-12pm	Strawberry Tots, Draycott Memorial Hall
Thursday	9am	LMG Morning Prayer – see Pew Notes for venue
	7.30pm	Bell ringing, Rodney Stoke
Friday	10-11.30am	St Andrew's Toddlers, up to School Age, Cheddar Village Hall (term time only)
	6.15pm	St Andrew's Choir practice
Saturday	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Cheddar
	10 – 11.30am	Rector usually available for drop-ins in the Den (please make appointments for certainty)

February Diary			
Sat 1	10.30am-12pm	Coffee and Cake	St Peter's
Sun 2	2pm- 3.30pm	Seasonal Crafts: Christingle	St Peter's
Tue 4	10.30am	Greenhill Communion	Cheddar
	7pm	LPA Course	Den
Wed 5	9am	DRS School Service	St Peter's
Thur 6	12.30pm	Lunch Club	Riverside Inn
	7pm	C2 Safeguarding Course	St Peter's
Tue 11	2pm	The Laurels Communion	Draycott
	7pm	LPA Course	Den
Wed 12	9am	DRS School Service	St Peter's
	11.30am	Mother's Union Communion	St Andrew's
Thur 13	9.30am	Bristol Bus	Cheddar
Sat 15	7pm	Friends of St Leonard's Quiz Night	Church Hall Rodney Stoke
Tue 18	11am	St Andrew's Standing Committee Meeting	Den
	7pm	LPA Course	Den
Wed 19	11am	Court House Communion	Cheddar
Thur 20	2.30pm	The Homestead Communion	Cheddar
Sat 22	2pm	Friends of St Leonard's Pancake Races	Millway, Rodney Stoke
Mon 24	12.30pm	SALT	Cheddar Village Hall
Tue 25	7pm	LPA Course	Den
Wed 26	9am	DRS School Service	St Peter's
Fri 28	7.30pm	SOSP Curry Night	Strawberry Special

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

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1-10 February 2021

For more details do pick up a brochure from St Peter's or St Leonard's.

.....nothing can ever quite prepare you for the chaos that is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre or the drama that is the Damascus Gate.....



February 2020 Rotas					
DRAYCOTT					
	2	9	16	23	March 1
Sidesman	C Fulton	P Mullay	C Jeff	G Dury	L Whittle
Intercessor	C Green	G Jeff	A Jeffries	TBA	TBA
Organist	D Cheetham	I Ames-White	D Cheetham	D Cheetham	TBA
Readers	T Lumley	G Jeff	C Jeff	G Jeff	T Lumley
	C Green	G Dury	A Jeffries	G Dury	L Whittle
Coffee	F Irving	C Jeff	P Mullay	S Burns	F Irving
			C Fulton		
Cleaning		P Mullay	H Robinson	T Lumley	
		C Jeff			
Flowers	N Wills	N Wills	L Bamber	L Bamber	Lent
RODNEY STOKE					
			<i>Plough Service</i>		
Sidesman	T Symes	A Newman	B Buse	C Neave	J Newman
Reader 1	A Percival	H Neave	S Percival	J Turner	S Walker
Reader 2	J Turner	A Newman	I Turner	A Percival	S Percival
Cleaning	I Sealey		L Moore		R Mann
			H Neave		
Flowers A	H Neave	I Sealey	I Sealey	A Percival	Lent
Flowers P	L Davey	M James	M James	V Andrews	

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptism:

We welcome into the Church family:

Arthur William Rich

Funerals:

Our prayers are with those who mourn the death of:

David Frank George Clarke, Janet Fry. RIP



Home Communion

It is one of the great privileges in ministry to be able to bring communion to the elderly and housebound or those who are temporarily unable to get to church due to injury – do let us know if you, or someone you know, would appreciate this aspect of the Church's care. Contact the Parish Office on 01934 742535.

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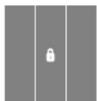
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