

GENERAL SYNOD

'THY KINGDOM COME' – RENEWING THE CALL TO PRAYER IN EVANGELISM & MISSION**Executive Summary**

The purpose of this paper is to outline the journey of 'Thy Kingdom Come' over the last decade, reflecting on its reach, impact and influence in both the UK and across the world and to renew the call for prayer in evangelism and mission within the Church of England and beyond.

Background:

In November 2013, General Synod passed a motion calling for the "re-evangelisation" of England and emphasised the foundational role of prayer as the cornerstone of the Church's mission to see people come to faith.

This led to the creation of the Archbishops' Evangelism Task Group in 2014 and, ultimately, the launch of 'Thy Kingdom Come' in 2016.

'Thy Kingdom Come' has since grown into a global ecumenical movement, uniting millions of Christians across denominations and countries to pray for friends and families to come to faith between Ascension and Pentecost annually.

The purpose of this new 2025 motion would be an opportunity to give thanks for all God has done over the last 10 years as dioceses, parishes, denominations and the global Anglican Communion have engaged in this wave of prayer for evangelism, whilst also providing an opportunity for Synod members to share their own experiences and those of their churches regarding 'Thy Kingdom Come.'

In challenging times, the Church has often turned to prayer to refocus its mission. Our hope is that this motion will also once again encourage churches to renew their commitment to prayer and evangelism, particularly in those 11 days from Ascension to Pentecost, joining in prayer, with brothers and sisters from across the global Church, '*for the renewal of nations and transformation of communities*'.

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Key Headlines – ‘Thy Kingdom Come’s’ impact at a glance

1. Over the years, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has had a significant impact on churches & individuals, reflected in the feedback received (both qualitative and quantitative means). Common themes include: 1.) more people coming to faith in Christ; 2.) churches renewing their commitment to mission and evangelism; 3.) churches seeing it as an opportunity to work ecumenically across different contexts, including connecting smaller and larger churches in both rural and urban locations; 4.) churches deepening in discipleship; 5.) people growing stronger in their personal prayer life; 6.) churches describing ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ as a catalyst for birthing sustained, regular prayer meetings for their churches; 7.) ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ expressed by many as a means of unleashing the spirit of creativity and collaboration amongst churches & networks; 8.) People drawing closer to God and feeling part of a global family of believers; 9.) People feeling inspired to share their faith with others. These are just some of the headlines on impact.
2. In the annual ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ feedback surveys, results have consistently shown – on average – of those who took part: **99% plan to take part again the next year; 90% were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Christ; 75% (i.e. 3 in 4 people) are planning to talk with the people they prayed for.** (NB: these stats were taken from the impact report -2022 survey findings).
3. ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ was identified as the second most effective intervention contributing to the growth of mid-sized churches, according to an independent study of Church of England churches. (For more information, please [watch this](#) short film.)
4. ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has united the Church, across nations, generations and denominations in these 11 days of prayer. The extent of its impact and significance can be reflected in its support from high-profile faith leaders including His Holiness Pope Francis who endorsed ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ for the global Catholic Church. The movement also has a presence in nearly 90% of countries worldwide – reaching to the furthest corners of the earth – from the Solomon Islands to South Sudan to Scotland. It has also united churches different traditions and locations as well as appealing to all ages, including children and families & young people and other groups.
5. Here are just a few examples of feedback, which encapsulates the impact of ‘Thy Kingdom Come.’

“I went to speak at a youth event in the north of England and mentioned Thy Kingdom Come in my talk. A young man, no more than 16 years old, shot up his hand and said, ‘Yeah I know about that.’ Then he pointed to his friend sitting next to him and said, ‘I prayed for him last year. He was one of the 5 I prayed for and now he’s here!’”

“For the past 2 years, many local churches from different denominations have joined in this prayer movement - and we feel a very strong move in the Spirit in our region in Australia, with ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ being a significant part of that. God is at work here for sure and prayer is essential to this.” (A church in Australia)

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“More people prayed, and families prayed together more during this time. As a church, we walked around the neighbourhood praying for our community. The prayer group is now a weekly gathering.” (A church in Canada)

Reach and Impact within UK Churches

6. Over the last 10 years, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has inspired Christians to pray across the world. From praying as an individual, to small groups to mass gatherings. **This section focuses on how ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has inspired participation across the UK specifically.**
7. **National gatherings and events** – the ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ team has centrally organised several big prayer gatherings particularly pre-Covid. For example, in 2017, Archbishop Justin Welby addressed the nation, broadcast live to millions across the UK on BBC One, at a Pentecost Sunday service in Folkstone, just a day after the London bombings. In 2019, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ held a **Pentecost Sunday gathering in Trafalgar Square 2019**, where at least 10,000 people were in attendance. This was a special event with different denominations involved including stands for people to explore different prayer styles. There was also a main stage which included several contributions from senior church leaders, including all the Churches Together in England presidents who led a powerful moment of prayer; worship from different leaders including Matt Redman and content for young children and families with the Cheeky Pandas. This was televised by BBC One’s ‘Songs of Praise’. [More info here.](#)

These gatherings not only serve as a witness to the wider, non-Christian world, but have also been considered faith affirming for many Christians, that they are part of something bigger and a reminder that the Church is alive and thriving. Here is a quote from our annual feedback survey which reflects this sentiment:

“I am deeply grateful in participating in this worldwide movement. This strengthened my feeling of being connected to many people through faith.”

National events have also garnered national and international media coverage including the BBC, The Times newspaper and various Christian media outlets.

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[Photo: Thy Kingdom Come Pentecost Gathering, Trafalgar Square (2019)]

- 8. Diocesan engagement across England:** Almost every single Church of England diocese has been involved in 'Thy Kingdom Come' over the last 10 years. From Beacon events to prayer walks, continuous prayer to various outreach prayer ideas to so much more. Countless diocesan wide events, smaller events in parishes and Cathedral events. have taken place. This could easily be estimated at tens of thousands over the last decade. Here is an example of impact re. participation:

"As a cathedral it has enabled us to renew and strengthen links with deaneries and parishes across our diocese and we hope and pray that these links will grow stronger, so that we can be a better resource for mission in our diocese." A Cathedral Dean

Here is a tiny snapshot of what happened in several dioceses for 2024:

- **Peterborough Diocese** – Several Bishops & senior staff in the diocese, including the Bishop of Peterborough led teams on a pilgrimage throughout the diocese culminating into a Deanery beacon event. [Itinerary here](#) . Daily videos were shared on Facebook and Instagram. They also used this as an opportunity to invite people to share their faith story on social media, using a special hashtag to join the conversation. The pilgrimage and digital participation / amplification was so popular, it attracted local media coverage, taking 'Thy Kingdom Come' beyond normal church audiences.

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- **Diocese of London** – The Bishop of Islington, prayer journeyed around London, visiting different churches, praying with different people across the city, each day. This was documented in mini films shared on Twitter and Instagram.
- **Exeter Diocese** –An ecumenical Beacon event was held at Exeter Cathedral called ‘Renovation’, with over 500 people in attendance - double what was expected, with a significant number of young adults (20-30 somethings) in attendance. Preceding this, the diocese took part in the Devon County show over 3 days (with 100,000 people were in attendance), hosting a ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ stand with free prayer resources including materials for children & families, to reach out to the wider community. (See image on the right-hand side from the event.)
- **Derby Diocese** - The Bishop of Derby and the Bishop of Repton, led a pilgrimage across the diocese. – photos and videos were taken and shared on Facebook.
- **Hereford Diocese** – For the 11-day period, a time of continuous prayer (24/10), was held in a prayer room at Hereford Palace. The Bishop of Hereford shared an Ascension Day video message on Instagram and also shared daily prayer journal content too.
- **Sheffield Diocese** – A Diocesan-wide pilgrimage was held throughout the 11 days, culminating into a Beacon event with hundreds of people in attendance.
- **Leicester diocese** – Summary article of diocesan involvement here: [Thy Kingdom Come Around The Diocese - Diocese of Leicester \(anglican.org\)](#)



‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has also been widely supported by several Diocesan and Suffragan Bishops.

9. **Area-wide ecumenical gatherings are a regular feature of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’**, with several cities hosting annual gatherings for the last few years. For example:
- **In Nottingham**, since 2017, churches in the city have held an annual ecumenical gathering for bringing together more than 1,000 people from more than 100 churches at each event- representing different denominations, cultures and streams. These Beacon events are organised by Nottingham City Prayer – a regional ecumenical body.
 - **In Eastbourne**, for the last few years, they have hosted [ecumenical gathering](#) bringing together different churches & people of all ages to pray and worship. They also used the gathering as an opportunity to baptise new believers in the sea. [Here is a little video snippet of what took place in 2024. Here is a link](#) to an article on the baptisms that took place.

Citywide events have taken place in several locations over the years including Chester, Swindon, Plymouth, Manchester and Birmingham to name a few.

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- 10. Big gatherings by other networks / denominations** – such has been the impact of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’, several networks have created their own unique way of participating. For example, Vineyard churches UK & Ireland host ‘Bow Down’ which has now become their own annual means of engagement – bringing together groups of churches to kneel in prayer in the local town square or park at dusk a short while to bless the town / city.
- 11. Collaboration with denominations, organisations and networks.** Almost since its inception, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has worked with Churches Together in England, as well as closely working with individual denominations such as the Catholic Church of England and Wales, the Methodist Church of Great Britain, the Salvation Army UK, Pentecostal churches (RCCG) and much more. This wider support and collaboration, can also be reflected in the ongoing endorsement of the movement amongst senior denominational and network leaders including: His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos (Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London and Papal Legate to the United Kingdom); Cardinal Vincent Nichols (Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales); Bishop Mike Royal (General Secretary, Churches Together in England); Pastor Agu Irukwu (Senior Pastor – Jesus House & Former President of Pentecostal Churches, Churches Together in England) and Revd Canon Helen Cameron (Methodist Church of Great Britain & Moderator of the Free Churches Group President, Churches Together in England) to name a few.

“I’ve been blessed to be part of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ from its inception. This really is a time for us to stand and pray together... to put our petitions before God for ourselves, for our churches, for our communities, and our world.” His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos

- 12.** ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has also worked extensively with parachurch organisations and ecumenical networks including Christian Defence Network (a global ecumenical Christian Armed Forces network); prayer movement - 24/7 Prayer; Transform Work (ecumenical workplace membership group across the UK and Europe); Mothers Union; London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, Christians Against Poverty, Open Doors and Hope Together to name a few.

Global Reach and Impact

- 13.** Over the last 5 years, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ international presence has grown nearly 90% of countries worldwide (see appendix for full list of countries.) From Sri Lanka to Scotland, Burundi to Brazil, Nigeria to Nicaragua, Australia to Austria and beyond. The extensive take up of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ across the world, especially via the Anglican Communion, has been astonishing.
- 14. Country specific case studies-** here are several examples of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’s’ impact internationally:
- a) **South Korea:** In South Korea, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ organisation, is led by a group of young 20-30 something clergy which was under the leadership of now retired Archbishop Peter Lee. To find out more, please read here: [Korea: Owning the vision, making things happen | Thy Kingdom Come](#). Also please watch this lovely [short video from Archbishop Peter regarding TKC’s impact in Korea](#).

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- b) **The Netherlands** – ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has been adopted at a national level – led mainly by IZB - a domestic, protestant missions agency who are working ecumenically with parachurch networks - 24/7 Prayer Netherlands & Alpha Netherlands- to deliver ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ in-country. Take up has grown significantly over the last few years. [For more info, read this blog post from their in-country organiser.](#)
- c) **Scotland** – ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has been adopted by the Church of Scotland for the last 5 years including ecumenical participation from major denominations in Scotland, with endorsements by the General Moderator of the Church of Scotland and senior leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, Scottish Episcopal Church and others. This commitment is also reflected in the production of the first national country wide [Prayer Journal – featuring a range of ecumenical Scottish voices.](#) Resources have also been translated into Gallic.
- d) **Burundi** –Rutana Diocese have taken part in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ over the last few years led by Bishop Pontien. Involvement has included prayer meetings gathering hundreds to pray during the 11 days.
- e) **Brazil** - The Archbishop of Southwest Brazil has organised ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ prayer activity in country, including translating resources into Portuguese, producing their own audio reflections and organising prayer gatherings. Thy Kingdom Come has also been supported by House of Bishops in Brazil.
- f) **Madagascar** – Toliara Diocese have participated in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ led by the then assistant Archbishop at the time. A ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ prayer resource was translated from French into Malagasy, to make it more accessible to local people. Daily prayer meetings were organised in the local town centre drawing many households to pray including a few people coming to faith.
- g) **India** – ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has been taken up by churches in India, including translating resources into different languages including Hindi.
- h) **Trinidad** – In 2023, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ Anglican Communion Lead, visited on the Diocese of Trinidad & Tobago to participate in their week of Renewal, leading up to Pentecost Sunday – visiting churches, schools, prisons and more. ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ resources were also widely used.
- i) **Finland** – The Anglican Church in Finland have participated in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ for a number of years. This has included translating resources into Finnish and host their own Finnish language version of the ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ website.

Many other nations have taken up ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ at a national level including Bermuda, Canada, Japan, Philippines and many more.

15. International Beacon events. Here are just a few examples:

- **Australia** - St Paul’s Cathedral, Melbourne, have held several Beacon events over the years, including a multicultural beacon event gathering hundreds of people. The Very Reverend Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne, Australia, remarked on its impact:

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“Thy Kingdom Come’ is simple and transformational. Every year it unites us with Christians across the globe in praying for people to know Jesus. At St. Paul’s Cathedral we found that our community was equipped to reach out with greater boldness to share their own stories of faith with friends, colleagues and family.’

- **Sri Lanka** - In Colombo Diocese, they have organised multilingual beacon events over the years uniting hundreds of Christians in prayer and worship. Resources have also been translated into Tamil, English and Sinhala They have also hosted ecumenical gatherings working with other denominations in the area.



[Photo: Beacon event in Colombo diocese, Sri Lanka- A trilingual Beacon event]

- **New Zealand** – Multilingual Beacon event at the cathedral including contributions in Māori etc.
- **Bangladesh** – Barishal Diocese have held annual beacon events / gatherings for many years, with ‘Thy Kingdom Come really being considered a catalyst for instigating regular rhythms of prayer within the diocese. One of the diocesan organisers said of their involvement:

“In many places, they were so encouraged by ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ that they are continuing their prayer twice in a week or once in a week. Some of our priests said that the church has got a new life and now more are attending services. Children, youth and women were encouraged to pray, and they received blessings.”

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[Photo: 'Thy Kingdom Come' gathering in Barishal Diocese, Bangladesh]

- 16. Resources translated into different languages in-country including indigenous languages.** For example, the Novena has been translated into Russian (by a Russian Orthodox priest); in the Albanian language (by a Catholic Nun who – in her own words, 'stumbled' across 'Thy Kingdom Come' a few years ago); Swahili, French; Portuguese; Spanish, Dutch, Malagasy and many more.

Resourcing the church & reflecting the diversity of God's Kingdom:

- 17. 'Thy Kingdom Come' has always been committed to providing free digital and print resources for churches** (except P&P) to resource the Church. Over the last 10 years, millions of print and digital copies resources have been distributed. 'Thy Kingdom Come' has a particular commitment to resourcing churches in the most deprived communities (including estates churches), by covering the cost of P&P if prohibitive. This gesture has been greatly appreciated.
- 18. 'Thy Kingdom Come' has long been recognised for its exemplary commitment to diversity of representation in resources** – from ethnicity to church tradition - as well as our commitment to accessibility, including BSL videos, widget packs for children with additional needs and Braille versions of print resources (produced by the Torch Trust). More recently we have teamed up with Alma Autism to produce sensory trays for children / young people on the Autistic Spectrum. Our commitment to ensuring diverse ethnic representation in our materials, has also been highlighted and was recently featured in the *Fourth Biannual Report of the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice (Winter Edition 2023-24)*.

Here is an example of feedback we received on the profound impact of diverse representation, in response to one of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' films, featuring the testimony of a neurodiverse young person:

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“I am a parent of 3 neurodiverse children / adults and so it was so refreshing to have a neurodiverse story shared and the challenges and honesty was refreshing. I am part of a WhatsApp group for women and I shared the video and my thoughts with the group and we are now planning an event where I can share more about how love in action might mean changing our conscious and unconscious thoughts and bias about others who find this world challenging to navigate and how we might change instead of expecting them to change (when they might not be able to).”

19. Summary of key print and digital resources over the years: ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has always been committed to resourcing all age groups ranging from age 3 to 103. Over the last 10 years, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has produced hundreds of films (based on daily themes / testimonies); print resources including 11 -day devotionals such as the Novena and Prayer Journal; children and youth resources – including the Cheeky Pandas animation and activity packs; resources for churches - such as service plans, practical guides); and the award-winning the App. ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ resources have been widely used as a discipleship tool by many churches all year round, from content being used for sermons to weekly Bible study content to much more. Here is some feedback from church leaders on the resources:

“Each year that I’ve participated in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ I’ve found that my own life of prayer deepens, I long for more prayer, and that I use the resources of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ in my preaching. I’ve included information from this year’s videos in two recent sermons. I believe that the congregation is willing to meet to pray together, having seen them gather to pray at our hour of prayer event.”

‘I have encouraged people to follow the Prayer Journal and watch the accompanying videos. Even though ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ is over, it is a really helpful resource to help you pray at any time, throughout the year and also a great taster for what to expect next year. The videos were particularly excellent and really helpful in learning new ways to pray.’

20. Prioritising the next generation – ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has always produced high quality resources for children and young people. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, a ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ Prayer adventure map and app was produced and distributed to 250,000 school children, which included Bible stories and games using Augmented reality (aimed at children aged 7-11 years old).

Many churches used this as part of their outreach to keep in touch with families during the pandemic, feeding back on the how helpful the resource was re. nurturing faith at such a difficult time. In recent years, we have heavily invested in the Cheeky Pandas, who recently teamed up with the Award winning ‘Jesus Story Book Bible’ to produce animations featuring influential Christians sharing well-known Bible stories. For young people, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has and continues to partner with the incredible youth ministry, The Way UK, to provide high quality resources to disciple the next generation. ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ will continue to intentionally invest in this area, in line with the V&S focus on doubling the number of Children and Young People to become active disciples of Jesus, within the Church of England, in the next 10 years.

Here are some examples we have received regarding this area of work:

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“Our children have started praying more confidently and freely after spending so much time in our prayer room.”

“I used the Cheeky Pandas video presentation with my three grandchildren. (8,6,4). They totally loved everything about the segment. They listened intently to all the presentations on Cheeky Pandas at church. They watched a couple of Cheeky Panda episodes in the car to and from school when I was on the school run. By the end of the 10 days even Miss 4 year-old was having a good crack at saying the Lord’s Prayer with the presenters at the end of each episode. On Sunday Morning the three of them told their mum they were going to have a meeting. They piled into Mr 6’s bedroom and closed the door. After a bit of time my daughter thought she had better check up on them. As she neared the room she could hear the three of them saying, “For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever – Amen”. They had been having a secret church meeting! How wonderful!” A Grandmother

Testimonies

21. Thy Kingdom Come continues to be astonished by the wonderful testimonies of how God has been at work in the lives of churches and individuals who have participated over the last 10 years. We have received thousands of testimonies through the feedback survey and other means. We have shared some examples throughout the paper, however, here are a few more relating to specific areas of impact not yet covered – ‘Pray for Five’ – both from individuals and on churches in urban and rural contexts.

22. Pray for 5 – this is at the heart of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ and has endured over the last decade, resonating across nations, denominations and generations. Here are some examples:

“One of the people I prayed for in the past two years during #ThyKingdomCome began to ask me to pray for her and for her family members. Just recently she told me she has begun to pray herself! This has amazed and thrilled me. I am thankful that ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ gave me the incentive, and the courage to begin praying for others who do not pray or consider themselves religious. I will continue to do so!”

“We are a rural Presbyterian church in Northern Ireland. We organised a special Pray for five Sunday service. We encouraged our people (of all ages) to keep on praying for their five beyond the 11 days. And one of the ways we will do this, will be by having occasional two-minute slots in our Sunday service.”

“There are several who have chosen to continue praying for their five people throughout the year ahead. One of the women who prayed for five people last year, saw one of them come to faith and is now taking part and praying for five! We are a small church in a suburban setting which has been undergoing a missional transformation over the past couple of years. We have come to realise that we haven’t looked out to the community for some time, and we’ve turned that around and are still working on it. Each year we have done ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we have had some more interest grow within the congregations and its sparking movement in how we pray and when we pray and in recognition of the

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power of prayer for the everyday Christian. It's a small start, but a vital one which is building momentum.” (A church in Australia)

“We are excited to take part in this global call to prayer for more people to come to faith in Jesus. We encouraged congregation members to consider praying for five people the Holy Spirit lays on their hearts to come to faith in Christ. We didn't make this a big corporate thing but an individual decision for people to make. On the Saturday before Pentecost, we had an evening of prayer and praise. We started with individual prayers – focusing on the five people. Then, we broadened the scope and prayed for God's Kingdom to come here in Brazil and then also prayed for the nations as we have a big expat community here with people from all over the world including representatives from Jamaica, South Africa, Malaysia, New Zealand and the UK. The very next day, on Pentecost Sunday, one of the young people was baptised – a beautiful end to the 11 days of prayer.” (A church in Brazil)

Conclusion

23. Our hope and prayer is that 'Thy Kingdom Come' will continue to spread in breadth and depth of engagement around the world, with churches united in prayer to see more people come to know the love of Christ for themselves. We are so incredibly thankful to God for all that has happened over the last 10 years, and will continue to pray, serve and resource the Church in England, and the Global church, in the vital work of prayer in evangelism and mission. With hearts full of gratitude, we give thanks and praise to God for His faithfulness and for all that He has done and will continue to do.

Miss Kemi Bamgbose, 'Thy Kingdom Come' Project Lead

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