



Christ Church Orpington

## Family News 8th May 2021



Dear Christ Church,

When we read in the book of the prophet Jeremiah about the invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, the terrible famine that followed, and the forced captivity and abduction of all but the poorest of the Jewish people to Babylon, it's hard not to be moved. Then we find that it is a long 50 or so years later that the first exiles were allowed to return to their homeland under Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest. Together they began to rebuild Jerusalem that the Babylonians had destroyed all those years previously, and it was hard, dangerous work. The prophet Nehemiah records that opposition to them was so fierce, that they had to build the wall of Jerusalem with one hand, and keep a weapon in the other.

And while we haven't had 50 years of enforced exile due to an enemy nation, in a way, we have had one year of exile due to an enemy illness. And whilst it has caused a lot of pain and suffering, there have been some rays of God's goodness shining through, some of which we can read in the "River of Life" booklet. So, in all of it, I think it is good to be grateful for the way God has cared for us during this time, and the way He is now bringing us out of it.

Psalm 100: 4 tells us to *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."* so it is good to develop an attitude of gratitude for all He has done for us.

With this in mind I would like this week to give thanks for our amazing Orpington High Street. As I've had to pop into town to get some things, I've been amazed at how Orpington has responded to coming out of lockdown. Walking along yesterday, many of the cafe's and restaurants had worked hard to get tables and chairs out onto the pavement, giving an air of

friendship and vitality, and almost a holiday feeling as you walked through them. Virtually every shop was open having worked hard to make sure correct guidelines were followed, and there was a general air of "LIFE" everywhere. I hope the outside cafe's and restaurants continue even after they don't need to as it gives such a great feeling to the town.

**SO A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE RESTAURANT/CAFE OWNERS AND STAFF, AND ALL THE SHOP OWNERS AND STAFF, FOR SERVING US SO WELL**

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the church staff and leadership who have worked all the way through, under continually changing rules, and keeping the church not just running but available online as well as open whenever possible for people to come to. Touched surfaces are wiped down with anti-Covid wipes; used rooms are "fogged" with anti-Covid disinfectant to sterilize everything; hand sanitizer, masks and social distancing is enforced; and Holy Communion is carried out in a completely safe way so that all may come to the Lord's Table and receive without worry. I don't think there can be any safer place to come to!

**SO A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR STAFF AND LEADERSHIP FOR SERVING US SO WELL**

As we go through the next few months, let's pray that God will open our eyes to all the things He has done and is doing for us, so that with the Psalmist we can enter His gates with thanksgiving and give Him the praise due to His Name.

With much love and blessings,  
Sharon & Andi xx



### Annual Church Meeting

On **Sunday 16th May** the **10.30am** service will include the annual reports by the Vicar, Youth Minister and Children's Minister and will be immediately followed by the annual PCC elections, electoral roll report and the financial review. As the number of nominations received for the elections does not exceed the number of places. there will be no need for voting.



## Electoral Roll

Do you know whether or not you are on our Electoral Roll? **If you aren't sure**, either contact Anna in the office who can tell you, or fill out the email form anyway and send it back to Anna.

**If you are new** and know that you haven't yet filled out an Electoral Roll form, then we would love you to contact Anna for a form on [ccorpington@talktalk.com](mailto:ccorpington@talktalk.com) or 01689 871601.

It doesn't sign you up to anything other than the joy of knowing you are part of our community. We are revising the list right now, and would love to hear from you asap.

Please note that tomorrow - Sunday 9th May - is the last day to apply for this year's Electoral Roll.

Many thanks.

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"If you would like to give to Christ's work here at Christ Church, the best way to give is via our bank account, Sort code 40 52 40, and account number 00095465, or by sending a cheque payable to Christ Church Orpington PCC to 165 Charterhouse Road, Orpington, BR6 9EP.

Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity."

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If you would like to share your testimony and encourage us all, please send it to Sharon at [Sharon@ccorpington.org](mailto:Sharon@ccorpington.org)

### Found on the body of a soldier:

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,  
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,  
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,  
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.  
I asked for power,  
that I might have the praise of men,  
I was given weakness,  
that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,  
I got nothing I asked for – but everything I hoped for.  
Almost despite myself,  
my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

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## Sunday 9th May 2021

### Zoom Virtual Coffee

You are invited to join **Brian** for virtual coffee on Zoom from 11.30am/5 mins after the morning service finishes:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9877272067?pwd=-ekQrNlZUTUZQREMyNVBYc0NjanNnUT09>

or

Meeting ID: 987 727 2067

Passcode: JnBcoffee

If anyone is interested in hosting, please contact Alan Goddard on [goddardaanda@gmail.com](mailto:goddardaanda@gmail.com)

There are many ways to **join a Zoom meeting**, but the easiest way is to click the join links above. You can also click **Join** in your Zoom client and enter the meeting ID and passcode. You will want an internet device with a camera, microphone and sound like a laptop, tablet or smartphone. If you do not have an internet connected device then you can still join for sound but not video with a normal phone. To join in, you will need to dial Zoom software free number 020 3481 5240 and then you will then be asked to enter the Meeting ID number and then the Passcode.

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### Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

#### Please note one change...

The Annual Meeting will take place next week on **Sunday 16th May**. As last year, reports by the Vicar, Youth Minister and Children's Minister will be made during the 10.30am service, and the Financial Report and elections will follow **immediately** after the service.

All the proceedings **may** be shown online, however, we may not have enough Tech volunteers to do this, so please do make every effort to come to the service in person.

Anyone interested in standing for election to the PCC is asked to contact the PCC Secretary, Don Bower, or the Church Office for a nomination form asap.

The financial accounts for 2020 have now been produced and agreed by the PCC. If you would like to see a copy of the report, please contact Anna in the office who will send you a copy: [ccorpington@talktalk.net](mailto:ccorpington@talktalk.net)

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### Items and Notices for next issue of Family News

Email our editor, Vernon: [vandjmapp@gmail.com](mailto:vandjmapp@gmail.com)

**by 12noon Saturday 15th May 2021**

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## 2021 Sunday Services

All **10.30am** services will be both in church and online (if we have the Tech Team to provide this)

**Sunday 9th May** 9am Holy Communion  
10.30am Morning Worship

**Tuesday 11th May** The third of the studies on  
**"How was the Bible written?"**  
Bob Kendall will look at the history of the later Old Testament stories – who wrote them? How true are they? Why is the Exile important? And who decided which 66 books should actually be in the Bible?  
8.00pm on Zoom - see the link right

**Thursday 13th May** 8pm Simple Ascension Day  
Holy Communion

**Sunday 16th May** 10.30am Morning Worship  
followed by APCM

**Pentecost Sunday**  
**Sunday 23rd May** 9am Holy Communion  
10.30am Pentecost Morning Worship

Please book for the 10.30am services via the email link Anna will send, or by phoning the church office on 01689 871601. If you are unable to book, please just come anyway – unless we get a sudden influx, we will fit you in.

There is no need to book for the 9.00am services.

For online services through the Christ Church Orpington website: [www.ccorpington.org](http://www.ccorpington.org)

Or on Facebook (you don't need to have a Facebook account) <https://www.facebook.com/ccorpington/live>



## Café Mosaic

We are pleased to announce that Café Mosaic will be open from

**Wednesday 19th May from 9.15am – 2pm**

To get there, we are looking for volunteers to help either with the cooking in the kitchen or helping to take orders and serve tea/coffee/meals on either a Wednesday or Friday morning (or both). If this is something you would like to get involved with, please contact the church office on:

[ccorpington@talktalk.net](mailto:ccorpington@talktalk.net) / 01689 871601

Behind the Bible  
5 Bible Studies (27 April to 25 May)  
8.00 p.m. start  
Every Tuesday (for 1 hour)  
On Zoom (Details in Christ Church Family News) Led by Bob Kendall  
"How was the Bible written?"  
We shall answer these questions... and others!  
Who wrote the 66 different Books? How many different writers?  
Who wrote the first English Bible? Are the Dead Sea Scrolls accurate? Who wrote Genesis?  
Who decided which books should be included? Is the Bible really true?

### BEHIND THE BIBLE:

#### "HOW WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?"

We recently ran a series of Bible Studies about the Last Week of Jesus' Life, on the "Behind the Bible" theme. Many of you joined in via Zoom and we hope you all found the studies interesting and useful.

In the coming weeks we are having a further series. The subject will be "How was the Bible Written?" This will be slightly different, as we shall genuinely be looking Behind the Bible, and finding out many things we probably didn't know we didn't know!

The studies will help If you want answers to questions such as:

What were the languages used for writing the Bible?

Who did write Genesis?

Who was the most prolific Bible writer?

Hasn't archaeology disproved the Old Testament?

Who decided which 66 Books should actually be included in the Bible?

Are the Dead Sea Scrolls reliable?

Who wrote the first Bible in English?

Is the Bible true?!

If you want the answers, join in via Zoom, on **Tuesday 11th May**, starting at **8pm** for about an hour. Bob Kendall will be leading the studies. Details, and the zoom link, will be in the Family News each week.

There is a lot of gold Behind the Bible!!

Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89784912834?pwd=T2p6VzdTdmxYF3MraldaSWQ1bDJNdz09>

or

Meeting ID: 897 8491 2834

Passcode: Bob

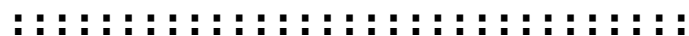
**Dear Foodbank Supporters,**

As we are now in the process of re-stocking our Centres in view of them opening again in the near future, we have found a few areas of shortfall that we need to address.

Our biggest needs at present is not food or toiletries but **BAGS FOR LIFE**, so if anyone is able to donate some, that would be great. In saying that we do have a few other gaps we would like to fill:

- Desserts**
- Tinned Tomatoes**
- Biscuits**
- Cold Meat**
- Coffee**
- Squash**
- Ladies deodorant**
- Washing Up Liquid**
- Bio & Non Bio Capsules/Powder**
- Cleaning Sprays**

Thank you  
God bless  
June (Warehouse Manager)



**Assistant Treasurer**

We urgently need an assistant treasurer due to our current person, Brian Ko planning to move house. Do you have an interest in working with numbers and balancing accounts? Would you like to be part of the team of volunteers helping to run the finances of your church?

Christ Church Orpington is looking for a person to join the Finance Committee to replace Brian Ko as assistant treasurer. In this role you will be part of a dedicated treasury team; banking donations, paying invoices and using the accounting software to record church finances. It will involve about 3 to 5 hours per week depending on the time of the year. The main skill is basic administration and an interest in working with numbers.

Comprehensive training will be given. To find out more please contact:

Derek Foxen (07503 187151,  
[derekfoxen@ntlworld.com](mailto:derekfoxen@ntlworld.com)) or

Rev Sharon (01689 822351,  
[revsharonsmith@outlook.com](mailto:revsharonsmith@outlook.com))



**Hall Bookings Administrator**

Our hall is a wonderful space for people to use and we are now looking for a paid Bookings Administrator to ensure our facilities are used in the best possible way. You will be joining a team of people involved in managing the hall and will be responsible for managing applications and management of all bookings and you will need to have experience of administration in an organisation and the ability to deal with people. This job would suit those who are able to work from home part of the time and involves 12 hours per week and pay of £7500 per annum.

Do speak to Alan Goddard or Jacqui Ko informally or obtain an application pack from Anna Carey by emailing [ccorpington@talktalk.net](mailto:ccorpington@talktalk.net). The closing date is **Saturday 29th May 2021**



**Coronavirus – warning about vaccine**

This happened recently and is an important lesson for our friends and family in the older age group. A friend had his second doze of vaccine at the vaccination centre. Shortly afterwards he began to have blurred vision and struggled to get home.

He rang the vaccination centre and asked if he should go straight to the hospital for help. He was told NOT to go to the hospital, but instead to return at once to the vaccination centre and pick up his glasses...



**Nectar in your garden**

Our home gardens are now the largest source of food for insects such as bees and wasps in towns and cities.

They yield 85% of the nectar produced in urban areas, according to a study published in the Journal of Ecology.

Three such gardens will generate about a teaspoon a day of the sugar-rich liquid which is found in the flowers that the pollinators drink for energy. A teaspoon of nectar is the equivalent of more than a ton of food for an adult human, and it is enough to fuel thousands of flying bees.

One ecologist has called home gardens "pivotal" in promoting biodiversity in urban areas across the county. Gardens are thought to cover 29 per cent of the land in urban areas, which is six times the area of parks and 40 times that of allotments.

The research was carried out in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Reading and the Royal Horticultural Society.



## RANDOM THOUGHTS – AND THANKS

For over a year now, hundreds of people the length and breadth the UK and beyond have been enjoying the Jonathan Veira musical evenings "Live from the Steinway Room", including some of us from Christ Church. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly has grown from it "The JV Community" (a private Face Book group). All sorts of topics crop up on it (Call the Midwife and Line of Duty, jokes, subjects of mutual interest, but mostly prayer requests) and it has become apparent to me that there are many, many people who have nothing like the prayer support and pastoral care that we enjoy at Christ Church, and other churches in the borough, too.

So, Thank You to all in our own Christ Church family who pray and support in so many (often unseen but self-denying and generous-spirited) ways, especially our Pastoral Care Team and the Tech Team, too...

But it has been a delight to see a real sense of fellowship and friendship developing over the months, and people being helped. For instance, one woman was terribly worried about the chaotic state of her frail and elderly mother's financial affairs. Because one of JV's guests was a representative of CAP (Christians against Poverty) this lady was put in touch with them and they are now sorting things out for her and relieving her of the distress she was experiencing. Although we have mostly never met one another, go to all different sorts of churches of various denominations, vary widely in age, circumstances, and personality type, there is that wonderful sense of 'family' because of our relationship in our Lord Jesus.

Someone posted the following prayer. He said it was an ancient prayer of the Church of England, but I had never come across it before.

***Watch, O Lord,  
with those who wake,  
or watch, or weep tonight,  
and give your angels charge  
over those who sleep.***

***Tend your sick ones,  
O Lord Christ.***

***Rest your weary ones.***

***Bless your dying ones.***

***Soothe your suffering ones.***

***Pity your afflicted ones.***

***Shield your joyous ones.***

***And all for your love's sake.***

***Amen.***

***(Attributed to St Augustine)***

I have found this helpful to keep on my bedside table (I've nearly memorised it now) and to pray it as I lie down to sleep. Most of us know people within one or more of the different 'categories' and so it can be personalised as it is prayed.

Joan Remnant

## Wordsearch - Rogation Sunday

**SUNDAY 9th MAY** is **ROGATION** Sunday. This is when many parishes still '**BEAT** the **BOUNDS**'. Rogation means an **ASKING** of God - for **BLESSING** on the **SEED** and **LAND**. The practice began with the **ROMANS**, who **PROCESSED** around the **CORNFIELDS** each **SPRING**, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from **EARTHQUAKE** and **STORM**.

Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that **PRAYERS** should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a **CROSS** to trace the **BOUNDARIES** of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their **CROPS** and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to **HARVEST**. In the days when **MAPS** were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were.

Do you know yours today?

G	D	N	P	L	M	B	S	E	E	R	A
N	O	I	T	A	G	O	R	N	K	E	A
I	S	I	P	N	S	U	N	D	A	Y	A
S	S	S	D	D	S	N	A	E	U	A	M
S	Y	C	N	P	I	D	A	E	Q	R	C
E	P	U	R	O	M	A	N	S	H	P	H
L	O	I	S	S	O	R	C	H	T	A	K
B	N	S	D	L	E	I	F	N	R	O	C
G	A	T	B	D	D	E	A	V	A	E	R
P	R	O	C	E	S	S	E	D	E	O	O
A	D	R	U	O	A	S	K	I	N	G	P
Y	A	M	S	E	T	T	P	G	S	N	S

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# †word

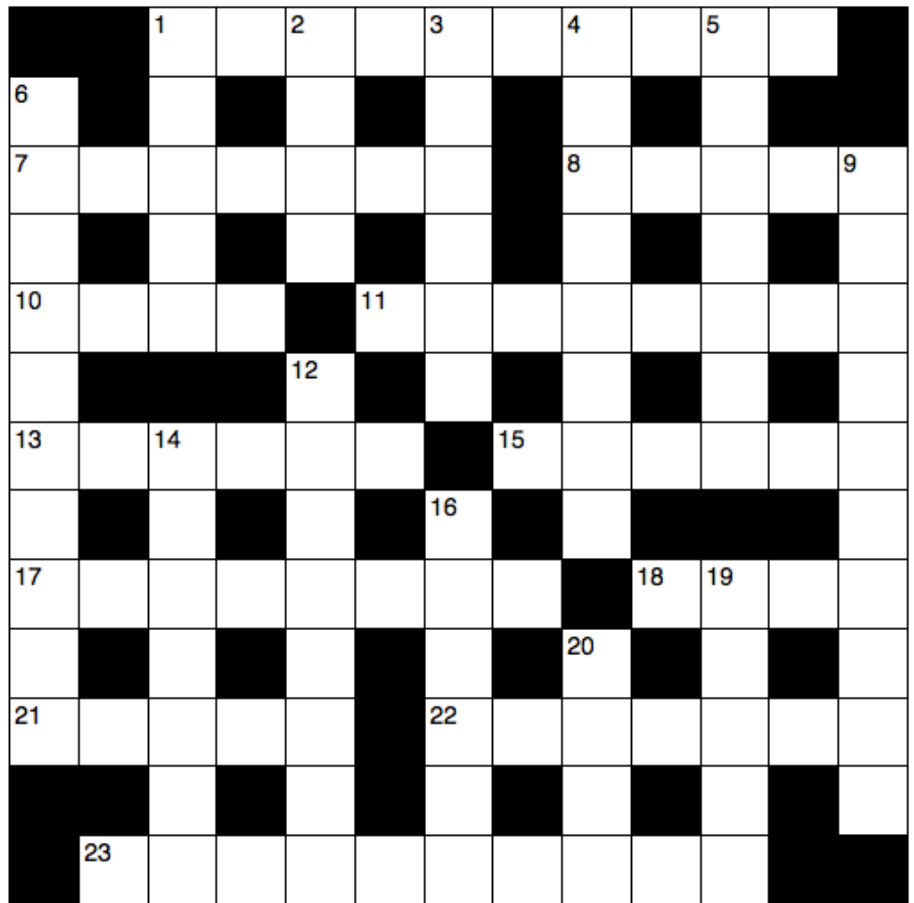
Solution to last week's †Word

## ACROSS:

- 1, Priesthood. 7, Replica. 8, Get up.  
 10, Calf. 11, Governor. 13, See you.  
 15, Not see. 17, Incident. 18, Sake.  
 21, NSPCC. 22, Trample.  
 23, Perishable.

## DOWN

- 1, Papal. 2, In it. 3, Shalom.  
 4, Huguenot. 5, Outings.  
 6, Procession. 9, Perseveres.  
 12, Mordecai. 14, Escapee.  
 16, Snatch. 19, Apple. 20, Lamb.



## Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)  
 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)  
 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)  
 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)  
 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)  
 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)  
 15 Breakwater (6)  
 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)  
 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)  
 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23-24) (5)  
 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)  
 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

## Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)  
 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)  
 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)  
 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)  
 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)  
 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)  
 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)  
 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)  
 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —' (Luke 1:46-47) (7)  
 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)  
 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)  
 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)



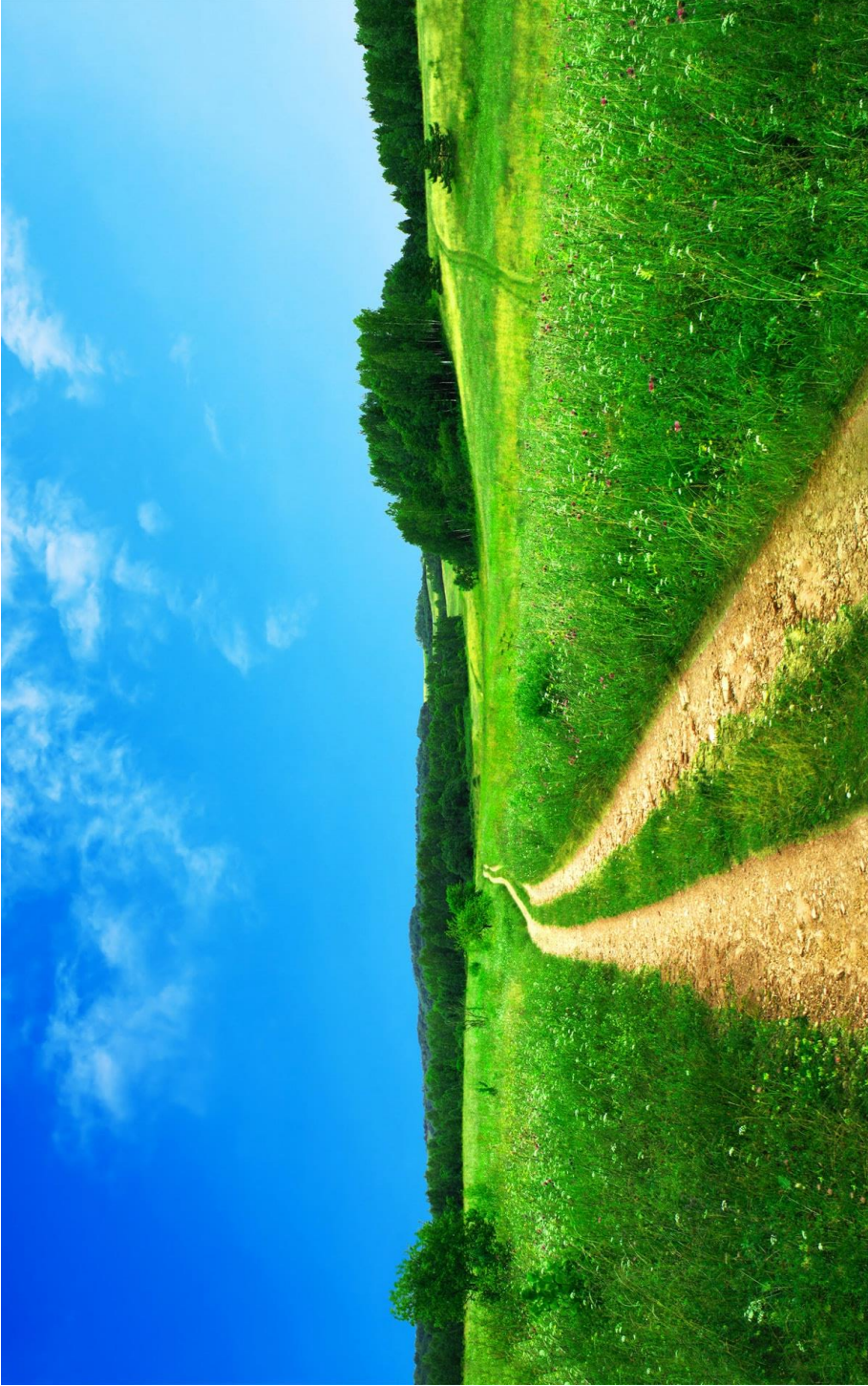


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