End-to-End The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End



The Tree on the green was an artistic masterpiece this year

January

2024

50p

The Following are our services For January 2024

7th January9.30 am St Francis

Baptism of Christ
Holy Communion

11 am St Mary's All Age Worship

14th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30 am St Francis Morning Prayer11 am St Mary's Holy Communion

21st January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30 am St Francis Holy Communion

11 am St Mary's Matins / Morning Prayer

28th January Presentation of Christ in the Temple

9.30 am St Francis Morning Prayer

11 am St Mary's Holy Communion

Church Contacts

All Contact should be Via the Churchwardens

Parish Priest Jane Quinton 01245 210930

Churchwarden Denise Lane 07398 154289

Churchwarden Peter Hope 01376 502605

Email phope02@gmail.com

Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy 01376 512781

Silver End Contact Ruth Aitken 01376 583846

Rivenhall Website www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk

St Francis Silver End Website www.st-francis.org.uk/

Contact the Editor 07904 235101 or phope02@gmail.com

View from the Villages' – As a new year begins..... Well firstly: 'Happy New Year' to you all! J

Admittedly I am actually writing this article with Christmas Day still nearly 3 weeks away, but of course by the time you read it, Christmas will have come and gone! So I do hope that everyone did manage to find some joy (and peace!) through the Christmas season.

As we welcome in 2024 though, as with any new year, it can evoke a mixture of emotions... For those for whom 2023 was a year filled with many good moments, there can sometimes be an underlying fear that the good things can surely not continue... Whilst for others, the new year may bring a new reality of life without loved ones, or difficult circumstances to be faced.....

And so, although Christmas decorations may already have been packed away for another 11 months, and pounds that left our purses are not the same as the ones that now appear on the scales (!).....this may be the time to think again about Christmas..... and what it was and is truly about...... God's greatest sign of love to us all, in the gift of His Son Jesus.

To remember indeed, that the name Jesus was also given, and that was proclaimed by the angels to the shepherds, is 'Immanuel'which means 'God with us'.

Because that is God's promise to us, that through all the good times, but even more importantly, through all the bad, God is with us..... in our times of fear, pain, loss, desperation..... even if we don't realise it, God is there.

And so, as we step into this new year, I leave you with one of my favourite poems, 'Footprints in the Sand':

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints; other times there was only one.

During the low periods of my life I could see only one set of footprints, so I said,

"You promised me, Lord, that you would walk with me always.

Why, when I have needed you most, have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints my child, is when I carried you."

May we all know the presence of the God who loves us more than we will ever know.

God bless

Rev Jane x



PRAYER HOUR

You are invited to meet with me on a Monday morning at 9am for an hour of prayer

Sitting in peace and waiting on God, either in silence, or in words.....

I will be rotating around the churches as follows:

Monday December 4th through to Monday 26th February 2024 – St Mary + All Saints, Rivenhall

It will be lovely to see anyone that can come!

Readings and Collects for January 2024

7th January

Baptism of Christ

All Age Worship

Readings

Genesis 1: 1-5 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11

Collect

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

14th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion

Readings

1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20) Revelations 5:1-10 John 1:43-51

Collect

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

21st January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Matins

Readings

Genesis 14: 17-20 Revelation 19: 6-10 John 2:1-11

Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

28th January **4**th Presentation of Christ in the Temple Holy Communion

Readings

Malachi 3:1-5

Hebrews 2: 14 to end

Luke 2:22-40

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

The 50/50 Club December 2024 winners

1st R Foreman

2nd T Bednarchuk

3rd A Moss

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting is on Thursday 25th January at 1.30pm (please note the earlier time)

The meeting is in the Methodist Church, Guithavon Street, Witham in preparation for the World Day of Prayer, which is held in March.

For more information about Mothers' Union contact Lynette
Abbott 01376 512586 or Joan Barrett 01376 514617

Rivenhall Village Hall,

located in Church Road, Rivenhall is available for hire by local clubs, organisations and residents for numerous activities and events including weekly/monthly classes or meetings, social functions, parties, fundraising events, wedding receptions, coffee mornings and much more. The hall has a well-equipped kitchen, toilet facilities including disabled and a level access from the car park. Clubs and organisations currently using the hall are:

Mondays: Under 5s storytelling mornings, Karate late

afternoons and

Scottish dancing - 2nd, 4th and 5th Monday evenings.

Gardening Club 2nd Tues; Yoga Wednesday evenings; Carpet Bowls Thursday evenings.

Saturday afternoons - 7th Day Adventist Church

If you are interested in hiring the hall or joining any of the above groups, please contact the bookings secretary for further details by e-mailing:

rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com

For more general enquiries, please e-mail:

secretaryrpfa@gmail.com

Notice is hereby given:- that Rivenhall Playing Field Association will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23rd Jan commencing at 7.30 pm in the village hall. All are welcome and we would be pleased if any locals would be prepared to become committee members or officers to ensure the village hall continues to serve our magnificent village and surrounding areas.

Agenda.

- 1. apologies
- 2. Previous notes agreed and signed
- 3. Chairman's report
- 4. Treasurers Report
- 5. Election of Chair
- 6. Election of treasurer
- 7. Election of committee.

NOTES OF RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th DECEMBER 2023 IN HENRY DIXON HALL

Present: Cllrs Turner (Chairman), Macrae, Abbott, Wright,

Cairns, Prime and Hammond

Also Present: Kevin Money (Parish Clerk), and two members of

the public

Apologies: ECC Cllr Ross Playle

Public Forum: Maintenance of a short section of the roadside verge opposite Waterfall Cottages is causing a neighbour dispute. A pothole in Rickstones Road has damaged a car's suspension - Essex Highways are one of the worst councils for compensating pothole damage.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman and ECC Councillor Ross Playle, we met with Highways representative David Forkin and had a frank discussion regarding flooding especially under the rail bridge and the reasons for it: a response is awaited. 10 years ago, the problem at yhe railway bridge happened: ECC have failed to rectify this issue. The Chairman has written to our MP about this serious issue; again, a response is awaited. The pothole in Rickstones Road is also water related: water pours from it after heavy rainfall. Highways suspect a leaky water pipe but a broken surface water drain is most likely the cause

ECC Councillor report: Rickstones Road - Repairs to the highway's defects in Rickstones Road are due to be undertaken before 7th December. Essex Highways are about to commence investigations into the Oak Road flooding at the railway bridge. Witham Cycle Route Plan - this is currently out for public consultation and includes a proposed off-road link between Rivenhall and Witham.

BDC Councillor Report: Braintree DC are seriously financially limited and next year's Council Tax is likely to rise though there will be cuts to many existing services. Please tell the Parish Council if you have difficulty putting out/taking in your green recycling bin. BDC and the Essex Wildlife Trust have commented favourably on Rivenhall's verge re-wilding. Rivenhall incinerator - more large abnormal loads may have to be brought through Rivenhall: it is not known what waste processes will take place on the site, and the original restoration plans seem to be put to one side.

Speed Surveys: these cost £365+VAT. We will budget for two in 2024/25.

Rivenhall End Noticeboard: this will be repaired this month (parts of the woodwork are rotten).

Neighbourhood Plan: this will not be commenced in 2024.25.

Re-Wilding: The Parish Council voted to de-classify the strip of verge opposite the former 3 Waterfall Cottages as this element is highly controversial. A section of verge to be removed from the contract: a letter will be sent to Essex CC requesting this.

General Maintenance: Some overhanging trees in Henry Dixon Road have been trimmed but much further work is required by Highways. The Chairman authorised the removal of dead plants at the war memorial, but all live roses have been left in place: future maintenance and restoration decisions will be made by the full council. The Chairman proposed all Parish Councillors who wish to undertake the management and maintenance of the former rose beds near The Oak should be able to do so, subject to the parish council obtaining a BDC licence.

Planning Applications: Park House - trimming of protected trees: no objections.

Dates of next Meetings: 02 January 2024 - 7:30 pm at Rivenhall Village Hall

06 February 2024 - 7:30 pm at Rivenhall

Village Hall

The Rivenhall Santa Sleigh

At 3:30 pm on Sunday 17th December, the Santa Sleigh left Rivenhall Hall Farm to start its annual glide around Rivenhall and Rivenhall End. This had been constructed, decorated and illuminated over two long days by Bob Turner and John Macrae. This is just one of many eagerly awaited community activities funded and run by the Rivenhall Millennium Committee.

The week before, members distributed a Christmas card to every home in the village, but when the Santa sleigh is on its

travels, something special is also occurring. Santa's helpers distribute a Christmas cake and a box of biscuits to every Rivenhall family with a resident aged 70+ (even Santa himself receives one!). This year the "Team" were Bob Turner steering the sleigh, very ably helped by Laura Hatley, Jenny Turner, Jane Macrae and Carole McCarthy. Ensuring the safety of Santa's valuable cargo were escorts Robert Pearce and Wilson Kerr.

The route was Church Road - St Mary's Road - Tusser Close - Beech Road - Rickstones Road - "Bluebells" then along Oak Road, calling in for most welcome refreshments with Pat and Iain Paton at Hoo Hall. After a short break the sleigh continued along Oak Road into Rivenhall End, pausing in



Browns Row before moving through Foxmead - Foxden - Henry Dixon Road and completing its glide at Henry Dixon Hall.

Throughout the sleigh ride, Santa waved enthusiastically towards everyone who came out to view the scene, and he looked very hard to spot those watching from their windows, giving them frantic waves too. Santa's helpers gave sweets to all the children. This year we probably had the biggest

and best turn-out Santa had ever seen, with particularly joyous scenes in "Bluebells" and in Foxden.

A very big thank you to all who made donations which are always so extremely welcome: these are all safely in the Rivenhall Millennium Committee funds. (Oh, this year's Santa was once again John Macrae)

Rivenhall Christmas Tree & Carols on the Green

On Saturday 9th December Rivenhall's magnificent Christmas tree appeared on the village green. I say "appeared" ... this was once again the work of the Rivenhall Millennium Committee (Bob Turner, Wilson Kerr, John Macrae and Jack Prime). Supporting the team was Robert Pearce who again brought his telescopic farm loader and helped us erect, decorate, and illuminate this magnificent tree.

Throughout the morning amidst increasing winds, the team worked hard, fortified by warm mince pies and sausage rolls kindly provided at regular intervals by Laura Hatley.

Our previous tree suppliers were unable to supply a 30 ft tree so we had to purchase one from a specimen grower in Sussex ... but at a cost! This year's tree was £850 plus £150 delivery. The Millennium Committee is exceedingly grateful to the Henry Dixon Trust for a very significant donation towards this annual community gift, and also very thankful to other villagers who had made kind donations.

The Committee raises funds throughout the year so that our village can enjoy and admire its central attraction. Many from surrounding towns and villages now come to visit it, as our tree indeed has a wider and wider "glowing" reputation.

On 19th December we hosted our annual Carols on the Green by the tree. Whilst it poured incessantly all day, the forecast was for the rain to clear by 5pm ... which it thankfully did. At 7:30 about 90 people assembled for hearty carol singing, led by our Team Rector Rev Jonathan Pritchard. It was also lovely to have our Parish Priest Jane Quinton with us too.

The Chelmsford Silver Band provided the rousing music, but even those "hardened professionals" were surprised when



Jonathan asked them to play On Ilkley Moor Baht 'at. Of course Jonathan knew what he was doing, and we all sang While







Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night to that famous Yorkshire tune - amidst much chuckling!

Then it was all back to the village hall where the Millennium Committee had arranged a free social get-together with the silver band playing seasonal tunes from the stage. Mince pies and sausage rolls were handed out by Lilian Pearce, and Wilson Kerr kept everyone's glasses topped-up with mulled wine and fruit juice. Selling raffle tickets was Carole McCarthy, followed by a very comprehensive raffle with wonderful prizes.

hairman Bob Turner closed the evening by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

How to Contact Essex Police

There are now many ways to contact Essex Police, and hopefully this will provide a bit of guidance to choose the best way to suit your situation.

999 - Is for an emergency i.e.

- Circumstances likely to be danger to life.
- use, or immediate threat of use, of violence
- serious injury to a person and/or
- serious damage to property

- Criminal conduct
- the crime is, or likely to be serious and in progress.
- an offender has just been disturbed at the scene.
- an offender has been detained and poses, or is likely to pose, a risk to other people.
- Road traffic accident
- involves, or is likely to involve, serious personal injury.
- the road is blocked or there is a dangerous or excessive build-up of traffic.

Silent 999

If you are in a dangerous situation and feel you cannot speak freely to an operator, we can still help you.

If calling from a mobile: When asked which service you would like, press 55 on the keypad. This will automatically get you transferred to us. You might then be asked to indicate that you're still on the line by one of our call handlers, either by coughing, tapping your phone, or, where possible, speaking quietly. This doesn't allow us to track your location, but we will be able to listen in to what is going on around you and work out how to get help to you.

If calling from a landline: If you are calling from a landline and replace the handset at any point, the landline may remain connected for 45 seconds in case you pick it up again. Calling 999 from a landline automatically gives the police information about your location.

For Non-emergency contact:

Information and Live Chat - www.essex.police.uk

Do it online - www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/

101 - We still have our 24-hour 101 service which people

can call if they feel it is more appropriate to speak to us or don't have access to the internet.

If it is not an emergency and the crime you want to speak to us about is not happening right now, please do not call 999. Personal and team mobile phones and E-Mails - When using these methods of direct communication please remember that these are unlikely to be responded to until the team or person is working next.

SJAS121223



Sun Dogs over Kelvedon

Sun dog as photographed in Kelvedon in latw December show fragments of a rainbow in the sky. Like iridescent clouds, they form whenever sunlight interacts with ice crystals—except the crystals ar larger and plate-shaped. As sunlight hits the ice crystal plates, it is refracted—it passes through the crystals, is bent, and spreads out into its spectral colours

Since the sunlight is refracted horizontally, the sun dog always appears directly to the left or right side of the Sun.

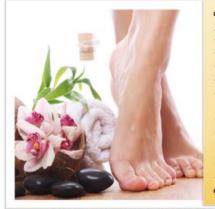
Thisoften occurs in pairs, with one on each side of the Sun. Because sun dog formation depends on the presence of large ice crystals in the air, you'll most likely spot them in very cold winter weather; although, they can form in any season if high and cold cirrus or cirrostratus ice-containing clouds exist.



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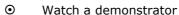
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The Nativity Figures Repaired by Kirsten of the Repair Shop

As you may have read in the December magazine our porcelain nativity figures were repaired by the repair shop. These are currently on display in the Chancel. Come to one of our services in January to view these beautiful figurines.





Congratulations to all those who worked so hard on Santa's Grotto in the village hall, quite magical.





End to End Nature Care.

Happy New Year! Unfortunately I had Covid back in November and so was unable to attend our evening meeting on the 15th. Thanks to Jackie Allen for kindly providing the following report:

The End to End Nature Care group includes two members with some serious camera lenses and a huge amount of patience to capture those perfect professional pictures. We were treated to some wonderful close-up photos of colourful butterflies and other insects by Allan Gray. Tony Wright then showed us his equally stunning bird photography, not least the Barn Owl in flight that had enthralled us at Goldhanger during the summer. Our other photographic wizard is Simon Taylor, whose small camera has the ability to magnify tiny insect specks into huge monsters. Unfortunately, Simon was unwell so we missed that treat. Several other members contributed photos to remind us of our summer evening strolls around the local countryside.

No doubt there will be more excellent photographs taken of interesting subjects during the course of our outdoor activities this year, which commences on 24th April with the Cowslip count behind Tarecroft Wood (details in later issues of the magazine). If you have any good images on a natural history theme which you would like to share or find out more about then please do post them in our Facebook group 'End to End Nature Care'.

For now we continue with our winter indoor meetings on the third Wednesday of each month; details below. These are held in Silver End Congregational Church, Silver Street, commencing at 8pm. All are welcome for an inflation-busting token donation of £2 per head, with tea/coffee and biscuits included. Further information is always available on our website www.e2e.silverend.org and on our Facebook group, or for any other enquiries I can be contacted via email simon@e2e.silverend.org or on 07947 388180.

Wednesday Tim Sapsford: 'Bats'. Tim is the County Re

Wednesday "Science & Nature" quiz night with quizma

Wednesday Renee Hockley-Byan: 'Bagders'. Renee is C 20th March 2024 North East Essex Badger Group).

The Stars in the January Sky

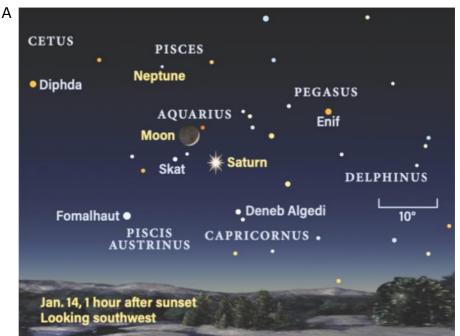
2024 starts strong with the Quadrantid meteor shower, a close meeting of Mercury and Mars, and the potential for some binocular comets.

The new year begins with Jupiter and Saturn visible most of the evening. Uranus and Neptune are on show as well, requiring optical aid to spot. Meanwhile Mercury, Venus, and Mars congregate in the morning sky, with Mercury and Mars reaching a close conjunction. Also don't miss the occultation of Antares, visible from portions of the mountain states and southern California. Add the potential for some binocular comets, and 2024 is off to a great start.



The rocky planets congregate in the predawn sky to kick off the first month of 2024. Here, Venus lies highest (above the star Regulus), while Mars and brighter Mercury are below the Moon

You'll find **Saturn** glowing 30° high in the southwestern sky an hour after sunset. It lies in the constellation Aquarius, shining at magnitude 0.9. The bright star Fomalhaut — slightly fainter at magnitude 1.2 — lies 19° to its south-southeast. A beautiful thin crescent Moon stands 8° west and then 7° east of Saturn on the 13th and 14th, respectively.



crescent Moon visits Saturn in the evening sky midmonth. Neptune, although shown here, requires binoculars to spot. Credit: Astronomy:

A crescent Moon visits Saturn in the evening sky midmonth. Neptune, although shown here, requires binoculars to spot. Credit: Astronomy: Roen Kelly

Catch Saturn through your telescope early in the evening before it gets too low. It sets by 9 p.m. local time on Jan. 1 and is gone before 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 31. Your best view of the narrowing rings will be as soon as you pick the planet up out of the darkening twilight. After an hour you will quickly lose Saturn in the haze.

Your scope will reveal the planet's disk, spanning nearly 16" on Jan. 1. It shaves off almost 1" by Jan. 31, as the distance to Saturn increases. The rings are tilted by 9° to our line of sight, providing a stunning view.

Get your last views of Titan before the planet moves into conjunction with the Sun. You'll find Saturn's brightest moon shining at magnitude 8.8. It stands roughly north of the planet Jan. 13 and 29 and roughly south Jan. 5 and 21. Three more moons, easily spotted in small telescopes, flit around the planet inside the orbit of Titan. Tethys, Dione, and Rhea shine at magnitude 10. Their constantly changing locations are fascinating to follow from night to night.

Early on the evening of Jan. 10, observers might spot tiny Tethys transiting the disk of Saturn shortly after 7:20 p.m. CST. Its shadow follows about 15 minutes after the moon begins its transit. This transit is best observed from the Midwest to Pacific Coast. For the eastern half of the country, a second Tethys transit is visible early in the evening on Jan. 12, beginning just before 5:40 p.m. EST.

Iapetus reaches its fainter (near 12th magnitude) eastern elongation Jan. 6, when its darker hemisphere faces earthward. Its orbit carries it closer to Saturn until Jan. 26, when it reaches inferior conjunction 27" north of the disk. It's a great time to spot this enigmatic moon, which should be glowing near 11th magnitude.

10 best Christmas Cracker Jokes

What do you call a boomerang that does not come back?

A. stick.

Why was the turkey in the pop group?

A. Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis!

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday?

A. "Freeze a jolly good fellow..."

What did Santa do when he went speed dating?

A. He pulled a cracker.

What happens to elves when they are naughty?

A. Santa gives them the sack!

Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party? He had nobody to go with.

What do frogs wear on their feet?

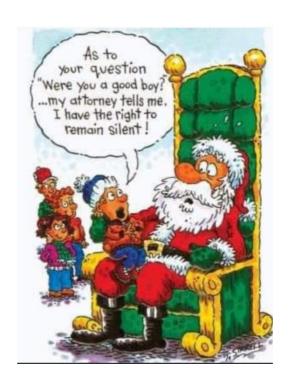
A. Open toad sandals.

What athlete is warmest in winter?

A long jumper!

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy





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Building

Organisations in Rivenhall

Clerk to Parish Council	Keith Taylor	516975		
Email parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net meets every first Tuesday				
End to End Nature Care	Simon Taylor	01621 810141		
Gardening Club	Carole McCarthy	512781		
Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm ir	ı Village Hall			
Carpet Bowls	Mick Marshall	512836		
Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in	Village Hall			
Playing Fields Association	Mick Marshall	01376 512836		
Spread Your Wings Dance Acam	Laura Pearson	01376 741317		

Facilities

Hire of Village Hall	email rivenhallvil	lagehall@gmail.com
Hire of Henry Dixon Hall	Tracy Scott	571551
Oak Store Rivenhall "Open All Ho	ur" Tel AJ	01376 538838

Organisations in Silver End

Clerk to Parish Council	Mrs B. M. Temple 618464			
Email parishclerk@silverendparishcouncil.gov.uk				
Bowls Club	Paul Mann 07551 006906			
Children's Centre	Faye Savage 587960			
Neighbourhood Police	Braintree Policing Dial 101			
Congregational Church	Sharon Gray 583913			
Friendship Club	Maureen Green 585275			
Silver End Gad Abouts	Denise Sullens Smith 07952 992782			
Gardening Club	Liz Woor 585586			
Guiding Group	Carol Hutchings 07857 663959			
Neighbourhood Watch	Judy Hill 07896 975839			
Scouting Group	silverendscouts@aol.com			
St Mary's Church (R.C.)	Vivian Phillips 583598			
Tennis Club	Jason Cairns 584581			
Workers Educational Assoc.	Brian Gillion 583706			
Luncheon Club	Helen Thomson 583255			
Doctors Surgery	583387			
Silver End Heritage Society	Jackie Nesbitt 07707 084608			
Silver End United Football Club	Mark Edgell 584639 Web			
Site www.silverendunitedfc.co.uk				
Women's Institute	Brenda Warnes 07931 548193			
Community Warden	Jackie Windard 07785 515526			
Post Office in Co-op - please note that it closes at Lunchtime 1-2pm				
Closes 1 pm Wednesday and 12.30 pm Saturday				
Library: Tues 2pm to 6pm Thurs/Saturday 9am to 1pm				



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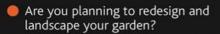
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