Thursday 26 March 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally Installation - Prays for Healing and Hope for the World



More than two thousand people from across the country and around the world attended the Installation of Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral yesterday. The service was attended by senior members of the Royal Family and the Government, Anglican clergy and leaders from across the Church of England and Anglican Communion, and diverse guests including faith leaders, charities, healthcare workers and school children.

Archbishop Sarah is the first woman to hold the office of Archbishop of Canterbury in its 1,400-year history. The service marked the start of her public ministry in the Church of England and worldwide Anglican Communion.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Sarah Mullally, said: *"As I prepare to begin my ministry as Archbishop of Canterbury, I am grateful for the prayers and support I have received from people here and around the world. To be welcomed into the city and Diocese of Canterbury is an immense privilege – and I am grateful to be sharing in this moment with people of all ages and backgrounds from across the Church of England, the Anglican Communion, our nation and the world. Our world today needs the love, healing and hope that we find in Jesus Christ. I continue to pray that we renew our confidence in this good news, and recommit ourselves to sharing the joy of the Gospel."*

To find out more click here.



HM Courts of Justice Service

Last Sunday, St Edmundsbury Cathedral hosted a special annual service for His Majesty's Courts of Justice. This service marked a year in office of Suffolk's High Sheriff, Gulshan Kaur Kayembe, with a specific focus on multi-cultural communities and justice and equality for young people. This year's speaker was Lemn Sissay OBE FRSL. a poet, playwright, memoirist and broadcaster, who himself was bought up in the care system. You can watch the service above, with Lemn's inspiring speech starting at approximately 1:20. As part of the project, the Diocese supported the High Sheriff in partnerships with the University of Suffolk and the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds, to reach young people currently supported by the voluntary sector, schools and diverse communities.

Big Sing 2026

Over 400 pupils and adults from ten church primary schools filled St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Monday 23 March for a Big Sing. This special service, with a theme of "Walking alongside", was organised by the Diocesan education team in partnership with Christian Aid. The children sang songs specially commissioned by Christian Aid to raise awareness of issues of global justice. Pupils from two of the schools spoke about how they are taking action to tackle injustice and two schools sang songs they had written. Richard Baker from Christian Aid spoke about the charity's vital work in creating a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Founded 80 years ago in the aftermath of the Second World War, Christian Aid continues to provide long term development support as well as emergency relief across the world. Christian Aid has recognised the Diocesan Board of Education's outstanding commitment to Global Citizenship Education for the second year running.

Jane Sheat, Diocesan Director of Education said, *"This event is held in partnership with Christian Aid, to raise awareness of their work and to help children learn about global justice. This is the third year of holding a Big Sing in the run-up to Easter, with this year's theme based on Jesus walking alongside the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The service was full of hope and joy. Congratulations to all involved."*

Kites on display in Great Barton and Thurston

The Revd Ben Edwards, Vicar of Holy Innocents' Church in Great Barton, has launched a community-wide initiative connecting the biblical narrative of the Holy Innocents with the



modern-day plight of children living through global warfare. The project, which has seen hundreds of handmade kites being created by local residents, schools and community groups, aims to raise vital funds for War Child UK.

The design of the kites is a deliberate tribute to the children of Gaza, who once gained world renown for a record-breaking kite festival on their beaches. For those children, the kites represented a life without borders or soaring above the restrictions of conflict. By recreating these kites, the community is participating in a symbolic act of solidarity, expressing the hope that one day every child might be as "free, unburdened and happy" as a kite in flight.

Ben said, "The creativity of our community—from the youngest schoolchildren to our oldest residents—has been a testament to the power of collective hope," Ben added, "*We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed a kite or a donation to support the life-changing work War Child UK does on the ground."*

Together we Pray

The Bishop's Chaplains will be leading Together we Pray next week, from Monday 30 March, 8.30am on the Bishop's Facebook page. Followed by Archdeacon Sam w.c 6 April.

The Vocations team will also be participating in 'Nine Days of Prayer' in the days leading up to Vocations Sunday. The prayers will appear on our social media channels and the Revd Dr Charlotte Harkness, curate at Long Melford, will be leading Together we Pray that week too. The prayers are available in a booklet which contains passages and reflections to help you on your vocational journey and understanding of what God is calling you to do: Nine Days of Prayer - Insight CofE Suffolk, also available from the resource collection.

Parish Accessibility Fund

The Church of England has made funds available to support parishes wishing to enable greater access to churches. These funds are supported by the Diocese in order to link parishes to the national scheme and ensure compliance and submission criteria are met. The fund can support adaptations to meet the needs of the disabled, visually or hearing impaired and the neurodivergent. Church of England consecrated church buildings and community halls in the ownership of the PCC that are used to promote mission are all eligible.

Grants are in the range of £5-50,000 and are subject to qualification and other criteria. The application is straightforward and the decision process relatively speedy. Any grants awarded are paid to parishes *before* the commencement of works. Since the withdrawal of the Listed Places of Worship scheme for reclamation of VAT on eligible projects, parishes may also wish to take advantage of the VAT exemption on certain qualifying projects aimed at increasing access to churches for relevant user groups.

Full details of the scope of the Parish Accessibility Grants' scheme are here and the VAT rules are here. As a first step you should contact contact **Toby Hart** at the Diocesan Office via email toby.hart@cofesuffolk.org

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Move to Cornerstone Grants from Church Grants from 31 March 2026

For the past few years, the Diocese has had a paid subscription to the Church Grants Database. This ends on 31 March 2026 and you will not be able to access Church Grants from this date. We will be moving over to the new Church of England Cornerstone Grants Database which will be free to use and is designed to support churches in identifying and securing funding opportunities.

- All those churches already registered with Church Grants will be contacted by the Parish Resources Team with an invitation to register with Cornerstone Grants. You do not need to pay to join Church Grants.
- If you need access before you receive our email please complete the Cornerstone form to establish your parish needs, verify your contact details and sign up for an online training session.
- The Parish Resources Team will be in touch to register you with Cornerstone on behalf of your parish.

The support from the Parish Resources Team remains and we will be providing training to help you get the most out of Cornerstone Grants. Emma Denton will continue to help you with all your grant queries, as well as writing bespoke Grant Strategies, reading applications prior to submission and supporting you through the process of applying for grants.

Birkett's Diocesan registry: Diocesan registry teams serving the dioceses of Guildford, London, Norwich and St Edmundsbury and Ipswich offer a website where you will be able to find answers to many frequently asked questions about the law relating to the Church of England and its clergy, dioceses and parishes. Please find their new website here: Diocesan Registry Website - Insight CofE Suffolk.

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

Date change: Elders Celebration service with Bishop Joanne

Our biennial service of thanks and celebration will take place in the Cathedral as usual this year but we have made a date change to avoid a clash in Bishop Joanne's diary. The

service will now be on **8 November** at 3.30pm. The original date was 11 October. Look out for more information nearer the time.

Lark Rise Retreats

'The Pilgrim's Progress - **exploring the themes of John Bunyan's novel'** a study day led by Jane Jennison on Saturday 28 March at St Nicholas Church, The Ferry, Felixstowe
'The resurrection appearances of Jesus', a quiet day led by the Revd Penny Brinkley on Saturday 11 April at St Nicholas Church, The Ferry, Felixstowe
'Faith on the edge - Jesus heals at the margins', a retreat day based on Luke 8.40 to 56, led by the Revd Helen Rengert on Saturday 9 May at St Edmunds Church, Langer Road, Felixstowe

Days run from 10.00am – 4.00pm and cost £27/person including refreshments and lunch. A bursary fund is available. More details and bookings are on www.larkriseretreats.org or call Catherine Bond and Jane Pearse on 01394 284213.

Safeguarding Training

In-Person **Foundation** Level Training is taking place at Huntingfield on **Wednesday 15 April -** book here.

Due to restricted capacity in the Safeguarding Training team, there will be fewer in-person training sessions this year. If you are a Volunteer, PCC member, children's/youth helper or other church member with Basic Awareness and/or Foundation level training that is due for renewal, and you do not want to access the training online, please do not miss this opportunity for in-person training. Future Basic Awareness and Foundation training sessions will be located in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. Dates for these will be advertised on Insight as soon as possible.

In-Person **Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse** Level Training is taking place in Bury St Edmunds on **Wednesday 29 April** 2026 book here. Future courses in 2026 will be held in Huntingfield and Ipswich.

To book your place on any in-person safeguarding training visit Insight, where you, or your local safeguarding officer, can book you a place to attend a course.

If you are looking for Safeguarding Leadership training, please check Insight for the latest course dates. Additional dates will be published as soon as they are available, so please keep checking in to find the right course for you. There will be a combination of in-person and online Leadership courses available throughout 2026. For those people who want to get a head start on completing the pre-work for their Leadership Training, please click here to view and download the Leadership pre-work materials that all participants need to complete before attending their first booked session of Leadership Training.

The Gathering | Friday 24 April 6.00pm - Sunday 26 April 2.00pm | Vauxhall Farm, Great Wenham CO7 6QQ
The Gathering is a residential weekend organised in partnership with Ipswich CYM and youth leaders from across Ipswich. The cost for this weekend is £110 per young person. Bookings are managed by CYM Ipswich using the online *Ticket Taylor* system. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to email Jamie Swinerd. To find out more and book please visit our website here.



Eco Church Support | Tuesday 28 April, 6.00pm to 7.00pm on Zoom

Join this online support group for an interesting talk by Nigel Cooper about using Creation Care to engage with your local community. Register here.



Vocations Fair | Saturday 25 April

Jesus called his first disciples with the words, 'Follow me' - and he offers the same invitation today. He calls each of us to use our gifts and talents in Christ-like ways in the world around us.

We are holding our annual Vocations Fair on Saturday 25 April in St Edmundsbury Cathedral. We would be delighted to see as many of you as possible. Come along by yourself or with congregation members to meet the Revd Canon Stuart Batten and his team who are ready to greet you and share the latest news about training and opportunities available in this Diocese.

This day focuses on encouraging individuals to explore God's call in their lives, including lay and ordained ministries. We have put together a collection of resources here, including reflections, prayers, orders of service and information about some of the vocations in the diocese.

In the beginning was the story. A different approach to the New Testament |
Starts Wednesday 29 April 2026 for seven weeks at Earl Stonham Village Hall
Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, this course takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. This course looks at the beginnings of what became Christianity in the writings of the New Testament, and explores their narrative features. The New Testament writers passed on the gospel of Jesus Christ not as a collection of facts or doctrines, but as a series of stories that shaped people's lives. What can we learn from them about the challenges we face in doing the same in our day? Please book here.

Digital Surgeries

Join members of the Parish Resources Team to find out more about enhancing the digital giving presence in your parish. Come along and have a one-to-one session with one of our Giving Advisors to find out about purchasing or borrowing a contactless device, setting up online giving (including QR codes), get your contactless device repaired or updated with new campaigns, and finding out how to have an effective online giving presence on your ACNY or website pages. For more information email our Diocesan Giving Advisors: emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org or trudie.harkin@cofesuffolk.org.

Wednesday 29 April | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 2.00pm or 3.00pm
Wednesday 8 July | St Michael's Church, Framlingham | 9.30am, 10.30am, 2.00pm or 3.00pm
Tuesday 4 August | St Peter and St Paul's Church, Lavenham | 9.30am, 10.30am, 2.00pm or 3.00pm
Further dates across the county to follow. Click here to book any of these dates.

Net Zero Carbon Heating | by Zoom | 30 April
Join this session on Decarbonising Church Heating Systems - Voices of experience, offered by the Regional Net Zero Carbon team. Click here to book.

Flourish | Saturday 2 May 2026, 9.30am for 10.00am – 3.00pm | The Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE
An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers and Lay Elders to join us for our annual study day. The guest speaker this year is the Revd Dr Thomas Sharp from St Augustine's College of Theology. A core part of Thomas's teaching focuses on human flourishing, especially how Christians care for others in times of hardship. The morning session focuses on Pastoral Care in a Broken World and the afternoon session is on the Theology of Safeguarding – what does it mean to care? Reserve your free space now! Click here: Flourish - Insight CofE Suffolk.

Celebrating our Care for Creation | Saturday 9 May, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

To mark the 10th anniversary of A Rocha's Eco Church Award Scheme, we are holding a day of celebration of all that is happening in our Suffolk churches to care for God's Creation. The event will begin with a morning of talks, focusing on the importance of our environmental mission and ministry in our communities and globally. There will then be an opportunity to explore exhibitions and stalls showcasing both what is happening around the Diocese and also organisations who support this work. The day will culminate in a service of celebration for representatives from all our churches who have achieved an Eco Church award, who are currently working towards an award or who would like to get involved. If you would like to contribute to the day, please contact: environment@cofesuffolk.org To register please book here.

PCC Workshop: Digital Giving (contactless and online, including QR codes) | 12.00pm, 13 May 2026 | 12.00pm, 13 October 2026 | Teams

Understand the need, options, availability, cost and impact of Digital Giving. Every parish should have some form of online giving available (including QR codes) and we can help you find the best option, including tips on how best to promote it to your congregation and wider community. A contactless donation device might be right for your church, and we will show you what's available to buy or you might choose to borrow one of our diocesan devices for an event or trial. We can help you find the best solution for your parish. Book here for May | Book here for October

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Preparing for Retirement Conference 19-21 May 2026 | The Retreat House, Chelmsford CM3 1HA
An opportunity for clergy considering retirement from parochial or chaplaincy roles to reflect on transitioning into ministry in retirement. Many people look forward to retirement as a time when they can at last be in charge of their diaries. Some dread the thought of moving away from activities and relationships that have given their lives a sense of purpose for decades. For clergy, and especially those who have been in full-time ministry for many years, retirement raises questions about identity and meaning.

If you would like to join us, book here. The conference cost will be covered by the diocese and won't come from your CMD grant. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Lesley Steed.

The Tower - decrypting the tower of St Mary's Church, Wortham | Saturday 28 March, 7.00pm | Wortham Village Hall IP22 1PS

Have you ever wondered why the round tower at St Mary's Wortham is so much larger than its counterparts in Norfolk and Suffolk? Come to a talk by Stephen Davis to discover the results of his research carried out over many years. Tickets £10 from Wortham Post Office or Bridget tel. 07747 620003 Cash bar available. All proceeds to St Mary the Virgin Nave Roof Appeal.

Maundy Thursday Footwashing | The Guineas Shopping Centre, Newmarket | 12.00pm - 2.00pm
Your help, support and prayers are required for "foot washing" on Maundy Thursday.
A group from All Saints' Church, Newmarket, will be in The Guineas shopping centre, outside B&M; offering to 'wash' people's feet. By 'wash' meaning to clean/polish people's shoes. This symbolic act commemorates the washing of the Apostles' feet, by Jesus Christ at the Last Supper If you are able to join the group, please speak to the Revd Robert on 07930 403901 or email robertotule@allsaintsnewmarket.org for more details.

Lunchtime Organ Recital | 12 noon Easter Monday | St Mary's, Woodbridge
Join Paul Greally, Assistant Organist at Westminster Abbey, for a recital. Paul works alongside the Sub-Organist and Organ Scholar in playing for services in the Abbey, assisting with conducting the Abbey Choir, and with training the choristers. He became a prize-winning Fellow of the Royal College of Organists as a teenager, and read Music at King's College, Cambridge, where he was the organ scholar for four years.

'King of Kings' Family Film Showing | 4.00pm Easter Monday | St Mary's, Bury St Edmunds
Come along to a showing of "King of Kings", a film for all the family. Popcorn & snack tea to be provided. Please email jackie.crofts@stmaryschurchbse.org to book.

End of Life Matters | Wednesday 15 April. 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start | Thomas Clarkson Centre, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3JT (free parking on site!)
Navigating the end of life for a loved one is always a challenge, and we often see families struggling with avoidable burdens due to a lack of prior discussion. To support those of all ages in our area, we are hosting a free event featuring experienced geriatricians, palliative care doctors, local funeral directors and other experts in this field. In attendance:

- Dr Elsie Hui & Dr Kelvin Bengtson: Medical Matters, covering ReSPECT forms and making good medical choices.
- Stephen Mills: Estate Planning Consultant, expert on Lasting Power of Attorney and Will Writing.
- Davina Armstrong: Funeral Planning options and services in a relaxed, conversational seminar.

Also joined by former senior and palliative care nurses for guidance and support. The evening will be guided by the context of our Christian hope. This event is free and open to

everyone. Please let us know you're coming by filling out the form at tinyurl.com/endoflifematters

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A Piano Recital of Joyful Music to Celebrate Easter | Sunday 19 April 5.30pm | St Mary's, Woodbridge

Join Andrew Leach for a special piano recital including: Bach, Scarlatti, Schubert, Liszt, Chopin, Schumann and Grieg. Andrew was a music scholar at King's College, Cambridge and is now conductor of Woodbridge Choral Society, with whom highlights in recent years have included: Verdi Requiem, Britten War Requiem, Mendelssohn Elijah, Mozart Requiem and Ben Ponniah.

Lower than the Angels: A history of Sex and Christianity | St Mary's Church Hadleigh, Monday 20 April, 7.00pm

An opportunity to hear from Diarmaid MaCulloch, Emeritus Professor of the History of the Church, University of Oxford. Includes a book signing. Admission are £10 and are available from office@stmaryshadleigh.co.uk.

Rogationtide run or walk | Saturday 9 May, 10.00am | St Martin's Church, Exning CB8 7HF

Join a stewarded, waymarked circular walk tracing the ancient parish boundary of Exning, Newmarket. With a distance of 13.2 miles or a 10-mile shorter option. Please book here: www.exning.net/walks.html

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Festival concert: New Awakenings | Saturday 9 May, 7.00pm | St Andrew's Church, Rushmere, Ipswich IP5 1DH

Cantus Firmus Choir is drawn from churches across Suffolk and North Essex. The concert will feature some choral classics, such as Finzi's 'My Spirit Sang All Day', Elgar's 'As Torrents in Summer', Rutter's 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', and Haydn's 'The Heavens Are Telling', as well as arrangements of contemporary worship songs. The guest artist is violinist Natasha Petrovic, who will also be talking about her Christian faith. Tickets £13 (under 18s £5), from cantusfirmus.org.uk

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College of the Resurrection, Mirfield - Open Day 2026 Sunday 10 May

If you are considering where to undertake your theological training and formation, you are welcome to join the next College Open Day, come along and meet the team. Please visit the College website to register for the Open Day. For an informal chat about life at the College please contact the Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin who is a member of the College Council. Mobile: 07814 949828 Email: revdotchin@gmail.com

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Living Well with Dementia | Thursday 11 June, 10.45am | The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6EE

Come along to a day conference to learn more about making your church dementia-friendly, and caring for those with dementia spiritually and pastorally. Booking costs £25, including coffee/tea and a two-course lunch. To book your place, please email: mihoward@btinternet.com.

Cathedral Reflective Pilgrimages for 2026 for Parishes, Benefices and/or Deaneries

Your cathedral awaits your visit! St Edmundsbury Cathedral has three dates unfilled and would be very pleased to hear from you, the dates are Sundays 19 April, 10 May and 14 June. Arrival from 1.30pm for a a reflective and devotional pilgrimage around the building

starting at 2.00pm, then Choral Evensong at 3.30pm, followed by tea and cake kindly provided and served by the Friends of the Cathedral. Please do be in touch with Cathedral Chaplain, the Revd Canon Mark Haworth markhaworth@stedscathedral.org tel 01284 748720, for further information and booking.

Notices

Online Faculty System (OFS): Please be aware that the OFS system is currently experiencing some technical difficulties. While the site may still be accessible, some users may see a message explaining the situation. Unfortunately, this issue is outside our control and highlights the importance of modernising both the system and the infrastructure it depends on. The national team is working on a solution, and we are hopeful that it restored shortly, potentially as soon as later today. In the meantime, thank you for your patience and please do keep trying to log in again at regular intervals.

Energy Footprint Tool: Complete your EFT on the Parish Returns Portal here. If you require log-in details or any other assistance with the online portal, please email statistics@cofesuffolk.org If you need help with the EFT please email James Rolls, our Net Zero Carbon Officer.

Parish Share Congregational guide: We are delighted to announce the production of a new leaflet on Parish Share for everyone in our congregations, please download your copy here.

Completion of the LEGO Model: The LEGO model of St Edmundsbury Cathedral is almost finished. The dedicated team of volunteers has worked so hard over the past ten years, not only building the model, but also chatting to visitors and raising a significant amount in donations for the Cathedral. If you have not yet added a brick (or more) to the model, now is your chance. Volunteers are generally on duty from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Monday to Saturday. At the end of May there will be a special celebration for all those involved in building the model over the past ten years. If you were involved earlier in the project, do please contact Sarah Friswell on legouser@stedscathedral.org so that we can ensure that you receive an invitation.

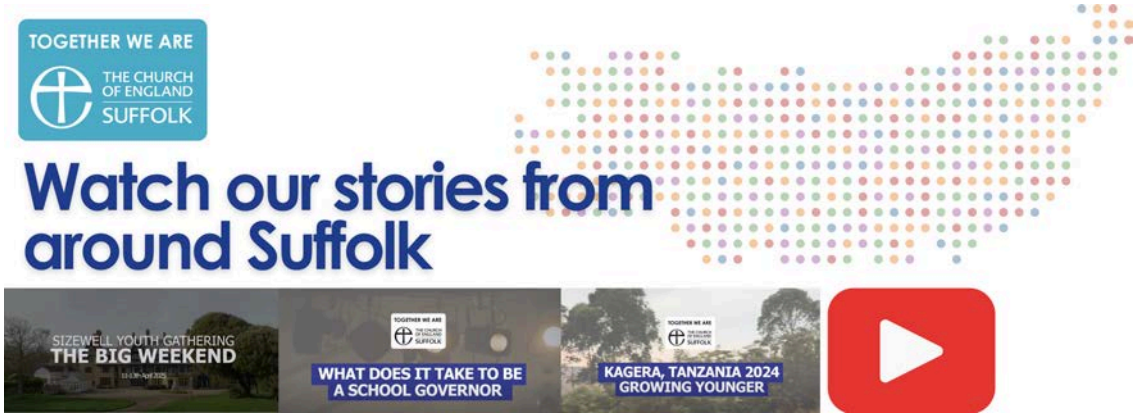
Vacancies

HR Administration Assistant | Closing date: 30 March
Children's and Families' Minister | Parish of Whitton | Closing date 1 April
Children and Families' Worker | Alde Sandlings Benefice | Closing date: 3 April
Diocesan Director of Education | Closing date: 6 April
Deputy Diocesan Director of Education | Closing date: 20 April
Rector | North Bosmere Benefice
Team Vicar | Forest Heath Team Ministry
Team Vicar | Sole Bay Team
Team Vicar & Associate Priest | Blyth Valley Team Ministry F/T Stipendiary Post

Tenor Vicar | Choral Non-Executive Safeguarding Chapter Member | Cathedral Volunteers | Risk, Audit and Review Committee Member, Finance Committee Member | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Organist or Pianist **|** United Benefice of Stanton | For more information please contact Ali Wakelin on 07717 125743.

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