



# in touch

50p

## All Saints' Church, Springfield

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All Saints' Church,  
Springfield

JANUARY 2026

[www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk)



# W H O ' S W H O

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\* PTO = Permission to officiate

# From the Revd Sally

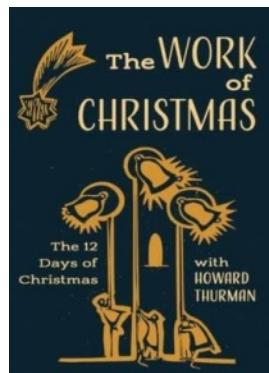


Dear Friends

Happy New Year!!!! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of Christ with your nearest and dearest, or quietly and reflectively with those close to you. Whatever was your seasonal celebration we now move on into 2026 and we have work to do.

Howard Thurman, an American Theologian, writes in his poem entitled "The Work of Christmas."

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.



Think about your impact on our Church and community. Are we doing the 'work' of Christmas? I commend this to you as a New Year resolution and recommitment for us all to think about why we follow Christ and how we can, in a practical sense, be the hands and feet of Christ in Springfield. How can we reach out to those that need our help and to be shown the love of Christ? Can we do more? I hope we can.

We have an amazing church here with a wide range of age groups and backgrounds who worship side by side. We are welcoming and diverse in our worship. So tell people about us, invite them to come, not just to our services on Sunday, but to all the activities we have here in the week.

Come and sing with the choir or ring the bells on a Monday, join the prayer group on a Tuesday, come to Wednesday worship and Children in Church, and Connect Café and Women's Fellowship on a Thursday. We need to continue to be that place where the work of Christmas happens all year round, so let's make music in the heart of the community.

Blessings

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Cott".

# **Singing in an Advent Choir:**

## **A Season of Waiting, Wonder and Worship**

There is something very special about singing in a choir during Advent. Long before Christmas Day itself, the choir starts practicing the soaring descants for the carols, something that the soprano singers especially look forward to!

For choir members, Advent is a busy season, daily life with Christmas shopping and organising, and then also in the hymns and anthems we rehearse. We get together on dark Monday evenings and early Sunday mornings, hoping that the church heating is on, and begin our practice.

Singing in a choir at Advent is also an experience of community. Every voice matters, whether strong or subtle. Each person gives what they can, trusting that their small part will blend into a larger and more beautiful sound. In this way, the choir mirrors the church itself: many members, one body, united in purpose. When I'm standing shoulder to shoulder with my fellow choir members, everything else fades. For those few minutes, all that matters is breath, harmony, and the hope for Christmas we're trying to convey in our voices.

What I love most about singing in the choir during Advent is how it slows me down. For those few minutes of singing, the hectic pace of Christmas preparation fades away. So, if you've ever thought about joining the choir, even if you're convinced you "can't sing" – Advent is a beautiful time to give it a try – but why wait until then?

*Lisa Carter*

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## **An Advent Prayer**

Lord prepare us for your coming. Clean out the unnecessary clutter of our church and personal lives, the piles of dead habits, the cupboards full of prejudice, the cobwebs of compromise and the sad rota of forgotten dreams. Open our church and our own lives to the free flow of your refreshing spirit. Give us a new vision and hope for the future. We want to belong to you again. In Jesus' Name. **Amen**



## Angel Tree

Many thanks to you who have supported Prison Fellowship with Angel Tree again this year by buying presents or giving money for their purchase and postage. Due to the rapid changes in the prison population here we have had fewer requests. A total of 48 dads have requested 98 gifts for their children. Our share has been 13 gifts for the children of 6 dads. Included with the gifts are Christian books if the parent has agreed.

I have yet to post all the parcels (Dec. 7th) but we should be able to also make a donation to Prison fellowship towards the cost of running this programme.

Patricia Otter  
*Prison Fellowship Chelmsford*

## Churchyard

Happy New Year!

Our December session was cancelled in advance due to the Christmas Fayre on the same day but, as I write this, it may well have had to be cancelled for wet weather!

We will resume in January and I am sure there will be plenty to do to keep us warm, as well as our hot refreshments. Do come along and join us on 3 January, 7 February and 7 March to help maintain the churchyard. We meet between 9.30am and noon, weather permitting.

Many thanks  
*Barbara Garside*

## What, oh what, is that person's name?!

Do your New Year Resolutions include the forlorn hope that you will be better at remembering people's names in 2026?

Many of us – and not only those of the older generation – have difficulty remembering names. It's not just TV personalities and so on, but people we meet in the street. We know exactly who they are, we see them every week in church or the supermarket, we know what job they do and which school their children go to. But as for their name – it's a blank.

Help is at hand, however. Not to solve the problem, but at least to name it. 'Anomic aphasia' is the clinical name for the inability to remember a name, even when we can remember everything else about someone.

There is also the strange truth that the cure for anomic aphasia comes spontaneously, often in the middle of the night, when that elusive identity pops unbidden into our memory. We must be sure, of course, to put the light on and write it down, because for sure it will be gone again with the morning light!

*Parish Pump*

## The Government's Climate Action Plan

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. *1 Corinthians 10:26*

In 2019 the previous Conservative government set a legally-binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050. Under the Climate Change Act, the government has to produce – and update at regular intervals – a plan to achieve this target in 5-year stages.

The present government's *Carbon Budget Growth and Delivery Plan* was published in the autumn, covering the period up to 2037, by which time carbon emissions must be 77% below their 1990 level. This is going to affect everyone, so I hope that 'in touch' readers will be interested to see some of the plan's highlights.

The plan seeks to accelerate the move to a clean energy economy, aiming to support 400,000 additional clean energy jobs by 2030 and to lever in over £50 billion in private sector green investment. A core focus is investing in UK production of low-carbon energy so as to increase energy security and to reduce energy costs for homes and businesses.

Here are some of the key policies and proposals.

**Power:** Plans to almost double electricity generation by 2035, with

targets of 63% from renewable and nuclear sources by 2030 and 98% by 2035. Gas-fired power plants will be retrofitted with carbon capture technology. The public energy company 'Great British Energy' will be responsible for a wide range of clean energy generation projects.

**Heating Homes:** Upgrading homes for 5 million families through the Warm Homes Plan, promoting heat pumps and insulation, and expanding heat networks. New homes will be built to high energy-efficiency standards with low-carbon heating and solar panels.

**Road Transport:** Promoting the uptake of zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) through the ZEV mandate, which aims for 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold to be zero-emission by 2030, rising to 100% by 2035. The plan highlights continued investment in charging infrastructure, with funding for 100,000 new public charging points.

**Air Travel:** Encouraging the use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) which reduce emissions by mixing fuel made from non-fossil sources like waste into the normal jet fuel. Under the SAF mandate, the proportion of such fuels should rise from 2% this year to 5% by 2030.

**Industry:** Encouraging measures to reduce waste generation, increase process efficiency, and promote the reuse, recycling and remanufacturing of materials. Providing funding for carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and for hydrogen projects.

**Nature:** Supporting new woodland creation to absorb carbon, with a target to more than double tree planting to 37,000 hectares per year by 2030. Peatlands will be restored, aiming for 55% of peatlands to be in a natural or rewetted state by 2040. There will be a full ban on the sale of horticultural peat.

**Agriculture:** Promoting the creation of new woodlands on farmland and a 40% increase in hedgerows. The Sustainable Farming Incentive will pay farmers for integrating trees and shrubs into their land. They will also be encouraged to diversify their incomes by growing energy crops or installing renewable energy.



*To find out more or to share your ideas on Eco Church please go to the website [www.allSaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church](http://www.allSaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church)*

*or speak to one of the Eco Church Group – Roger McFarland, Nicky Morecroft, Chris McFarland, Ian Poston, Dave Gauld, Beth Cornish, Ann Salmon, Shirley Duggan.*

**Waste:** Sending biodegradable household waste (food, paper, wood etc) to landfill should be virtually eliminated by 2028, through reforms in waste collection and packaging, and by extending requirements to recycle such materials. The long-term goal is to eliminate avoidable plastic waste by 2042 and to achieve zero avoidable waste by 2050.

*Roger McFarland*



### **This month's eco suggestions**

- Make **one small lifestyle change** in January that will be better for the environment – like changing something you usually eat, or something you buy, or how often you use a car
- Try to **do the same next month**, and if you can, in March, April, May .....

# Advent Activities

*This edition of our magazine had to go to the printer a little earlier than usual but these are some of the activities that were already happening in December:*



*Our orchestra gave a concert at Stock Church*



*Boswells School rehearse for their carol service*



*Preparations for the Christingle service (above) and a view at the service (below).*



*The Archdeacon and the Rector with the Fire Brigade standard bearer after the Blue Light Carol Service.*



*One of many stalls and the refreshments at the Christmas Fayre*

# Getting to know....

It is a pleasure to be able to introduce myself to you with a brief history, or an overview more aptly, of my journey to this point. I am a third-year ordinand with St Mellitus college in Chelmsford and I will be with you in worship as I conclude my training and prepare for ordination next year.

I grew up and still live in Broomfield with my wife. I have two children who are old enough to have flown the nest (it never fails to surprise me when I think of how the time has flown). During my childhood I grew up in a Methodist home and, as such, my brother and I went to Sunday school every week without fail under instruction from my mother. Attending church was a tradition that I quickly forgot as soon as I was able to exercise free will.

It is at this point that I will jump forward many years, not only to keep the length of this piece manageable for the reader, but also because I am happy to chat further over coffee. I was asked randomly to attend the Methodist Church in Broomfield for the anniversary of 100 years. I had some pictures that were requested. At the service the Revd Martin Turner from Westminster Central Hall was preaching on Romans and he spoke directly to me. He spoke so effectively about the forgiveness afforded us in Christ that, as a result of this service, 'And Can It Be' is one of my favourite hymns and Romans 8 my favourite passage. On the 6th March 2011 I became a Christian and a couple of weeks later I felt a strong call to ministry.



## Andy Mussell

I began training in the Methodist Church for five years and, on completion, I began to minister in the Chelmsford circuit, I always assumed my call to ministry was in the Methodist Church (spoiler alert – I was wrong). I gave up my ministry to follow God's call and moved to Broomfield St Mary's to begin the discernment process in 2019, and here I am, nearly at the end of the process but certainly not at the end of my journey in discipleship.

It will give me great pleasure to get to know you all during the time that I have with you. I am happy to expand on this short piece and provide some more detail, talking about God's call is something I will never grow tired of.

Yours in Christ,

Andy

# Calendar for JANUARY

A recording of the Sunday 10.30am service will be available on YouTube, accessible from the church website, soon after the service.

Th 1 NAMING OF JESUS

*Bank Holiday*

Fr 2

Sa 3 9.30am An opportunity for churchyard gardening (to noon)

## Su 4 EPIPHANY

### 10.30am Communion Together

*leader & preacher: The Rector*

Mo 5 8.00pm Beer & Bible Hour at The Tulip – all welcome

Tu 6 10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church  
7.30pm The Ministry Team meets

We 7 9.30am Children in Church  
10.00am Holy Communion

*president & preacher: The Rector*

Th 8 2.00pm All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering  
2.30pm Women's Fellowship – Chelmsford Camera Club

Fr 9

Sa 10 9.30am Family (Prayer) Breakfast at Wetherspoons

## Su 11 BAPTISM OF CHRIST

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

### 10.30am Holy Communion

*president: The Rector preacher: Andy Mussell*

### 10.30am The Sunday Special Service

*leader: Julian Mallett*

Mo 12

Tu 13 10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church

We 14 9.30am Children in Church  
10.00am Holy Communion

*president: The Rector preacher: Dave Gauld*

Th 15 2.00pm All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering

Fr 16

Sa 17



# 2025 Green Lifestyle Questionnaire Results

Thank you very much to the 91 people – a record number! – who filled in our latest annual eco questionnaire in the autumn. There was a good range of responses from people who come to services in the church, Sunday Special, and Children-in-Church, plus a few from people who are connected with the church through online services or in other ways (e.g. as magazine readers or through Connect Café). The results are in!

## Using Energy

- Most people try to save energy at home, and use LED bulbs in some or all of their lights.
- 27% have renewable electricity or buy their electricity on a renewable tariff – but 42% don't know whether their electricity is green. 9% have solar panels.

## Reduce or Re-use, and Recycle what's left

- Everyone says that they try to reduce or re-use their waste, and to recycle what can't be re-used – 92% always and 8% sometimes.

## Getting Around

- Less than half (44%) usually walk or cycle to church services and events (fewer than in the 2024 responses).
- Car ownership is quite high – 54% of households have one car, and 26% have two or more cars.
- 61% of those with cars try to reduce their car use when they can, and almost all of the others do this sometimes.
- 20% have electric and/or hybrid cars (compared with 17% in the 2024 survey).
- Car ownership is higher among younger people, and they are much less likely to walk or cycle to church.

## Caring for the Environment

- Everyone enjoys visiting green spaces and being in the countryside.
- 80% are interested in the natural world and how they can help wildlife, and the rest say they are interested sometimes.
- 83% of those with a garden have some elements to make it more wildlife-friendly, and 44% have most of what's needed.
- 29% are regularly involved with activities to help the environment, and another 23% are involved sometimes (slightly fewer than in 2024).

## Eating Well

- 57% try to buy British/locally-grown or organic food, and another 38% do this sometimes (more than in 2024).
- 34% like to buy Fairtrade goods where possible, with a further 54% doing this sometimes.
- 24% have changed their diet to eat less meat and dairy products, with another 48% doing this sometimes.

## And more ...

- 96% see living a 'green' lifestyle as an important part of their Christian faith (an increase from 87% in 2024).
- Over half support a charity which cares for the environment.
- 32% have some or all of their banking or savings accounts with ethical organisations which generally don't fund activities which harm the environment – but 52% don't know whether their providers are ethical.
- 15% have measured their 'environmental footprint' in the last year.

## Prayers we remember

It's good to see the progress we are making in living greener lifestyles, as well as the ways we can go further in caring for God's world. Several responses included additional comments which the Eco Church Group will consider carefully.

If you are interested, and have internet access, there are previous '*in touch*' articles on All Saints' website about changing to a green (renewable) electricity tariff (September 2021), ethical banking and savings (May 2023), and how to check your environmental footprint (October 2023). You can go to the *Church Life – Eco Church* page and scroll down to the bottom to find the articles.

*Roger McFarland*

## Famous last words

"Step back a bit, I can't get you in the picture."

"Don't worry, it's not used any more."

"I thought it tasted rather strange."

"You have driven this before, haven't you?"

"And that one over there, the red flashing one, what does that mean?"

"It's okay, I saw them do it on TV."

## Christian Life

Life is too short for us to do everything we want to do; but it is long enough for us to do everything God wants us to do.

This is one of a monthly series of 'prayers we remember' which I'm sharing with you through *in touch* magazine, in the hope that you will find them as helpful as I do. They are well-known or special prayers which, I feel, capture what we want to say to God in a way which touches the heart.

This is a prayer which Methodists use in their annual Covenant Service, normally held at the beginning of a new year. I was brought up as a Methodist, and I still have a fondness for the direct and down-to-earth way in which Methodists often express their faith.

I am no longer my own but yours.  
Put me to what you will,  
rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing,  
put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for you,  
or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you,  
or brought low for you;  
let me be full,  
let me be empty,  
let me have all things,  
let me have nothing:  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.  
And the covenant now made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

*Roger McFarland*

# They're talking about us.....

Two publications in the Chelmsford Diocese have been reporting on what goes on here at All Saints'. "Climate Action Now" is the monthly diocesan environment newsletter about ECO matters and "We Pray" is a quarterly prayer diary.

- June 2025 - All Saints' achievement of an Eco Church Gold Award was the subject of a long feature with photo, based on our news release. The environment pages of the diocesan website carried the same article, and a shorter piece formed the 'good news story' in the 30th June issue of *The View*. (The gold award was also in the *Essex Chronicle* and our local ward councillors' newsletter.)
- August 2025 - In *Climate Action Now*, All Saints' 'Days of Creation Walk' was made available as an editable resource for other churches to adapt and use during this year's Season of Creation, at the same time publicising All Saints' own walk held on 7th September.
- September 2025 - *Climate Action Now* covered our churchyard gold award celebration service, with a picture of AD Jonathan and Marie Goldman MP with the Rector and members of the Eco Church Group.
- December 2025 - In the diocese's *Enviro Advent Calendar*, the 7th December entry was from All Saints', titled 'Reaching gold - and beyond', with a picture of the plastic bottles cross sculpture.
- December 2025 - *Climate Action Now* and *The View* both carried links to December's *in touch* Eco Church article on how to have a Greener Christmas.



**WEPRAY**

Praying for each other in Essex & East London

Chelmsford Diocese Prayer Diary

"We Pray" is published quarterly and contains daily prayers and stories from across our Diocese. It's well worth reading and using – you can find it on the diocesan website at

[www.chelmsford.anglican.org/publications/wepray/](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/publications/wepray/)

- June to August 2024 - highlighted Sunday Special and invited pray for our ministry team and congregation and all involved in the Sunday Special service.
- September to November 2025 – celebrated our Eco Church Gold Award and included a picture of our ECO Church Team.
- December 2025 to February 2026 – mentioned our Church Magazine winning a prize. Prayers were invited for all parish magazine editors and church communications officers. May God bless their work as they share the Good News through parish magazines and all forms of church communications across Essex and East London.



**Thank you for continuing to support us  
These items are most needed at present:**

Small jars instant coffee and hot chocolate  
Long-life fruit juice and fruit squash  
Tinned meat meals  
Tinned fish  
Instant mashed potato sachets  
Tinned vegetables, potatoes and tomatoes  
Tinned pulses, tinned spaghetti, tinned soup  
Rice  
Pasta sauce  
Ketchup and mayo  
Cooking oil  
UHT milk  
Tinned fruit  
Sponge puddings and tinned rice pudding  
Instant custard sachets and tinned custard  
Jam and spreads  
Packets of biscuits  
Chocolate biscuit bars/cereal bars/sweets/savoury crackers  
All toiletries inc: washing up liquid, toilet rolls, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, shaving foam, laundry tabs/pods Nappies sizes 5 to 7

**Items can be left in the container in the porch at the church**

[www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk)

See also weekly Top 5 most needed items updates on Facebook

# THE PURPOSE DRIVEN DECLARATION

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Several years ago we heard about Rick Warren, a church leader in America. He started a church in his home and, from a very small beginning, the church, Saddleback, grew into one of the largest. He wrote the best selling books, *The Purpose Driven Church* and *The Purpose Driven Life*, which emphasised five biblical purposes for every Christian and every church, **WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP, MINISTRY and EVANGELISM**.

Printed below is a statement that we both signed up for.

Today I am stepping across the line. I'm tired of waffling and I'm finished with wavering. I've made my choice, the verdict is in and my decision is irrevocable. I'm going God's way. There is no turning back now!

I will live the rest of my life serving God's purposes with God's people on God's planet for God's glory. I will use my life to celebrate His presence, cultivate His character, participate in His family, demonstrate His love and communicate His word.

Since my past has been forgiven, and I have a purpose for living, and a home awaiting in heaven, I refuse to waste any more time or energy on shallow living, petty thinking, trivial talking, thoughtless doing, useless regretting, hurtful resenting or faithless worrying. Instead I will magnify God, grow to maturity, serve in ministry, and fulfil my mission in the membership of His family.

Because this life is preparation for the next, I will value worship over wealth, we over me, character over comfort, service over status, and people over possessions, position and pleasures. I know what

matters most and I'll give it all I'll got. I'll do the best I can with what I have for Jesus Christ today.

I won't be captivated by culture, manipulated by critics, motivated by praise, frustrated by problems, debilitated by temptation, or intimidated by the devil. I'll keep running my race with my eyes on the goal, not the sidelines or those running by me. When times get tough and I get tired, I won't back up, back off, back down, back out or backside.

I just keep moving forward by God's grace. I'm Spirit-led, purpose-driven and mission-focused so I cannot be bought, I will not be compromised and I shall not quit until I finish the race.

I'm a trophy of God's amazing grace so I will be gracious to everyone, grateful for every day and generous with everything that God entrusts to me.

To my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I say: However, Whenever, Wherever and Whatever You ask me to do, my answer in advance is yes!

Wherever You lead and whatever the cost I'm ready. Anytime. Anywhere. Anyway.

Whatever it takes Lord! Whatever it takes!

I want to be used by You in such a way, that on that final day I'll hear You say, "Well done, thou good and faithful one." Come on in, and let the eternal party begin!

We hope this is an encouragement to you.

*Peter and Linda Balls*

Peter and Linda Balls  
are introducing a

## **Family (Prayer) Breakfast**

**on Saturday 10th  
January**

**at 9.30am**

**at the Ivory Peg  
(Wetherspoons)  
in New London Road.**

**Hope to see you there.**



## **Women's Fellowship**

We met in December to enjoy a fabulous Christmas lunch cooked for us by members of the Social Committee. The tables looked really festive, decorated with crackers and gifts (made by Doreen) and pretty flower arrangements (made by Sally S).

I'm sure we all appreciate all the prayer and hard work that Doreen puts into our meetings and we do thank her so much.

Our January 8th meeting will be about Chelmsford Camera Club.

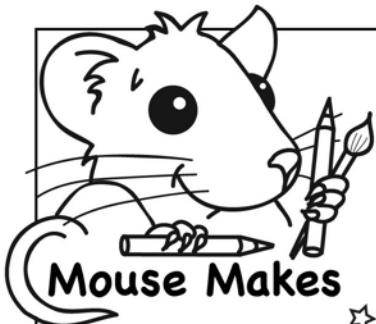
*Mary Bartlam*



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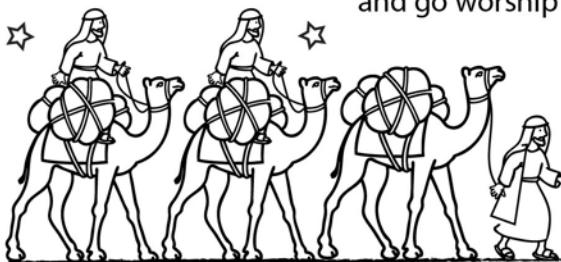
## WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came  
from a land far away,  
they had seen a star  
that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign  
of the birth of a king,  
so they followed that star  
to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem  
as the prophets foretold,  
they gave him three gifts:  
myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus  
our saviour and king,  
let us join with the Wise Men  
and go worship Him!



Read the story  
of the Wise Men in  
*Matthew 2:1-12*

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

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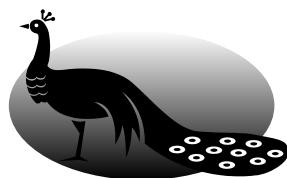
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