



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



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Plans to reach net zero carbon goal



The Church of England is to consult dioceses, cathedrals, national institutions, parishes, schools, and other interested parties on a proposed routemap to achieve net zero carbon by 2030, as papers are published for November's inaugural meeting of a new General Synod.

The draft routemap, published among today's General Synod papers, suggests how all parts of the Church of England can make changes together to achieve the ambitious target set by General Synod in 2020 to be net zero carbon 20 years ahead of the Government's targets.

It includes recommendations for building maintenance, heating and the availability of specialist advice for each setting alongside how the central Church and dioceses can offer support.

The newly elected Synod will be formally inaugurated on Tuesday November 16 at the start of a two-day meeting.

Items on the agenda include a debate on the wealth gap in the UK and discussions about Church matters including the recent review of governance and the development of a new vision and strategy for the Church of England in the 2020s and beyond.

That includes an ambitious goal to double the number of children and young people in churches.

Making possible Synod's 'ambitious target' of net-zero by 2030 is the draft net zero carbon routemap which has been written by a sub-committee of the Church of England's Environmental Working Group, chaired by the Bishop of Selby, Dr John Thomson, with advice from across the Church and charities.



He said: "God's creation is in crisis, and there is an urgent call to address this at every level of our global community, to protect

creation, including the world's poorest communities who are being affected the most and soonest by climate change.

"Synod has set an ambitious target, and this represents the next step in building consensus around a workable plan for the whole Church to meet that aim and to make the target possible.

"We recognise this will be challenging and there will be a financial cost, however many adaptations can also be made simply and quickly, such as switching to a green energy provider, filling gaps in windows, and changing lightbulbs, all of which can help to reduce energy costs.

"I encourage individuals and communities to engage with these consultation proposals and to think at every level what can be done to be part of the change we need to live out in response to our Christian calling to safeguard and care for all of God's creation."

Global leaders will be meeting in Glasgow to discuss how the world can tackle the climate emergency following increasingly frequent extreme weather events, the IPCC's "code red for humanity" report, and depleting biodiversity.

The Government has committed to a target of net zero carbon by 2050, with an interim target of a 78 per cent reduction, set in April 2021.



Anyone can respond to the consultation online before the closing date of 28 February 2022, with responses particularly requested from Dioceses and Cathedrals.

There will be a series of information sessions, open to all, in the autumn of 2021 to discuss the suggestions, and answer questions arising during the consultation period.

The Collect for Harvest Thanksgiving

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

31st October 2021

All Saints Sunday

Church Family Worship (Harvest Thanksgiving)

Leader: Lynne Spedding

Speaker: Lynne Spedding

Reading: Mark 12:28-34

Wednesday Morning Coffee and a Chat



How many Simons???

This week in Coffee and Chat we took a look at one of the least known disciples of Jesus and discovered that there are nine blokes called Simon in the New Testament. I am not going to list them here but I could give you the task of identifying them!

The character we wanted to study is usually called Simon the Zealot and is listed as one of the disciples in three of the gospels. He is also in the list of Apostles in Acts Chapter 1. The gospel writers used this description to distinguish this Simon from Simon Peter—and the other Simons in the New Testament.

He may have belonged to a Jewish sect known as the Zealots, who were bent on revolution and looking for a Messiah to violently overthrow Rome. On the other hand, this group may not even have existed at the time the gospels took place—possibly not even when they were written. So, Simon may have been labelled ‘the zealot’ because of his zeal for the teachings of Christ. Zealousness is a quality that frequently comes up in Scripture, so it could have easily been a description of a positive quality Simon possessed. Kitey made us laugh when she recalled a school report of hers that said something like ‘Zealous but ineffective’!!

When Jesus cleanses the temple in the Gospel of John, his disciples recall Psalm 69:10, implying that Jesus was motivated by zeal:

“His disciples remembered that it is written: ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’”

Heather giggled because she was reminded of ‘Ethelred the Unready’ and we agreed that the church may have more people like Ethelred than like Simon the Zealot. Grace, who has such good recall of bible verses jogged our memories regarding the teaching of Jesus about being connected to the vine and we all realised how important it is to our faith journey to remain connected to our church family and to the teachings of Christ. Small groups like ours are not only fun and stimulating but encourage us in so many ways.

We had such an interesting discussion about the BIGNESS OF GOD and how so often religious people put God in a box of rules and regulations. As Dek said ‘It is not about keeping the rules but about living fully every day. Do we start from the viewpoint that God is love or God is judge? And which aspect of God is the guide for our faith lives?’

So, even though we know very little about Simon the Zealot his

name sparked a whole range of thoughts and ideas. It is clear that he was one of the 12 who spent three years living closely with Jesus and sharing his ministry. He saw numerous demonstrations of Jesus’ divinity and he would’ve been sent somewhere on mission like the others were but we don’t know where. The word we translate as apostle (apóstolos) literally means “one who is sent.” He was definitely one of the leaders of the early Christian church and his zeal will have influenced many people.

Looking forward to next week’s discussion and we hope you can join us. The zoom link is on the back page of the newsletter. We would love to hear your ideas – however wacky!!

Tricia Atherton



Music@Mike's

Friday 5th November
Soprano **Rachel Abbott** &
accompanist **Tom Pieczora**



Rachel’s programme will include songs by Wagner, Verdi, Puccini, Porter and Loewe
Concert begins at 1.15pm.

Refreshments including soup and/or a full lunch will be available from the Angel At My Table café both before and after the concert.

As usual entrance is free but donations will be welcomed.



Open Studio Days 2021

Any Sunday in November between 12 noon and 6pm.

Olga Bileski invites you to view her work and enjoy a cuppa. She will also be happy to answer any questions about the work.

ICONS..PAINTINGS..HANDMADE CHRISTMAS CARDS..HANDPAINTED SILK SCARVES (All make great gifts for Christmas, the scarves are especially useful for sending by post as they are so light, can usually be sent in a card.)

Booking is essential, as only 2 people will be allowed at any one time (for health and safety), and there's a small entry fee of £2 p.p. refundable on purchases over £6.

Please email olga.bileski@outlook.com Or TEXT 07722432689 for more details and location.

How to contact the Office...



Phone—Landline—01625 421 984

Mobile— 07579 820 265 (on Thursdays when Porsche is working from home)

Email— clergypa@maccteam.org.uk to contact Porsche

- office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk to

contact Rachel for room bookings and building matters

- stmikesnotices@gmail.com for newsletter items.

- maccteamprinting@gmail.com for all printing enquiries.

In Person—The Office, St Michael's Church, Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY

Please note Porsche is usually in the office on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays** between 9:30am-2:30pm.

Wednesday is her day off and **Thursday** she works from home between the same hours.

Rachel's office hours are not set so please make a prior appointment if you wish to meet with Rachel in person.

New Memorials Showroom Open

Our new showroom is open for business. Should anyone wish to visit us, they are more than welcome.

The showroom is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and I am here 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Wednesday should they wish to make an appointment to discuss their requirements with me.

We have a selection of memorials in the showroom and copies of our brochure to peruse.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss our services, please do not hesitate to call me.

Jane Walton

Whitby's Memorials Ltd

01625 660 899

144 Hurdfield Rd,

Macclesfield

SK10 2PY



Donations Wanted!



The Charities Bazaar is going ahead this year on **Saturday 6th November**. The Children's Society have decided to join in the fun. We are as usual selling donated, new toiletries.

Yes! You've guessed right, we are after your unwanted smellies. All donations great-fully received.

Please pass on to Hilary or Jenny.

Our phone numbers are;

Hil 420616 Jenny 420352

With thanks

Jenny Wild

Can you knit?

Apologies for being perhaps the first to mention Christmas, but this initiative needs a little advance planning.

Linda Butler (from Silklife Church) is planning on running the Christmas Sheep Trail again this year, for which she needs as many little knitted sheep as possible.

For those not familiar with the idea, larger knitted sheep, each with their own name, are put in shop windows, church windows, etc. around town, and children go around finding them and writing down the names.

At the end, they bring their completed sheet to one of the finishing places (which usually includes St Michael's) and their reward is a small knitted sheep (with maybe a chocolate coin or similar as well).

It is a lovely family activity.

If you feel that you could knit one (or as many as possible) of either size of sheep, please email Porsche on clergypa@maccteam.org.uk or me on lynne.norbron@gmail.com for an electronic pattern, or phone the church office on 01625 421984 for a hard copy.

Many thanks,

Lynne Spedding



Harvest Thank You!



Dear Reverend Martin and the congregation of St Michael's Church, Macclesfield,

I would personally like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed towards the donations of ambient food made to the Silklife Foodbank this week. The generosity of your school and church congregation this Harvest is much appreciated. Harvest is a special time of the year which allows us to consider how God has blessed us and in turn, how we can bless others.

From the start of the Pandemic in March 2020, the Silklife Foodbank has seen a significant increase in people requiring emergency food support. There are many reasons for this, which include unemployment, benefit application delay and sickness, but to name a few. What is evident is that referrals made to the foodbank from local frontline health workers has risen 87% in 12 months. Consequently, our foodbank team has grown and our operation has had to scale up significantly, meaning more food, more storage and more volunteer input has been required. We can proudly say that with the continued support of donors, we have been able to meet this demand.

Our emergency food parcels now contain 3 meals each day for 5 days and are given per week for up to a maximum of 3 weeks. Parcels are tailored to meet the needs of single people, couples and families and contain a meal planner. Parcels are mainly delivered to the home address within 24 hours of a referral being made.

Based on 2020 statistics it is reasonable to predict that in 2021 Silklife Foodbank will:

Help over 4,000 people

Provide the food to make 62400 meals to those facing emergency hunger crisis.

Give away an estimated £55,000 worth of food (not including toiletries).

Many Thanks for Your continued faithfulness in giving,

Dan Blackman

Silklife Foodbank, Macclesfield



Feeding the Community

SILKLIFE

TLC (THURSDAY, LISTEN, CHAT)

PLEASE NOTE!

We are changing the time of our fortnightly meetings from Thursday afternoons to **Thursday MORNINGS 11.15am to 12.15pm** which will follow the Thursday morning service and may be a more convenient time.

This will start on **4th November** and will take place on the 1st floor (there is a lift) until further notice.

All are very welcome to share with us and enjoy a cuppa and chat.

Contact Grace on 430348 or Alexa on 429727 if you need further info.



Prayer Group

Contemplative prayer for half an hour followed by a cup of tea.

7pm Tuesday 2nd November

64 Lansdowne Street, Macclesfield, SK10 2QZ

Thanks, Bernice

Silklife Foodbank



We have a box in the Welcome Area for Silklife Foodbank contributions.

Would YOU be willing to take responsibility for our link with the Foodbank?

We need someone who:

- Collects donations from the box in church (can be done any time)
- Delivers our donations to the Foodbank on George St (Tuesdays and/or Fridays)
- Keeps in touch with the Foodbank every so often, to find out if there are any specific needs, and to keep St Michael's informed about their work.

If we cannot find someone to take this on, there may not be a collection point at St Michael's any longer, but we will advise where donations may be taken.

Rachel Mayers

Bereavement

Please pray for Mark Langham whose twin sister, Ann, died on Tuesday 26th. Ann had been ill for 18 months with cancer.

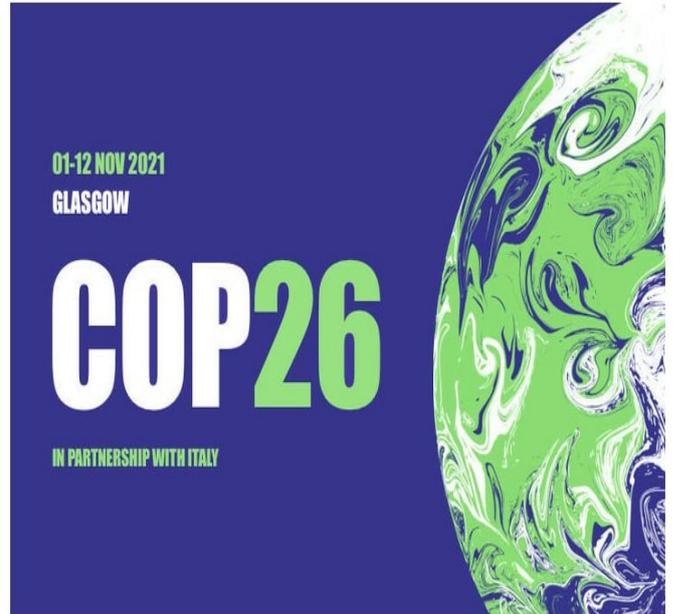
Mark spent a lot of time with her during her illness while he lived nearby with their elderly father in Leicester, caring for him during the pandemic. Mark's father died several months ago, and this double loss is understandably very difficult for Mark.

Please also remember Ann's husband, Paul, in your prayers.



Fun Fact: It's called 'COP26' because the previous 25 times world leaders have failed to address a problem.

They have the power to implement change but refuse to despite everyone being aware of the problem for many decades.



Macclesfield Samaritans AGM

SAMARITANS

We are now able to have our AGM face to face again and I am writing to invite you, and to bring anyone else who you think might be interested.

It's on **3 November at 19:30** in the library and we are having a speaker from SOBS (Survivors of bereavement by suicide).

Please RSVP to jandlpyatt@ntlworld.com and we hope to be able to welcome you to our AGM.

Best wishes

Linda Macclesfield Samaritans

Yet.. here we are, once again, trying for the 26th time.

COP26



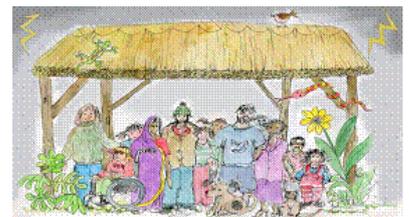
3 days to COP

Keep praying for a miracle! For the world leaders; that they will show courage and leadership and accept the need for drastic action if we are to keep the average global temperature increase to 2 degrees (never mind the 1.5 which they committed to at Paris). For the demonstrators, including our pilgrim friends as they complete their Camino to Cop; that they will make their voices heard and keep safe.

What can I do practically?

There are lots of ways to get involved; including going to Glasgow! But for those of us for whom this is not an option, how about:

1. Support the young people at their Youthstrike4climate demonstration on Friday 5th November at 1pm in the Market Place in Macclesfield.
2. Check out and follow the Bollington 12 days of COP - <https://the12daysofcop.wordpress.com/>
4. Join the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice on Saturday 6th November in Manchester from 12 to 3pm. Find out more at: <http://www.unisonmanchester.org/campaigns/cop26-global-day-of-action-for-climate-justice>
5. Join with members of other churches in Macclesfield in worship and prayer; 7pm on Sunday 7th November at St.Michael's. We will be joining with [Tearfund's national COP26 church service](#), featuring Pete Greig, Carol Ng'ang'a and Celtic Worship.
6. Join in daily morning prayers throughout COP26 on Zoom find out more at: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/pray-for-cop26/>
7. If you can't join the marches in Glasgow or Manchester, you can walk 1.5km to show your support for the campaign to restrict the increase in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees; more details at <https://www.worldclimatemarch.org/>



Did someone say FREE TICKETS?

Would you like a free concert? Would you be willing to be a St Michael's Steward?

We have a number of concerts and carol services booked into St Michael's in December; some of these are evening events and some school events which are during the day. For almost all of these St Michael's should provide a steward (or two). The role of the steward is principally to welcome the visitors into our "home" by being a good host. You may have to advise about fire exits, lights, or any other random question – or you may just need to open the doors and lock up at the end.

We will make sure you have all the information you need beforehand and all the details of specific requirements for the event.

The reward? A free ticket for the concert or event, and grateful thanks from the event organiser and the St Michael's office.

We have 12-14 slots to fill – could you offer one evening or afternoon? If this is something for you, please contact the office on office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk.

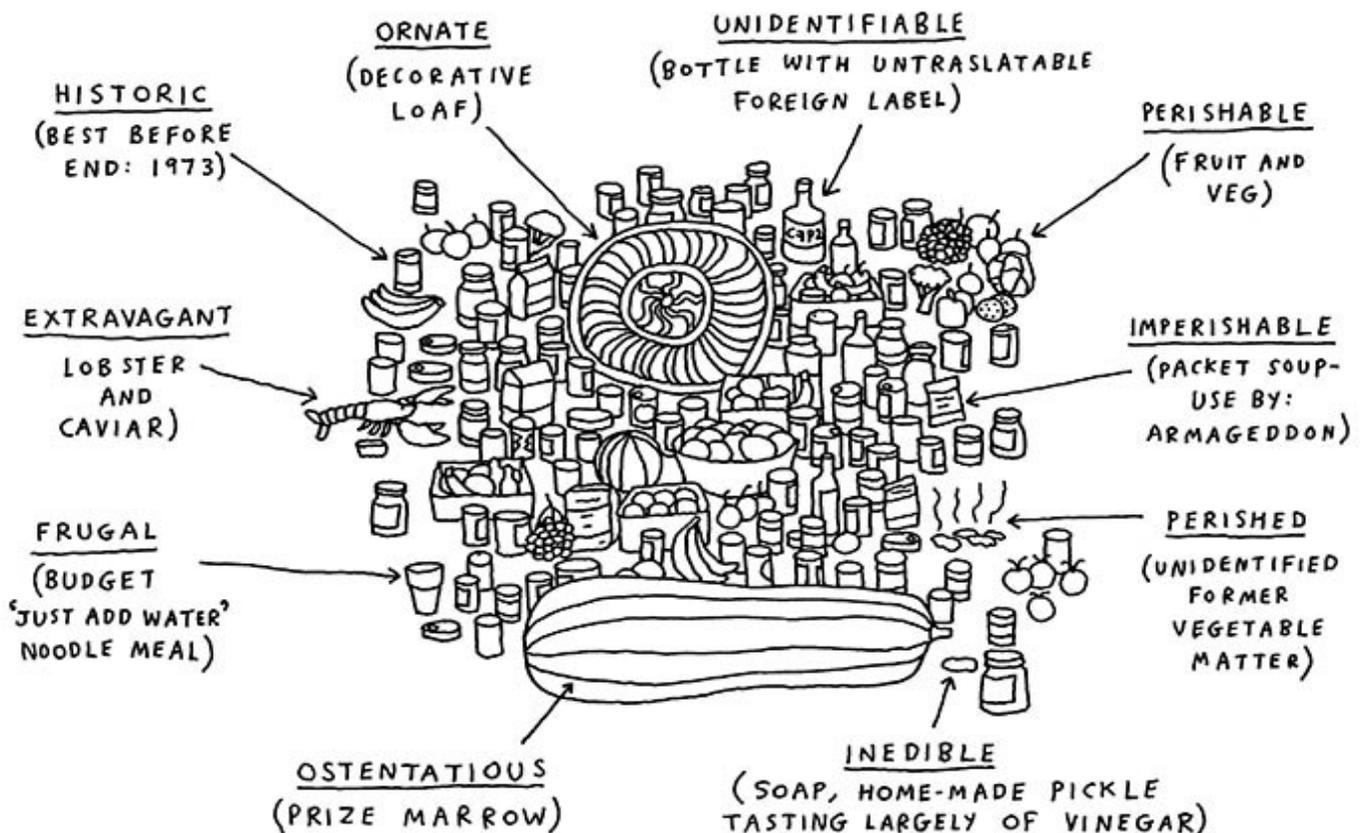
Many thanks!!

Rachel Mayers



THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

THE GIFTS, ARRANGED IN THEIR VARIOUS CATEGORIES



Food for thought

“100 Words on the Climate Crisis” exhibition;
a wonderful poetic prayer of hope from Richard Muirhead;

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS AFTERMATH.

This Globe, this Earth, this terrestrial Ball,
suspended in space and perfectly formed (Genesis 1 v 31)

is now groaning under the weight of decay,
worn out like a garment and desperately frayed (Isaiah 51 v 6)

Ice caps melt and oceans roar (Luke 21 v 25)

people cling to hope but it feels like straw,
pundits pontificate and politicians plot

but the progress they make is barely a jot,
but Hallelujah there is One who saves,
death on a cross then up from the grave (Matt 28 v 6)

He will return and then restore
the Earth to its glory as it was before,
man and nature in one accord,
a wonderful climate under Jesus our Lord (Rev 21 v 1)



Joke of the week

Three women die together in an accident and go to Heaven. When they get there, St. Peter says, “we only have one rule here in Heaven...don't step on the ducks.”

So they entered heaven, and sure enough, there are ducks all over the place. It is almost impossible not to step on a duck, and although they try their best to avoid them, the first woman accidentally steps on one.

Along came St. Peter with the ugliest man she ever saw. St Peter chains them together and says, “Your punishment for stepping on a duck is to spend eternity changed to this man!”

The next day, the second woman steps accidentally on a duck, and along comes St. Peter, who doesn't miss a thing, and with him is another extremely ugly man.

He chains them together with the same admonishment as for the first woman.

The third woman has observed all of this and not wanting to be chained for all eternity to an ugly man, is very VERY careful where she steps.

She manages to go months without stepping on any ducks, but one day St. Peter comes up to her with the most handsome man she has ever laid eyes on.

St. Peter chains them together and leaves without saying a word.

The woman remarks, “I wonder what I did to deserve being chained to you for all of eternity?” The guy says, “I don't know about you but I stepped on a duck!”

How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.— Anne Frank

Church Family News

Our grandson, Daniel John, was baptised at All Saints Church, Otley on Sunday. He seemed to be keen to help. It was wonderful and very moving, to be present as he started his own journey with the Lord, surrounded by many who will support him in that journey. The theme of the service was “Called to serve” and we wondered how Daniel will be called to serve Jesus in the future. For now, he is just giving joy!

The wonders of technology enabled the reading to be recorded from New York by one of Daniel's godfathers, and they joined live (at 5.30am!) for the service, making promises by WhatsApp video. The service was also joined live by Great Granny Sophie in London and friends at Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda - how amazing is that! Praise God for the skills that have made that possible.

David and Rachel Mayers



Join us for

Worship



St Michael's Worship 31st October 2021

Harvest Thanksgiving

Church Family Worship—10:00am:
live in church / streamed later on Youtube

Youtube link will be sent out via email after the Service

Service Leader: Lynne Spedding

Talk: Lynne Spedding

Reading: Mark 12:28-34

Eventually (once any hiccups have been ironed out) the Youtube stream will be live and the link will be posted here so watch this space!

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30AM (35 minutes)

28th October —Midweek Morning Prayer

4th November —Midweek Morning Communion

(and then alternate thereafter...)

Our midweek services follow the order from the book of Common Prayer (the old order)



Email any [prayer requests](#) here

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Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry



Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784

Passcode: 01625



Coffee & Chat



Monday HomeGroup

When? 7.30pm - 9pm Monday evenings
(Fortnightly) Next meeting is Monday 25th October

Where? The Rectory, Beech Lane, SK10 2DY

For more information contact Martin [by email](#) or 01625 426110.

Thursday Homegroup

Meeting for Bible study and prayer in various locations.

Please contact David Mayers (420716) or

Eve and David Budgett (431606) for more information.



Compline/Night Prayer

Every Friday

Topic: Night Prayer

Time: 8.30pm every Friday (join from 8.25pm)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09)

[pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09)

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476

Passcode: compline



DONATIONS: Donating to the church for general purposes has been made simpler. Either click on the blue Donate button or scan the QR Code.

