# MAY JUNE JULY 2019

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL SAINTS AND ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

# Here comes summer

by | Isabel Isaacson

egular visitors to Kingston know that Summer is on its way when the bungees and the bouncy castle appear in All Saints Church Grounds. They are a holidays fixture. However, when I spoke to John Cogger (on behalf of Saints Alive) about the long association between the Coggers and All Saints Church I discovered that, if it hadn't been for the happy coincidence of a bike ride and a display of tents, it might never have happened at all.

In 2006, bungees had just come into this country and John had bought some, but without any particular venue in mind. He sat down one evening and racked his brains to produce a list of around 50 potential venues – and not one of them was in Kingston! The following Sunday, still not having reached a decision, John went for a cycle ride from Chertsey to Kingston. As he passed by All Saints he noticed a display of Millets' tents on the Church lawns. He decided to try to find out whether the grounds could be hired for other purposes – bungees!

John got in touch with the Church secretary who said that she would ask the vicar; when he followed it up he was told "He's thinking about it." It seemed as though it might not happen. However, after nearly a month's consideration it was decided to give it a try. The bungees first appeared towards the end of August that year and on weekends only. There was positive feedback straightaway from families coming along to try them out. John had other venues already established for Bank Holidays (eg Hampstead Heath), schools and one-off corporate events so he decided to come to Kingston for the school holidays. He already had the bouncy castle for these other events and, in his fourth year at All Saints, it was agreed that he could set it up alongside the bungees. With the addition of the castle it all clicked and this became the basis for what we have today.

The only surprising part of this story is that Kingston wasn't on John's original list of potential venues. His mother's family is from Kingston (his maternal great grandfather, Harry Barnett, is remembered on the Memorial Square War Memorial) and her great grandfather ran a steam roundabout which regularly appeared at many of the local regattas along the Thames, including Sunbury, Shepperton and Molesey.

Now that Sarah and John have family members old enough, and willing, to help with the outside activities, Sarah has been freed up to take over the running of the Church café during



Bouncy castle – Camelot



Sarah and John

the school holidays. This is a perfect fit for her: a welcoming presence (visitors come in for a cup of tea and stop for a chat) combined with an artistic talent for creating a wonderful display of delicious cakes - utterly irresistible.

Having just recently watched the film *The Greatest Showman* as part of a Lent course, I was reminded, whilst writing this article, of one of Barnum's lines: "The noblest art is that of making others happy." John and Sarah certainly do their fair share of

#### From the vicarage

# All Saints

by | Revd Jonathan Wilkes



# St John's

by | Revd Vicky Maunder

I was telling people on Palm Sunday that just recently I was trying to arrange a meeting with our two retiring churchwardens, Liz and Jennifer. It was proving rather a difficult date to fix and so, in the end, I thought the easiest thing would be for me to call them. However, to save doing so individually, and then having to go back and forth between them to find the date, I thought the best thing would be to call them both at the same time, one on my landline and one on my mobile phone, with me in the middle trying to speak to them both — the obvious trouble being that what each of them said to me couldn't be heard by the other. We did, in the end, get it organised but not before a fairly hilarious stream of misunderstandings and verbal cul-de-sacs in which things I said to one were overheard and responded to by the other and vice versa. I joked later that it was bad enough having one church warden in your ear but to have two was like torture....

It reminded me, though, of an interesting point that had been made during our exploration of disagreement, and sometimes conflict, that had been the focus of this year's Lent Talks at All Saints. Often, it was suggested, our passion for an argument is fuelled by a different source from that which we are disagreeing about. We quarrel about one thing when really our deeper concern is about something else – possibly related but, equally possible, something entirely different. We think we are having one conversation when actually we're talking about something else completely, but the current topic provides a framework, a stamping ground, for us to express other, more hidden, concerns. Of course it's a good question for the nation and its people (that being us) to ask itself over Brexit but it's a phenomenon that rears its head in other ways. Our past experience, and the way it has affected us, comes to bear upon the present and all it offers, for good or ill, meaning that when we react it is for "now", but often also for "then" as well. The ability to separate the two is never easy, and the help of friends, or professionals, with whom we can talk through our feelings about what we experience can be invaluable in working out whether our concerns are about the "in here, right now" or are more to do with what happened back then, whatever "back then" happened to have been.

And it leaves us more free to separate the good and bad figures that sit on each shoulder and whisper in our ears. Words of criticism, words of condemnation, suggestions that we aren't worth much or can never get things right, these voices can drown out those which remind us that we are deeply worth loving, we are able, we can cope. The world can easily tell us the former, whereas it is the contention of faith that God forever speaks to us those other more gentle, hopeful words of praise and high regard. Here's hoping that you can hang up early on one and be free to focus on the other.

Toralter

This is my final Saints Alive column. I've been appointed vicar of a church in Southampton and am leaving St John's and Kingston at the end of May. As with many endings, I have mixed feelings. Sadness at saying goodbye to lovely people and our happy life here. Nervousness about what lies ahead; about how well my children will settle into our new life there, and what my new church will make of their first female vicar. But excitement, too, about a new adventure and new opportunities.

Our lives are full of endings and new beginnings. As children we start school, move on to secondary school, perhaps to university, through different jobs, relationships, friendships and often to different locations. We each have our own path to follow, our unique journey to travel and over the years it will involve many experiences of letting go in order that the next stage of life can begin.

Endings and beginnings are at the heart of the Christian faith. I'm writing this in holy week when Christians focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus. His life of service and love leads to the most brutal of endings, his crucifixion. His followers are shocked, heartbroken and despairing. But out of this most final of endings, God brings an amazing new beginning. God raises Jesus from the dead and we joyfully celebrate this new life on Easter Day.

Appropriately, this great festival is in the Spring. As I write my eyes keep straying to the cherry tree in our front garden. It has just started to blossom, and it looks glorious, ablaze with beautiful pink flowers. The barrenness of winter is over and all around us the flowers are blooming and the trees that were recently bare are bursting into colour. The earth is proclaiming the new life we are celebrating in church. "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime" wrote Martin Luther.

I've been pointing out the glorious signs of spring to my children. I want them to be aware of the rhythms of nature, how the seasons change, that in the natural world nothing stays the same. In the world of trees and plants, for life to continue it must progress from one stage to the next. The seed is planted, it grows, flowers, matures and then moves towards death and when the seed falls from the dead flower then the next cycle of life can begin.

As I reflect on the approaching end to this stage in my life, I feel such gratitude for my time at St John's. It's been fruitful. I'm thankful for the warmth and support of the kind, generous, welcoming people at the church, who try faithfully to love and serve God and neighbour. If you've not been to St John's before I encourage you to go, for a service or a community event. It's a special place. And I'm thankful for the wonderful community spirit of this area of Kingston. In a world where divisions and hostility are rife it is a precious and fragile gift that needs nurturing and treasuring.

# Farewell to Vicky by | Julie Bishop and Frances Hazelgrove

With heaviness in our hearts, but with deepest affection and appreciation, the time has come to say "Farewell" to Vicky as she takes up her new position as the vicar of St James, West End, Southampton, in the Diocese of Winchester.

Vicky, and her husband Rob, joined us at St John's almost twelve years ago. During her time with us, she has nurtured and grown our church family – and grown her own family too, with three beautiful daughters: Emma, Holly and Lucy. She has been a wonderful Parish Priest, putting St John's at the heart of the local and extended community; and putting the steadfast and inclusive love of God for all His people at the heart of her ministry.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he writes about the **Gifts of the Spirit** – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. These words perfectly summarise the strengths and qualities Vicky has demonstrated during her time with us; and the marvellous "gift" she has been to St John's.

With **Love** and **Gentleness**, Vicky has visited and comforted the sick, the lonely and the terminally ill; extending the love of God, and the support of St John's, far beyond our physical church building and into the homes and lives of our community.

With **Joy**, she has welcomed new families to St John's; guiding and encouraging them in their individual faith journeys; and into the fellowship of our church family, through baptism and communion. She has involved children and young people more actively in services, as acolytes, servers and in leading prayers. She is a frequent and well-loved visitor to our parish school, St Johns, leading assemblies and special services; and she has welcomed many other schools into the church for different worship and educational visits.

With **Kindness**, she has worked to make St John's a welcoming and inclusive church. During her time with us, many new and diverse groups have held activities, clubs and classes at St John's; offering fun, friendship, personal development and support of all kinds. Our monthly Book Fair and Community Café (with coffee, cake and now bacon sandwiches too!) and our First Monday Social Club are just two great examples.

With **Goodness**, she has championed a huge range of community events including: street parties, concerts, quiz nights and our annual Christmas Bazaar. She has been an enthusiastic supporter of every opportunity to bring people together, to build new connections and friendships and enjoy good times together; and has even joined in a few productions by the Spring Grove Fringe...who could forget her performance as a terrifying Wicked Queen in Snow White!

With **Faithfulness**, she has developed the Spiritual life of the church, introducing special services to mark different occasions in the church year, promoting Bible Study and time for personal reflection, and initiating monthly said communion and Sacred Space services. She has built strong links with All Saints and St John the Baptist and with our fellow churches in Kingston.



Vicky and family

And, with all the **Gifts of the Spirit** she has defined and led our vision for St John's as a community space: open, safe and welcoming, providing emotional and practical support for people of all races, ages and abilities, all faiths and none. She has steered us through all the highs and lows, frustrations and celebrations, of our Regeneration Journey with admirable (and enviable!) **Self-Control** and not a small amount of **Patience**.

We are so delighted that she can move on to her new parish knowing, under her leadership, the Heating and Lighting projects are complete, and funds are in place to improve the kitchen, toilets and accessibility at St John's. What a wonderful legacy to Vicky and to the community spirit she has fostered amongst us.

Saying "Farewell" to someone who has done so much — and meant so much — to all of us, is always hard, but we are grateful, proud and privileged to have had Vicky as our Parish Priest for almost twelve years. We ask God's blessing on Vicky and her family, knowing that wherever the Holy Spirit calls her to serve, she will always strive to do the will of God, and bring people closer to Him.

#### Thanks and Praise to Vicky Maunder from Jonathan

Shortly after Vicky's appointment at St John's someone asked me what she was like. I said that I thought she was as good as they come, meaning that we couldn't have hoped to have made a better appointment. The intervening years have only served to confirm how true that was. In her pastoral care, her preaching, her feel for liturgy, in the way she has built teams and led a very challenging redevelopment, in her work at the school, in her contribution to the wider team and by the way she has helped St John's to be valued and loved by the wider community in the Spring Grove area, in all of these ways and countless others Vicky has shown what an excellent priest she is. Our loss is a great gain for the people of St James, West End. We wish her, Rob, Emma, Holly and Lucy every good blessing for their new life in the Winchester Diocese.



## St John's School Christian Mural Dedication Ceremony

by | Mrs Lulu Esua, Headteacher, St John's School



At St John's, Collective Worship is an important part of our day. To enhance this experience and to provide focus on our Christian Values the whole school community worked together to create our beautiful mural depicting what we hold dear at St John's. Our Faith Group played an integral part in the whole project sharing their ideas and views.

We have been reviewing and developing our Christian vision at the school for a while. It has been an exciting process that all stakeholders have been involved in. The new mural is, in many ways, a culmination of this journey. It beautifully depicts God's love at the heart of our school, our motto of believe, inspire, achieve, our inclusive ethos, our core values of respect, service, honesty and perseverance, our care of the earth and our close connections with our church and local community. We pray its vibrant colours, graphics and Bible quotes will bring hope and joy to all in our school community.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Richard Cheetham to bless our new mural during Collective Worship with our vicar Vicky Maunder on Wednesday 27th February. It was an ideal opportunity for our children to find out more about the role of the Bishop through a question and answer session.

The mural was designed by Hannah Hines, the parent of a child at the school. Hannah spoke to the children about the process and her inspiration.

#### Artist's speech - Hannah Hines

"Would any of you be surprised if I said that I didn't quite know how I was going to create this mural when I was first asked to make it? "The more time I spent developing my ideas, the more I realised that the words I was trying to integrate into the picture (from the St John's school motto) could guide me... 'Believe. Inspire. Achieve'.

"Mrs Esua, Mrs Singh and Rev'd Vicky had all believed in me when they asked me to create something special. I drew lots of inspiration from the meetings I had with the school's Faith Group, the Bible stories that were picked out to represent the school's Christian values and the links to some beautiful religious art that Vicky sent me as suggestions.

"Together, we began to achieve a lot that was needed to make the project happen. But there was still the challenge of how to make it. There was a limit to the digital drawing programme I frequently used: its output wouldn't have a high enough resolution to be printed at the right size. So I did my research, found a new programme, kept trying to learn how to use it and kept believing in my abilities until I achieved a good result. It didn't even take that long in the end as I found I could build on previous knowledge and experience.

"There is something for everyone in this picture. Even if you don't immediately recognise yourself in one of the characters, you may see an activity that you can do, like a handstand, or a local landmark you like. And you are all represented by your House birds: kingfisher, wagtail, goldcrest and heron. If you can't remember what some of the Bible stories are about, or what the values mean – like "perseverance" – then have a closer look... next to each you'll be able to find some helpful insects. This spider is trying and trying – persevering – to build its web."



We have been sorting and recycling at St John's for several years, using Fair Trade products as much as possible and thinking about the environment in the choices we make at home. After a visit from two representatives from the London Sustainability Exchange, a small group started to meet to see where we could go forward from our eco audit and to work towards one of the Eco awards for churches.

We are fortunate in that we have a chance to put some more of the new ideas in place when the next stage of the renovation starts in the Summer. The new heating and lighting is already helping us to be more energy efficient and the new toilets in the second stage will help with water conservation as well as being accessible and much warmer.

We are working towards the Bronze Eco Church award and to this end have an Environmental Policy which is posted in church on the Eco notice board and included in the hiring agreement for all users of the church and hall. We will use recyclable and compostable products for events and eco-friendly cleaning products once existing supplies have been used up.

We have disposed of the old compost heap and have a council compost bin for green waste. There is also a team tidying up



the church grounds and we are looking for ways to improve the green space around the church.

We plan to audit how people travel to church and hope to install a cycle rack.

## "Reuse, repurpose and recycle" by | Rev'd Mark Stafford

The media is full of dire warnings regarding global warming, islands of plastic being formed in the ocean, over-consumption of the world's resources and the need for humanity to take stock of the impact we are having on the planet.

As Christians we cannot fail to consider that this is a spiritual issue, and one with which we, as individuals and as a faith community, should be actively engaging.

As the Psalmist wrote 24:1-2, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it". The Psalmist is telling us in no uncertain terms that actually the land that we occupy is not actually ours, but is a gift from God, for us to enjoy, tend and pass on to future generations.

Modern life can be hectic, and we often need products that enable us to race from one thing to the next. We need prepackaged convenience, that we can grab whilst on the go; however, this need for speed can have long-term and potentially devastating outcomes.

Let us stop and consider a very simple and everyday example of this: the black plastic tray used to package many microwave and premade meals. Once the meal is cooked, the black plastic tray has no further use; currently this cannot be recycled. It had a useful life of about 3 minutes but has the potential to be found in landfill sites in 400 years' time.

As a Church, we have been considering Environmental issues through Lent; we have used the "Rise up" material from Christian Aid as a daily reflection, pledged to change some



aspects of our behaviours to be more aware of environmental issues and we have purchased new recycling bins for the Church grounds.

Lent was the time to reflect on the past, to be still, take stock and prepare for a new way of living. Now is the time for us to spring into action: it is important that we do not leave behind the lessons learnt in Lent, but carry these with us, helping us to lead new and better lives. As current tenants, we need to maintain God's creation, and be mindful of ways in which we can reduce the impact humanity has on the planet. Maybe part of our daily prayer should be devoted to how we can "reuse, repurpose and recycle".

### Summer activities at All Saints by | Pippa Joiner

Join us every Thursday over the May half-term and Summer holidays for craft activities inspired by the fantastic architecture and history of All Saints Church. All events include a discovery trail around the historic building. Events are drop-in between 11.30 am-2.30 pm. There is a small charge per craft activity.

The May half-term activity day will take place on Thursday 30 May 2019 and the theme is Colour and Light. Come and take inspiration from the magnificent stained glass at All Saints Church and create your own glass tea light holders and suncatchers to take home.

Over the summer Holidays events will run on 25 July, 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 August. Themes will include, Travel in Kingston, Kings and Queens, Terrific treasure and a craft extravaganza. Events will be listed on the website www.allsaintskingston.co.uk

**Little Saints Toddler Group** at All Saints Church. This is for pre-school-age children and is on Tuesdays 1.30pm-3.30pm and Fridays 9.30am to 11.30am - lots of things to do and a chance to meet other parents and carers.

#### Summer Activity Days at St John's

For the last 2 years we have run **Summer Activity Days** during the school holidays for primary school-aged children. Look out for them again this year



Some of the children on one of the Activity Days



Puppet snakes



Facing the Future 2019

## Faith, Belief and Belonging

Three Thursdays in May: 6 - 7.15pm (coffee from 5.30pm) All Saints Church, Market Place, Kingston, KT1 1JP.

The sense of common belonging is under strain, in Britain and elsewhere. How can people of different faiths be true to their beliefs, but belong together in a common community?

#### Leaders from Kingston's six biggest faith communities introduce audience discussion:

- Thursday 2 May: Venerable G B Kassapa (Mendicant Buddhist, Barnes) and Geetha Maheshwaren (Wimbledon
- Thursday 9 May: Revd Jonathan Wilkes (All Saints Church, Kingston) and Jeremy Rodell (South West London Humanists).
- Thursday 23 May: Rabbi René Pfertzel (Kingston Liberal Synagogue) and Dr Sarah Mehdi (Huda Surrey Islamic Centre).

RYNCES FOR STUDENTS
STUDENT WELLBEING
iith and Spirituality | faith@kingston.ac.uk | 020 8417 2940



#### The Penrhyn Faith and Spirituality Book Group Finding ideas in surprising places

This Summer we will read and get together to discuss

- Monday 20 May (two short stories)
- JRR Tolkien: Leaf by Niggle
- (http://www.ae-lib.org.ua/texts-c/tolkien\_\_leaf\_by\_niggle\_\_en.htm) and
- John Updike: The Carol Sing
- (https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1970/12/19/the-carol-sing)
- Monday 24 June
  - Anthony Trollope: The Warden

All meetings: 7:00-8:30pm. Wine, coffee, tea from 6:30pm Kingston University, The Quiet Room (PRMB0031), Faith and Spirituality Centre, Penrhyn Road, KT1 2EE.

If possible, contact us if interested - but come anyway. Louise Walton, faith@kingston.ac.uk, 020 8417 2940 or Leslie Packer, Igpacker123@gmail.com, 020 8549 1960.

STUDENT WELLBEING STUDENT WELLBEING



#### May Events

Wed 1st-12th All Saints: Artful Dodgers Art Exhibition

**Thu 2nd All Saints:** 6pm Faith, Belief & Belonging – see p.6 for details **Sat 4th All Saints:** Korean Senior Citizens UK Dinner, followed by choral

concert. Celebrating Korea's Mother's Day

Sat 4th St John's: 10am-12 noon Community Café

**Sun 5th St John's:** 10am All Age Communion with Admission of children to Holy Communion

Tue 7th St John's: First Monday Club, Orleans House Gallery

Thu 9th All Saints: 6pm Faith, Belief & Belonging – see p.6 for details

Sat 11th All Saints: 12 noon wedding of Davion Cheng and Ada Ho

Sat 11th St John's: 10am-2pm Community Café and Book Sale

**Sun 12th All Saints:** 9.30am Baptism of Bailey Blake Wilding Minarovic

Mon 13th All Saints: 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert: Cressida Wislocki (viola)

Mon 13th All Saints: 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Concert (String Quartet)

Sat 18th All Saints: 1.15pm Kingston Come and Play

Sat 18th St John's: 10am-12 noon Community Café

Mon 20th All Saints: 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert: Katie le Fevre (viola),

Constance Chow (piano); 7pm Banquet Records

**Thu 23rd All Saints:** 6pm Faith, Belief & Belonging – see p.6 for details

Sat 25th St John's: 10am-12 noon Community Café

Sun 26th St John's: 10am Parish Communion & farewell to Rev'd Vicky Maunder

Tue 28th All Saints: 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Concert (Piano)

Thu 30th All Saints: Activity Day 12noon-2pm - Colour and Light

Thu 30th All Saints: 7.30pm Ascension Day Choral Eucharist

**Thu 30th St John's:** 2pm St John's School Ascension Day Service; **St John's:** 

7.30pm Holy Communion for Ascension Day

#### July Events

Sat 6th All Saints: 11am Ordination Service

Mon 1 All Saints: 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert: Stephen Westrop (organ) Mon 8th All Saints: 5.45pm Kingston Music Service: String Sinfonia

Concert

Sat 13th All Saints: 7.30pm Teddington Choral Society

Sun 14th St John's: 10am Parish Communion on St John's Dedication Festival

Tue 16th All Saints: 7pm Tiffin Boys' Choir Concert

Thu 18th All Saints: 11.30pm Tiffin School Founders' Day Service

Thu 25th All Saints: 12noon-2pm Activity Day

Sat 27th All Saints: 7.30pm Surbiton Symphony Orchestra

Sun 28th St John's: 10am Parish Communion and Baptism of Avery Hipkiss

#### All-Year-Round Events

**All Saints:** The church and cafe are open daily and visitors are welcome.

On weekdays and Saturdays from 11am to 12.15pm trained listeners are available to offer pastoral support to people who wish to speak with someone in confidence. Little Saints toddler group is on Tuesdays & Fridays.

**St. John's:** The church is open for Little Groovers toddler group on Tuesdays term time only; the Community Café is open Saturday mornings 10am to 12. All Welcome.

#### June Events

Sat 1st St John's: 10am-2pm Community Café and Book Sale

Mon 3rd All Saints: 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert

Wed 5th All Saints: 6-7.30pm Kingston Community Refugee

Sponsorship - Launch Event

Sat 8th All Saints: 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Concert (Cello, Flute & Organ).

Sat 8th St John's: 10am-12 noon Community Café

Sun 9th St John's: 10am Parish Communion for Pentecost

Mon 10th All Saints: 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert: Gemma Kateb (piano)

Tue 11th St John's: First Monday Club outing to Watts Gallery and Chapel

Sat 15th All Saints: 7.30pm Thames Philharmonic Choir

Sat 15th St John's: 10am-12 noon Community Café

Sun 16th All Saints: 9.30am Baptism of Freddie David Cyril Balfour

Mon 17th All Saints: 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert: Tiffin School; 7pm

Refugee Sponsorship Group Fundraiser

Sat 22nd All Saints: 7.30pm Twickenham Choral Society

Sat 22nd St John's: 10am-12 noon Community Café

Sun 23rd: Team Service at St John the Baptist

**Mon 24th All Saints:** 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert: Jessica Gale & Mark Zarb-Adami (Piano Duet)

Thu 27th All Saints: Kingston College Graduation Ceremonies

Sat 29th All Saints: 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Orchestra

Sat 29th St John's: 10am-12 noon Community Café

Sun 30th St John's: 10am Parish Communion and Baptism of Ivy Qoba;

12noon Baptism of Matthew and Genevieve Rawson

#### All Saints Sunday Services

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Sung Eucharist (with Children's Church). 6pm Sung Evensong

#### Weekday Communion Services

Tuesday and Wednesday 12 noon Common Worship; Thursday 10.30am Book of Common Prayer; Friday 11.30am Praytime - brief songs and prayers for Toddlers and Carers; 12 noon Silent Prayer

#### St John's Sunday Services

**1st Sunday of the month:** 10am Family Communion **2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month:** 10am Parish Communion with children's church

**3rd Sunday of the month:** 9am Holy Communion 10am Sacred Space with children's church Morning Prayer is said in Church at **9am** on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

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All Saints & St John's are part of an Anglican Team with St John's Kingston Vale

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DEADLINE FOR AUG/SEP/OCT 2019 - 8 JUL





