



# THE NEW WELLWYNDER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

Visit us at [www.newwellwynd.org.uk](http://www.newwellwynd.org.uk)

## Message from the Vestry: New Year, New Opportunities

Happy New Year, everyone!

As we step into 2025, I hope you've all had a chance to rest and reflect over the festive season. January and February often feel like a bit of a mixed bag—some of us love the fresh start, while others feel the post-Christmas blues creeping in. Wherever you find yourself, remember this: God's love and grace are with us every step of the way.

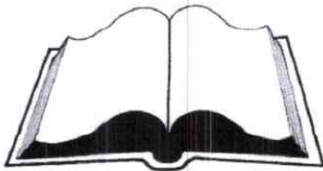
The New Year is often about resolutions, but what if, instead of big, dramatic changes, we focused on small, meaningful ones? Maybe it's being a little kinder to ourselves or others. Maybe it's reaching out to someone who could use a listening ear. Or maybe it's making space in our lives to connect with God in the everyday moments - on a walk, over a cup of tea, or in the quiet of an evening.

Each New Year is a new opportunity to serve in faith, to grow together, and to share God's love with those around us. Whether it's through our worship, our community projects, or simply in the way we treat one another, every act of kindness and faithfulness makes a difference. Let's approach this year with open hearts, ready to see where God is leading us and how we can play our part in His work.

Winter can sometimes feel long and cold, but it reminds us that spring is always on its way. Just as the seasons change, bringing new growth and life, so too does God work in us, even during the quieter or tougher moments. Let's hold onto that hope and keep our eyes on the promise of brighter days ahead.

Here's to a new year filled with faith, community, and plenty of cups of tea (maybe a biscuit or cake or two) shared along the way!

Yours in Christ  
*Eleanor*



## 6-Week Bible Study: James – Genuine Faith

Join us for an inspiring six-week Bible study using *James: Genuine Faith* by Sam Allberry. This study takes a fresh look at the book of James, helping us see how genuine faith transforms every part of our lives – from the way we speak to how we handle trials and care for others.

With practical insights and engaging discussions, we'll explore how to live out our faith in real, everyday situations. Whether you're new to Bible studies or have been doing them for years, this is a great opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship.

We'll meet on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Blue Room starting on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Don't worry if you can't make every week, as each week can be looked at on its own. Bring a Bible, your curiosity, and an open heart as we journey through James together!

*Eleanor*

## World Thinking Day 2025



Every year on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides celebrate 'Thinking Day!' This gives them an opportunity to connect with girls all over the world and to shout about the amazing things they do. World Thinking Day has a different theme every year and this year's theme is 'Our Story!' This will be the first part of a 4-year journey for all members to reflect on the past, present and future of their global movement. In particular, this year's theme will dig into the values of what it means to be a Girl Guide or indeed a Girl Scout. Everyone will be engaged in a wide range of activities and games exploring the theme.

## **Congratulations**

Many congratulations to our Probationer Minister Eleanor who after graduating with her Theology Degree last summer has now successfully completed her pastoral training. Eleanor can now explore God's call for ministry within the Church of Scotland and be ordained as a full time minister of word and sacrament. Eleanor's ordination will take place in due course. Well done Eleanor!

*The Editor*

## **A Thank You Letter from Santa**

Hi there everybody and a very Happy New Year to everyone at The New Wellwynd. I have just returned from my holidays after a very busy Christmas schedule and have thoroughly enjoyed my wee rest! I am now catching up with things as I get back to work! I would like to thank everyone at New Wellwynd for organising such a wonderful Christmas Brunch at the church. I was delighted to be invited along to meet many boys and girls, who were only too willing, to tell me what they would like for their Christmas. Hopefully, I remembered everything and no one was disappointed on Christmas morning. I would like to thank the many helpers for their assistance in distributing Christmas gifts also those who worked tirelessly preparing and serving brunch and those behind the scenes who helped make the day such a success. Wishing everyone good health and happiness for the year ahead and I will see you all once again in December! Ho! Ho! Ho!

*Santa Claus*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Airdrie Boys' Brigade**



As the Boy's Brigade enter the second half of the 2024/25 Session, we look forward to going forward in the Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys. Our session so far has been filled with fun and laughter with some serious badge work taking place along the way. Numbers have been constant each week and where possible we have taken part in Battalion events. We currently have four young men ready to complete their King's Badge in March.

All going well they will be awarded their badges on Parent's night at the end of session. It has been a while since we have had any boys gaining this award, so a special time for the boys and the company. The officers in all sections are all looking forward to the second half and hopefully all the boys will enjoy their time with us. We still have room for any boy who wishes to come along and give us a try.

*Jean Kinniburgh*

## **Edinburgh Direct Aid International**

Since 2017, ladies from The New Wellwynd and other local churches have supported Edinburgh Direct Aid by knitting lovely baby and children's clothing and blankets. I take this opportunity to thank our talented ladies. For over 30 years, EDA. has delivered aid to people in far-off places such as Bosnia, Kosovo, West Bank, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Swat Valley (Pakistan), Croatia, Gaza, Lebanon, Iraq and Ukraine. The focus of EDA at this time is on Gaza, The Lebanon and Ukraine. Earlier this month, I again delivered a large quantity of specially knitted items to EDA which will be packed into a 40 foot shipping container and transported to Lebanese refugee camps. These camps offer only tented accommodation and, as they are located at an elevation of approximately 5,000 feet, are often extremely cold with temperatures dropping in winter to minus 15C. In addition to warm clothing, other items which are much in demand are toiletries, stationery and school supplies. A full list of items which can (and cannot) be donated is shown on the EDA website ([www.edinburghdirectaid.org](http://www.edinburghdirectaid.org))

Thank you again ladies ..... last Sunday, I was chided and asked to refer to our ladies as "girls". I would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be willing to knit for this worthy Scottish Registered Charity.

*Ronnie Wright*

## **"In Stitches"**

The New Wellwynd craft class certainly covered new ground leading up to Christmas when we had a stall at the Maggie's Lanarkshire Christmas Market. We raised the sum of £772 at the event which was greatly appreciated by the charity. All ladies in the class knitted/crocheted/crafted in the months prior to the Christmas Market. This was a great team effort and sincere thanks go to the ladies and also to all who contributed in anyway. The group continue to meet in the session room on a Tuesday from 10am to 12 Noon and the next meeting is on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January. If you are interested, please come along, you will be made most welcome.

*Helen Fettus*

## CAMEO

The ladies of Cameo are looking forward to the second half of the session where a varied programme of activities have been planned. Since the beginning of the 2024/25 session back in September, we have had a talk from a representative of the local Maggie's Centre, which was a very good evening. We also had one of our own members giving us a very interesting and informative talk on Street Pastors and as Wilma is a street pastor herself, she certainly gave a very good insight into the work that they do. We also had a presentation from Nicky Miller from the Homeless Unit which is based just round the corner from the Church. He brought along a colleague and between them both, we had a very interesting evening, with great discussion taking place. Our next meeting was with Fiona Randall, another one of our own, who gave us a very interesting insight into her work in Iraq, Syria and Jordan in the Middle East. She really got us thinking, as in teams, we were given specific tasks to complete relating to the training of personnel working in these areas. I think we all passed the test. In November, we had a fun night, making Christmas Wreaths and great fun was had by all. We finished the first half of the session with our annual Advent Service.

We started back again on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 welcoming Malcom McIntyre from 'CrossReach.' In February, we are hosting our Burns Night on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> and Stewart Bone from Citizens Advice will be our guest on the 18<sup>th</sup>, before welcoming Eleanor Hamilton our Probationer Minister in March.

We will finish the year with our usual Annual Seniors Outing which is in the planning stages at the moment, so watch this space. A warm welcome awaits anyone wishing to join us.

*Jean Kinniburgh*



## Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the family here at The New Wellwynd and the generosity of a congregation with such wide ranging gifts.
- Pray that God might guide you through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as we continue to look forward in faith to all the plans God has made for us.
- Pray for all uniformed youth organisations, especially the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides preparing for Thinking Day towards the end of this month.
- Pray for the work of the Church in our local schools.
- Pray for the personal witness of all Christians that through "gossiping the Gospel" more will come to a full knowledge of the love of God in Jesus.
- Pray for new ventures being planned within the congregation and the parish.

## Candlemas – did you know?

Candlemas commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus. This day also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the



World. Ritual purification stems back to a Jewish tradition that women were considered unclean after the birth of a child. For 40 days for a boy, and 60 days for a girl, women weren't allowed to worship in the temple. At the end of this time, women were brought to the Temple or Synagogue to be purified. After the ceremony women were allowed to take part in religious services again. The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed. On Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home. Like some other Christian festivals,

Candlemas draws some of its elements from Paganism. In pre-Christian times, it was the festival of light. This ancient festival marked the midpoint of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox. Some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights. People believed that Candlemas predicted the weather for the rest of the winter.

*If Candlemas day be fair and bright  
Winter will have another fight.*

*If Candlemas day brings cloud and rain  
Winter won't come again!*

Candlemas day is on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February. I wonder what the weather will be like.

*Roving Reporter*

## St. Valentine's Story

Let me introduce myself. My name is Valentine. I lived in Rome during the third century. That was long, long ago! At that time, Rome was ruled by an emperor named Claudius. I didn't like Emperor Claudius, and I wasn't the only one! A lot of people shared my feelings. Claudius wanted to have a big army. He expected men to volunteer to join. Many men just did not want to fight in wars. They did not want to leave their wives and families. As you might have guessed, not many men signed up. This made Claudius furious. So what happened? He had a crazy idea. He thought that if men were not married, they would not mind joining the army. So Claudius decided not to allow any more marriages. Young people thought his new law was cruel. I thought it was preposterous! I certainly wasn't going to support that law!



Did I mention that I was a priest? One of my favourite activities was to marry couples. Even after Emperor Claudius passed his law, I kept on performing marriage ceremonies secretly, of course. It was really quite exciting. Imagine a small candlelit room with only the bride and groom and myself. We would whisper the words of the ceremony, listening all the while for the steps of soldiers. One night, we did hear footsteps. It was scary! Thank goodness the couple I was marrying escaped in time. I was caught. (Not quite as light on my feet as I used to be, I guess.) I was thrown in jail and told that my punishment was death. I tried to stay cheerful. And do you know what? Wonderful things happened. Many young people came to the jail to visit me. They threw flowers and notes up to my window. They wanted me to know that they, too, believed in love. One of these young people was the daughter of the prison guard. Her father allowed her to visit me in the cell. Sometimes we would sit and talk for hours. She helped me to keep my spirits up. She agreed that I did the right thing by ignoring the Emperor and going ahead with the secret marriages. On the day I was to die, I left my friend a little note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. I signed it, "Love from your Valentine."

I believe that note started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day. It was written on the day I died, February 14, 269 A.D. Now, every year on this day, people remember. But most importantly, they think about love and friendship. And when they think of Emperor Claudius, they remember how he tried to stand in the way of love, and they laugh - because they know that love can't be beaten!

*Valentine*

## Valentine Day Quiz

1. Who is the Greek god of love?
2. Who is the Greek goddess of love?
3. What is the Latin and Spanish word for love?
4. Where is the 'Pont des Arts' love lock bridge located?
5. If you were born on Valentine's Day what star sign would you be?
6. Who invented the first heart shaped chocolate box?
7. In which country are St Valentine's Keys given to lovers?
8. Which birthstone is thought to attract love?
9. Who abolished Valentine's Day in the 17<sup>th</sup> century?
10. Who is the Roman god of love and affection?
11. What bird is often associated with love?
12. Who released the song 'Can't help falling in love'?
13. What was the debut single of 'The Beatles'?
14. 'What's love got to do with it' was a hit for which female artist?
15. 'Stop in the name of love' was a hit for who?



## For the Record

Keeping the Church Records up to date is dependent on members informing the church via an elder, a visitor or any church office bearer who in turn can inform the Church Roll-keeper of any changes in address or contact details. Going forward if you are moving house, change your phone number or email address can you please let us know.

*Moira Gartshore, Roll Keeper*

**Answers:** Eros, Aphrodite, Amor, Paris, Aquarius, Richard Cadbury, Italy, Amethyst, Oliver Cromwell, Cupid, Dove, Elvis Presley, Love me do, Tina Turner, Diana Ross and the Supremes

## Mission and Outreach

In today's environment, the church is called to Mission and Outreach in order to spread the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our local community.

Within our own congregation, we have three groups who fall into this category and who provide a service to both our local community and ourselves. These groups work away in the background and we kind of take them for granted and forget that those who are involved have volunteered and see it as part of their service to both the church and the local community.

As a congregation, we see the entries appear in the intimation sheet to advise when they are on and that's probably about it.

If you haven't already gleaned the groups I am talking about, it is of course (in no particular order), the Monthly Coffee Morning, the Nearly New and the Snack Bar. Each is different, yet they have the same common goals and objectives.

For your information, each group has through their work supported the church by raising in 2024 the following amounts (gross figures approx.) – **Monthly Coffee morning - £1,098; Nearly New - £4,729; and Snack Bar - £11,288.**

The monies raised by these groups are either used to fund various ongoing projects, are built up over a period of time to help fund larger projects that require to be undertaken to help improve the facilities we have to offer. If these groups were not doing this work and providing the service, the Kirk Session and Board would have to ask you the Congregation by means of specific fundraising to fund any of the projects undertaken.

It therefore goes without saying that on behalf of the Congregation we offer a big thank you to – Mairi Mitchell and Irene Yates and their teams from the Coffee Morning; Liz Hannah and her team from the Nearly New and Jean Kinniburgh and her team from the Snack Bar.

Their dedication and service throughout the year, we can claim as part of our outreach both within the church and in the community. So, if you'd like to be involved by helping out in any of the organisation, Mairi, Irene, Liz and Jean would be happy to hear from you. Alternatively, if you are in the town and know that any of the groups are on, pop in and support by saying hello and have some fellowship one with another.

*David Walker, Session Clerk*

## Paraphrase of the First Psalm

As the 'Burns Season' is now in full swing here is a wee poem from the Edinburgh Edition of his poems published in 1787. The sentiments of the First Psalm are paraphrased in rhyme.

*The man, in life where-ever plac'd, hath happiness in store,  
Who walks not in the wicked's way, nor learns their guilty lore.*

*Nor from the seat of scornful pride, casts forth his eyes abroad,  
But with humility and awe, still walks before his God.*

*That man shall flourish like the trees, which by the streamlets grow,  
The fruitful top is spread on high and firm the root below.*

*But he whose blossom buds in guilt, shall to the ground be cast,  
And like the rootless stubble tost, before the sweeping blast.*

*For why? That God the good adore, hath giv'n them peace and rest,  
But hath decreed that wicked men, shall ne'er be truly blest.*



*Robert Burns*

## Airdrie Academy – Winter Project

Mrs Lynn Carlin from the Academy would like to thank all the wonderful and generous people in the local churches who donated gifts and school items before Christmas.

A new appeal this winter is to gather re-usable water bottles to give to pupils who might not otherwise be able to get one. The idea is to use them in school at the water fountains encouraging all pupils to drink water and avoid sugary energy drinks. If you are able to help, please bring them along any Sunday as the school has already started to issue them to pupils who require one.

## Scots Afternoon

St Columba's is holding a Scots Afternoon on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January starting at 1.30pm. There will be the singing of some familiar songs followed by a wee cup of tea and some home baking. All will be made most welcome.

## Senior Circle

Since our last round-up of happenings at the Senior Circle, we have moved from 2024 to 2025. Back on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 we were delighted to be entertained by Margaret Jack and David Walker. They gave us a very interesting tour of some of the places they had visited on holidays in Europe. David showed us some lovely pictures and Margaret sang to us in different languages. Our Christmas celebration took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Some of our members read the Christmas story and David Walker accompanied us on the piano while we sang some Christmas hymns. We had fun playing Pass the Parcel and taking part in a Christmas quiz. The first meeting of 2025 was looking back at favourite things and memories. Some of the group brought along memorable treasures and favourite memories. Everyone enjoyed this time of reminiscing. Our next meetings are:

28 Jan	George Randall	11 Mar	Crafting with Avril and Helen
11 Feb	Alex Cunningham	25 Mar	Lesley and Colin McPherson
25 Feb	Maureen Paterson	8 Apr	Alister Weighton and Co

*Anne Learmonth*

## Thank You

**Billy Brooks** would like to thank the congregation for the Church flowers received following his time in Monkland's Hospital. Very much appreciated along with the many best wishes and messages of support.

**Margaret Jack** would like to thank everyone for the love and kindness shown to her while she was in hospital and since returning home. Margaret says, *"I have been surrounded by a blanket of blessings!"*

**The Family** of the late Janette Clark would like to say thanks to the Church and the congregation for the many messages, cards and flowers received following Janette's sad passing. It brought great comfort to them all.

**Angela Gibb** would like to thank everyone for the flowers and best wishes received on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday.

## Church Notices

**Morning worship every Sunday at 11.00am.**

Sacrament of Baptism – Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> January

Emergency Services Service – Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> February (2.30pm)

Preacher – Very Revd. Martin Fair

Sacrament of Holy Communion – Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> March

Morning Worship – Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> March;

Preacher – Right Revd. Shaw J Paterson, Moderator of the General Assembly

Tea and coffee will be served in the Church Hall after morning worship.

**Delve in at Twelve - Wednesday Services at 12 noon**

Our midweek service on a Wednesday at 12 noon will continue during the winter months.

The service is followed by tea and coffee. Sacrament of Holy Communion on the 12<sup>th</sup> March.

## Funerals

Rebe Liddell, Hugh Clark, Janette Clark, Nan Penman, Mae Dempsey, Thomas McIntyre



## Useful Contacts

**Probationer Minister:** Eleanor Hamilton 07594163051

**Session Clerk:** David Walker 01236 747075

**Treasurer:** David Watt 01698 853921

**Roll Keeper:** Moira Gartshore 01236 761001

**Organist:** Vacant

**Hall Convener:** John Clydesdale 07512912016

**Gift Aid:** David Walker 01236 747075

**Magazine Editor:** George Randall 01236 763102 or 07738089762

### Let's do the Hokey Cokey!

Do you know how to do the 'Hokey Cokey' song and dance? I bet all the grown-ups in your family know the words and actions!

It goes like this: *"You put your right hand in. You put your right hand out. You put your right hand in, and you shake it all about. You do the Hokey Cokey, and you turn around. That's what it's all about. Oh Hokey Cokey Cokey, Oh Hokey Cokey Cokey, Oh Hokey Cokey Cokey, that's what it's all about!"*

This time, sing the same song, but replace "right hand" with "left hand." Follow along with the hand motions as you sing:

*"You put your left hand in. You put your left hand out. You put your left hand in, and you shake it all about. You do the Hokey Cokey, and you turn around. That's what it's all about. Oh Hokey Cokey Cokey, Oh Hokey Cokey Cokey, Oh Hokey Cokey Cokey, that's what it's all about!"*

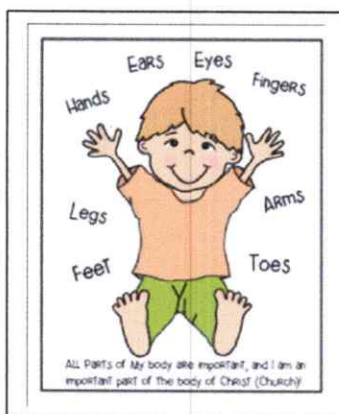
After the left hand, you follow the same instructions with your left foot, right foot, and your head. At the end, you put your "whole self" in! What a fun dance!

But can you imagine what would happen if you were doing the 'Hokey Cokey,' and your left hand refused to do the 'Hokey Cokey' because it wanted to be the right foot?

Or what if the head said, "I don't need any of you. I can 'Hokey Cokey' all by myself!"

This just isn't possible. The hands, the feet, and the head are all part of the 'whole self.' And no part can take the place of another.

Even though the 'Hokey Cokey' is kind of silly, it is a good picture of the parts that make up the church. The Bible says, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!'" And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'"



Every person is an important part of the church, just like every body part is important to the whole body. Together, we make up what is called the 'Body of Christ.'

We each have special gifts that are important to God and His church. Some of us have been given the gift to be a minister or teacher, while others have been given the gift of healing, helping others, or leading people. Maybe you have the gift of being creative, being a great listener, or something totally different.

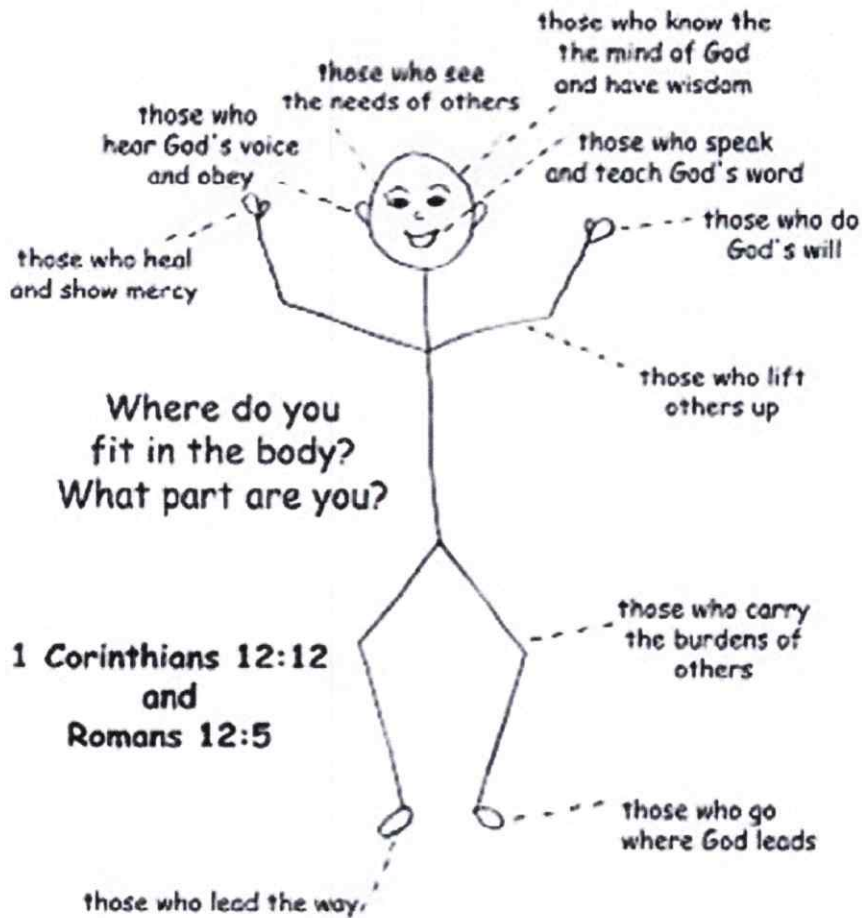
**What is one special gift God has given you?**

**How can you use it to serve others?**

Just as God gave us hands, feet, eyes, and ears to meet the needs of the whole body, He has given different people different gifts to meet the needs of the whole church.

Dear God, thank You for giving each of us special gifts. Help us to remember that each of us is an important part of the Body of Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen

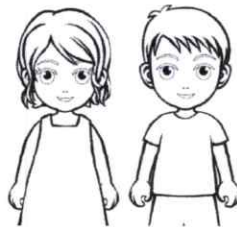
## The Church is One Body



## We are the Body of Christ

My mind will?

This is me!



My lips will?

My hands will?

My feet will?

My heart will?