



From the Curate

The Reverend Sonia Marshall

Dear Friends,

As the month begins we find ourselves in Advent, the Church's special time of waiting and preparation for Christmas. Many shops and offices have been wishing us a 'Merry Christmas' before Advent has even started. I find this trend depressing; as soon as Christmas Day is over sale time begins, denying many the opportunity to relax and enjoy the time of celebration to the full.

There is much to be said for times of waiting and preparation, the venture that is Advent. A time of waiting makes possible discovery, adaptation, and maturity. When the celebration finally comes it is all the more special because of it. As I write, we have just heard the good news of Prince William's forthcoming marriage to Catherine Middleton. Both parties emphasize that they have benefited and learnt from the time leading up to it and we join in sending them our heartiest congratulations on their engagement and best wishes for the future.

In the parish we too have received the good news of the coming on 10th January of Janet Donaldson, our new priest in charge. The time of waiting allows us time to make preparations for the licensing service and Janet herself to prepare her former parishes for what will now be their time of vacancy.

The very best news of all, the 'nowell', first heard by the shepherds so long ago, is the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. All births depend on their time of waiting, growth and preparation. Mary's waiting time was very special; the son she gave birth to was for the whole world.

'Christmas is for children!' some will scoff ... but we, all of us, are children ... God's grace and Mary's waiting time made it possible for us to be freed from sin and born again as children of God. Good News indeed!

Merry Christmas!

Sonia Marshall.



Parish Directory

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Hon. Secretary	Roger Bridgeman	
Hon. Treasurer	Simon Marshall	treasurer@dsj.org.uk
Covenant Secretary	Peter Wilde	
Electoral Roll Officer	Kim Hallam	
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Diocesan Synod	Canon Niccy Fisher	
	<i>The above plus</i>	
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Church Hall Bookings	Bill Flegg	churchhall@dsj.org.uk
Church Ladies' Fellowship	Anthea Wray	
Church Coffee Group	Carole Mills Margaret Flegg	
Church Flowers	Pauline Brooksbank Christine Masters	
House Group	Doris Warner	
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In This Month's Priory News ...

Cheers, everybody!

It's a year since I wrote that our "home grown" magazine covers would be launched in January 2010. They have proved a great success. Many thanks to everyone who has provided a cover picture. Please keep them coming. I'm delighted that we are back to full strength for this Christmas edition. Thank you for all your contributions throughout the year. Without them there would be no Priory News.

Thanks also to our very own Caxton, John, and to everybody involved in the distribution of the magazine.

Warmest wishes for a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year,

Bet.

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John has some good news following his plea for help last month. (P10).	Can you help with provisions for the celebration following Janet Donaldson's licensing? (P10).
There's lots going on in Children's Church over Christmas. (P8).	A bit of fun for Boxing Day? Try our Christmas Quiz . (P13).
If you can find room for a tasty treat, why not try Margaret's Rocky Road Crunch Bars ? (P12).	Just People's contribution to the Remembrance Youth Mass . (P9).
The latest news from the "Tower Shower" . (P9).	Please help fill our Parish Greetings board with Christmas cards. (P15).
Tony's epistle has an ornithological theme this month. (P6).	Cover picture: The Priory Church, Winter 2009/10. [Photo courtesy of John Marsh.]

Thank you to those who have sent in articles for Priory News. Contributions and suggestions are very welcome. Please let us have your prayers, poems, pictures, comments, reminiscences and anything else you'd like to share. **NB: pictures containing recognisable children must be accompanied by authorisation to publish from their parents or guardians. We will not publish the names of children pictured unless specifically requested to do so by their parents or guardians.**

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Please let us have your contributions for the **January 2011** edition of Priory News **BEFORE** the deadline. **Friday 10th December**. Thank you for your help.

Church Calendar December 2010

2 nd	Thursday	9:30am 7:45pm	Holy Communion followed by Home Communion Church Ladies' Fellowship
3 rd	Friday	<i>Practice Night:</i> 6:45pm 7:30pm	Choir Ringers
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
5 TH	SUNDAY	10:00am 6:00pm	Sung Eucharist Evening Prayer
6 th	Monday		<u>Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, 326</u>
7 th	Tuesday		<u>Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher, 397</u>
8 th	Wednesday		<u>The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u>
9 th	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion
10 th	Friday	<i>Practice Night:</i> 6:45pm 7:30pm	Choir Ringers
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
12 TH	SUNDAY	8:00am 10:00am 3:00pm 6:00pm	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism <u>Christingle Service</u> Evening Prayer
13 th	Monday	7:00pm	<u>Lucy, Martyr of Syracuse, 304</u> Deepings Comprehensive Carol Service
14 th	Tuesday	6:30pm	<u>John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher, 1591</u> Deeping St James County Primary Carol Service
16 th	Thursday	9:30am 7:45pm	Holy Communion Church Ladies' Fellowship Christmas Party
17 th	Friday	<u>O Sapientia</u> (The first of seven days of prayer before Christmas) <i>Practice Night:</i> 6:45pm 7:30pm	Choir - extended practice at Cranmore Farmhouse Ringers
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
19 TH	SUNDAY	10:00am 6:00pm	Sung Eucharist Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
23 rd	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS EVE			
24 TH	FRIDAY	11:30pm	Midnight Mass (First Eucharist of Christmas)
CHRISTMAS DAY			
25 TH	SATURDAY	10:00am	Family Eucharist for Christmas

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

St Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr - (Boxing Day)

26TH SUNDAY

8:00am Holy Communion

27th Monday

John, Apostle & Evangelist

28th Tuesday

The Holy Innocents

29th Wednesday

Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170

30th Thursday

(No Service of Holy Communion this week)

31st Friday

(No Practices for Ringers or Choir this week)

1st Saturday

The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus

**2ND
JAN**

SUNDAY

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10:00am Sung Eucharist

6:00pm Evening Prayer

Registers for October

BAPTISMS: We welcome into the Lord's family:

10th

Alicia Rose Goodson

Simon Alan Beard

Amy Grace Billyard

Ffion Lilian Ninette Perkins

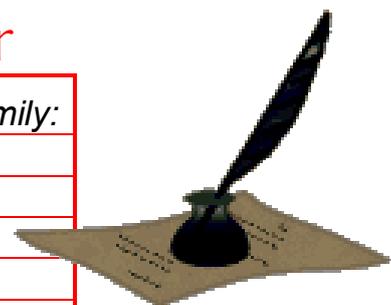
FUNERALS: We commend to God's keeping:

4th

Henry Matthew Steadman

12th

Susan Mary Childs



HOUSE GROUP

7:30pm Wednesdays
at 45 Crowson Way, DSJ.
All welcome!





Wardens' World

We recently had a visit from the Archdeacon and his Diocesan Advisory Committee to inspect the general condition of the church building and, by the time you read this, we will have held a meeting of our Fabric Committee to consider the report of the Quinquennial Inspection carried out by our architect. You may remember the words of a well-known hymn:

“What with care and toil he buildeth
Tower and temple fall to dust.”

Well, it's true of course and I am sure that many of us have seen around the world a few ancient cities which are now just ruins in the sand but we will be doing our best to ensure that our tower and temple don't fall to dust on our watch.

When Sonia was away recently on a well-earned week's holiday, I visited the church a couple of times every day to ensure it was opened and closed at the right times, and that the interior of the church was generally OK. Despite all our efforts to prevent the pigeons from roosting in the porch, on several mornings there was still a pair in residence, grimly perching among the formidable plastic spikes so liberally fixed in place to deter them. I suppose we have to admire their persistence but as they have ignored our notice to quit I shall now continue with my application for a shotgun licence – only kidding, I think I would have to apply to the Archdeacon for a Faculty before discharging a firearm within the church buildings and I can't face the paperwork.

At the moment there seems to be a general absence of birds of any sort from our garden at home. The birds which nested here are long gone and the weather hasn't yet been severe enough to bring in the smaller birds to our bird feeders. Another factor deterring the birds is the local sparrow hawk, recently seen on the wall, lurching on an unfortunate blue tit. Earlier in the year we did have one particularly interesting bird nesting in one of our shrubs; despite being otherwise a normal female blackbird she had lost all her tail feathers, giving her a distinctly stumpy appearance.

Now, the whole business of flying fascinates me. Whenever I fly I like to have a window seat just behind the wing, so I can watch how the flaps are used to change the shape of the wing to suit the angle and speed of the plane during take off and landing. If the angle of the sun is just right it is even possible to see the changing pattern of stresses in the wing – so I was interested to see how this blackbird would cope, since the loss of her tail greatly affected her ability to take off and land and to manoeuvre in flight. She only had two speeds, full ahead and stop, and her ability to turn was greatly restricted. After feeding on the lawn she flew to her nest in a series of straight lines and I realised, after watching her occasionally over several weeks,

that she had devised a series of navigational way-points on the top of fences and walls. She didn't always get it right. Once she bounced off the top of the wall and disappeared in to the garden next door; on another occasion she stalled just before she got to the wall and fell with a gentle thud in to the winter jasmine beneath, from which she emerged looking rather flustered but with her beakful of worms intact. Yet she coped with her disability magnificently and successfully raised her brood of chicks, despite my fears that she would be easy pickings for the local cats. Humbling to see this small creature persevering in the face of such difficulties and she certainly put my own aches and pains into perspective.

Tony Masters.



Please visit the

Christmas Tree Festival

at the

Deepings Methodist Church

Friday 3rd December, 3pm to 7pm
Saturday 4th December, 10am to 4pm
Sunday 5th December, noon to 5pm

Refreshments
all day

Light lunches
served
noon to 2pm

The Children's Church from the Priory Church has a tree on display at the festival.





A Huge Invitation

Please get involved in some of the many activities for children during Advent this year:

- 3rd December - We will have a Christmas tree on display at the Methodist Church festival ([see page 7](#))
- 12th December 10:00 am - Christmas party
(adults please sign up if you are able to provide some food)
- 12th December 3:00 pm - Christingle Service
(adults please let Andrea know if you are able to come along to the Church Hall at 7:00pm on Friday 10th to help make the Christingles - we'll provide the mulled wine!)
- 19th December 11:30 am - Traditional Nativity Play
Do come along to the Hall after the morning Eucharist to share in this event

In Children's Church we have thought about Heaven. We believe it will be a place of peace, a place where we will be loved by God, safe in his presence and loved for ever.

Erin painted this picture of what she thought her perfect place might look like.



Remembrance Youth Mass

On 14th November Just People joined our counterparts in Market Deeping for a Youth Mass with a Remembrance Theme. Just People started the worship with our cover of Fix You, by Coldplay. This was introduced very movingly by Martha, who also read a poem written by a serviceman in Afghanistan. The song was performed with real skill and feeling to the backdrop of images from Afghanistan. Taking part were Ali, Ben and Edward (lead vocalists), Connor and Ben (guitars), Emily (keyboards), Joey (violin), Will (drums), Georgina, Emily, Alistair and Martha (backing vocalists and percussion). Thanks also to Ted for playing the bass and for all his time and energy in rehearsals.



Ted and Will then joined with musicians from Market Deeping to form an impromptu band to provide music through the rest of a thought provoking Eucharist, during which the casualties of war and God's everlasting love were remembered.

Richard Gamman.



News from the Tower

The bells were half-muffled for the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 14th. It was nice to see so many young people present to remember the past. We trust the bells sounded as nice outside as the pleasure we had in ringing them.

On the 1st November we celebrated Daftknee's, oops sorry!, Daphne's 80th birthday. Daphne is a well-loved and stalwart member of the team who regularly rings for services and weddings.

Our social secretary, Brenda, organised an outing to the bowling alley in Peterborough on November 13th. As well as most of the ringers, the party of 19 included various family and friends. Our thanks to Brenda for a very enjoyable evening. The question is: when or what is to be offered next time?

Well done to our three youngest members, who are ringing with confidence and good ability now. Keep up the good work.

The bell ringing team wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mike Gentle.

Carols - A Plea for Help (follow up)



Following on from my concerns expressed in last month's Priory News, I am pleased to report that several people have come forward to offer assistance at both of our Carol Services this year. As a result, the music has been chosen and we have already begun rehearsals! By the time you read this, the Advent Carol Service (28th November) will probably have taken place but, just in case any of you were going to volunteer (but somehow forgot to let me know), it is not too late to join us for the Service of Nine Lessons & Carols on 19th December. In fact, the major rehearsals for this will be on Friday 10th December and Friday 17th December, so it's not too late!

So, a big thank you to those who have responded, and for anyone still dithering, there's a mince pie and mulled wine for you if you join us to sing at the rehearsal on Friday 17th December!

Now, where did we put the candle holders after last year's service?

John Worthington.

Celebrating the Licensing of our New Vicar

As readers will know that on 10th January the Bishop of Lincoln will license Janet Donaldson as our new Priest. It has been decided that, after the service, a welcoming buffet will be held in the Church Hall, and the Social Committee have agreed to co-ordinate the eats.

Those of you who attended Mark's farewell will recall that a list was available for those wishing to help to "make and bake" refreshments. As the hall is limited to hold 120 we need to have some idea of who is attending the function before we can establish how much food we need; so, shortly you will see a list in Church to which you are asked to add your name if you wish to attend the buffet. Then you will find a list of the FOOD required for the buffet. If you can help, then please take a slip and

add your name as appropriate to the list. Further information regarding the event will be published nearer the time when things become clearer.

With Christmas almost with us and so many things being organised we hope that you make a note of 10th January and add your name to the list. Numbers are limited so please do not delay. AND REMEMBER to put your name on the CORRECT LIST. Thank you.

Bill Flegg.

Jessie Turner Writes ...

I send Christmas greetings to all my friends who read "Priory News". May you have a season of joy, peace and happiness.

I extend to you best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

Much love to you all. Special thanks to everyone who has helped me in so many different ways from day to day.

Jessie Turner.

Church Hall Bookings

As many of you will know, I am giving up taking bookings for the Church Hall in the New Year. So, on 1st January I will be handing the diary over to Tony Masters.

If you are enquiring about a booking prior to 1st January 2011, then please email or ring me; after that date Tony will be able to advise you.

Bill Flegg.

Mission Matters (Shoebboxes)

Operation Christmas Child is now the world's largest children's Christmas project. This annual appeal has seen over 80 million gift-filled shoeboxes delivered to disadvantaged children worldwide. Around 1.2 million were sent from the UK to Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia last year alone.



Thank you all for helping to make all this possible. God bless you.

"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."

2 Corinthians 4 : 14-16 (NIV)

Pat Feek.



Thanks, Bill!

As Bill Flegg retires from his thirteen years' service as Church Hall Manager, we owe him a huge debt of thanks. His unstinting service, conscientious approach and great organisational skills have ensured that the running of the hall has been smooth and efficient.

We will have the opportunity to thank both Bill and Margaret for all they have done at a celebratory meal to be held early in February next year. In the meantime, Bill, enjoy your "retirement"!

Bet Washbrooke.

Cooking with Margaret Rocky Road Crunch Bars



Ingredients

- 125g soft unsalted butter
- 300g best quality dark chocolate, broken into pieces
- 3 tbsp golden syrup
- 200g rich tea biscuits
- 100g mini marshmallows
- 2 tsp icing sugar, to dust

Method

1. Heat the butter, chocolate and golden syrup in a heavy-based saucepan over a gentle heat. Remove from heat, scoop out about 125ml of the melted mixture and set aside in a bowl.
2. Place the biscuits into a plastic freezer bag and crush them with a rolling pin until some have turned to crumbs but there are still pieces of biscuit remaining.
3. Fold the biscuit pieces and crumbs into the melted chocolate mixture in the saucepan, then add the marshmallows.
4. Tip the mixture into a 24cm square baking tin and smooth the top with a wet spatula.
5. Pour over the reserved 125ml of the melted chocolate mixture and smooth the top with a wet spatula.
6. Refrigerate for about two hours or overnight. Cut into 24 fingers and dust with icing sugar.
7. You can also add a few Maltesers to make it special.



Margaret Flegg.





Just for fun. Answers in the January edition.

1. Who was the first British monarch to broadcast a Christmas message to the nation?
2. Child star Jimmy Boyd sang which hugely popular 1950's Christmas song, which was initially banned by the Catholic Church in Boston because it supposedly mixed sex and Christmas?
3. Who banned Christmas in England between 1647 and 1660?
4. On which date is Epiphany celebrated in the traditional Western calendar?
5. Who are the four ghosts in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol?
6. What liqueur goes into making a 'snowball' cocktail?
7. What is the English title of the carol written in 1818 by Austrian priest Josef Mohr originally called Stille Nacht?
8. The Nordic countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway notably) tend to celebrate Christmas chiefly on which date?
9. What is the popular name for little baked sausages wrapped in rashers of streaky bacon?
10. Which of the Wise Men was said to have brought the gift of gold for the baby Jesus?
11. What changed in 1752 which caused England to have a White Christmas less frequently thereafter?
12. Traditional in Germany at Christmas, what sort of food is stollen?
13. The Christmas period of 1813-14 saw the last what in London?
14. How many gifts are given in total in the song The Twelve Days of Christmas?
15. The words "Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes of life, of gathering gloom..." come from which Christmas carol?
16. Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean is a territory of which country?
17. John Callcott Horsley designed what first commercial Christmas item in 1843?
18. In Victorian England what people were popularly called robins because of their red uniforms?
19. Which popular poem was alternatively known as A Visit from St Nicholas?
20. Which token vegetable is often included in the ingredients of a Christmas pudding?
21. What animal is Snowball in George Orwell's book Animal Farm?
22. Yorkshireman William Strickland is believed to have brought the first what to Britain from North America in 1526?

Rotas for December

		Servers	Sidespersons	Intercessors
Sun 5th	10:00 am	John Sellars Simon Marshall	Team B: Joy Cunningham, Ann Meekings	Niccy Fisher
Sun 12th	8:00 am	Geoff Armstrong	George Knowles Ken Rimmer	
	10:00 am	Paul Boswall Chris Halley	TEAM C: Adrian Hallam, Tim Hitchborn	Bet Washbrooke
	3:00 pm	John Sellars		
Sun 19th	10:00 am	Simon Marshall John Sellars	TEAM D: Kim Hallam, Graham Hardy, Trevor Harwood	Tony Masters
	6:00 pm	SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS		
		John Sellars	TEAM E: Liz Bridgeman, Bill Flegg, Margaret Flegg	
Fri 24th	11:30 pm	CHRISTMAS EVE (MIDNIGHT MASS)		
		John Sellars Chris Halley Simon Marshall Geoff Armstrong	TEAM F: Doris Bellairs, Christine Masters, Val Wilde	Martin Fisher
Sat 25th	10:00 am	CHRISTMAS DAY		
		Paul Boswall Simon Marshall	TEAM A: Doris Bellairs, Mary Hamilton, Vivien Hamilton	Richard Gamman
Sun 26th	8:00 am	Geoff Armstrong	George Knowles Ken Rimmer	
Sun 2nd Jan	10:00 am	Simon Marshall Chris Halley	TEAM C: Adrian Hallam, Tim Hitchborn	Tony Masters

		Bread & Wine	Sunday Coffee	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning	Brasses
Sun 5th	10:00 am	Peter & Val Wilde	Bill & Margaret Flegg	Advent	Pat Feek Doris Warner	
Sun 12th	10:00 am	Cled & Ann Bennett	Val Wilde Doris Bellairs	Advent	Bill & Margaret Flegg	
Sun 19th	10:00 am	Caroline Herron Linda Sellars	Ann Bennett Penny Hebblewhite	Advent		Janet Lill Marion Stevens
Fri 24th	11:30 pm	CHRISTMAS EVE (MIDNIGHT MASS)				
		Joy Cunningham Carole Mills			Liz Spratley Sandra Jones	
Sat 25th	10:00 am	CHRISTMAS DAY				
		Doris Bellairs Christine Masters			Liz Spratley	
Sun 2nd Jan	10:00 am	Martin & Niccy Fisher	Linda Sellars Liz Spratley		Sandra Jones	

Readings and Readers for December

		Old Testament		New Testament		Gospel
		Reading	Reader	Reading	Reader	Reading
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT						
Sun 5 th	10:00 am	Isaiah 11:1-10	Liz Bridgeman	Romans 15:4-13	Adrian Hallam	Matthew 3:1-12
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT						
Sun 12 th	8:00 am	Isaiah 35:1-10		James 5:7-10		Matthew 11:2-11
	10:00 am	[Baptism]			Joy Cunningham	
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT						
Sun 19 th	10:00 am	Isaiah 7:10-16	Victoria Worthington	Romans 1:1-7	Trevor Harwood	Matthew 1:18-25
CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS						
Fri 24 th	11:30 pm	Isaiah 52:7-10	Tony Masters	Hebrews 1:1-4	Peter Wilde	John 1:1-14
CHRISTMAS DAY						
Sat 25 th	10:00 am	Isaiah 9:2-7	Simon Marshall	Titus 2:11-14	Caroline Herron	Luke 2:1-20
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS						
Sun 26 th	8:00 am	2 Chronicles 24:20-22		Acts 7:51-60		Matthew 10:17-22
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS						
Sun 2 nd Jan	10:00 am	Isaiah 60:1-6	Jacob Boswall	Ephesians 3:1-12	Martin Fisher	Matthew 2:1-12

Parish Greetings

From Sunday 12th December our Parish Greetings board will be ready to receive your Christmas cards this year. This gives everybody the opportunity to send their season's greetings to the entire congregation in just one card. It will also send greetings to the many visitors we have over the Christmas period.

Let's fill the board with as many colourful Christmas cards as we can.

Thank you.

Bet Washbrooke.





Bishop's Letter

Dear Friends

Christmas: Hoping against Hype

It surprises me that TV Soaps have to invent a Christmas story-line to bolster their ratings year by year. After all, the Christmas story itself has all the ingredients they need. An unexpected pregnancy with paternity issues at stake. The birth of a baby in less than ideal circumstances with visitors bearing exotic gifts from near and far. The friendly pub landlord is not backed up by community leaders, who would rather see this dysfunctional family off their manor as soon as possible. Enough there to keep a Soap in story-lines without needing to invent new hyped-up versions.

Indeed, in many ways, Christmas spells hype in our current culture. But, of course, Christmas actually spells Hope. Hope can be in short supply when jobs are threatened, homes are at risk of re-possession and some of the poorest people in our society become ever poorer.

Yet the birth of Jesus counters a culture of hopelessness. It is about a new life being born into the world and that is itself a sign of hope. But when that new life is nothing less than the very life of God born anew in the world, then that changes everything into positive possibility - nothing can be quite the same again. Living takes on a new meaning as we seek to live in accordance with our Lord's example, whilst in the light of His death and resurrection, death can never again have the last word.

In life and in death there is renewed hope because of the birth of that babe in Bethlehem. No need for new story-lines when Christmas already tells the greatest story ever told.

This comes with my warmest good wishes to you all, and prayers for God's Blessing as you prepare to celebrate this great festival of hope and light and joy.



+ John Lincoln