

## March Ringing Publicity

Church bells will ring out in protest at anti-immigrant sentiment across the world on Sunday, March 19th next, following an initiative by Church of Ireland Dean of **Waterford** Maria Jansson. At 11am that day, former president of Ireland Mary McAleese will launch the Joy of Bells initiative in opposition to what Dean Jansson has described as “the incredible fear out there” being generated towards immigrants and refugees. Since it was announced earlier in February, Dean Jansson and Ms McAleese have been inundated with support from around Ireland and the world with promises that bells will ring that morning in locations including on the banks of the Mekong river in southeast Asia, at Notre Dame University in Indiana, US, in Rome, Cambridge in England, in Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon, and in churches and cathedrals all over Ireland. Dean Jansson has described the response as “humbling. Goodness is popping up everywhere.” (*Irish Times*)

The bells of St. Macartin’s Cathedral, **Enniskillen**, Northern Ireland, will be ringing on March 19 to signal solidarity with immigrants. Taking place at 11:05 a.m. as morning service begins, the peal of 10 bells will ring out following an invitation to the dean and bellringers of St. Macartin’s Cathedral from the dean of Waterford, the Very Rev. Maria Jansson, who is originally from Sweden. (*Anglican Journal*)

Sir, – Last Sunday, the bells of Christ Church Cathedral in **Waterford** were rung to drown out the “siren voices of racial and religious intolerance”, as Mary McAleese put it in her speech at the cathedral. This bell-ringing protest was the idea of the cathedral dean, the Very Rev Maria Jansson, and was intended to respond to what she called a “cacophony of hatred” across Europe. I wonder how much actual racism or hatred could Mrs McAleese and Dean Jansson find in Waterford City, or do they just sense a general mood of bigotry? Surely the purpose of the bells is to call worshippers to church rather than harangue the local populace. – Yours, etc, EDWARD M KELLY, Rathmines, Dublin 6. (*The Irish Times*)

**Lincoln Cathedral's** bell chimes go wrong! This doesn't sound quite right! Lincoln Cathedral's bells which chime every quarter-hour sound a little different at the moment – all because a vital spring has broken. The bells will continue to ring out across the city, including the cathedral's main bell Great Tom –which rings every hour - but those listening closely might be able to hear the absence of one bell. A member of the Lincoln Cathedral Works Department said: "The leaf spring has snapped. It will be fixed but we don't know when by. The Cathedral's maintenance team must wait for the replacement pieces to make the repair. We've had to send off for the replacement, which has to be made specifically for the cathedral, and we don't know exactly how long it will take." This will not be the first time that the cathedral's bells have needed to be repaired, with the above-mentioned Great Tom requiring a patch-up in 2011 – also the result of a leaf spring fault. That occasion was only the second time since World War Two when Great Tom did not ring - which has been in use since 1835. The other occurrence was during filming for The Da Vinci Code in 2005, which used the cathedral for filming as an alternative to Westminster Abbey – which itself would not allow filming for religious reasons. Lincoln Cathedral's bells did not ring during the day for a period at the end of 2015, when lead repairs were being made inside the building. (*Lincolnshire Live*)

**York Minster's** axed bellringers have now been barred from taking part in a national ringing contest at Sheffield Cathedral. Organisers of the 2017 National Twelve-Bell Striking Contest say the band representing York - which is understood to consist primarily of former Minster bellringers - are currently not permitted to compete in the eliminator competition at Sheffield Cathedral on Saturday, March 25. “This is the current ruling of the Dean and Chapter at

Sheffield Cathedral,” they said in a statement. “As things stand, this means that York are not able to take part in this year’s contest. It is not clear at this point whether the situation can be resolved between the two parties in time for the eliminator. The York band have informed the committee secretary that they will formally withdraw from this year’s contest should no resolution be in place by Saturday, March 11.” (*The Press*)

The bells of **York Minster** will be rung on Easter Sunday, the cathedral has confirmed. It told the BBC a number of volunteers had offered their services to mark one of the most important days in the Christian calendar. The Minster Chapter dismissed its 30-strong team of bell-ringers in October, due to “safeguarding issues”. It is currently recruiting for a new paid head of Bell Tower to recruit and train a new team of volunteers. Members of the dismissed team will be able to apply to join a new team, the cathedral authorities have said. Since the sackings the bells have remained silent on all but three occasions, according to a spokeswoman for the Minster. (*BBC News* also *The Press York*)

Have monkeys got into the tower?” asked a concerned Durban resident, after the church bells of St Mary’s in **Greyville** had pealed for almost three hours. The chimes had nothing to do with the local wildlife. Rather it was a group of visiting bell ringers from the United Kingdom who were pulling vigorously on the ropes. They’d been on the move since January, ringing the changes in churches as far afield as New Zealand and Australia. Bell ringing is hot stuff in Britain. At least 40,000 UK citizens are campanologists – the term for those involved in the art of bell ringing. In fact there is a pressure group of UK citizens who want the 400-year-old activity included as an Olympic sport. In South Africa there are no more than 40 bell ringing enthusiasts. “Bear in mind,” says Simon Milliken of the South African Guild of Church Bellringers, “We only have nine towers where change ringing is possible, spread between **Durban**, Cape Town, Grahamstown and Johannesburg.” Most churches may have bells but they are not all hung for the art of “change ringing”. For this you need bells attached to a wheel and hung so they turn in a complete circle. According to Milliken, it’s addictive. Like birdwatchers who travel the world hoping to add to their life list, many campanologists love nothing more than to pull the ropes in as many churches in as many towns in as many countries as possible. This was reflected in the boundless enthusiasm of the 11 member group of visiting ringers. They had stopped off in Durban to ring the bells of the two towers on offer: St Paul’s in the city centre and St Mary’s in Greyville. And it’s no walk in the park. Bell ringing is an activity like no other. It has been referred to as a “mathematical team sport” because it comprises a combination of permutations that have to be understood and then committed to memory. A ringing performance is called a peal, and has to contain over 5,000 changes. One “change” is the sequence of each bell being struck once. This means the performance usually lasts around three hours – and it’s all performed entirely from memory. That it is not only mentally good for you but also physically beneficial is music to any bell ringer’s ears. The UK Churches Conservation Trust commissioned research to measure the body’s response to bell ringing and found that it improved “agility, co-ordination, reaction time and balance, plus muscle endurance and cardiovascular fitness”. Alan Regin who co-ordinated the South African leg of the journey, began ringing bells in his hometown in Surrey at the age of ten. “I was immediately hooked,” he says. He compares bell ringing to riding a bike. “You fall off a couple of times but once you can do it, you can do it. It’s not particularly difficult. You need a good memory and a sense of rhythm but you don’t need to be musical.” (*Times Live*)

**Dundee** bellringers are set to mark the 150th anniversary year of The McManus with a special event today. The Dundee Society of Bellringers will ring a peal at the Old Steeple from 5.30pm and members have been busy practising for the occasion. Stephen Elwell-Sutton, one of the bellringers, said ringing in Dundee dated back to 1873 with the formation of the society and added: “The society has strong links with the city through the city council. We welcome visitors from all over the world and we in turn are made welcome when we visit

other bell ringing towers.” Pictured are bellringers Carly Cooper (also of The McManus), Margaret Gamble and Stephen. (*Evening Telegraph*)

A bellringer who notched up almost three decades of service as tower master at St John’s Church in **Knutsford** last month retired from his post. Jim Townsend has directed the activities of the bellringers at St John’s for 27 years, calling the community to church, celebrating national events and weddings. With the church bells having rung for around 270 years, Jim can retire with a claim to an extraordinary ‘reign’ of 10 per cent, having rung bells across the south west, south Wales and Knutsford for more than 30 years. He said: “My father was a bellringer down in the west country when I was growing up, and I suppose it was always in my mind that I would do it some day. I then moved here with my job and we started attending church here. I joined and was later elected as tower leader. I enjoy it, very much so. It’s very interesting and good exercise for the body and mind. At the same time, you are serving the church and the community. In the nicest possible way, I am feeling quite relieved. It’s too long for one person to have control and it’s nice to see that someone else has come forward.” (*Knutsford Guardian*)

VolitionRx Limited (NYSE MKT: VNRX) celebrated the company's recent announcement of a CE mark for its Nu.Q™ Colorectal Cancer Screening Triage Test by ringing the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 4 p.m. U.S. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Volition received CE Marking on the Nu.Q™ Colorectal Cancer Screening Triage Test in December 2016 and is currently marketing this novel blood test in Europe. The event was preceded earlier that day by a more traditional bell ringing ceremony at **Trinity Church Wall Street** led by Volition's Chairman, Dr. Martin Faulkes. Dr. Faulkes, a keen bell ringer, donated and installed the 12 bells at Trinity Church Wall Street in 2006. (*PR Newswire*)

Campanologists have been rewarded for roping fresh faces into the 400-year-old tradition. **Abingdon** Society of Bell Ringers has been nationally commended for passing the centuries-old skill of chiming church bells onto a new generation. The group, based at St Helen's Church in Abingdon, won a £400 prize for youth work from the Association of Ringing Teachers. Tower captain Brian Read, who has enjoyed the hobby for more than 40 years, said: "There is a pressing need to recruit youngsters; everybody else is getting old. Bell ringing is a great activity for teenagers but has to compete with all the other things they get up to. I think we've been successful by getting groups of them together and making it fun." The retired scientist, who lives in central Abingdon with wife and fellow bell ringer Susan, said he was 'very pleased' to win the Sarah Beacham Youth Group Award. He added: "We've got a nucleus of about six to a dozen youngsters who come in on a Friday night. It's a great hobby - it's social and it's a physical skill that is not easy to master. It's challenging and unusual but it's very rewarding." (*Oxford Times*)

The final bell will be cast at the **Whitechapel Bell Foundry** this week. The business was founded in 1420 by Robert Chamberlain, a church bells manufacturer based in Aldgate. It was moved to its present home on the south side of the High Street in Whitechapel in the mid 1740s. According to the Guinness Book of Records it is the nation’s oldest manufacturing company in continuous operation. Heritage campaigners have stepped in to demand the preservation of the foundry but the owner, Alan Hughes, said that he expects to exchange contracts with a developer for the historic site “in the next couple of weeks”. (*City Metric*)

It is rare indeed for a museum to commission a brand new object for its collection. But then the Museum of London's new purchase will be instantly historical — and historic too. It has just put in an order for the last ever bell to be made at Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which is closing in May. This will likely be the last bell to be cast in central London — and will become a main attraction for the museum when it relocates to Smithfield. It's uncertain

exactly what the exhibit will entail, although a 'Sounds of London' display has been mooted. The museum will also display a handful of items from Whitechapel Bell Foundry, including a rare wooden lathe for making hand bells from 1740, and the moulding gauges of the Bow Bells, cast in 1956, after the originals were destroyed in the Blitz. These objects will join a collection which already includes a bell cast by Robert Mot at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 1573, a plague bell and a hand bell from Vauxhall Gardens. Says Alex Werner, Head of History Collections at the Museum of London, "The Whitechapel Bell Foundry is an incredibly important part of London's long manufacturing and bell casting history and it's great that we're able to preserve part of its legacy." (*The Londonist*)

The centuries old tradition of bell ringing is under threat from a lack of new people taking it up. Richard Solesbury-Timms, joint tower captain of All Saints **Middleton Cheney**, is on a quest to attract new recruits. Richard has bell ringing in his blood and has been doing it for the last 20 years. His father, George Timms was the tower captain for 45 years before handing the reins over to his son. Presently the experienced bell ringers there are in the area are spread between a number of churches and sometimes bell ringing services cannot be offered as readily as they previously were. George said: "It's getting the young ones to learn it, that's the problem. There's some ringers from Wardington up there at the moment. We help them and they help us." The bells, which weigh as much as 2,500 pounds, take between six and 12 months to learn but can be mastered by young and old alike. Despite the enormous weights involved bell ringing has little to do with brute strength. George said: "Once you've got the bell up it will ring itself so all your doing is keeping it on the balance. It's learning those two balances." (*Banbury Guardian*)

A bell ringer from **Marsworth** has won an award for his outstanding progress in learning the traditional pastime. Neil Waterman, who began learning to ring at All Saints' Church in 2014, has won a silver medal from the Association of Ringing Teachers through the Learning The Ropes scheme. The judges were impressed by his rapid progress and commitment to local ringing activities and Neil will now be invited to attend a masterclass in Birmingham in September, accompanied by other high achieving ringers from all over the UK who have participated in the scheme. Neil was presented with his medal by qualified ringing teachers Ruth Monks, Rose Nightingale and Richard Booth. Richard said: "Church bell ringing is not only a traditional English pastime, but can become an extremely absorbing activity where there are always further challenges to aspire to, with increasingly intricate and complex 'methods' to learn – which are the bell-ringing equivalent of group music making. Learning to even handle a church bell competently can take between 10-20 hours of one to one instruction, then learners start to ring with other people and enjoy the social aspect of what is essentially a team activity. Although many people love hearing the traditional English sound of church bells, they are often surprised at the complexity and diversity of skills required to play these loud, unamplified instruments." The oldest of the six church bells at Marsworth dates from 1662 but the tower is equipped with the latest modern technology - a ringing 'simulator' which enables ringers to practise with the bells silenced outside. (*The Bucks Herald*)

A state-of-the-art centre which will train bell ringers in Norfolk is to open next year thanks to more than £260,000 in funding. The Mancroft Appeal 300 was launched in 2015 to mark the anniversary of when the "first true peal" in the world was rang in Norwich. Since then, more than £150,000 has been raised by local bell ringers to help fund the creation of the Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre. Based at the Church of **St Peter Mancroft in Norwich**, the centre will enable people to learn about the city's rich history of bell-ringing. It will also serve as a state-of-the-art training centre to teach new and existing ringers in the eastern counties. The project has now been awarded £260,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund - enabling construction work to begin later this year. Simon Rudd, chairman of the appeal, said: "The ringers at St Peter Mancroft, their friends, families and ringers from a wide area have worked incredibly hard in the last two years to support and raise funds for this amazing project. The

fantastic support from the National Lottery both in financial terms and in advice and encouragement means that the Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre will now become an exciting and unique heritage venue at the very heart of the 'Fine City' of Norwich." It is hoped that the centre will open in summer 2018. (*Eastern Daily Press*)

### **Restorations**

Historic church bells will ring out a peal for a final time this weekend in tribute to all those who have kept the sound alive through five centuries. The swansong comes before the much-loved bells at St Mary's Church in **Richmond** are replaced and put on display. To mark the occasion and to celebrate the bells' history, the church's ringers will attempt to achieve a special performance of 5040 changes on Saturday which takes about three hours to ring. All are welcome to attend as the ringers celebrate with tea and cake at around 3pm before ringing a full peal on the six oldest bells which range in age from 140 years to over 500. Liz Foster who leads a local history group researching the history of bells and bellringing at Richmond, explained: "This is a tribute to the past and present people of Richmond and the ringers who have kept these bells ringing over the last 500-years. We think it's a fitting tribute to the people of Richmond who have heard and loved the sound of these bells over the centuries, and the bellfounders who cast our bells over a period of time from 1500 to 1904. We are replacing them with a brand new set of bells over the next few months so this is the last day on which we can sound them for any length of time, although we shall ring for services on the next two Sundays." A film and sound crew will be filming and recording the old bells for posterity as part of a Heritage Lottery Funded project to retain the five oldest bells. (*Northern Echo* also *Darlington & Stockton Times* )

The bells of St Mary's church in **Richmond** rang out together last night for the last time, before work is started this week to replace a number of the bells and upgrade the infrastructure in the tower. Tower Captain Susan Welch, who has been bell ringing since 1984, led the group in a session lasting about half an hour, with a special service below being led by Bishop James Bell (appropriately), who along with Mark Zetland is one of the patrons of the replacement project. A number of fundraising efforts raised the required amount for the replacements to be cast and installed. Some of the bells are 500 years old, though interestingly, the oldest of the bells will not be replaced and will continue to be used. Some bells will be removed from use but placed in a new viewing platform above the other bells, and some bells will be removed from the tower. An entirely new steel set of girders will replace the ancient timbers. The work is set to take several weeks, with St Mary's falling silent during the works. Taking part in the evening's bell ringing were: Karin Hildred, Keith Hildred, Sue Fielder, Cathy Trewby, Glenys Rogers, Susan Welch, Graham Rogers, Glenys Jones, John Welch, Andrew Slade, Liz Foster, Peter Trewby, Vicky Milne, Jess Milne, and Jennifer Patrick. (*Richmondshire Today*, with some excellent photos)

The church bells could be ringing out again over **Brinkworth** this May after months of silence. Experts have already been to measure up the frame ready for the return of the six bells which were removed from the tower at St Michael and All Angels in December for restoration – the first since they were installed more than 350 years ago. Currently the bells are undergoing welding work as part of a £60,000 project that is being funded mainly by grants. "They have already cast the new head stocks – the old wooden head stocks are being replaced by metal ones," said tower captain John Tuck. They were lowered in a delicate operation that revealed a gudgeon pin holding one of the bells into its bearing had sheared, leaving only a short stub and two of them had not been used for some time because they had become very difficult to ring. Two of them have quite severe damage to the crowns," he said. "They were in a state." But the good news is they should be back in time for the summer wedding season (*Swindon Advertiser*)

A campaign to raise £70,000 to restore a historic church's eight bells has reached two thirds of its ambitious target. The bellringers of St Peter's in **Ugborough** have been fundraising since last year for the restoration project, which will include the repair of three cracked bells and the overhaul of the running gear. The last major work on the bells was carried out more than 100 years ago. Fundraising continues this weekend with a Big Breakfast on Saturday, March 11 from 8.30am to 12.30pm in Ugborough Village Hall. This follows a series of events last year starting with a successful flower festival in May, a barbecue at local festival Ugfest, an auction of promises raising nearly £5,000 and serving turkey baps and mulled wine at Ugborough Christmas Fair. Bell captain Anthony Luggar said: "We have had amazing support from the people of Ugborough and the surrounding areas, and also from further afield. We have held a number of fundraising events that have been really popular, and this has really encouraged the ringers, especially as the target is now within our sight." (*Dartmouth Chronicle*)

The bells of **Blandford** Parish Church rang out again for the first time in 14 months on Saturday following the restoration of the tower and repairs required in the bell tower. Tower secretary Richard Owen said: "The ropes have been re-attached, the stays that were broken now replaced, and on Saturday 18th March from 2pm to 4pm, the bells rang out again after a silence of 14 months, while the Cupola was being rebuilt. During the work, the louvres were removed so that cross-beams could be put across the bell frame to support the scaffolding which covered the tower for many months, and a mesh floor was built above the bell chamber making it possible to look down on the bells. The clock chimes were reinstated almost immediately the cupola had been handed over, but there were a few snagging problems that had to be dealt with before the bells could ring. These have now been sorted out, and our two-hour 'Ring-In' on Church Clean-up Day was followed on Sunday by a half hour peal for the normal service at 10am." (*Blackmore Vale Magazine*)

Bells have rung from the tower of a **Walthamstow** church for the first time since a major renovation project. Ringers at St Mary's Church, in Church End, treated passers-by to the first peal from the tower in more than a decade on Saturday (March 18). The bells had been out-of-action for more than a year after volunteers raised £15,000 and received a further grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to return the tower to its former glory. St Mary's tower captain, Katherine Marshall, said: "It was terrific, people just stopped and listened and when the bell ringers finished, there was a round of applause, which was a wonderful feeling. We hope the bells will be seen as something for Walthamstow to be proud of, the local community all helped to fundraise with us. It has been a long slog, there was a lot of fundraising that we had to do before we could even apply for an HLF grant. Saturday was the end of a lot of hard work and it was great to hear the bells ring out." (*East London & West Essex Guardian*)

After spending many weeks hidden behind shrouds last year, the renovated spire of Christ Church, **Healey [Rochdale]** now reveals itself in all its glory. Recent months have seen much activity in and around this old gothic church, as it slowly shakes off years of creeping degeneration. Funding for the work comes from many sources, not least of which are the efforts of an enthusiastic congregation, plus support and donations from people in and around the parish. Without the generosity of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Viridor Credits, and the Lancashire Association of Bell Ringers, amongst others, there is no doubt that the whole project would still be a long way back down the road from where it now stands. There is still much work to be done. During work on the spire, serious decay within the timbers of the bell frame came to light. Three tons of bell metal cannot reasonably be allowed to remain hanging from rotting oak beams for very long, so it was decided that the bells would have to come down. Christ Church has a peal of six bells. Cast in Loughborough, by John Taylor & Co, they were first heard ringing out on the morning of Easter Sunday 1870. All six bells, each weighing between 372kgm and 803kgm will be transported back to the John Taylor Bell Foundry from whence they came. There they will be restored and re-tuned, before

being mounted on a new steel frame and re-hung in the church bell tower, in readiness for the first ring of the bells. (*Rochdale Oline*)

New church bells at **Horringer** church were dedicated and blessed at a special service at the weekend. The eight new bells at St Leonard's Church are the culmination of four years of fund-raising and were dedicated at an Evensong service by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Right Rev Martin Seeley. Around 150 people attended the service on Sunday including Jo Churchill MP and St Edmundsbury Deputy Mayor, Cllr Terry Clements. "It was a wonderful service with the congregation giving prayers and thanks," said Brian Thaxter, who project managed the bell project. "The eight new bells signify a coming together for the community and bring with them a great sense of shared ownership." The project began in 2012 when two bells cracked and it was decided on closer inspection a whole new frame and set of bells were needed. Villagers managed to raise half of the £140,000 needed, with a Heritage Lottery grant covering the rest. The old bells were melted down and recast and are the first new installation of eight bells in the county for 90 years. (*Bury Free Press*)

**Hatfield's** oldest church, the partly medieval St Etheldreda's, has renewed the sound of its bells in a restoration project. The church's ringing team removed the clappers from the six lightest of the bells, and sent them to a specialist restoration company in Oxfordshire. Vivienne Neale, who is learning to ring at the church, said: "It was left to our intrepid band of bell-ringers to climb up into the top of the tower, clamber over the bells and start the process of removing them for repair. The clappers are very heavy, each weighing about 25 kilogrammes. The tower is a long way up, especially when they need to be carried down to street level, but with some willing hands positioned on the steep spiral staircase, we managed to pass them down without mishap." Once the clappers were restored, at a cost of £600, they were reattached by the ringers - a delicate operation in the cramped bell tower. (*Welwyn Hatfield Times*)

It is mission accomplished at **Savernake's** St Katherine's Church as their £40,000 appeal to refurbish their bells has been achieved in just a matter of months. Just five months after the church team launched the appeal to repair the bells, which have been used non-stop for 150 years, the large sum has been raised, thanks to a number of private donations and grants. Now that the funds have been raised, the bells, which showed serious signs of wear and tear and were deemed dangerous, have been shipped off to Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London, where they will be refurbished and refitted before being restored by September at the latest. Church warden Rosemary Cook said: "We are absolutely thrilled that we have raised this amount so quickly. We knew that the community was generous but we are stunned that we have got this much in a matter of months. We had intended to make lots of grant applications but in the end we did not need to as some many came to us and donated. We are pretty lucky also because the Whitechapel Bell Foundry is doing its last orders this year as it is closing down after hundreds of years, so it is quite special that our bells will be one of the last ones they work on. It will be wonderful when the bells return in working order." There will be a special recommissioning service, led by the Bishop of Ramsbury, on September 17 at 11am to celebrate the return to working order of the bells. (*Wiltshire Gazette & Herald*)

The sound of church bells will be ringing out across **Taunton** again later this month. The Bishop of Bath and Wells is dedicating the 15 new bells at St Mary Magdalene Church on Sunday, March 19, at 2.30pm. The bells, which have replaced the old set which were worn out, will ring out during the morning and also after the service. Among the hymns on the carillon are Morning has broken, which has been sponsored by Andrew, Michele and Liam Evans, and Who would true valour see, sponsored by the Somerset Light Infantry. A selection of other tunes include Thine be the Glory, chosen by St Mary's Mothers' Union, Love Divine and The Green Hills of Somerset. Among the guests will be a couple of

descendants of Harry van Trump, one of four ringers named on a memorial treble bell in the church who were killed in the First World War and the son of a former Mayor of Taunton. The bells have been founded by hundreds of donations and sponsorship money, including a grant from the Gannett Foundation, set up by the American parent company of Newsquest, owner of the County Gazette. (*County Gazette*)

*Kate Flavell  
Public Relations Officer  
Central Council of Church Bell Ringers*