

# BREASTON & DRAYCOTT VILLAGE NEWS

December 2020

50p

**Happy Christmas  
to all our readers!**



# Theikos Yoga

**BY ANNA**

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# Thought for the month

## The light shines in the darkness

The light shines through all generations, in all places at all times.

Corrie Ten Boom, a Dutch lady, was sent to Ravensbruck Concentration Camp during WWII for harbouring Jewish people. We cannot really imagine what she had to endure but she wrote: "even though I was looking into the shadow of death, I was not afraid. It is here that Jesus comes the closest, taking our hand and leading us through" (from *Tramp for the Lord*, page 21).

Life is full of storms as we have experienced in the last nine months. This can leave us feeling anxious, stressed, angry, tired and so forth. It is important to acknowledge how we are feeling. Jesus offers you his light in the midst of whatever you are experiencing.

The birth of Jesus proclaims that God is for us. He longs to be a friend to all. You can talk to God just as you speak to a close friend or family member. Let him know how you're feeling and welcome him into your life.

The prologue to John's gospel, which is read at the end of the service of Nine Lessons and Carols affirms: "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

I have been a follower of Jesus for many years. I have discovered (the hard way) that living life with Him and allowing Him to guide and strengthen is much better than trying to work everything out for myself.

Jesus invites you to begin a brand new adventure with him:

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Matthew 11: 28–30, *The Message* translation).

Jesus is good! He longs to be our light and strength. This requires a daily response.

May Christ's light fill your hearts and minds this Christmas time.

*Rev'd Chris Smedley.*

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## From the editor

This Christmas is certain to be “different”, isn't it? The uncertainty makes planning more than a little tricky – who is coming to Christmas lunch, where are we having Christmas lunch, where should we send presents, will the shops be open? But at least we can buy Christmas trees, and Santa doesn't seem to be self-isolating (see page 17)!

We have a heart-warming article about Harvey, the teenager who has benefited so much from Treetops and who took part in the Countryfile Ramble for BBC Children in Need with Matt Baker – see page 22. We mark Barbara Cheshire's remarkable life in a glowing tribute (page 19).

We all need a bit of light relief these days, and we have just the thing for you in A Band of Rain on page 24. We've protected the identity of the perpetrator of this flood of puns for his or her own protection! And see if you can work out what the puzzling pictures on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.** are.

And amidst the hustle and bustle in the run-up to Christmas, Lauren Twells (page 24) invites us to “take a moment”.

Have a blessed Christmas.

*Jonathan Lupton, Editor*

P.S. Those of you who subscribe to the magazine may be wondering why we aren't collecting next year's subscriptions yet. Because we missed two issues in the Spring (due to Covid-19), your subscription now includes January's and February's issues. We'll come knocking on your day when our faithful distributors deliver our February issue. If you would like to subscribe (and have the magazine delivered), do get in touch; see page 29.

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## Verse of the month

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

*Isaiah 9:6*



## Still Space

*Thoughts and reflections to help us find peace in our busy lives*

### Preparations

*Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*  
(Luke 2:19)

We sit on the floor, surrounded by dusty boxes, untangling the Christmas lights. December is underway and there's so much to do. Gradually, devastation gives way to decoration and I venture into the soggy outdoors, returning with a dripping armful of holly, ivy and rosemary to supplement the ornaments and candles carefully arranged over the fireplace. A pungent, aromatic smell lingers on my fingers.

Upstairs in the study, I also prepare my worship area. It's just the top of a short bookcase where I usually place pebbles, candles and objects to look at or hold as I pray, changing them according to season or mood. In this time of Advent, I take the cross away and create a simple scene with the figures of an angel and a young girl - Mary. This will take me all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem, from the Annunciation to the birth of Jesus, as I enter once again into the ancient story.

I find it very comforting that, while I am dashing through my list of jobs or tearing my hair out as the pre-Christmas pressures mount, Mary is there in the stillness, holding all my unspoken prayers. Later, on Christmas morning, when I place a tiny Jesus into the crude manger by her side, I feel that I too am being drawn into the intimate circle of God's love.

However we prepare, Christmas may seem different this year - but that's OK. We don't need elaborate carol services or huge celebrations to enjoy this special time. Humming Christmas tunes while getting the dinner; gazing at the bright night stars; watching a cheeky robin on the bird table or sharing a glass of mulled wine with a (distanced) friend or neighbour. These are all part of the magic, helping us to ponder once more the profound mystery of God revealed in a newborn baby.



***Happy Christmas!***

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## Publishers

Breaston and Draycott Village News is published by St. Michael's PCC on behalf of churches and organisations in Breaston and Draycott. It is printed by Elson & Hall, Derby Road, Long Eaton.

Contact the editor by post c/o St. Michael's Church Hall, Main Street, Breaston, Derby, DE72 3DX, or see details on page 29.

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## Copy Day – earlier than usual!

For the January issue of the magazine, copy day is earlier than usual. Please get your copy to us before **Saturday 12th December** so that we can get the magazine to the printers before Christmas.

All copy to be submitted to Breaston Church Office by email please ([magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk) or give us a ring on 872094). Draycott news can be passed to Rev'd Gary Dundas 872893 by the 15th of the month.

# Breaston Village News

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## Breaston Parish Council

So we find ourselves in another national lockdown which we're sure is very trying for many of you. However, if we can all follow the rules and stay at home as much as possible we can hopefully beat this wretched virus. We were all delighted to hear the news of the progress with vaccinations in recent days and can only keep our fingers crossed that the medication passes the British testing process. If anyone needs any particular help during the lockdown the Covid Support group are still operational and can be contacted on 07745 653 667'

Unfortunately we have been forced to "close" the Multi-Use Games Area to comply with the rules. Can you please ensure that your children are aware of the closure?

Meanwhile, at the Parish Council, we are trying to keep business operating as usual. We still aren't able to open the office to the public as yet, which makes day-to-day contact with residents quite tricky. If you need to contact the Clerk please phone on 01332 870119 or email on [breastonparish@outlook.com](mailto:breastonparish@outlook.com) or should you spot the caretaker Lyn out and about on her duties please feel free to raise any concerns with her.

## Vacancies

We now have three vacancies on the Parish Council. Interviews for two of the posts were held on the 18th of November and once the Erewash notice

period ends the third vacancy will hopefully be filled. If you are interested in applying please contact the Clerk for details.

### **Remembrance**

A huge thank you to the Pins Hooks and Pom Poms and supporting residents for their magnificent efforts with the knitting needles and crochet hooks creating the wonderful Remembrance Wreath for the Memorial Garden. Thanks also to the Clerk's husband, David, for manufacturing the frame. Whilst we were unable to hold the normal Remembrance Service, we were delighted with the display which we hope you agree did the village proud.

### **Tree damage**

We are disappointed to report that considerable damage has been done to trees in the coppice off the Millennium path between Breaston and Draycott, teenagers have been chopping trees down to build a den. The local beat team have been informed and have been patrolling in the area – but should you see any anti-social behaviour anywhere in the Parish please report it immediately to the police.

### **Dog mess**

We have also received complaints about dog mess on the open spaces again this month. Despite Lyn's best efforts monitoring and clearing up after selfish dog owners who don't clear up after their pets, we clearly can't be in all places at all times. We hope to arrange for the Erewash Dog wardens to carry out some patrols to talk to dog owners about this problem. Remember that dog waste bags are available free to Breaston Residents at the Parish Rooms or from the caretaker and there is still a supply at Dundas the Butchers on Main Street.

The Parish Council are currently investigating the possibility of fencing off the play area on Perks Park partly due to this problem and would welcome any comments from residents regarding the proposal: please contact the clerk with your thoughts.

### **Litter**

Another littering issue which is causing some concern is the number of discarded masks that the Caretaker is having to deal with, particularly in the Green – please be careful not to drop your mask when entering or exiting the shops!

### **Covid rules**

Concerns were raised recently when a very large funeral was held in the cemetery with over 150 people in attendance. Please be assured that the Parish Council continues to work closely with Funeral Directors to ensure

that families follow the Government guidelines when it comes to organising a funeral.

### **Carol concert cancelled**

Sadly we are not able to hold our annual Christmas Carol Concert this year but you may have noticed that the lights have been installed ready to try and light up the dark winter nights and hopefully cheer us all up in this very difficult year.

### **Photo competition**

On a positive note, the Breaston Parish Council Calendar Photo Competition has been a great success again this year and the calendars are now available in two formats – A4 and slimline, both £5.00 each. Orders are being taken and collection in a Covid secure manner is being organised – contact the Clerk for details.

### **Defibrillator**

And finally, to end on a high note the Parish Council would like to give a massive thanks to Cllr Parkinson who has arranged a grant of £1000 from his Derbyshire County Council Community Leadership fund to put towards the purchase of a defibrillator and cabinet to be installed at the Pavilion on Perks Park, we are sure that this vital lifesaving equipment will be welcomed by all park users. Thank you, Robert!

### **Facebook page**

Please follow us on [www.facebook.com/Breaston-Parish-Council-100893088372240](https://www.facebook.com/Breaston-Parish-Council-100893088372240).

*Nicala O'Leary, for Breaston Parish Council*

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## **Mayor's Award**

Community-minded residents and groups were honoured for their contribution to society as part of this year's Erewash Mayor's Awards.

In a first for the annual awards, the Mayor, Councillor Sue Beardsley, presented the winners with the honour during a personal visit, which followed all safety guidelines.

The awards recognise groups or individuals who carry out vital work in their community without expecting anything in return.

Councillor Sue Beardsley, the Mayor of Erewash, says: "Presenting awards to pay tribute to people in this borough who give so much to our communities is such an honour for me and one of the shining memories in what has been a very difficult year for everyone. Covid will not stop me

from personally congratulating and thanking this year's Mayor's Award recipients for all that they do.



*Jean Lupton (left) receives the Mayor's Award from Erewash Mayor Cllr Sue Beardsley*

"These awards are led by residents who make all the nominations so thank you to them. But I would also like to express my gratitude to all those who work so selflessly in our borough throughout the year – and, of course, particularly during this year's challenging times. It is a privilege to have met many of you."

One of the five caring residents was Breaston resident Jean Lupton. The citation reads: "Mrs Lupton is a stalwart of the Breaston community and carries out many voluntary roles

and is always willing to help everyone. For 12 years she was the driving force behind the very successful Breaston Gala taking on both organisational and practical roles including selling programmes and being the compere on the day. She produces the Breaston and Draycott Village News each month, she is the treasurer of Breaston Community Forum, a befriender and an active member of St Michael's Church. Jean is very well known and respected in the village and is always willing to go that extra mile.

## BREASTON IN BLOOM

Thank you to everyone who has taken their fruit and vegetable scraps to the plastic boxes on Duffield Close and The Jubilee Garden this year. Team Compost, along with the worms, have transformed this waste into some high-quality compost. It is great that many of the winter displays have been planted using our very own compost. Please continue to donate non-citrus fruit and veg peelings, eggshells, tea bags and coffee grounds over the winter.

The main work of the *Bloomin' Marvellous* [the boat near the Navi] transformation is now complete (see picture) thanks to many hours labour by a small team.



Traditional narrowboat decoration will be applied once weatherproofing has been assured and planting can then take place.

Despite the unique challenges this year, Bloomers have kept active in socially distanced teams and we hope you have enjoyed the displays. Whilst there were no competitions this year, we, along with other In Bloom groups, have received two awards from the RHS / East Midlands in Bloom – one of 'Recognition' and the other for 'Inspiring Others'.



## Clubs and Societies

Breaston W.I.

### *November Notebook*

As the nights have drawn in, we have been engaged and entertained by another challenging online quiz. Our thanks to Melody, It's all in the letters! Have fun! Zooming sessions are also on the agenda with some superb options for all of us to choose from via Derbyshire Federation.

An Advent idea has gone out to support one of our past charities Canaan Trust Long Eaton. At this time of year, and in exceptionally challenging circumstances, their work is a vital lifeline for many. Come on, ladies check out your cupboards! Add one extra item to your shopping list! You can be sure it will make a difference.

Breaston WI was sad to learn of the passing of Pat Hicking. Pat was a founder member and Secretary of our current WI. An inspiration and friend to many of our ladies, past and present.

Pat Forrett has been busy again making some fabulous Christmas masks. Sales aided by Anne Chambers have been brisk. We are hopeful of another bumper contribution to our current charity, Derbyshire Blood Bikes. Superb effort ladies and a "must-have" accessory to any lady venturing out.

We also have been making some seasonal plans to spread festive cheer. Although things will be very different this year some of us will,

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

nevertheless, be getting out our Christmas jumpers and Jingle bells!!  
Watch out for passing Reindeer!!

Until we all can meet up together again, keep well and stay safe.

Follow us on facebook: [breastonwomensinstitute](#)

*Shirley Walker on behalf of Breaston WI*

## Breaston Belles W.I. News

We are continuing to meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2 pm via zoom. Our meetings have been opened up to members of other WIs both locally and across the country and we have been able to recruit several new members.

The speaker at our October meeting was Alison Marsden from *Gardening By Design*, who explained how to use shape, colour and textures to improve garden design. We came away with some great plans for our own gardens. In November, Suzanne Tate gave pointers on deaf awareness and introduced us to finger-spelling and British Sign Language, ending with some hilarious festive signed singing. 40-50 people tuned in to each meeting – a great encouragement for us to continue to open the meetings.



*Breaston Belles meeting on Zoom*

In between lockdowns, we were able to have over 15 'garden meetings' with groups of 6 members meeting outdoors for a socially distanced chat and refreshments or a stroll around the village. We were very lucky with the weather on all of the dates, even having to seek shade

on some of them. Book club members still meet online but for the moment the book and jigsaw exchange is suspended - look out for posters about the restart! The walking and cycling groups have been reduced to 2 people at a time. In the next few weeks, we have planned a pamper evening, our Christmas party and seasonal craft sessions.

WI full membership for the remainder of the year (to March) costs £10.75. For more information about any of our activities please email [breastonbelleswi@tataalk.net](mailto:breastonbelleswi@tataalk.net) or contact membership secretary, Chris Barker on 01332 873115.

*Janice Dawson on behalf of Breaston Belles WI*  
[breastonbelleswi@talktalk.net](mailto:breastonbelleswi@talktalk.net)

# Draycott Village News

## Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council News

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope that 2021 proves to be the year that the world gets back to "normal!"

### Village Christmas Tree and Lights

The Christmas tree and lights were lit on December 1st and we hope that they provide a little bit of cheer and normality for us all.

Thank you once again to Draycott Village Fund for putting up the trees on brackets on the houses – you do an amazing job. There are so many groups within the village that do such amazing work, the council thanks each and every one of you that give your time, money and efforts to support us all. Covid really has brought back the 'looking after each other' mentality and it is appreciated by all.

### Remembrance Sunday Service

As you are aware, we had to cancel our normal service but felt it was only right that we wanted to honour our fallen in a safe and within the rules way. Rev'd Gary Dundas conducted a short service on the Wednesday before lockdown and Cllr Val Clare laid a wreath on behalf of Erewash Borough Council, Cllr Diane Dundas laid a wreath on behalf of Draycott Parish Council and Fern-Marie Denner represented the Armed Forces. You can watch the short service on



YouTube [youtu.be/8iOnmLa2Dgc](https://youtu.be/8iOnmLa2Dgc) – it has already had 242 views, which is lovely. Thanks to the team who put up and removed the lamp post poppies. Other groups and individuals also laid their wreaths and poppies throughout the week in a Covid-safe manner. Thank you to all. We hope to resume our outdoor service next year.

### Budget setting for the Parish Council for 2021-2022

We are starting to draft out our budget for the next financial year – please contact the clerk if you have any great ideas that you would like the Council to consider to add to or enhance our existing amenities. We own and are responsible for the following areas:

- Draycott Playing Fields, Play area and Football Pavilion
- Cycle track area (off Hopwell Road) – managed by Draycott Millennium Green Trust of which the Councillors are sole trustees
- Draycott Cemetery
- The Leisure Green
- St Chad's Local Nature Reserve
- The Parish Rooms building (office and meeting room)

Our income comes mainly from Erewash Borough Council in two forms, the first is Concurrent Functions which is set by EBC and is given to the council to do some work in the Parish – this covers a percentage of the costs for litter picking, emptying bins on Parish Council owned lands, maintenance work, maintaining play areas, office staffing and associated costs. The second main element comes from Council Tax, we request a sum of monies that is part of your Council Tax bill (this is usually the smallest element of your bill) We also raise a small portion of our budget through other income such as rentals of land and use of the football pitch and pavilion. Usually, we are very successful in also raising funds via grants – this year (rightly so) most funders have allocated their funds to Covid-related charities and work. We expect that the grant funders will do the same in 2021 so we are looking at ways that we can ensure that we continue the high levels of maintenance for our facilities and continue to enhance the lives of our residents where possible.

### **New facilities at the Leisure Green**

We are removing the unused toddler play equipment at the Leisure Green, replacing the old rubber surfacing with new tarmac and will be installing a concrete Table Tennis Table and Chess Table and Chairs and a new bench inside the fenced area. We hope that this will attract ALL AGES to use these new facilities and (once Covid restrictions are removed) this area will become a place where people can come, have a chat, a game of chess or checkers or table tennis. We will also be giving sets of table tennis bats and balls and chess and checkers to local groups – please contact the clerk if you would like a set for your group. We are very excited to offer this new facility to our residents as we believe that this caters for most age groups.

### **Community Speedwatch**

Due to Lockdown (2), we had to suspend the roadside training that was booked for November. We have re-scheduled some training dates in December and hope to be up and running in January. Remember that Community Speedwatch aims to improve driver behaviour which hopefully will reduce the amount of speeding throughout the parish. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact the clerk. We now have 14

members so would be very grateful for more people to join us – please contact the Clerk for more information.

### Parish Rooms

The parish rooms remain closed to the public and Councillors for meetings. We are still conducting our meetings using Zoom conferencing, all members of the public and press are welcome to join us. The Zoom meeting details are always published on our agendas which are on our website and noticeboards. The next meeting is on December 8th at 7:00 pm.

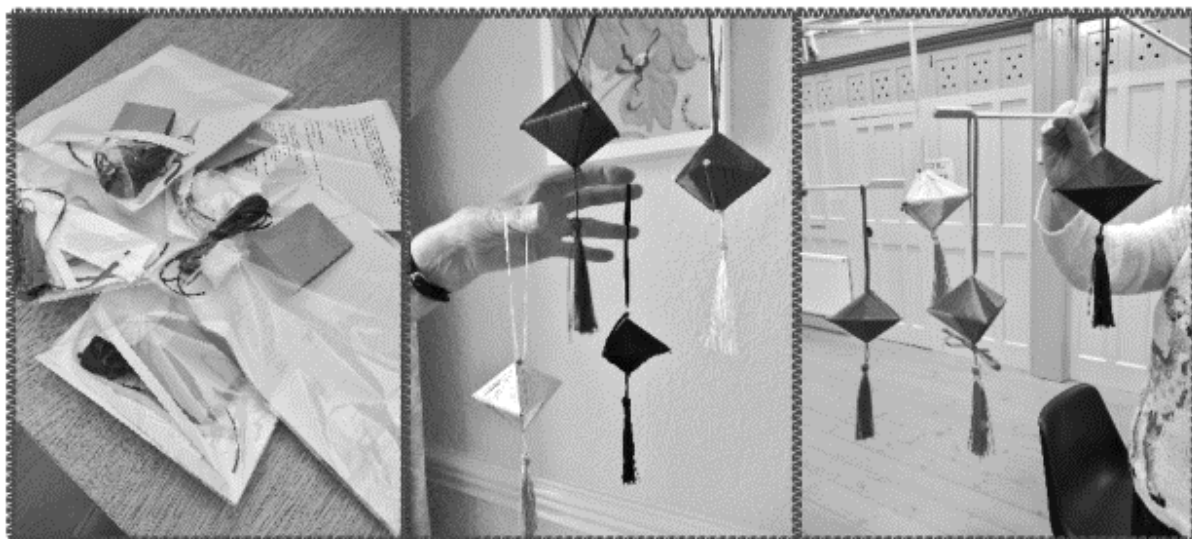
The council wish you all to be safe and well and we hope to see you in the future when it is safe to do so

In these uncertain times, the best way to contact the council is via phone on 01332 875278 or email [draycottpc@gmail.com](mailto:draycottpc@gmail.com). Our website is [www.draycottparishcouncil.org](http://www.draycottparishcouncil.org).

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## Draycott and Wilne Women's Institute

Draycott & Wilne members cannot now meet due to the latest Covid rules - sigh. We had great fun in October though, as it saw us start Christmas preparation. In the Rule of 6 bubbles, we tried our hands making a beautiful Christmas ribbon bauble. The individual packs, made up for safety, had been prepared by one of our members for everyone to take part on separate tables. The room was quiet as concentration was key on this one! November should be the Annual Meeting for our Institute. Again, we will be unable to meet socially, but another exciting 'bag of goodies' is on the way for our members to ensure we still have a memorable time (and lockdown). We look forward to sharing the products of the bag in due course.



Draycott & Wilne WI usually meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month at the Methodist Church Hall, Market Street at 7:30 pm. We would love to see any

ladies join us, once we get the go-ahead. Further information through [draycottandwilnewi@hotmail.com](mailto:draycottandwilnewi@hotmail.com)

*Kris Bingham*

## **Rotary Remembers**

In the absence of formal Remembrance Day Services in Draycott, Ockbrook and Borrowash, members of the Rotary Club of Church Wilne showed their respect for the fallen in armed conflicts throughout the years.

Normally members would join with the parishes' Services, however in this time of National Lockdown that was impossible. A single member from the Rotary Club of Church Wilne laid a wreath at the War memorials in the villages, in compliance with the current regulations and exemptions for acts of Remembrance on Sunday 8th November 2020.

Rotary Club President Andy Lord placed the wreath in Draycott, while the Club Secretary David Hewitt attended the Ockbrook and Borrowash War Memorial on Victoria Avenue.

Afterwards Rotary President, Andy Lord reflected on the absence of a congregation at the War Memorial in Draycott. "Placing the wreath alone brought forth a most poignant sense of National Sacrifice, especially in these troubled times," he observed.



*Rotary Club  
President Andy  
Lord placed the  
wreath in Draycott*

*Rotarian Paul Fleming*

## **Free lunches**

This year has been such a rollercoaster for us all and the restrictions put in place to protect us during this pandemic will have left everyone with a bruise or two.

It was brought to my attention by Sarah (owner of The Victoria Vintage Tearooms, Draycott) that over half-term some families would need some support, especially since it had just been announced that the financial help previously offered for lunchtime meals for primary age children was being cut.

So after Sarah and I had discussed what we proposed to do to support this, it was time to reach out to our community. My goodness, the support that was shown was incredible! The shopping that was delivered and the cash donations that were given were more than we could have ever imagined.

After preparing and packing 306 lunches in 5 days we have been left in a position where we have some money left over and a few longer life food items remaining, which gave us the idea to prepare a food parcel to help anyone in need over Christmas. We would like the packs to include basics that most of us take for granted like kids' selection boxes, biscuits, bread, jam, cereal, milk, Christmas crackers, crisps, fruit, soups, squash, tinned goods, and (we hope) much more, budget permitting.

Sadly, I know that this is going to be a vital support for so many within our community. So if you or anyone you know would benefit from this help, please get in touch via the details below. I can also offer advice on places to contact for further support.

Or if you feel this is something you would like to support by way of donation or time please also get in touch.

Email: [jodie.kirk88@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jodie.kirk88@hotmail.co.uk), telephone: 07711 270 109 or feel free to message me on Facebook. All contact will be completely confidential.

Blessings,

*Jodie Kirk*

*St Marys & St Michaels Children's and Families worker (student)*

## **Santa is on his way**

The Rotary Club of Church Wilne has published the Santa Routes for this December. They will be following social distancing rules, so will not be knocking on doors this year and the children will have to stay 2m away from Santa.



Rotarian Adrian Perkins said "We are taking measures to be safe but Santa will be out bringing festive cheer to the families in our communities. We have installed a real-time Santa Tracker on our website, so everyone will be able to follow the Santa float as it travels around the streets."

You can visit the Rotary website to check out the Routes and where Santa will be at any time visit

[www.churchwilnerotary.org.uk](http://www.churchwilnerotary.org.uk).

Santa will be in Draycott East on Thursday 17th December, and in Draycott West on Friday 18th, bit days from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Please scan the code to donate online (all donations received will be used for **local** charities and good causes).



# Church News

## Church of England Services

### St. Michael's, Breaston

Sundays 9 am	Holy Communion
Sundays 10:30 am	Contemporary Service (also live-streamed – see below)
Weds 10:30 am	Holy Communion
Sat 10-12	Church open for private prayer

### St. Mary's, Draycott

Sundays 10:30 am	Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays (6th and 20th December)
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This is, of course, assuming that the restrictions are relaxed as we expect. In both churches, masks must be worn (in line with government and Church of England rules), and social distancing must be observed.

The 10:30 am service from St. Michael's has live music (but only the band are allowed to sing). It is live-streamed to **YouTube**:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCgdvgDUn4WfuSIHlwsSz3JA/](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgdvgDUn4WfuSIHlwsSz3JA/)

### Facebook

Keep in touch with what's happening at St. Michael's and St. Mary's by looking at our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/stmarysdraycottandstmichaelsbreaston/](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysdraycottandstmichaelsbreaston/)

Do join daily prayer at 9:30 on weekdays on our Facebook page.

## Methodist Church Services

### Breaston

Due to the current circumstances in Nottinghamshire and that most of our preachers come from there, the church is now closed again until further notice.

### Draycott

We are continuing with a Sunday morning service on Zoom at 10:30 each week, which you are welcome to join. The code for this is 827 0960 1674 and the password is 248724. You can also access this via telephone: contact Rev'd Colin Emerson on 670587 to obtain the phone number.

### Christmas at Draycott Methodist Church

Due to Coronavirus, we will not be holding any Christmas services at Draycott Methodist Church this year



say that they were the team they all supported; But she also had a love of music, and it was recognised early on what a beautiful soprano voice Barb had. She went to singing lessons with Mrs Nowton. We never knew this lady, but we heard all about how she taught Barb and then in turn Barb assisted the younger members of LEOS the correct technique for singing.

After leaving school Barb went to work at Rolls-Royce as a components inspector for new works. She later moved to Myfords in Beeston doing a similar job there.

Then she had a complete change in career for the remainder of her working life, working for Wyn Hinks at Contessa selling ladies lingerie. Until well into her 80's she volunteered at Treetops Hospice shop in Draycott putting all her sales technique into good use. She could always find a good pair of shoes or clothing item for whatever show LEOS was doing.

Here is the thread to the hobby that took over Barb's life. I mentioned that she had dancing and singing lessons; she loved to entertain, and entertain she did from a young age. She was a member of Rolls-Royce Operatic Society and Derby Opera Company, Rose Hill Gilbert & Sullivan and was often asked to guest perform for Denby Musical Society. It was during this time that she met George (her toyboy) and on 30th April 1955 they married at the Methodist Church, Rose Hill in Derby. Moving to Derby Road, Draycott and they had their home built (for the princely sum of £2,437 and 12 shillings) where they lived all their married life. The church was always an important part of Barb's life. She went to Draycott Methodist church and read lessons and sang for them for many years, and I know, made many friends for life there too.

1955 was a busy year because Barb & George attended the inaugural meeting at Grange School Long Eaton that formed LEOS and are the longest-serving, proud founder members. For the next 60 odd years, nothing would get in their way of Wednesday night: that was LEOS night.

She enjoyed playing many soprano roles both in G&S and in Musical Theatre, with Mrs Anna from The King & I her all-time favourite. She was in her element on stage, even in later years when she played the Mother or even Grandmother but always with grace and poise.

She treated us to cake and shortbread regularly at rehearsal, never once thinking of our waistlines. She baked, and George iced many of our wedding, christening, birthday, and Christmas cakes – they were delicious. She loved outings and walks with LEOS, sharing Christmas & holidays with LEOS family members and maybe having a whiskey Mac or a glass of Rose wine, but not so that she would get dizzy!

We spent many New Year's Eve at their home at Derby Road celebrating the New Year. They loved to provide the buffet and treat us all. She even forgave us when our high jinks ended up with a For Sale sign being put up in their front garden.

She also proudly supported George in everything he did, Producer of course for LEOS, but for Derby G&S too. When George was NODA rep for the area she attended as many productions as she was able to, standing proudly at Georges side.

She received the NODA diamond pin for years' service to Amateur Theatre and in 2015 Barb and George were jointly honoured when they were the recipient of the Derby Eagle Award for outstanding achievement to Amateur Theatre.

When her performing days were over Barb became Prompt and always claimed to have the best seat in the house watching her boys and girls perform, she would always tell us how proud she was of us all, but then whisper but the girls are my favourite.

Barb was first and foremost a performer, and the music at the start of her funeral service was her anthem. Never a truer word than "Getting to Know You" – she made everyone welcome with a warm smile and a "hello my dear, I'm Barbara Cheshire, but everyone calls me Auntie Barb". We did and she was; we were, and we are, her boys and girls.

So, as you take your final curtain call, God bless you, Auntie Barb, we all loved... "getting to know you".

*Liz Woolley*

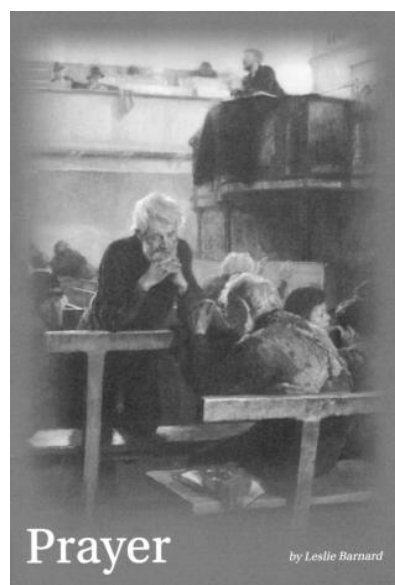
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## **A call to prayer**

Local author Les Barnard has published his most recent book titled "Prayer".

He says that there is a tremendous need to encourage people who are learning to pray, and others who find difficulty praying without having to write down what they say. Prayer is talking to god on the one hand and seeking to hear His voice in response on the other.

Chapters include "How do we start to pray?", "Praying with others" and several cover the importance of prayer in the great revivals of the last century.



"Prayer" can be yours for £4 – just ring (01332) 872391.

## Articles

### Derbyshire teenager thanks Treetops counsellor

16-year-old Harvey, from Derbyshire, has thanked his bereavement counsellor for helping him live with the sudden death of his older brother.

Harvey took part in this year's Countryfile Ramble for BBC Children in Need, joining TV host Matt Baker on a six-mile challenge around the Peak District. The expedition, aired in a special Countryfile feature on Sunday 1 November, including canoeing, two challenging rock climbs and two miles of orienteering, ending at the village of Gradbach.

Harvey took part in the Ramble in memory of his older brother Ed, who died when Harvey was just ten years old. In June 2015, on Father's Day, 17-year-old Ed was killed in a house fire that had been started deliberately by people Ed didn't even know.

Harvey explained that he felt robbed of his childhood when he heard of his brother's death: "I can remember the day like it was yesterday. I was in the playroom and out came these words, your older brother's been killed, been murdered. I can remember feeling a hot, burning pain within me. "I've not had a childhood since then. I have had a life, but I've not had a childhood. That was taken away from me."

Following Ed's death, Harvey became angry and isolated, getting into scrapes at school and started to have panic attacks. Harvey and his family found the support they needed through local charity, Treetops Hospice Care. Treetops, based in Risley, provides counselling and emotional support to children, young people, adults and families who are dealing with a life-limiting illness or bereavement.

Harvey has just finished five years of bereavement counselling with Treetops counsellor, Jules Kirk. "I had no real coping strategy. There was nothing for me to get out of that, until I found Treetops.

"If it wasn't for Jules, I wouldn't be able to talk about this, I'd be extremely different. It's hard to think where I'd be without her. Nothing I could say or do would ever be able to replicate what she's done for me, ever. She's just fantastic.

"The hardest thing about counselling for me was that it gets worse before it gets better. You don't go and have one session and feel better. Counselling is about getting to a point where you can deal with it yourself

and with your own tools, with your family around you. And I'm at that point now.

"Treetops is a very special place. They're amazing. What they have done for our family is just unbelievable."

Jules, who is also the Therapeutic Services Manager and Head of Children's Services at Treetops, was with his family to greet Harvey at the end of his Countryfile Ramble. She explained how 'incredibly proud' she is: "Harvey is an amazing young man. It was an honour to be alongside him in his grief journey and to see how far he has come.



*Harvey tackles the Countryfile Ramble with Matt Baker*

"I know how much completing this challenge meant to him, and what a wonderful way to end our work together. I am so proud of the work we do here at Treetops. It is a privilege to be there for the many clients we support during their darkest times."

Harvey's mum, Amanda, added: "As a family, we're so grateful for all the support Treetops has provided us and Harvey. We're

thrilled Harvey joined Matt on this Ramble, and we are all so proud of him and what he has achieved."

Treetops currently receives a grant of £30,000 from BBC Children in Need over three years to provide counselling sessions for children and young people who have lost someone close to them. During the pandemic, the charity received an additional grant of £4,500 to provide care packages for bereaved children and young people.

Last year, Treetops Hospice Care provided over 1,100 bereavement sessions for children and families, over 3,000 adult bereavement counselling sessions, and over 600 support sessions for people dealing with a life-limiting condition.

Counselling is available to all users of Treetops Hospice Care services and people registered with a GP practice in Derby city or Southern Derbyshire.

Treetops is doing all it can to continue to support those in most need. The hospice welcomes donations to their Treetops COVID-19 Appeal to ensure the future of the hospice and its services. Donations can be made at [www.treetopshospice.org.uk/appeal](http://www.treetopshospice.org.uk/appeal).

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## Taking a moment

There used to be an American TV programme called *Ally McBeal* set in a law firm where the character John Cage (aka “the little biscuit”), known for his quirkiness, used to “take a moment” when he needed to think or finalise a deal.

Also, in one of my favourite books, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, there is a ghostly character called Boo Radley who the children in the story, Scout and Jem, are afraid of at first and they even taunt him. When they “take a moment” to think about it they realise that he is someone not to be afraid of who was protecting them all along and he ultimately ends up saving their lives. Although the main hero of the book is Atticus, their lawyer father, I have always considered Boo Radley to be another hero of this great book.

Given the current situation, the “six-month wall” in this crisis we have reached and further lockdowns in place, this may be advice we can all act upon. We all need to be kind to ourselves and others and take time to focus on what we can do not what we cannot.

We need to cling to the hope we have in Jesus even though the road is tough at the moment and uncertain and remember to “take a moment” to think things through and listen to what the Holy Spirit has to say to us.



*Lauren Twells*

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## A Band of Rain

The weather forecasters keep telling us about a “Band of Rain” approaching or moving across the country, but they never tell us much about them.

As most groups do, they started as a local band playing in pubs such as the “Dew Drop Inn”, “The Dripping Tap” and “The Umbrella”, and village halls in Drizzley and Cloudside. They became very popular and decided to enter local, then regional, competitions, becoming very successful. Eventually, they were spotted by Sleetwood Mac who supported and encouraged them.

This led them to their first recording with “Stormy Weather”.

They became a very famous band with hits such as “Singing in the Rain”, “Raindrops keep falling on my head”, “Somewhere over the Rainbow”, “Hey you! Get off of my cloud”, “It’s Raining Men”, “The Snowman”, “Raining in my

heart", "Summer Lightning", and voice-overs for a couple of children's rhymes, "Pitter, patter raindrops" and "Rain, rain go away".

They also provided the theme music for "The Rain Man", "Thunderbirds", "Frozen" and to Shakespeare's "The Tempest".

The band consisted of Snow White as lead singer, Rain Eddy (lead guitar), Foggy Dewhurst on bass guitar, Drizzly Galespie on trumpet and David Frost on drums.

They had many successful gigs touring the country in Snowdonia, Rainsworth, Bucket Down, Peltenham, Hailsbury. etc. and have also toured Arainzona, Iceland and Snowvenia.

Their songs and videos are now being streamed on BBC iPlayer.

As most groups do they split up, and each individual eventually went their own way. But rumour has it that some of them reformed as "Wet, Wet, Wet".

*Doctor Foster*

*[who, if you remember, went to Gloucester in a shower of rain, with unfortunate consequences. Ed.]*

## Puzzle picture



What on earth are these?  
They look like the pictures  
of the coronavirus, but are  
they something else?

See foot of page 27  
for the answer



## Gardening tips

Hello gardeners – Welcome to this month's gardening. As we say goodbye to the lovely sunny autumn days with all that gorgeous colour, I think it was a fabulous autumn this year – what do you think? We enter winter and greeted by some lovely gems in our gardens. We have to be grateful for the colour that we are still receiving, and this is by many ways, whether it's flower, berry, leaf or in particular the lovely coloured stems of shrubs. I have a winner of a shrub for this month's star plant which is just coming into its own.



## Jobs in the garden this month

There are some jobs that you can be doing in your garden

- Remove yellowing leaves from winter Brassicas as they are no use to the plant and may cause pests and disease problems
- Lift and store dahlia tubers once their leaves are blackened by frost
- Harvest holly with berries for making Christmas garlands and Christmas wreaths; stand the berried stems in a bucket of water until you're ready to use them.
- Avoid walking too much on your lawn when it is covered by heavy frost or snow, as this will damage the grass beneath.
- Lift the last of your leeks and parsnips before the soil becomes frozen

### Gardener Steve's Plant of the Month

#### *Mahonia x Media 'Charity'*

Mahonia is an evergreen shrub which is grown for their attractive dark green spine-toothed foliage and fragrant, showy winter flowers. They provide an invaluable source of pollen and nectar for winter colonies of bumblebees and other pollinators. They are relatively slow-growing. Once planted, they need no further care, apart from the occasional removal of dead wood.

*Mahonia x media 'Charity'* has an upright habit with long leaves comprising up to 21 dark green leaflets. Stalks of bright yellow, fragrant flowers are produced at the ends of branches from late autumn to late winter. It is one of the most impressive winter-flowering shrubs making it a real feature in any garden in particular looks good at the back of the border. The flowers are often followed by small, plum-coloured fruits, which are loved by the birds.

- Flowering period      Winter - Spring
- Position                      Sun or partial shade
- Height and Spread      3m x 3m (9ft x 9ft)
- Soil                              Fertile, Well drained
- Hardiness                      Hardy shrub
- Propagation                By seed or semi-ripe cuttings
- Pruning                        April to May, or after flowering prune to improve shape and remove dead wood

### Update from the Hospice Gardeners

I caught up with the gardeners at Treetops Hospice Care who are continuing with their annual Christmas wreaths. Home-grown Christmas Wreaths are been planned again for this year, using foliage from around the grounds, should see them on sale from early December from Treetops Hospice reception.

Things have been as normal as they can be for the volunteer gardeners at the Hospice, and they have still had projects to keep them all busy.

This autumn has seen the erection of three new compost bins from pallets donated by Trowel Garden Centre so that most of the green waste can be recycled on site. There is on-going development of the beds and borders with new plants and replanting ready for spring.

The pond is establishing nicely and has become a lovely feature of the Treetops estate.

There has been a wild-flower meadow that has been created ready for next year, so I will update you all next year when it's at its best.

### **Head gardener Gets 15 Year Service Award**

Sarah Butcher, volunteer head gardener is just one of the many volunteers at Treetops Hospice who are receiving special service awards. Sarah has a real passion for gardening and for Treetops she set up a little gardening group 15 years ago and it has gone from strength to strength with a reliable and committed group of gardening volunteers. The grounds at Treetops are so important to the hospice 365 days of the year for the guests, staff and visitors. During lockdown, Sarah tirelessly kept up watering the plants in the greenhouse and the grounds and took photos to share around those that couldn't get along. I caught up with Sarah for an interview on Gardening Saturday Lunch at Erewash Sound and she said: "It has been a lovely thing to happen in my life and thank you to all the volunteers who had helped me over the years, and for their friendship". The usual awards ceremony couldn't take place this year, but Sarah and the team celebrated outdoors with tea and cake!

So Well Done Sarah! Thank You for all that you do and making this wonderful estate bloom keep up the great work.

### **Happy Christmas, Everybody!**

And finally, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas to all readers of the gardening. A big thank you to you all for all your emails, letters and questions.

Please keep getting in touch with your stories, photos, events, general gardening advice and help with plant identification just email me at [gardenersteve24@live.co.uk](mailto:gardenersteve24@live.co.uk).

*Steve Walton*

# Contacts

## Draycott

### St. Mary's, Draycott & St. Chad's, Wilne

Vicar	Rev'd Chris Smedley	01332 872242
Associate Priest	Rev'd Gary Dundas	01332 872893
Deputy Wardens	Kris Bingham (St Mary's)	
	Kathleen Poyser (St Chad's)	
Treasurer	Sarah Johnson	
Secretary	Kris Bingham	
Sunbeams	Jodie Kirk	07711 270109
St Mary's Hall	Caroline Riley	01332 874339
Friends of St Chad's	Lynne Blackburn	01332 873874
	Keith Wright	01332 875641

### Draycott Methodist Church

Minister	Rev'd Colin Emerson	01332 670587
Lay Pastor	Judith Neal	01332 832108
Senior Steward	David Murden	01332 873388
Hall Hire	Allison Hill	01332 872902
Wesley Guild	Mary Murden	01332 873388

### Draycott Messy Church

Pat Hopgood		01332 928412
-------------	--	--------------

### Other contacts

Draycott Village Fund Will Batchelor	<a href="mailto:draycottvillagefund@hotmail.com">draycottvillagefund@hotmail.com</a>
Draycott W I	Kris Bingham <a href="mailto:krisbingham@hotmail.co.uk">krisbingham@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Draycott Brownies	Caroline Riley or <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a> Carolyn Bassett
Draycott & Church Wilne History Group	<a href="mailto:alesi4@sky.com">alesi4@sky.com</a>
	Clive Wilkinson 01332 872615
Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council	<a href="mailto:draycottpc@gmail.com">draycottpc@gmail.com</a>
	Sheena Butcher (Clerk) 01332 875278 <a href="http://www.draycottparishcouncil.org">www.draycottparishcouncil.org</a>
Draycott Army Cadet Detachment - Fern Marie Denner	07702 086813

Would you like your group's contact details here? Do let us know (contact details on page 7)

## Breaston

<b>St. Michael's</b>	Church Office	01332 872094 <i>office@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk</i>
The Rector	Rev'd Chris Smedley	01332 872242 <i>rector@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk</i>
Associate Priest	Rev'd Gary Dundas	01332 872893
	Rev'd Maria Przeslawski	01332 874480
Youth, Children's and Community Worker	Simon Bentley	07791 419 595
<b>Breaston Methodist Church</b>		
Minister	Rev'd Arnold Dixon	0115 973 4474
<b>Breaston Art Club</b>	Julia Gardner	07585 778 207
<b>Breaston Belles WI</b>	Glynis Stafford	07986 961162 <i>breastonbelleswi@talktalk.net</i>
<b>Breaston Community Forum</b>	Julie Rowlinson	07900 241 886
<b>Breaston Churches Together Lunch Club</b>		
	Nancy Plummer	01332 873619
<b>Breaston &amp; Draycott Village News</b>		01332 872094 <i>magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk</i>
<b>Breaston Gala</b>	Sarah Lester	<i>www.breastongala.org.uk</i> <i>secretary@breastongala.org.uk</i>
<b>Breaston Park Football Club</b>		<i>www.breastonpark.com</i>
<b>Breaston Parish Council</b>	Parish Rooms, Blind Lane	01332 870119 <i>breastonparish@btconnect.com</i>
<b>Breaston WI</b>	Josie Morris	01332 874325
<b>Brownies</b>	Louisa Theyers	01332 872323
<b>Men's Danger Club</b>	John Skinner	01332 874417
	Adrian Young	07576 869033
	John Bowley	07793 550595
<b>Methodist Wesley Guild</b>	Nancy Plummer	01332 873619
<b>Pre-School Playgroup</b>	Sarah Gallacher	01332 874832
<b>Rainbows</b>	Melanie Arden	01332 875059
<b>Sunbeams</b>	Jodie Kirk	07711 270109
<b>The Village Singers</b>	Jan Wilkinson	01332 872753
<b>VIPs and Deaf-Blind Group</b>	Nancy Plummer	01332 873619
<b>Youth Café</b>	Simon Bentley	07791 419 595

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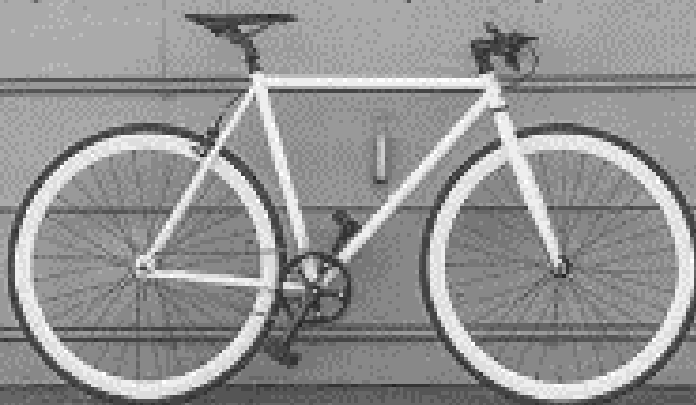
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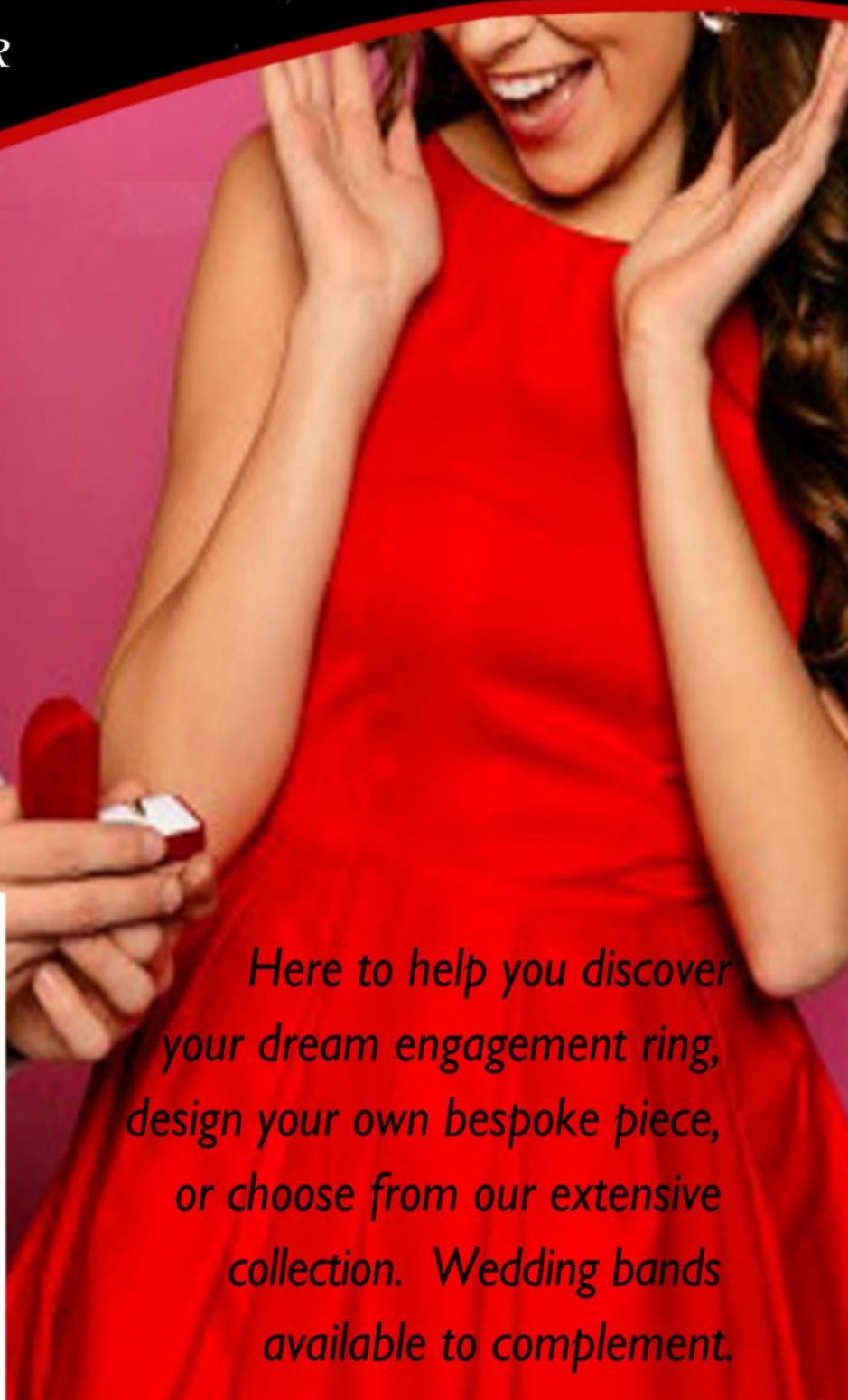
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