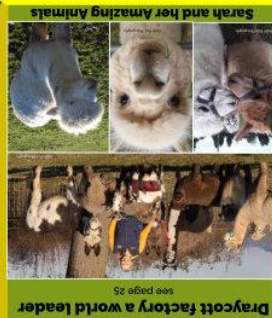


# BREASTON & DRAYCOTT VILLAGE NEWS

50p

January 2021

Happy  
New  
Year



# Theikos Yoga

**BY ANNA**

✉ [anna@theikosyoga.com](mailto:anna@theikosyoga.com)

🌐 [www.theikosyoga.com](http://www.theikosyoga.com)

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📘 Theikos Yoga By Anna

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# Thought for the month

## Dawning hope

Just before I started to write this piece I went for a winter walk around the gardens at Chatsworth House. There was snow on the surrounding hillsides and it was very cold. Everything was closed down but there was beauty in the gardens. I was particularly drawn to a patch of earth that had clearly been dug quite recently and there were signs of bulbs having been planted ready for the spring.

As we enter the New Year of 2021, we leave behind a terrible year. It's been a year of loss in so many ways and its repercussions will continue into the future. However, there is the dawning hope of a vaccine and a better, brighter future in the spring.

Seeing the bulbs lying waiting reminded me that hope is never far away. The spring will come and bring with it new things of beauty and new life.

To quote Charles Dickens in *Nicolas Nickleby*

"Hope to the last...Always hope... Never leave off hoping."

As a church community, we in the Methodist Church in Draycott hope to be able to open our doors again for public worship soon. Although the doors have been physically closed the congregation has remained vibrant and optimistic. We have supported the City Mission Food Bank project as well as caring for others in our community.

In my last thought for the month, I referred to the Gospel of Mark and the commandment to love your neighbour as yourself. As the days of lockdown have gone on it's still clear that many people are doing exactly that.

We hope that once this difficult period is over we will still care for others in Draycott. When we can all meet again we will celebrate but we must also bear in mind that those who have needed our help and concern will still be there amongst us.

The optimism of hope says that the community will continue to care for each other and that the love of God will continue to be seen in our streets and community.

*Judith Neal, Local Pastor Borrowash, Draycott, Spondon  
and St Thomas Road Methodist Churches.*

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## From the editor

Happy New Year! You can read more about new years and how many of them there are in the article on page 19. For those of you who have been wondering why the Millennium Way is closed along the line of the canal west of Hopwell Road, you can find out more on page 15. It looked spectacularly muddy last time I cycled past on the road!

Our January cover often features a reprise of the previous year's covers, and this year is no exception. You might notice that there are only 10 covers; that's because we missed the May and June editions because of lockdown.

As ever, we are looking for help with the production of the magazine. If you or someone you know, would like to help, please do get in touch.

*Jonathan Lupton, Editor*

P.S. Those of you who subscribe to the magazine may be wondering why we aren't collecting this 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 door 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 25.

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## Verse of the month

*Rejoice in hope; be patient in tribulation; be constant in prayer.*

*Romans 12:12*

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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 25.

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## Copy Day

For the next issue of the magazine is the 17th of the month.

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.

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## Still Space

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

### Everlasting love



I have loved you with an everlasting love  
*Jeremiah 31:5 (NIV)*



As I was growing up, back in the 1970s, I managed to persuade my parents to get a puppy. My mother, being rather house-proud, liked the idea of a dog that didn't shed hair all over the place so we decided on a Yorkshire terrier.

Binky wasn't the typical tiny, silky, creature you see in dog shows. He had been the largest of his litter. His tail had not been docked; his ears flopped. Despite his pedigree, to doggie experts, he was a failure. To us, however, he was a real character: barking at the postman with a big dog bark, chasing cats from the garden and always ready for 'walkies'. Yet sometimes, when you walked past his basket at night, he would change character: glaring and showing his teeth. Nevertheless, he was part of the family and we loved him.

None of us is perfect – but we all need to love and be loved. The trouble is, we don't always feel it. Perhaps relationships are tricky, God feels remote or life is all going wrong. But this is why Jesus came into our



world - 'God in the flesh' - to show us that God does love us with 'an everlasting love'. Smelly shepherds, straight out of the fields; influential foreigners from the East; fishermen; Roman soldiers; mothers; children; widows; Jewish leaders and all the miscellaneous 'sinners' of the gospel stories were welcomed by Jesus.

And that goes for us too. We are all part of God's family and he loves us. Something to ponder as we travel forwards into a new year.

© April McIntyre, Lay Minister, St. Michael's Church, Breaston

# Breaston Village News

## Breaston Parish Council

A special thank you

The Parish Council would like to send a special thank you this Christmas to all of the many residents in the village who have really gone the extra mile during this very difficult year.

For all of the wonderful work the Covid Support Group has undertaken, supporting vulnerable residents during the pandemic, the businesses and shops who have remained open throughout a very trying time to support us all. To members of the church for their fabulous nativity, and the Art Group for the wonderful carol depictions on display in the Sensory Garden, to the Pins Hooks and Pom Poms and all of



their dedicated knitting and crocheting team for the beautiful Christmas tree display by the Co-op which lights up at night!.

One person who has worked particularly hard on many of these projects; from the food collections to the doorstep carols is Sarah Warburton and whilst she denies it, we know she has played a pivotal part in bringing so many equally brilliant residents together to build the magnificent community spirit we've seen this year. Thank you all.

## Dog mess

Onto more ordinary nags.... We've received several complaints about dog mess again this month, we can only presume that under the cover of darkness dog mess gets missed by dog owners! Please ensure you pick up after your pets! Don't forget that free bags are available at the Parish Rooms for residents of Breaston.

### Flood alleviation work

Further flood alleviation work has been agreed for Johnson's Meadow and will hopefully be completed in January. Remember: if you see any blocked road drains report it either to the Clerk or direct to Derbyshire County Council on their *Report It* webpage.

### New member of the Parish Council

The Parish Council welcomed new member Glyn Stenson onto the Council at the December meeting. We hope he has a long and enjoyable tenure as a Parish Councillor.

### Perks Park play area

A recent consultation carried out by the Council regarding the possible fencing-off of the play area has ended in an equally balanced response with as many residents opposed to the proposals as those for it. The Parish Council is now going to investigate further the way forward for the play area and also for the old paddling pool which is becoming increasingly



dilapidated. New and more detailed consultations will be undertaken in the new year. Meanwhile, maintenance work has been completed to the swings and some of the balance equipment on Perks Park, giving the old equipment a new lease of life.

### Johnson's Meadow

We have received complaints regarding horses being ridden on Johnson's Meadow and the agricultural land beyond. This is actually classed as trespass as there is no provision for a bridle path across this land. Riders take note!

### Calendars

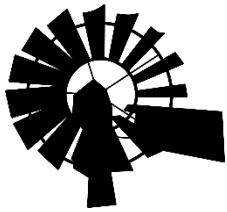
Breaston Photo Competition Calendars are still on sale at Anderson's, the Chequers and the Parish Rooms. Please call the Clerk to make arrangements for Covid secure collection.

And finally, we wish all residents a very happy Christmas and peaceful and healthy New Year.

### 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*



# Breaston Community Forum

At the time of writing this Christmas is only 2 weeks away and the village is looking wonderful.

Thanks to Will at The Farm shop, we have as usual placed 3 Christmas trees on the Memorial garden and this year have invited the village to help us decorate them with handmade items. There are some very beautiful and interesting contributions.



On the Memorial garden this year there has been a wonderful Nativity scene made by local residents – local children are loving it.

Outside the Co-op, the Forum has added fairy lights to the 2 trees on the forecourt.



A big thank you goes to Dean Keeling (left) for putting up the lights on a very cold damp day. He runs a Property Services business in the village so had just the right sized ladders!

Of course, the pièce de résistance is the knitted and crocheted trees on the bollards outside the Co-op – how wonderful are they! The Forum is glad to have supported Pins Hooks and Pompoms by spreading the word for residents to make squares.

Please remember to check our Facebook page for activities in the village, several things are happening before Christmas and when things return to normal we hope to carry on arranging events.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

*Julie Rowlinson*

## Clubs and Societies

### Breaston Belles W.I. News

Breaston Belles WI has continued to have monthly meetings via zoom. We have been able to extend the invitations to local WIs and also nationally and we have had several new members join recently. The garden meetings have stopped due to the weather, but a few hardy folk have continued with the walks and bike rides. The book club also continues on zoom.



November's meeting was led by committee member Suzanne Tate, a Teacher of the Deaf. She used her experiences in Derbyshire and overseas to explain the provision for deaf pupils and explained how we could all improve our communication with people with a hearing loss. We learnt some fingerspelling and some simple British Sign Language phrases, rounding off with a few festive signed songs.

We were also able to have a virtual pamper night in November, using products from Neal's Yard. Sitting back with a cup of herbal tea, rubbing in creams and balms whilst the demonstrator explained their benefits was a lovely relaxing end to the day!

The committee has been busy putting together and delivering a 'Christmas meeting in a bag' to all members so that we can join together in refreshments, crafts and a quiz for the December meeting.

The speaker for January will be from Médecins Sans Frontières (also known as Doctors Without Borders).

For more information, please contact Chris Barker, membership secretary, on 01332 873115 or [breastonbelleswi@talktalk.net](mailto:breastonbelleswi@talktalk.net)

*Suzanne Tate on behalf of Breaston Belles WI  
breastonbelleswi@talktalk.net*

## Food collection



We just wanted to say a HUGE thank you on behalf of the Canaan Trust, Long Eaton & Sawley Food Bank and Derby City Mission. The response on 5th December was amazing! Kevin from the Canaan Trust was blown away by the floods of people heading in the direction of the Firfield School with

bags of food and toys. The stream of donations was constant for the whole two hour period.

This picture of the toys includes only half of the total donated to Derby City Mission. There were 100 crates of food in total and £700 in donations to the Canaan Trust.

*Sarah Warburton*

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## **Good Neighbours**

We can all do with some good news especially at times like this when we are feeling so anxious about the virus and the effect it is having on our lives.

The good news is that Breaston and Draycott have seen their community spirit grow to amazing heights as people have been helping each other get through each day as they received the love and care from their neighbours as well as their friends.

The other good news is that as we go out for our walks we are met by smiles and people speaking to each other as they pass by. The parks and green spaces are bringing joy as people meet on the benches (at a safe distance) to share a takeaway hot drink and have a catch-up. This all brings a sense of belonging, that we are all in this together and we all need to help each other when we can.

In 2008 I heard on the BBC's One Show about a place in Suffolk where there had been a scheme started which had a group of volunteers to provide help for others in their community. I felt it would be great to see if people in Breaston would be up for starting such a scheme. So, we leafleted the village and amazingly over 40 people said they would be happy to volunteer. The Breaston Good Neighbour Scheme was launched in 2009.

Since then 30 different volunteers have performed over 800 tasks for well over 100 clients, averaging at about 2 tasks per week. 80% of the tasks have been transporting clients to appointments – some as far as the Royal Derby Hospital. The remaining tasks have been shopping, minor household repairs, one-off garden tidying and various other small jobs.

One of the marks of the success of the scheme is that relationships have been created between neighbours that have continued outside the formal boundaries of the BGNS. Indeed, our aim has been to get to a point where the BGNS is no longer needed because people are looking out for their neighbours.

And we believe that that point has now been reached. Since the start of the pandemic, the phone has hardly rung at all. It's also a fact that over 70% of

the tasks have been done by volunteers who are now over 70 (and over 95% have been done by volunteers over 60),

The good news is that the Covid 19 team was set up in the Spring of 2020, so that there is a Street Leader for almost every one of the 80 roads and streets in Breaston. This is so wonderful as many of our volunteers are getting older and we believe now is the time to pass on this neighbourly support to younger people.

There are not words enough to thank all those volunteers who have helped



the BGNS over the years. They have done an amazing job of going the extra mile for others in their community.

Finally, it just goes to show that good can come from bad situations when we pray and let God take charge! "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (*John 1: 5*)

*Jean Lupton*

*Chairman, Breaston Good Neighbour Scheme*

## Draycott Village News

### Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council News

Happy New Year!!!! - we hope that 2021 proves to be the year that the world gets back to "normal"

#### Anyone for Table Tennis?

The concrete table tennis table was installed on 3rd December by Ellesmere Playground Products (a local company) and by the time you read this we hope that the recycled plastic bench and the concrete Chess/Checkers Table will have been installed.

Please ensure that you stick to whatever Covid restrictions are in place when using the equipment.

We will be distributing sets of bats, balls and chess sets to community groups for use.



Thank you to Derby County Council Cllr Robert Parkinson, Draycott Village Fund, Erewash Borough Councillors Tim Scott and Val Clare for their donations towards this project and we hope that it is used by all ages.

### **St. Chad's**

We are also upgrading the boundary along the road area at St Chad's and re-instating the fish stock barrier (part of our ongoing maintenance programme) in January 2021 (floods dependant). Some of the monies towards this work have come from the St Chad's Fishing Club's new guest ticket scheme – thank you to them and the guests that have fished there over the year.

### **Table tennis**

We have also just signed a new 99-year lease with the Long Eaton and Draycott Table Tennis Club. This is an excellent facility for Draycott, and the club has many top national and international players as well as players for fun within the club. The long lease shows both parties' commitment to a long relationship in Draycott. We wish them every success for 2021.

### **Parish Council budget and action plan for 2021**

We are very conscious of the financial impact that Covid has had on our residents; at the December Parish Council meeting, it was unanimously agreed that we would try not to increase the precept at all for 2021 (not even increase it for inflation). We are still waiting for Erewash to inform us of the amount of monies they will give us towards concurrent functions (which makes up nearly half of our annual budget and is a separate amount to the precept) before we can finalise our precept request.

Last year the amount of monies on your council tax bill that comes to the Parish Council was £50.23 for a band D property for the year. We have already been informed that the number of houses in band D has decreased (for this calculation) due to increased households qualifying for benefits to help with their Council Tax Bill – this therefore means that even if we ask for the same amount per household, we will receive a slightly less amount.

We would like to assure all of our residents that we will do our utmost to maintain your parish owned facilities and assets (including St Chads LNR) to a high standard and that any capital spends will be funded where possible by applying for grants. This will be reflected in our action plan and budget. As a reminder to you all, the Parish Council own and manage the following facilities

- The Leisure Green (area behind the Chip Shop)
- Draycott Cemetery
- St Chad's Local Nature Reserve

- Draycott Playing Fields
- Draycott Millennium Green – Cycle Track Area off Hopwell Road (managed by Draycott Millennium Green Trust of which the Parish Council are the Sole Trustees)

## 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 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 still cannot now meet due to the latest Covid rules. We are keenly watching the news in the hope of a Tier 2 change to allow us a Rule of 6 meet-up for a cheeky mince pie.



Members were delighted to receive their goodie bags in time for the missing November meeting. Our extremely clever crafter member, Cathy, had designed and filled the bags for every member. If we cannot go to WI, then WI comes to you. The patchwork robin kit has proved to be very popular.

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).

Have a very Happy Christmas and we must surely have a more positive New Year.

*Kris Bingham*

## Church Wilne Rotary Club

In the run-up to Christmas, Church Wilne Rotary & its Satellite Club teamed up with Santa Claus to offer live video calls from the North Pole via Zoom to families around the local community.



The service was available at limited times over the weeks leading up to Christmas. Rotary Satellite Chairman Adrian Perkins stated that "Due to the situation at the time the opportunity for Santa to get out & about was very limited. This gave Santa a chance to bring a smile to children's faces whilst raising much needed Rotary funds for local causes."

*Paul Fleming, Rotarian*

## Canal works

There is much happening on the stretch of the old Derby Canal westward of Hopwell Road as far as Derby Road. Much of the work is being done to alleviate flooding of the railway line. Network Rail is working closely with the Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust. The press release says:

Network Rail is investing £350,000 to help restore a section of the historic Draycott canal route in Derbyshire to reduce flooding on the railway, rebuild heritage and create new recreational facilities for locals and tourists alike.

The section to be restored, known locally as the Golden Mile, was infilled in the 1960s after freight trade stopped using the waterway. In 1999, a drainage ditch was installed along the canal route to help to prevent flooding on the nearby Midland Main Line, which connects Derby and London. Whilst this did help, increased rainfall has seen the railway flooded 19 times in the past eight years, costing around £2million and causing over 357 hours, a massive 14 days, of delays for passengers.

Work on the scheme started at the beginning of November and will see a 1.1 km (about 0.7 mile) stretch of canal restored, as well as low points of the canal bank raised by 1 metre to reduce the chances of water overflowing onto the nearby rail route. This will help to create a more reliable railway and reduce train service disruption for passengers. This is a key step in reducing flooding in the area, but further work will also be required.



*Laying the lining of the canal*

Network Rail's contribution joins a £100,000 investment which has been fundraised by the Canal Trust over the last three years. As well as reducing flooding, the project will create a new section of canal which can be used by boaters and will ultimately form part of the restored canal to Derby. New leisure facilities will

also be created, providing provisions for angling, canoeing, paddleboarding, and even outdoor swimming. Existing facilities for walkers, cyclists and horse riders will also be improved with the current footpath re-laid. An old mill, which was built in 1812, will also be restored and turned into a community hub, with toilets and a café for visitors.

The scheme will also bring significant environmental benefits. The reopening of the canal will improve biodiversity in the area through planting native plants to support insects, amphibians, which will encourage birds into hawthorn hedges, which the Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust have already created. Water voles already live in the area and the works will be carefully managed to protect them on site until they can be released back into the canal when complete. The new arrangements will provide a much better habitat allowing them to thrive. The scheme is expected to complete in Summer 2021.

Chris Madge, Chairman for Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust, said: "We've been working for many years to bring this project to fruition and we are delighted that work has been able to begin."

"We are very grateful to Network Rail for working with us and providing the final piece of funding which will mean we can prevent flooding on the railway, as well as bring about change which will have a lasting impact on the community.

"The fact that local supporters have donated over £100,000 demonstrates the groundswell to preserve heritage in the area. Our redevelopment of an old mill building adjacent to the canal section to provide a café, museum and housing, will attract many more people out to enjoy the wonderful countryside, wildlife and activities on offer."

# 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)

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.

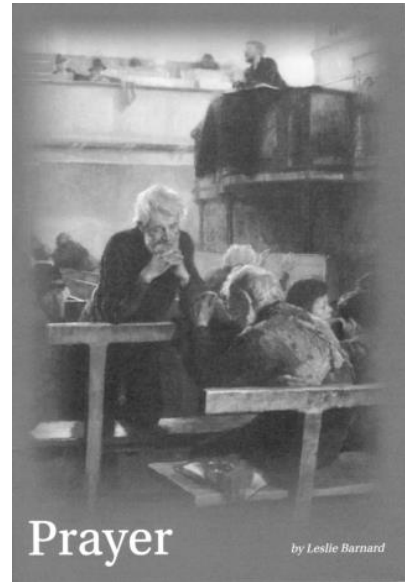
## A call to prayer

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.



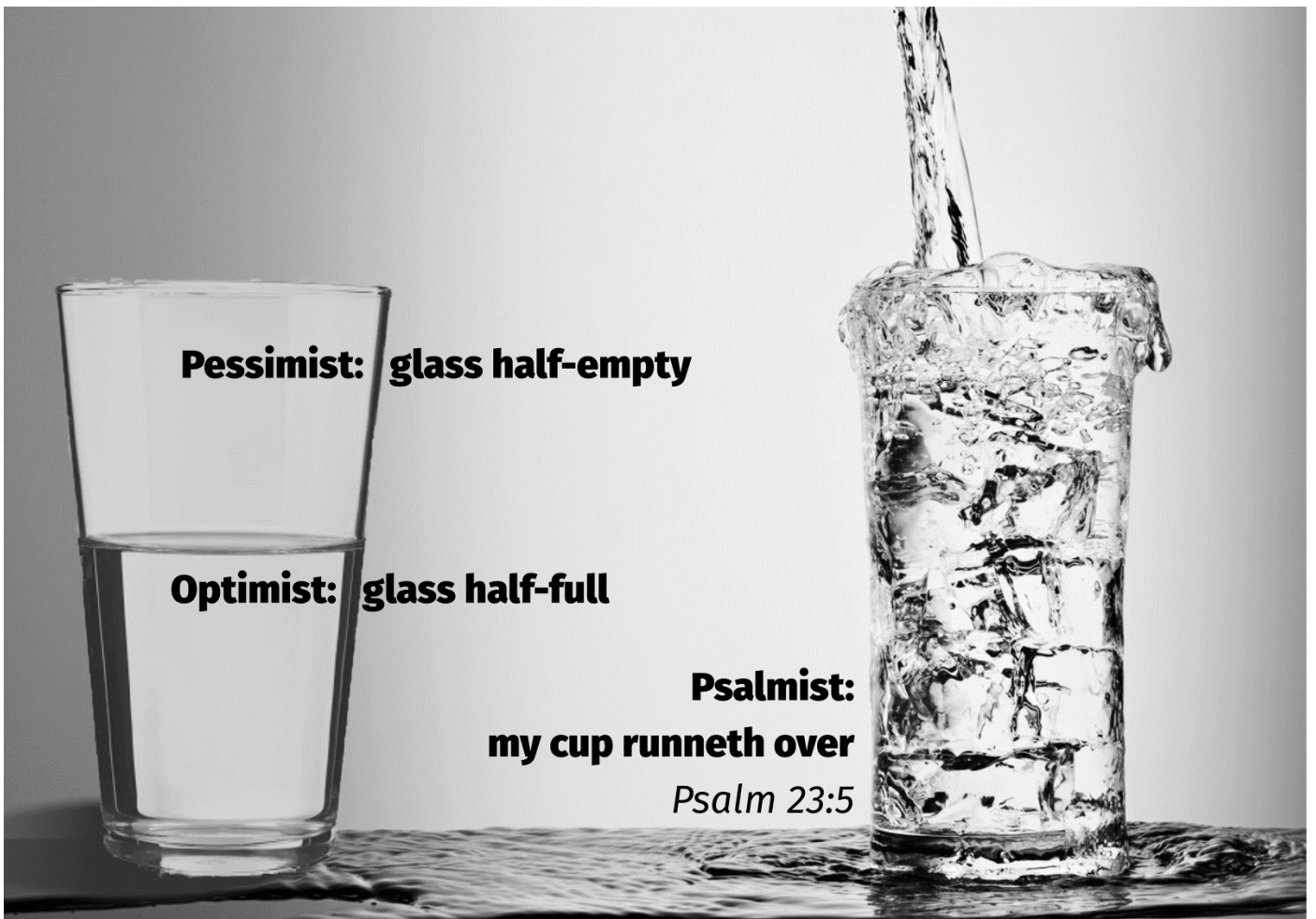
## The pessimist, the optimist and the Psalmist

**Pessimist: glass half-empty**

**Optimist: glass half-full**

**Psalmist:  
my cup runneth over**

*Psalm 23:5*



# Articles

## Happy New Year

And that's certainly a more earnest wish this year than ever before, given the current pandemic. But have you ever wondered how many times during the year we could say "happy new year"? Once? Twice? A dozen? More? It depends, of course, how you mark the years, in which part of the world you are, and what culture or religion you belong to.

Let's start with the UK. There is, of course, January 1st that we all know about and have celebrated very recently. There are many traditions associated with this new year, many coming from Scotland and Hogmanay: first-footing and Auld Lang Syne being just two. How many of us know the correct words for Auld Lang Syne, and the correct way of holding hands (not that we are allowed to do that at the moment)? Do you remember the confusion at the Millennium Dome in 2000, when Her Majesty the Queen confused Tony Blair by doing it the correct way – arms crossed only for the second verse?



*To cross or not to cross -  
that is the question!*

## Academic year

What about the academic new year? This is generally reckoned to start on September 1st, but in Scotland, it's a month earlier. And, in Northern Ireland at least, it could be the 1st of January, April or June depending on when your course starts!

## Tax year

One new year when you probably wouldn't wish anyone a "happy" new year is the tax year! We all know this starts on April 6th, but do you know why? It's all to do with the old Julian calendar, which was out by about 11½ minutes per year, so by the late 1500s it was about 10 days behind the solar year (marked by the equinoxes and solstices). This was important for a primarily agricultural economy – it threw sowing times out of kilter.

So in 1582 Pope Gregory introduced the Gregorian calendar which we now use. But this wasn't adopted by the UK until 1752, by which time the discrepancy had grown to 11 days. At this time, in England and Ireland the four main Christian religious holidays (including Christmas Day) had been used as the "quarter days" on which debts and accounts had to be settled and rents for land and property had to be paid. The first of these quarter

days fell on “Lady Day” (the date of the announcement by the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus Christ), being March 25th and that was also New Year’s Day and the first day of the British tax year. The other quarter days are Midsummer Day (June 24th), Michaelmas Day (September 29th) and Christmas Day.

It was in 1752 that the British decided that they had to align with Europe(!), so in September of that year, the 2nd

was followed by the 14th, with the 11 days between being missed out. Had the taxes and rents been due on March 25th 1753, that would have meant a full load of taxes with 11 fewer days to earn the money due. The Treasury decided that there should be no loss of taxes and no concessions, so the beginning of the following year was moved by 11 days to April 5th. It was also in 1752 that New Year’s Day was moved from March 25th to January 1st, as that was what the Gregorian calendar mandated.

The final wrinkle in this saga is that having done it once, the Treasury then decreed in 1800 that there would be another lost day of revenue, given that the century end would have been a leap year under the Julian calendar whereas it was not under the new Gregorian calendar. Thus 1800 was a leap year for tax purposes but not for the calendar and so the start of the tax year was moved on again by a single day to April 6th. And there it has remained ever since.

### Religious new years

The Christian church’s new year starts on Advent Sunday. Defined as the fourth Sunday before Christmas, this can be anywhere between November 27th and December 3rd. In 2020 it was November 29th, and in 2021 it will be the 28th. Many other religions have their calendar linked to the lunar and solar cycles.

For the Jews, there is the ecclesiastical new year, which starts on Nisan 1st. This is marked by the feast of Passover (when the Israelites, led by Moses, escaped slavery in Egypt). Generally reckoned to be the first new moon after the spring equinox, it falls in March or April in the western calendar. The same reckoning determines the date of Easter, as this major Christian festival is tied to Passover (Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection happened either side of the Passover festival – indeed, the Last Supper was a





*Passover bread and wine*

Passover meal), although different ways of determining new moon mean that sometimes Passover and Easter do not coincide.

There is another Jewish new year: the civil one called Rosh Hashanah, which is in September (the 6th to 8th in 2021).

The Hindu new festival of Diwali takes place in November, and conveniently (for us in the UK) is usually around Bonfire Night!

The Islamic new year marks the flight of the prophet Mohammed from Mecca to Medina. In 2021 this will be August 9th-10th.

### Around the world

If we go further afield there are more new years! In January, the Eastern Orthodox Church celebrate on the 14th. The Vietnamese and Chinese festivals are sometime in January and February, while The Korean, Mongolian and Nigerian new years are on various dates in February. March hosts new years for the Balinese, Iranians and Hindus (in some parts – others celebrate Diwali). April is very popular: Sri Lankans, Cambodians, Thais, Tamils, Pakistanis, Bengalis and Burmese all celebrate in this month. There is then a lull until September (Ethiopians, Muslims and Jews) and October (Diwali, and the Aborigines).

May you have a happy and Covid-free New Year!

*Jonathan Lupton*

## Gardening tips

Welcome to January's gardening, and may I wish you all a very happy and healthy gardening New Year! I think we were glad to say goodbye to 2020 so here's hoping for a better new year.

One thing is for sure: whatever life throws at us this year we have our gardens, back yards, public parks and green spaces which I think until last year we never actually realised how important they were.

In your first issue of the year, we have details of the Christmas "treecycling" scheme again in support of Treetops Hospice and there are details about a stunning shrub that is presenting us with winter colour.



## Jobs in the garden this month

But to kick off here are some jobs to be getting on with this month in the winter sunshine!

- Buy and plant snowdrops that are in the green, potted and are ready to flower
- Continue planting trees and shrubs while they are still dormant.
- Try forcing rhubarb plants by placing an upturned bucket or bin over the crown. This will force tender pink stems to grow that will be ready in about eight weeks
- Start chitting (sprouting) early potatoes - stand them on end in a module tray or egg box and place in a bright cool frost-free place
- Begin pruning apple trees and pear trees, this is carried out whilst they are dormant.



## Gardener Steve's Plant of the Month

HAMAMELIS MOLLIS (Chinese witch hazel)



*Hamamelis* are deciduous shrubs belonging to the Hamamelidaceae family with large ovate or rounded leaves, widely grown as an ornamental plant and is a beautiful specimen in any garden border. They have fragrant yellow to red flowers with 4 narrow petals, borne on the leafless branches in late winter, also stunning autumn leaf colour.

*Hamamelis Mollis* is a large deciduous shrub with broad, ovate leaves that gives autumn colour followed by strongly fragrant, bright golden-yellow flowers in late winter that are spidery in shape with the flowers clinging to bare stems. A beautiful shrub for a woodland edge, or winter border or alongside a path, where its fragrance can be appreciated. It has also won the Royal Horticultural Societies Award of Garden Merit (AGM)

- Flowering period: December - February
- Position: Full sun, Partial shade
- Height and Spread: 3m x 3m (9ft x 9ft)
- Soil: Most garden soil
- Hardiness: Hardy shrub

- Propagation: Propagate by seed sown in containers as soon as ripe, by simple layering of suitable shoots in spring, by grafting in late winter or by chip budding in late summer
- Pruning: Lightly prune after flowering in late winter - early spring remove any misplaced, crossing or diseased branches
- Pest and Diseases: Witch hazels can sucker. To minimise this problem, avoid planting too deeply and do not bury the graft union

### Christmas Tree-cycling For Treetops Hospice

The Treetops Christmas Treecycling scheme is back and we are aiming for our biggest and greenest year yet!

In exchange for a donation, Treetops will collect and recycle your real Christmas tree. It will run from Thursday January 7th to Wednesday 13th.



For a recommended donation of £12 or more, Treetops volunteers will collect trees from front gates or driveways and take them away.

For more information contact the hospice on 0115 949 1264 or details and booking form can be found on the Treetops website: [www.treetopshospice.org.uk/events/treecycling-2020](http://www.treetopshospice.org.uk/events/treecycling-2020).

Book your collection today and take the hassle out of disposing of your tree whilst supporting your local hospice.

#### Finally...

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

I look forward to hearing from you, and see you all in February

*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><br>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<br><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 5)

## Breaston

|  |                          |  |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| <b>St. Michael's</b>                         | Church Office            | 01332 872094<br><i>office@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk</i>                |
| The Rector                                   | Rev'd Chris Smedley      | 01332 872242<br><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<br><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<br><i>magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk</i>              |
| <b>Breaston Gala</b>                         | Sarah Lester             | <i>www.breastongala.org.uk</i><br><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<br><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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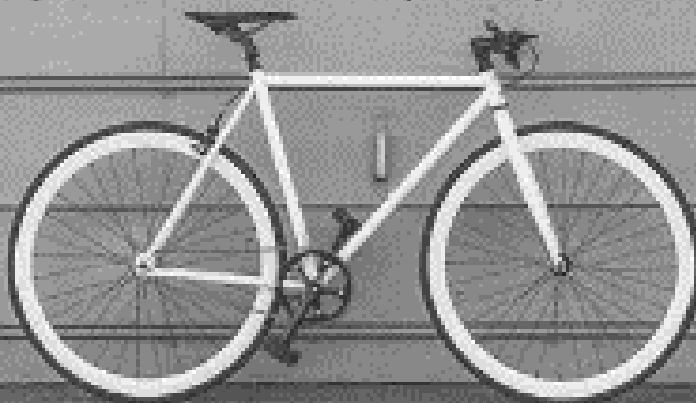
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