

# **BREASTON & DRAYCOTT VILLAGE NEWS**

50p

**February 2021**

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



***He leads me beside still waters,  
He restores my soul***

# Theikos Yoga

**BY ANNA**

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# Thought for the month

## The ever-present God

*God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...*

*(Psalm 46:1-2)*

It's really struck me this week that I'm not coping as well with this third lockdown as I did last March. A lot of this is to do with the season. January and February often feel like rather 'grim' months in the best of years, but combined with a global pandemic and a national lockdown they feel even gloomier than usual. On top of that, we've been in this situation for over ten months and I'm ready to move on now. I feel a little bit like I did as a small child in the back of the car, despairing of ever reaching the destination and driving my parents mad with the constant refrain, 'Are we nearly there yet?'

I love reading the Psalms because they remind me that the feelings and struggles we experience are not new. The psalmists are sometimes hopeful, joyful, trusting, and full of praise. At other times they are impatient, doubtful, sad, despairing, or angry. They cry out to God in every situation, not always totally confident in getting an answer, but nevertheless, turning to him.

I'm reminded that the faithfulness God is looking for doesn't always look triumphant and glorious. When we read the Bible, the men and women who are praised for their faith often did not see the answers they were seeking – and if they did, it certainly wasn't straight away. Faith and faithfulness often involve simply putting one foot in front of the other and seeking to trust God in all the messiness and ordinariness of our everyday lives. It doesn't matter if we don't feel full of joy at the moment. God is present in our struggles as much as in our rejoicing. It doesn't matter if we fall down or fall short, the beauty of the Christian message is that we can pick ourselves up and have a fresh start.

God is present, whether we feel it or not.

*Jo Whitehead, Reader at St. Michael's, Breaston*

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## From the editor

St. Chad's Water features in two of our articles this month (see Rob Govier's *View from an Outsider* on page 17 and Johnny Sheehan's poem *Waters of Chad* on page 26. Although at the time of writing this, St. Chad's Water is inaccessible because (ironically) there is too much water, it's a wonderful place to go for peace and quiet. The photo on the front cover was taken back in 2010 when the unpronounceable Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull was filling the skies with tons of dust, giving us some glorious sunsets. The peace and tranquillity that the Water affords are priceless in these uncertain times.

*Jonathan Lupton, Editor*

Do you have a story for us? We want your news and views. Let us know what is happening in your neighbourhood - about clubs, businesses, charity organisations, events and individuals.

Is there an organization, business or individual doing something to help others in the community during this unprecedented crisis?

Is there a project you want to launch and need volunteers to get it off the ground? Has your business won an award or contract, launched a new product or service?

You can also send us your birth announcements, engagement notices, wedding and obituaries. Include a photo if appropriate.

And if you have an opinion or advice about anything you think would be of interest to your fellow readers, please send us a letter. This should be no more than about 400 words and may include a photo (no less than 700kB and no more than 4MB).

Whatever is going on in the area we want to know about it, so do get in touch!

Send your information, editorial contributions and letters to [magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk), or contact us by telephone on 01332 872094.

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## Verse of the month

*Be still and know that I am God*

*Psalm 46:10*

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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

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

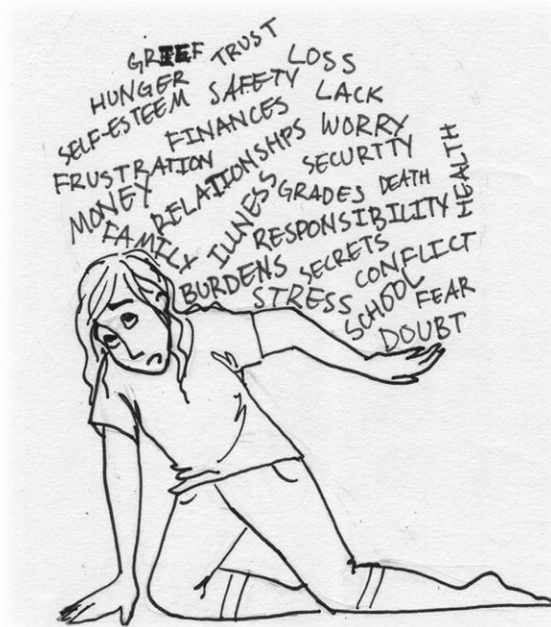
*Thoughts and reflections to help us find peace in our busy lives*

*Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest...' (Matthew 11:28)*

Jesus,  
when I'm weary,  
you bid me come to you  
and rest.  
I'm trying to trust you  
yet I still don't come.  
I push myself until I'm just too tired  
even to pray.

Life goes on,  
drab and grey,  
without meaning,  
without joy,  
until, suddenly,  
I can go on no longer.

I find myself at your feet.  
 Then you raise me up,  
 refreshing,  
 restoring my soul.  
 Outside  
 the sun is shining  
 through the clouds.  
 I am alive  
 and overhead is a rainbow.



Picture © HLT/AM

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



# Breaston Village News

## Breaston Parish Council

It's still not too late to wish you all a Happy New Year; let's hope that this year is an improvement on 2020, and with the rollout of vaccinations and lowering figures helped by the lockdown we can perhaps hope for better days soon.

### Parish Council vacancies

Following several months of advertising vacancies on the Parish Council, we are delighted to report that we are now back to a full complement of 12 Councillors. Details of councillors and how to contact them can be found on the Parish Council Website.

### Dog poo

Once again we've had many complaints in recent days about the amount of dog poo not picked up in the village. Please do the right thing and clean up after your pet. It is also an offence for dogs to be off the lead on open spaces in the village; Perks Recreation Ground and Duffield Close are covered by a local by-law under which you could be fined up to £1000 for not cleaning up after your dog or keeping it on a lead.

The cemetery is also covered by Erewash Dog control order which means dogs should always be kept on a lead. Dog owners are reminded that dog waste bags are available free at the Parish Rooms and Dundas the butchers. Let's keep the village safe and clean – bag it and bin it!

### Budget

The Parish Council have been undertaking the annual budget review and setting the precept for 2021-22 and are pleased to confirm that there will be no Parish increase in the Council Tax bills this year.

### Flooding

With all of the bad weather we have suffered in recent weeks there are several areas in the Parish where the ground is completely waterlogged and the Canal path between Breaston and Draycott has once again been flooded. The Parish Council has worked closely with local landowners and the responsible authorities to try to ensure that culverts, ditches and watercourses are kept clear to prevent any further flooding. Find out who is responsible for local watercourses by logging onto the Parish Website: [breastonparish.co.uk/downloads/Breaston-Flood-Risk-Info-&-FAQs.pdf](http://breastonparish.co.uk/downloads/Breaston-Flood-Risk-Info-&-FAQs.pdf).

**Main Rivers:** - Environment Agency Incident Hotline 0800 807060; real-time flood information: 0345 988 1188

**Smaller Watercourses:** Lead Flood Authority, Derbyshire County Council – 01629 533190 – out of hours emergency number 01629 533078

**Riparian Responsibility:** are you responsible for a watercourse adjacent to your property? [www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse).

If you are concerned about flooding a good place to find information is [www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk).

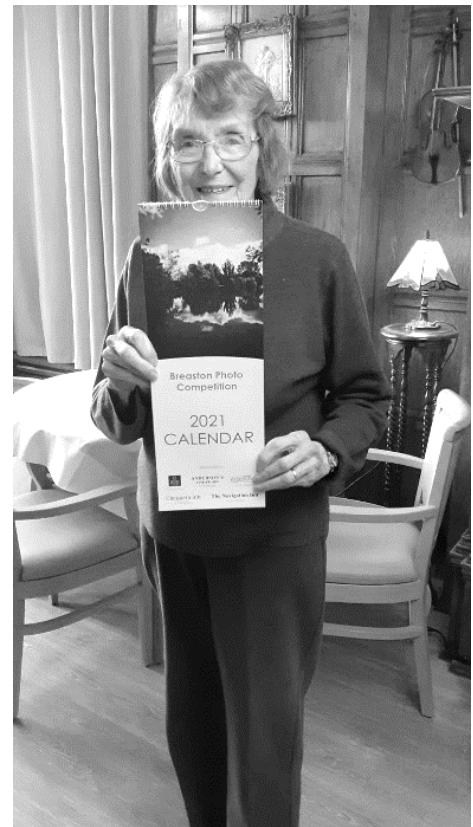
## Calendar

Sales of the Photo Competition Calendar were reduced this year, with no one getting out to the shops and pubs where they are normally on sale – it made promoting and selling the calendar quite tricky. Great thanks to all of the businesses that sponsored the competition but a particular thank you to Lynette at Anderson's who managed to sell a good number for us! The profits of £173 from the project are to be donated to the Covid support group and will be used to help with the local food bank. The remaining calendars were donated to the residents at the Firs Nursing Home who were delighted with their second gift, the first being the Coronavirus vaccinations which were administered to all at the beginning of the week!!

Take care and keep safe all.

## Facebook page

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



*Jeannine at the Firs with her calendar*

*Nicala O'Leary, for Breaston Parish Council*

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## Neighbourhood Watch

I am sorry to say that because of Covid we have not been able to progress with Breaston Neighbourhood Watch (BNW) until recently!

But we are now moving ahead and intend to have a Zoom meeting (which will be hosted by the Parish Council) in February. I am inviting an experienced Neighbourhood Watch leader to be the guest speaker and will also invite our PCSO to speak.

We have been given a £300 grant to get us started. To save opening a bank account and all that entails, the money is ring-fenced in the Neighbourhood Watch account.

Details of BNW will appear on the Parish Council web site ([www.breastonparish.co.uk](http://www.breastonparish.co.uk)), and details will be in the newsletter and local magazine

Several core members have been recruited, but other interested parties are invited to apply to join. Please do not consider Neighbourhood Watch as a big task; you can be involved as much or as little as you wish, but we do need eyes and ears. The membership form can be found on the Community Forum website at [breaston.info](http://breaston.info) – look in the “Latest updates” on the left-hand side.

*Cllr Kevin Miller*



Well, unfortunately, we are still in lockdown and unable to do any more activities around the village.

We really hope you enjoyed the Christmas booklet that was delivered to your house and the ideas it contained, and hopefully took part in some of them. I'm sure you appreciated the new Nativity scene and the lights on the trees outside of the Co-op and on the trees in the Memorial garden. Thank you if you also provided a decoration for the trees.

### Can you help?

Like everyone we have been making more use of the Internet to spread the word lately and as the owner of our Facebook page and a part editor of the *breaston.info* website, I have realised that we could do more if we had a dedicated person to look after them. So if you have basic Facebook knowledge and would like to become an editor of our page making it more attractive and informative please contact me. As for the website, this would take a little more knowledge (we would show you how) and time, but if you could help with keeping it up to date we would be extremely grateful. Please get in touch.

*Julie Rowlinson, [chairman@breaston.info](mailto:chairman@breaston.info)*

## Clubs and Societies

### Breaston W.I.

At Breaston WI we have been very busy during the last few months ensuring that all of our 80 members continue to feel part of our thriving WI.



Every member has received a phone call each month from a committee member and for those members living alone, this has been especially helpful.

Monthly newsletters, quizzes, walk suggestions (including food stops!), jigsaw swaps, a lending library and a Teddy Bear trail have all been planned



to keep people's spirits up. Unfortunately, the lockdown and raised tiers have meant that some of these activities have had to be curtailed but as soon as we are able, they'll be in full swing once more.

Christmas was very different for everyone this year but for Breaston WI it was a historic time as we held our first members' meeting on Zoom. It was great to see the faces of over half our members and as the word spreads we're hoping to see even more each month. We had poems, a quiz and a raffle draw and dressed in our festive finery, with glass in hand, we sang Jerusalem and Jingle Bells in the safety of our own homes! The committee had been busy doing a secret Santa drop ahead of our Zoom event and all members had received a Christmas card, raffle ticket and bookmark.

February is the month we hand over the money we have raised for our chosen charity. Despite the restrictions, I am delighted to report that we can hand over £1,500 to Derbyshire Blood Bikes. Such a worthwhile charity and so important at these challenging times.

So Breaston WI continues to flourish even though we can't meet as we would wish. Please follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with our activities and meanwhile stay safe and keep focussing on the light at the end of the tunnel.

*Sally Jury*

### Breaston Belles W.I. News

Breaston Belles WI started 2021 with a speaker from Médecins Sans Frontières. Chris Peskett outlined some of the projects MSF are currently engaged in, how they set up their hospitals and clinics, the constant obstacles and dangers faced by the teams and the importance of their work to local communities. The talk was both fascinating and emotional.



There are other ways for members to keep in touch too. Book club continues and chat sessions have started. These crop up a few times a month and enable members to get together for a chat and a drink. There is also a monthly craft afternoon, with the opportunity to come and craft-along or just stop by for a chat. This month will be snowy owls and iris cards.

The speaker for February will be Jo May who will be teaching us to play the spoons!

Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2 pm via zoom.

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*

## Draycott Village News

### Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council News

Parish Council tree work around Draycott and Church Wilne

We are continuing with our Tree Work that was identified as necessary, Canopy Trees were contracted to do this work. Work is being carried out at

- the Cemetery – we have removed all the Conifers along the railway line side, severed ivy where required and crown lifted various ash and lime trees
- St Chads – we have/are felling the identified dead trees and cutting back and crown lifting the trees along the roadside to 5.5m.

In addition, we are installing fencing along the roadside to the entrance to St Chad's (similar to the Church's Car Park Fence) – this is on the advice of the local police, to enable them to see any Anti-Social Behaviour occurring at night during their drive-by's – it will also make it easier for drivers to see pedestrians and other cars on the road.

- Draycott Playing Fields/Millennium Green – we have removed any dead or damaged trees and cut back the tree branches hanging over the road.

### **CCTV at the Leisure Green**

We are in the process of obtaining quotes to upgrade the CCTV system at the Leisure Green (area behind the Chip Shop) – this area has attracted Anti Social Behaviour for a very long time and whilst the existing system has helped, the council (in conjunction with the Police, Table Tennis Club, Scouts and Army Cadets) feel that expanding the system to cover the whole of the Leisure Green area will help reduce poor behaviour. The Table Tennis Club have very kindly offered the use of their broadband system to save the Council monthly costs and we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Scouts for their years of hosting and reviewing the footage (when requested by the Police) in particular Nicala and Paul.

### **Budget for the financial year 2021 – 2022**

The council approved the 2021-2022 budget at the full council meeting on 12th January 2021 and the precept request has been sent to Erewash Borough Council who collect this money on our behalf through your Council Tax Bill. We were very mindful of the extremely tough financial year that our residents have had; people have been furloughed, lost jobs etc, so the decision was taken that we would not increase our portion of the Council Tax bill. The amount requested for our precept is £48,306 which equates to £50.23 for the year for a Band D property. The total budget for the year for payments and receipts is £98,218.45. If you would like to know more about the council's finances and budget, please visit the finance section on our website [www.draycott-pc.gov.uk](http://www.draycott-pc.gov.uk).

### **Community Speedwatch in Draycott**

Due to the pandemic and resulting restrictions, we have not been able to start our Community Speedwatch in Draycott. Our thanks to Draycott Village Fund for successfully applying for a members' fund grant from Erewash Borough Councillors Val Clare and Tim Scott for £500. This will enable the speedwatch group to have their own radar gun, signs and Hi-Vis Jackets when they are doing speedwatch sessions.

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).

## **Draycott and Wilne Women's Institute**

Draycott & Wilne members still cannot now meet due to the latest Covid rules. We were hoping – obviously in vain – of an opportunity to meet near Christmas.

Members were spending their time over Christmas, making, painting and enjoying the contents of their goodie bags. This reminded us of our friendship even though we are apart.

There have been some opportunities for members to 'meet' people from other WIs over the Zoom experiences. These have been organised by our local Headquarters. The Quiz (soon to be monthly) is really exciting.

Draycott & Wilne WI usually meets on the 3rd 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*

## **Church Wilne Rotary Club**

The Rotary Club of Church Wilne and Satellite Club would like to thank members of the local community who visited our Santa Claus float, static Santa locations and online Santa visits throughout December,

With many festive events being cancelled due to the pandemic, the Rotary Club of Church Wilne were determined to bring some Christmas festive cheer to the local community whilst adhering to the lockdown restrictions.

Through your generosity, the Rotary Club of Church Wilne were able to raise in excess of £7,000 in charitable donations. All the proceeds will be going towards local good causes and charitable organisations.

From Santa: "thank you very much and we look forward to seeing you all next year"



*Paul Fleming, Rotarian*

# Church News

## Church of England Services

St. Michael's, Breaston and St. Mary's, Draycott

Sundays 10:30 am Live-streamed service on YouTube (see below)

Sat 10-12 St. Michael's Church open for private prayer

During Lockdown 3, both churches are closed for public worship. The live-streamed service is streamed from St. Michael's, with only the minimum number of people needed to create the service in attendance.

Both churches believe that although the regulations permit public worship, the new, more infectious, variant of Covid-19 makes it more important to prevent the further spread. As soon as the situation improves we plan to re-open our buildings.

To find our YouTube channel, search YouTube for St. Michael's Breaston, or go to [www.youtube.com/channel/UCgdvvgDUn4WFuSIHlwsSz3JA/](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgdvvgDUn4WFuSIHlwsSz3JA/).

### 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 us for daily prayer at 9:30 am on weekdays on our Facebook page.

## Methodist Church Services

### Breaston

As we come into 2021 we would like to send you greetings and love from Breaston Methodist Church. We are aware that 2021, having begun with a lockdown, is proving to be a challenge for us all; our ongoing prayer is that you would know God's grace and strength as you face the challenges of this year. May faith, hope and love continue to be the motif that we live by as we seek to live in Christ's love.

Although the Breaston Methodist Church building is closed our fellowship has continued in new ways. We have regular prayer phone calls with all our members and our 'Thinking about God' Zoom meetings continue fortnightly. Following this success, we are proposing to try a Zoom Church Service at the end of January. In addition, you may not have a computer but the Methodist Church have provided a Freephone 'Dial a Prayer' number for your use – 0808 2812514. The prayers are updated every Thursday afternoon.

*Angela Stanyon*

## 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.

### ***Draycott Methodist Church from your armchair!***

Since the start of Covid, many of us are really missing our regular church services. We love to meet with our friends, fellow Christians, sing hymns of praise and worship, pray together, listen to the Bible being read and hearing someone giving us new thoughts and inspirations for the week ahead. The church buildings may be closed, but the church (the people who meet there) are still active and worshipping together!

Services on Zoom (internet) may seem strange at first, but after meeting that way since April last year it has become normal. It is so much easier than we ever thought (we are technophobes in our 70s), once the App is loaded onto your device – laptop, main computer, tablet etc – you just click on it and key in the Meeting number and Password and you are away. You have the choice of keeping your camera on (then others can see you) or leaving it off. The service leader keeps us all muted during the service unless we are reading etc, so we can sing all the hymns at home with gusto. Words of the hymns, prayer responses and Bible readings are displayed on the screen for all to see. We really feel as though we have 'been to church' – worshipped God, had fellowship and learned from each other.

The same Zoom service is accessed by people from Draycott, Borrowash and Spondon (all churches under the care of Rev Colin Emerson and Judith Neal) and so each week we have between 40 – 50 households represented. When the service is finished we have the choice to unmute ourselves so that we can chat with each other on-screen. We have renewed old friendships, made new friends and kept contact with our own church friends. It is a time to share news of others, exchange ideas and thoughts and pray for each other. Anyone is welcome to join us. If you are missing church, or wouldn't normally want to go into a church building why not give it a go. It's easy, painless, rewarding and reinstates that structure to the week (I'm sure like most of us you have trouble knowing what day it is!). Maybe see you next Sunday at 10:30 am!

**Meeting Code: 827 0960 1674, Passcode: 248724**

## **World Day of Prayer**

Due to the current pandemic, the World Day of Prayer has had to be postponed. We hope that we can hold the service later in the year.

*Jennifer Cameron - co-ordinator for Draycott and Breaston*

# Articles

## A View from an Outsider

### Reasons to be cheerful

We would all rather be "somewhere else" at the moment. Pre-Covid19, we were spoilt for choice, being able to go anywhere, anytime.

Then it all stopped. What next? How do we handle our "locked-in-ness"?

Some wise words of a fellow runner in The London Marathon:- "Those last six miles are run by your head, not by your legs". Hopefully, we are in the final distance of a long race. It's possibly time to prepare to run that last difficult last bit. I have some ideas.

Is this some kind of unsubtle prelude to some mindfulness advice? Scented candles, crossed legs, and deep breathing on an expensive mat?? No.

However, I'd humbly suggest that we have a choice:

- Snarl, grumble and rant, longing for being "anywhere else but...". This is the mentally-toxic modern version of "crying over spilt milk". In this case, it's a whole worldwide bottling plant of mess. Moaning won't change things. Sadly, it will change us.
- Reflect that "this, too, shall pass". Count our blessings. Appreciate (in hope) among other things, the locality. By this, I simply mean where you live. The attitude of gratitude, appreciation of location and benefits, may just be much-needed mental sunshine on even the grimmest winter days in The Trent Valley. It's at least worth a try.

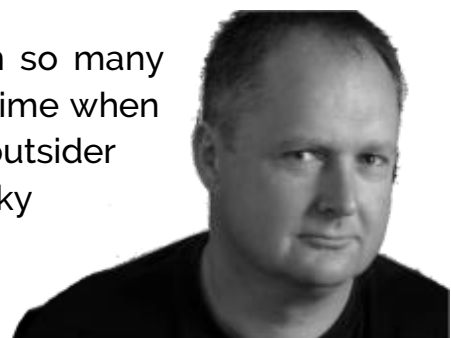
Breaston, Draycott: a shocking confession:- I don't actually live there. Worse, I'm not even much of an optimist. I left Sawley over forty years ago and now view the district from 130 miles up north. Hopefully, my outsider's eye will give some encouraging insights.

In short, where you live isn't that bad at all, and maybe you can't quite see it at the moment. However, soon you'll be able to enjoy it again. Meanwhile, here are my suggested reasons to be cheerful.

- Quick Escape Routes. Stick a pin in a map and draw a "two hour-ish drive" circle. You have just encompassed most of the UK's major cities, from York to (almost) Bristol. Concerts, exhibitions, airports, city-breaks, and sports events. You truly in "The MID-Lands". Celebrate this and try to forget the "stop-start" of the A42. Compare and contrast with life in Norfolk, Shropshire or Northumberland. Remoteness can quickly lose its appeal. Meanwhile, if the noise of your highly-convenient M1 disturbs, just imagine it's the noise of breakers on a two-mile-long beach.

- **Trains in The Distance.** Yes, while I'm at it, I'd suggest that you have some of the fastest train services in the UK if you are heading south, northeast or south-west. Spend some time in London and The South East, and I suspect that you will agree. Dare I even suggest that, if HS2 ever happens, (writer ducks for cover) this will be one of the UK's top locations for train connections. If you have to stand occasionally, be glad that you have a train to stand in, as you travel through built-up areas at 110mph (without watching the road).
- **Restful Varieties of Water.** It's ironic that, in the UK's most land-locked region, there is so much water. Canals, rivers, hard-to-define stretches like St Chad's Water and Attenborough's wildlife creeks. Large chunks of Milton Keynes were built using what was extracted from a hole in Church Wilne. Next time you stroll around that serene lake, compare and contrast with down-town MK, and consider if you may have the better part of the deal.
- **The Convenient, Surprising, Refreshing Outdoors.** From an outsider's perspective, there is much honest, untouched greenery. nearby Go north to Risley and the hills (and admire the view), or south to Shardlow. No-nonsense pasture land, not twee, "don't touch", over-visited national park. It's all the more valuable as it feels like a quick and sneaky escape from the adjacent humming civilisation. Meanwhile, for a dose of Serious Rurality, the Derbyshire Dales and Rutland are less than an hour away. There is more to life in the area than queueing and growling at Bardill's Island.
- **Breaston, Draycott, and Village-ness.** They are still villages with a heart, and the classic English features of church, pubs, independent shops, and community events. By its very location, it can't easily be afflicted by parasitic new housing developments. As an occasional visitor, I'm struck by the friendly, unhurried feel (yes, even during the traffic-calming school-run). I know I'm not quite in the north with it's no-nonsense, casual chirping between locals. However, I'm absolutely not in the uptight, edgy, "no-eye-contact-or-I'll-call-the-police" Home Counties.

Meanwhile, writing this in a January bleak in so many ways, we can only look forward in hope to a time when we can enjoy it again. For now, this particular outsider thinks there's a lot to appreciate in your quirky corner of our green and pleasant land. Be glad.



*Rob Govier*

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## The Blessing of Birds

I've lived in Breaston for 20 years and worked at Westbrook School, now re-named Stanton Vale, for 38 years; a wonderful school dedicated to teaching children with special needs. I played cricket locally for Sandiacre CC, Long Eaton Park and Risley from the age of 9 to 55, a fair innings! However, a real passion of mine is our local wildlife.

The pandemic has certainly opened our eyes to what's happening in our gardens and local countryside. Both are great for our health and well-being and are available to both young and old.

I had just moved to Breaston (some years ago); it was the night before Christmas. Suddenly I heard a noise in the garden, and there in the cold were a group of four baby hedgehogs. I quickly put them in a cardboard box and they came to live in my kitchen. I fed them dog food and water and took them to the vets for a check-up. Our children loved them. Being so protective I was insistent they came with us on our family Christmas to Wales. Later that spring all four were released into the garden having been fattened up with extra treats of raisins and cheese.

Locally we have many garden birds, Robins are very territorial, quite feisty and will fight another Robin to death if it threatens his patch. However, they become a wonderful friend particularly if you're digging in the garden, always looking for a worm. They love cheese, fat balls and sunflower seeds. Blue Tits also enjoy sunflower seeds, fat blocks, peanuts (not salted ones), as do Great Tits which are slightly larger than Blue Tits. Long Tailed Tits usually visit our gardens in larger numbers, their tails are as long as their bodies. Coal Tits have a black head with white running through the middle. Gold Finches are colourful with flashes of red black and white, they enjoy niger seeds and sunflower seeds. Green Finches eat sunflower and mixed seeds. Chaffinches spend a lot of time Hoovering up below the bird feeder along with Hedge Sparrows, Blackbirds, House Sparrows, Collared Doves and Wood Pigeons.

You may get a surprising visit on your fat blocks as both Gold Crests and Wrens will have a nibble if the weather is really cold. Wrens will huddle up in a nest box or a hole in a tree to keep warm, sometimes 50 at a time. Even Great Spotted Woodpeckers are partial to bird feeders, black, white and scarlet red. Also, beware of Sparrow Hawks which occasionally snatch a bird off the feeder in a flash leaving a pile of feathers in your garden. If you look high into the skies over the village you may spot Buzzards or if you're lucky Peregrine Falcon or Red Kites.

In winter some of our garden birds like Blackbirds, Thrushes, Wrens and Finches migrate to the south of England, or as far as Spain. Many stay in the UK and are joined by birds who have migrated from Northern Europe, Russia and Scandinavia. It all depends when the weather freezes up and when the winds blow in from the North East and East, as many birds are desperate for food and decide to cross the North Sea and Baltic from Norway, Denmark, Germany and Holland. The UK has a milder climate and a larder of berries which attracts flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. Also, Blackcaps come here instead of migrating to Africa due to our feeders and mild climate.



Keeping feeders clean is very important, they need washing out in order to combat diseases, like us they are susceptible to viruses and parasites. Keep feeders high enough to deter cats jumping up. Try to place them near hedges, bushes or trees giving birds an escape route from Sparrow Hawks. Always provide water either in a birdbath, pond or upside-down dustbin lid. This is a great time to put up a nest box, avoid westerly positions keeping out westerly winds and rain. Keep the nest box away from bird feeders as birds spend too much time defending their chicks and not enough time feeding them. Try to ensure your boxes have a metal plate around the hole of the box as this protects against squirrels and woodpeckers

who will eat chicks and eggs. We all need to help our local wildlife. As David Attenborough says "the future of humanity and indeed all life on earth now depends on us."

Wishing you all a Happy New Year! Let's hope that by spring, when swallows and other birds migrate from Africa, we will be able to enjoy the beautiful countryside without restrictions.

*Richard Peters*

## My story

*Peter Lindahl went on an Alpha course in March 2002. He says it not only changed his life, but it also saved it*

Had it not been for Alpha I'd be dead by now. Almost 19 years ago I was drinking myself to death. There were times when I became argumentative, abusive and acted idiotically. Frequently, I'd wake up with no memory of where I'd been or what I'd done the previous night.

I realised that I was bitter, cynical and immature. I hated my life and I hated the world. And I drank to kill the pain. Smoking a lot of cannabis for several years didn't help either; it made me paranoid. My self-esteem had gone to minus zero.

In April 2002 my life changed dramatically, I went on an Alpha course. What's that? A simple, easy-going introduction to Christianity for non-churchgoers. The course lasts 10 weeks and is held in people's homes, churches, cafes, bars, businesses and even prisons (and even online – see [alpha.org](http://alpha.org)). It's not religion, boring or brainwashing and it changed my life. Actually, it did more than that – it gave me a new life!

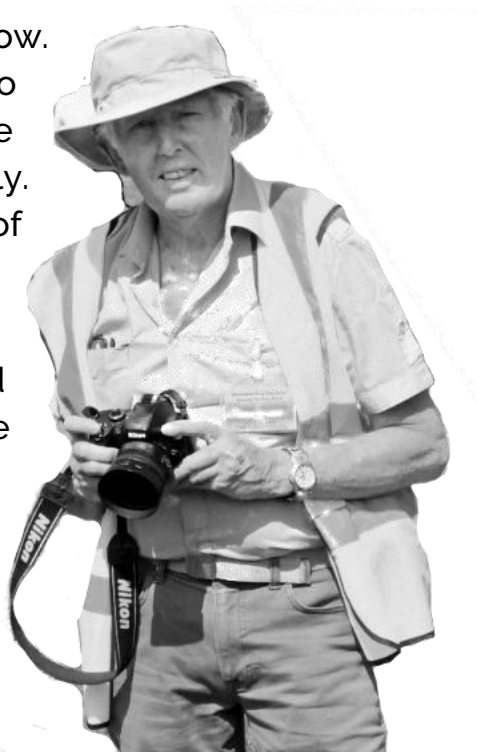
I'd never been a particularly religious person. I'd gone to church as a child until the age of 12. And stopped going because I'd found it boring and of no relevance.

The course gave me a belief in Jesus Christ: revealed to me that he was the son of God and also that the Lord Almighty was aware of my existence and loved me.

I almost turned back half-way driving to Breaston. I thought people on the course wouldn't be the kind I usually hung out within pubs and clubs. I was right – they weren't - slightly wacky, but nice.

The course was held at a house in Breaston and consisted of a small group of people meeting once a week, starting with a free meal, followed by the viewing of a thought-provoking video.

You then had a lively discussion during which you could ask questions about any of the aspects of Christianity raised in the video and express your own opinions.



The course made me take a long hard look at myself. Until then I had considered myself to be a Christian and a reasonably good person because I didn't rob banks or go around killing people. I hadn't gone to church for more than 40 years and, in fact, I didn't have a clue about what it meant to be Christian.

I've since found out that being a Christian:

- isn't going to church regularly
- isn't being nice to nice people most of the time
- and isn't giving money to a charity, sometimes.

I came to realise that the Bible, which is neither a history book, nor a science textbook, but a believable account of God's relationship with his people, has all the answers to life's questions. It is a lifestyle manual, amazingly as relevant to modern life as it was thousands of years ago.

Six weeks later I decided to stop drinking. I'd come to realise that I couldn't call myself a Christian if I was a drunk. Had I carried on drinking at the same crazy level I would have killed myself, no doubt about it.

Through determination, prayer and the support of my new Christian friends, I managed to give up booze for many months. But one day in August I was consumed with a desire to go to the pub, unable to resist the craving for alcohol.

In desperation, I opened a book I'd got second-hand from a small Christian bookshop in Loughborough the previous week. It was called "What's next", by Tom Bathgate and turned out to be the best 99 pence I'd ever spent, for it contained a prayer requesting God's help to resist temptation.

With little hope, I read it out. To my astonishment, the moment I finished reading all desire for drink disappeared - as instantaneous as flicking off a light switch. I had been healed by God's amazing grace!

That was almost 19 years ago and the craving for alcohol has never returned.

Since becoming a Christian my life has improved 100 per cent. I'm now happier than I've ever been before and wake up every day feeling blessed to be alive in this world.

I know too, without any doubt, that there is a meaning to this life, and it is to be found through a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

*Peter Lindahl*

## Gardening tips

Welcome to February! The winter hasn't been too bad for us yet – over the last month we have seen a little snow and frost coat our gardens which is always nice to see sparkling in the winter sunshine!

There is no greater feeling than to get out in our gardens on a winter's day even just for an hour; it makes such a difference.

I don't know about you, but I am sure the nights are slowly starting to draw out? And the gardens are starting to wake up as the spring bulbs make an appearance and in some places the early daffodils are in bloom.

Hellebores, which I absolutely love are showing plenty of colour at the moment and February is the month for snowdrops, so enjoy what colour your have coming in your garden and remember, Spring is on the way!

In this month's issue be looking at winter interest for your gardens, my plant of the month and why not have a go at my snowdrop quiz.

### Jobs in the garden this month

But first, here are a few jobs you can be getting on with throughout February.

- Mulch perennial vegetables such as Asparagus, Artichokes and Rhubarb with well-rotted manure or garden compost
- Start chitting early potatoes - stand them on end in a module tray or egg box and place them in a bright, cool, frost-free place
- Start sowing vegetable seeds such as leeks, onions and celeriac under cover
- Continue to plant bare-root trees, shrubs and roses as long as the ground is not frozen or waterlogged
- Soak sweet pea seeds in tepid water overnight before sowing them, this helps to speed up germination
- Cut back the old foliage from ornamental grasses before the new growth begins - trim them to within a few centimetres of the ground
- Prune winter-flowering shrubs such as Mahonia and Viburnum x bodnantense after they have finished flowering
- Plant new rhubarb crowns now; established rhubarb plants can be forced for an early crop
- Prune Winter Flowering Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) after flowering to encourage new growth for next year's blooms. Cut back the previous years growth to 5cm from the old wood



## Winter interest in the garden

Winter is often thought as a dull time in the garden but there are still plenty of plants that offer colour and interest and not by flower colour but by the stems and bark during the dormant season of trees and shrubs. I always try to encourage interest through the winter so here are five of my favourite plants for winter interest.

1. *Acer griseum*
2. *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire'
3. *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica'
4. *Prunus serrula*
5. *Salix alba* var. *vitellina*

## Snowdrop Quiz

1. What is the botanical name for Snowdrops?
2. Unscramble this Snowdrop species:  
VAIL SIN
3. When is the best time to divide Snowdrops?
4. Which author of fairy tales wrote the short story "The Snowdrop"?
5. What is the name given to someone who collects Snowdrops?



(see page 27 **Error! Bookmark not defined.** for answer)

## Gardener Steve's Plant of the Month

***Helleborus Orientalis*** (Christmas or Lenten Rose)



*Helleborus orientalis* is one of the nicest plants I can think of for colour in the garden in February, which is why it's my plant of the month. Hellebores produce large clusters of saucer-shaped flowers with white, pink, green, mauve or smoky purple flowers. The large leathery, evergreen leaves persist throughout the year but should be cut back in the

spring when flowers and new foliage emerge so then you can really focus on the magnificent blooms. Hellebores are perennial, long-lived, and become larger each year. They bring colour to any border and can be used in a rock garden and woodland garden and will even naturalise.

- Flowering period: Late winter to early spring
- Height and Spread: 30cm (12") - 90cm (36")
- Position: Sun or shade
- Soil: Humus - rich, well drained
- Hardiness: Hardy perennial
- Propagation: By division in early spring after flowering or in later in the year in September. Divide the clump into several pieces of a reasonable size and replant
- Pruning: Remove faded flowers after flowering and keep plants tidy by removing damaged leaves
- Pest and Diseases: They suffer from certain pest and disease problems such as hellebore aphid, hellebore black death, hellebore leaf miner and leaf spot. Remove affected leaves

### Finally...

I would love you to get in touch to share your gardening stories, news and photos from around and about or to ask a garden question. I look forward to hearing from you. Email me at [gardenersteve24@live.co.uk](mailto:gardenersteve24@live.co.uk).

*Steve Walton*

## Things to do in lockdown

Like everyone else, we are having to fill our days during this pandemic in different ways to usual. All our social events, clubs and friends/family visits are on hold. Perhaps we can help each other by sharing some ideas each month of little ways to pass our days, especially during these winter months.

What have you learned to do that's new? Have you rediscovered an old skill? Are you sharing books and jigsaws with neighbours?

Before Christmas, I dug out the school recorder that my son used to play and started to play Christmas carols (I did play a little when I was in Primary School 60 years ago!). I was surprised how satisfying it was to shut myself away and practise a little each day. Now Christmas is past I need to move on to other simple tunes.

I have good intentions of sorting out the big collection of family photos, but haven't got round to it yet.

What are you doing?

*Mary Murden*

---

## Waters Of Chad

(Wilne)

a discovery in the autumn  
eyes so closed it passed me by  
every once in a while  
I find there's beauty all around  
this is the spot to take your breath  
nothing more lovelier, break out a smile

so peaceful, I dare not move  
before I take in what's before me  
so soothing, a beautiful sight  
why has nobody told me  
about this wondrous place  
a secret kept so quiet



senses spark to smell and hear  
which way to walk  
time, my clock is no more  
water reflects, patterns I see  
nearer to water's edge  
a flock walk on the shore  
a moment as they approach  
aware there's beauty there

their voices, colour of their wings  
 moving to and fro, may not seem like much  
 but I feel like I'm where I ought to be  
 'cause these are beautiful beings

as we walk...with trees either side  
 their leaves dance in the breeze  
 how much more lovelier you can feel  
 that special aura ... surrounds you  
 the log...water's lapping in tune with nature  
 no matter...so wonderful its appeal

walk on wet leaves and clay  
 wrapped from winter's chilled breeze  
 as the sun bursts through branches bare  
 the water's alive with flock and colour  
 the more you see, the more you be  
 immersed in its beauty...you do care

this thing of beauty...waters of Chad  
 first seen in nineteen eighty five  
 let no man try to pull asunder  
 lest we disturb its swans...its calm...our wonder

© Johnny Sheehan Dec 2020

## Answer to snowdrop quiz

(see page 24)



1. Galanthus
2. Nivalis
3. In March after flowering
4. Hans Christian Andersen
5. Galanthophile

# 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	Paul Stuttle	
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
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### 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 6)

## 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
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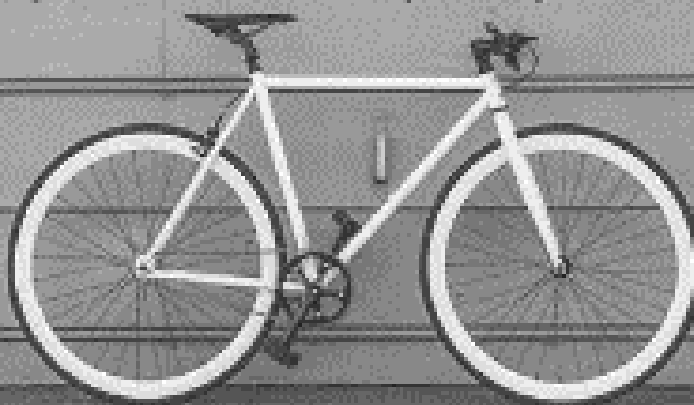
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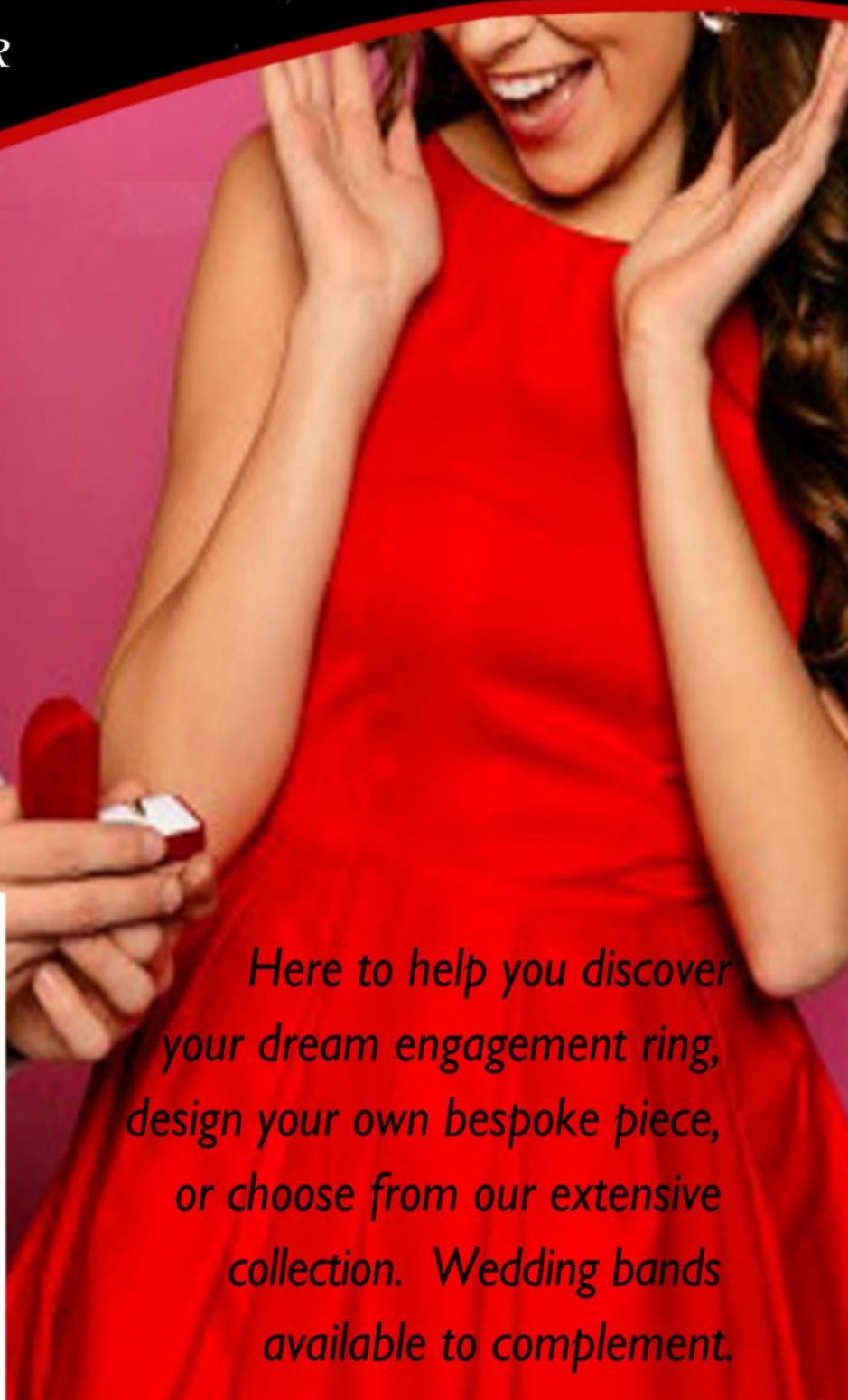
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