

EXCLUSIVE BY LUCY LAING.

AS Colette Reed cuddles her son Otis, she knows that it has taken a very special gift to make her a mum.

It is the end of an eight year battle to become a mum - after she was diagnosed with kidney failure.

She lost three babies before she was told by doctors not to even try to get pregnant as her kidneys were so badly damaged.

And that's when her partner Jonny Davey stepped in to give her one of his own kidneys - and allowed her to be a mum.

Amazingly after the transplant she was able to fall pregnant naturally and gave birth to Otis at the age of 45 in October 2016.

Miss Reed, now 47, said: 'Every time I look at him I know what a miracle it has been to have him - and it's only been made possible by Jonny.

'If he hadn't given me his kidney then I would have never been able to fall pregnant, and it would be too late for me to have ever been a mum.'

'He has not only given me the gift of life - but the gift of motherhood too.'

Miss Reed, who lives in Bourne, South Lincolnshire, was diagnosed with kidney failure seven years ago.

She said: 'I'd fallen pregnant in 2009 and I had a miscarriage and then in 2012 I had two more miscarriages.

'Doctors then tested my kidneys and diagnosed me with kidney failure. They told me that my kidney function was so low that I shouldn't even try to get pregnant.

'It was devastating. I told them if I stopped, then I would have no chance of ever being a mum.'

The doctors told Miss Reed that her only hope was to have a kidney transplant, but she could be waiting on the transplant list for years.

So her partner Mr Davey, 53, stepped forward and offered to give her one of his own kidneys.

She said: 'Jonny was determined to help me. He didn't want me to have a life on dialysis and he wanted to give me a chance to be a mum too.

'I was more nervous for him having the operation than myself - as it's someone who is perfectly healthy going through risky surgery.

'But he was determined that he was going to go through with it.'

The transplant took place in August 2013 at Leicester General Hospital and it was a success. The couple both made a full recovery afterwards. And 12 months after the transplant, they started trying for a baby again.

Miss Reed said: 'It was emotional after the transplant - we both hugged each other afterwards. It was wonderful what he had done for me.

'We had to wait a year for my body to recover from the transplant, so we knew that we didn't have time on our side.

'But we left it to fate - and if I was meant to be a mum, then it would happen naturally.'

At the beginning of 2016, Miss Reed discovered that she was pregnant, and the couple were thrilled. But she was cautious as she had already lost three babies.

She said: 'I knew that because of my age, then the pregnancy would be risky, so we had to prepare ourselves for the worst. We had already lost three babies so I didn't know what was going to happen.'

But the baby hung on. Her pregnancy went smoothly, although she developed anaemia. But she had to be induced four weeks early as her kidney function had started to drop, even with her transplanted kidney.

She said: 'The doctors said that they had to get the baby out straight away, before my kidney function started dropping even more.'

Baby Otis arrived by caesarian, weighing a healthy 6lb13.

Miss Reed added: 'It was amazing to be a mum at last. The odds were definitely stacked against me, falling pregnant naturally at 45, but Otis made it and he was healthy, so we feel really lucky.

'I do get asked if I'm his grandma, when I'm out shopping at the supermarket, and when I go to baby groups, and meet some of the mothers there, I'm old enough to be their mums too.

'But I've waited so long to be a mum, that it was worth the wait. And it's only thanks to Jonny that I've been able to do it, so I can't thank him enough.'