



# SPOTLIGHT

February 2025

visit [sarrattvillage.co.uk](http://sarrattvillage.co.uk)  
[hcsp.net](http://hcsp.net)

## ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE

SPOTLIGHT is produced by Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, for the people of the village and hamlets and welcomes reports of ALL village activities HOLY CROSS - making Jesus known - a church for the whole community

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### MORE ABOUT

The Benefice: [www.hcsp.net](http://www.hcsp.net)

the Village: [sarrattvillage.co.uk](http://sarrattvillage.co.uk)

## SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

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### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR, CHIPPERFIELD

**Priest** Fr. Richard Mway-Zeng, The Presbytery, 96 The Crescent, Abbots Langley WD5 0DS Tel. 266177

Sunday Holy Mass 10am Saturday Vigil Mass 6:30pm Tuesday/Friday Holy Mass 10am

### SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL: [visit sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://visit.sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Chair	Cllr. Sarah Dobson	07881 500488
Parish Clerk	Mrs Lena Mortimer	<a href="mailto:clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk</a> , or 262025
Parish Office hours	Monday to Thursday 9am – 3pm	

Alternative arrangements will be notified on the Office Door.

THREE RIVERS DC	District Councillor	Mr. Ciaran Reed	07584 430633
	District Councillor	Mr. Philip Hearn	<a href="mailto:Philip.hearn@threerivers.gov.uk">Philip.hearn@threerivers.gov.uk</a>
	District Councillor	Mr. Oliver Cooper	<a href="mailto:Oliver.cooper@threerivers.gov.uk">Oliver.cooper@threerivers.gov.uk</a>
HERTFORDSHIRE CC	County Councillor	Mr. Phil Williams	07738-293769
SARRATT CofE SCHOOL	Head Teacher	Mrs. N.O'Hare	262003
COMMUNITY BOOKINGS	Village Hall website:		<a href="http://www.sarrattvillagehall.co.uk">www.sarrattvillagehall.co.uk</a>
VILLAGE HALL	Bookings Secretary:		265881 or 07515-452124
		e-mail:	<a href="mailto:sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk">sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk</a>
SARRATT CARE	Hours: 10am - 12noon Monday to Friday		519975
POLICE	Neighbourhood Watch non-emergency number		101

Cover photo by Jeannie Poulton

## ***Rector's Ramblings***

As if from nowhere, 2025 has arrived and so has my first opportunity to wish most of you a very happy new year!

Again, I have to say, "Where did 2024 go?" (I'm sure I'm not the only one who has had that conversation recently). It feels like I blinked mid-summer in the array of so many fabulous weddings and then found myself preparing for Christmas and all the great mix of services we held at both St Paul's and Holy Cross during the season; we even managed to hold 'Christingle Forest Church' in the woods for all the children of St Paul's school, fill Holy Cross to bursting for carols and sneak a 'real-life' donkey into the church at St Paul's! The decs are down and the conversation in my house has mostly centred around trying to find a New Year's resolution, that I hadn't previously attempted and failed at and will no doubt fail at again!

Maybe you are the determined type and after all the indulging at Christmas, name your New Year's resolution and take yourself off to the gym or join the 'Couch to 5K' running program or joined a slimming group. Maybe, you smashed 'dry January', or explored 'Veganuary' or some other latest thing that will make you the best version of yourself for this coming year. The resolution list is endless, and there are even Apps to help you achieve them.

We choose to take up a New Year's resolution because we hope it will benefit us, they are positive steps in improving our life in one way or another, physically or mentally. But, in our looking ahead to the new and improved us, do we consider our spirituality? That part of us that constantly searches for the meaning in life, the purpose for our existence, the 'more and beyond' than the present world can offer us, that connection with God...creator of the physical world we experience. Spirituality is beyond our physical or material needs, it is a lifestyle that feeds our connectedness with God, each other and 'the you' that you truly are and were created to be; a child of God and an integral part of the world we live in alongside each other.

So, whether we are slogging on with our 'new year, new me' regimes or feeling guilty for having already given up, be reminded to go gently into this new year. Be kind to yourself and take time to simply be. To enjoy the simple pleasures, take a walk, read a book, smile at a stranger and laugh with your friends.

One of the greatest gifts I discovered in becoming a Christian was the freedom in the realisation that I am 'OK' just as I am and loved for all that I am by God (failed new year resolutions, mistakes & all!) May you know that you are too as we leave the crib and the carols in the distance for another year and start to head towards the crown and the cross of Easter in our yearly remembering.

If you would like to join us in some spiritual pondering this new year, why not get in touch to find out more. We will be running a course through Lent in preparation for Easter looking at life's big questions and what it means to have faith in our current times which you are all welcome to, or simply pop by and say hello at one of our services.

Miroslav Volf, the Croatian theologian and co-author of the book 'Life Worth Living' said that 'hope is love stretched into the future', so may this new year be a happy one, may this new year be a healthy one, but most of all may this new year be one where we are all filled with so much hope for all that is to come. Enough said!

Every blessing

Revd Sarah

## Inspire

When did you last take time out for yourself?  
Time to be still & consider the things that allow you the  
space to be inspired & grow as the woman you are called to be?

A new group, especially for women of all ages and backgrounds

We invite you to join us for time away from your busy lives to share & enjoy conversation, talks & activities over tea, coffee and cake as we encourage each other to flourish and grow.

Meeting in **St Paul's Church Parish Room**  
on the **first Monday of every month**, starting  
3<sup>rd</sup> February, beginning at **1.30pm**  
and finishing at around 3pm.

Please email Fay if you would like to know more  
[fay.dent@live.co.uk](mailto:fay.dent@live.co.uk)



# *PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS*

## **Simon James Macqueen MBE**

Newly appointed Chair of Watford FC's Sport and Community Trust and Sport England director of strategy, Simon has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to sport.



A former Sarratt Football Club player and Chairman, the 49-year-old has been “hugely important” to the growth of youth football at Sarratt Football Club and worked “at significant personal cost” during the pandemic - 7 days a week for many months - to lead the creation of the government's £600m Sport Survival Package.

Simon also raised more than £150,000 in two years for Alice's Arc, a charity established to fund research into the rare form of cancer that claimed the life of his daughter.

“I'm extremely honoured to have received this award,” he said, thanking his work colleagues, family, fellow trustees and the Sarratt Rebels coaching team. “Their support over the years has been incredible and, without which, I would not be receiving this award.”

## **Congratulations to Barbara Bivens**

It's not long ago that I was writing in these pages about a prestigious award by the FA to John Bivens of The Green, Sarratt, recognising his enduring service to football, but now it's Barbara's turn!

Barbara joined the Middlesex FA 25 years ago. She has served the County in almost every capacity from the Competition Committee to Disciplinary Chairman whilst continuing to work with John at North Greenford United FC. In both roles her energy, organisation and sheer commitment to grass roots football have created an extraordinary legacy, which has now been recognised by her election to the prestigious role of President of the Middlesex FA.

Barbara is the first woman to be elected to the position and she is committed to using her experience to enhance all grassroots football in the County. Her appointment coincides with rapid developments in the women's game and the role of women in football. I know that she will support and develop this important work.

Michael Lench

## Obituaries

### **Edith Helen Hall** (née Thomas)

12<sup>th</sup> August 1934 – 30<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Helen was born in Swansea in 1934. One of five children, she was academically gifted and went on to be appointed Head Girl at her High School. In 1962, she moved to London to study medicine at University College Hospital, after which posts in Swansea and at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford followed. After specialising in anaesthetics, Helen spent 4 years in Cape Town working with Dr Christiaan Barnard, the pioneering heart transplant surgeon. Before retirement, she was working as a consultant at Edgware Hospital.



Helen married Robert (Bob), also an anaesthetist, in 1974. After initially living in Oxhey, they purchased “Chevins” on The Green in 1998 and, after extensive work on the property, moved in the following year.

Helen had an active retirement: she volunteered with Victim Support and also helped organise meals on wheels in the village. She enjoyed the arts, in particular water-colour painting, sculpture and playing the piano. She was a member of Chorleywood Golf Club, played bridge, and was a regular attendee at a local book group.

In order to have more support Helen moved to Chorleywood Manor care home in 2022, where she continued to play bridge and joined the play-reading group. She passed away peacefully at the Rennie Peace Hospice in Watford.

Helen was a hugely supportive and generous aunt and great-aunt to her many nieces and nephews and their families. She will be very much missed by us all.  
Hugh Thomas (nephew)

### **Melvin Gibbs**

Sadly, Melvin Gibbs who lived in one of the flats in Alexandra Road passed away in Watford General Hospital on January 15th.  
May he Rest in Peace .

## In Memory of Eileen Adams

Sarratt Care has been offering a variety of facilities to this community for just over 35 years and for most of those years Eileen Adams was overseeing them all.

In her memory Sarratt Care have put up a notice board in the Café on the Green. This board is for care notices. At present there are notices about various ways home carers can seek support, the Shopper bus flyer and dates for the Coffee Corner and Lunches that take place in the Village Hall, plus several other information flyers. Anyone who had a notice or flyer for a care service that could benefit others in the community is welcome to use this board.



## The Friends of Holy Cross (FOHC)

A big thank you to everyone who came along the FOHC 70/80/90s disco. We are pleased to report that Punks, Mods, Hippies and Disco Divas managed to have a fabulous evening together!

Also, our thanks go to stallholders and shoppers who made the Christmas Fair at Micklefield Hall another success. Together these two events raised almost £7,000 which will go towards the new church heating project which is now underway.

Established in 1992 and run by a dedicated team of Committee members and lots of volunteers from across the village, the Friends raises funds for the preservation, maintenance and restoration of our beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> century Parish Church. Projects over the years have included the new roof, rebuilding walls, new paths and internal and external decoration.

Our annual **Flower Festival** attracts almost a thousand visitors and this year it will take place on **27–29 June** with an opening Jazz night on Friday 27 June. Please be sure to make a note in your 2025 diary!

For more details visit [www.friendsofholycross.co.uk](http://www.friendsofholycross.co.uk)





# **SARRATT CARE**

## **FEBRUARY UPDATE**

### **‘SARRATT COMMUNITY LUNCH’**

In the Village Hall on **Monday 17th February at 12.30**

For contact please ring Jacky Creed – details below

### **‘COFFEE CORNER’ and TREATMENTS**

(treatments include hairdressing, massage and chiropody)

In the Village Hall **from 10.30 to 12 noon**  
on **Wednesdays the 5th and 19th February**

For details please ring Jennifer Haynes on 590542 or  
07743 133736

### **TRANSPORT TO APPOINTMENTS**

To arrange for a volunteer driver  
please ring 07565 399349

### **ANY OTHER ENQUIRIES or PROBLEMS**

Please ring Jacky Creed on 519975 or 07769 045270  
If no reply please feel happy to leave a message

### **Warm Wednesdays**

**Café on the Green 10.30-12 Wednesdays 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February.**

All welcome.



## WHAT'S ON WHEN – February 2025

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Wed 5	Coffee Corner and Treatments - Sarratt Care	8
Sun 9	Wildlife Volunteers	20
Tues 11	The Arts Society Rickmansworth	10
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Wed 12	Warm Wednesday	8
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Wed 12	Charity Pub Quiz	11
Sun 16	Village Hall Sunday Market	11
Mon 17	Sarratt Community Lunch	8
Mon 17	Pints of View	10
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Wed 26	Warm Wednesday	8
 <b>March</b>		
Sat 8	Ceilidh Dance	12
Tue 11	Sarratt Local History Society	12

### ...AND THESE REGULAR MEETINGS

<p><b>Sarratt Mums, Toddlers and Baby Group:</b> 9.30-11.30am every Monday, term time only, in the Pavilion, KGV Playing Fields. We are a nice friendly group. Please come and join us. Enquiries to: <b>Daphne Tyler 07970 894205</b></p> <p><b>Sarratt Scouts:</b> Sarratt Scout Group: For boys and girls. Explorers (aged 14-18) meet Monday evening, Beavers (6-8) and Scouts (10-14) meet Wednesday evening, and Cubs (8-10) meet Thursday evenings. Enquiries <b>info@sarrattscoutgroup.org</b></p>	<p><b>Netherby Bridge Group</b> meets from 2-4.30pm on Thursdays in Sarratt Village Hall's Back Room. New individuals and pairs are welcome to join this friendly group of contract bridge players - £2 a session includes teas and biscuits. Contact <b>Margaret Stratford 01923 260475</b></p> <p><b>Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club:</b> Training on Saturdays at KGV Field - <b><u><a href="http://www.sarrattrebels.org">www.sarrattrebels.org</a></u></b></p>
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**'200 Years of the National Gallery'**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February in Sarratt Village hall**

**Simon Whitelaw**

Join us to hear the fascinating history of one of the world's greatest art galleries. In 1824, Lord Liverpool's Government bought 38 paintings for £57,000 from the heirs of philanthropist John Julius Augerstein, beginning the embryonic national collection then displayed in Augerstein's Pall Mall townhouse. By 1832, it was clear that a purpose-built gallery was necessary and the new National Gallery, designed by William Wilkins, opened on Trafalgar Square in 1838.

Suffragette sabotage, bombs and theft all featured in the gallery's early years. This fully illustrated lecture will explore these stories and give a closer look at the majestic, peerless art works, including some of the original '38'.

Simon Whitelaw is an actor, lecturer, presenter, voice coach and a London Blue Badge Guide, who has worked in-house at Shakespeare's Globe, the BBC and the National Gallery. Everyone is welcome – please join us.

**Refreshments from 10.30am and presentation at 11am.**

Hall entry for non-Members by suggested donation of **£8**.

Half-year Membership is now available – come along or see our website for more information.

Our website offers full details of our work [TASRickmansworth.org.uk](http://TASRickmansworth.org.uk)

**PINTS OF VIEW - MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY**

The first of Pints of View of 2025 will be held at **The Plough, Belsize**, on **Monday 17 February** at **8pm**. Paul Olney will introduce the evening's topic "Prison sentencing - too many prisoners or not enough?" How best can the Government protect the public, encourage rehabilitation of prisoners and reduce levels of re-offending? Join us at The Plough on 17/2. Everyone welcome.



John Guy

# CHARITY PUB QUIZ

AT THE COCK INN, SARRATT CHURCH END

WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025, STARTING AT 8pm

Entry £2 per person,  
with a maximum of **six persons** per team.

Cash prize for the winning team with at least  
half of entry fees being donated to:



Additional prize for the funniest and most original team name.

Come along and enjoy a fun evening.

Phone: 01923 282908 to book a table

Email: [info@cockinnsarratt.co.uk](mailto:info@cockinnsarratt.co.uk)

## February Sunday Market

If sadly thinking, with spirits sinking,  
Could, more than drinking, my cares compose  
A cure for sorrow from sighs I'd borrow,  
And hope tomorrow would end my woes.  
But as in wailing, there's nought availing,  
And fate unfailing will strike a blow;  
Then for that reason, and for a season,  
To the Sunday Market we must go.



So cheer up and come to the Village Hall Sunday Market on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February**, to see our reasonable and seasonal selection of crafts, bric-a-brac, home-made bakery and affordable antique stalls. Tea and coffee is available with biscuits and/or home made cakes. Start is **10am till 12.30**. Any enquiries please ring Larry on 265386.



SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
**A walk in time through Sarratt Bottom**  
**TUESDAY 11 MARCH 7.30 for 8.00 pm**

For centuries Sarratt Bottom has been a distinct and separate part of Sarratt with its own characters and stories. We will take a walk in time along Sarratt Bottom, from Long Meadow Cottages to Park Cottages, meeting some of the characters that have lived there and learn how the Bottom has changed over the centuries.

**Sarratt Village Hall - Refreshments from 7.30pm**  
**Non-Members welcome - £4 on the Door**  
[sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org](http://sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org)

Join our  
*Ceilidh dance*

with the fabulous  
**BRIMSTONE BAND**  
All the way from Chipping Norton

Saturday 8th March  
7pm - 11pm, Sarratt Village Hall

Tables of ten available and  
no experience necessary!

Tickets are £25 - bring your own  
supper & full bar available

Please contact Sue Clark on:  
[sue@suemclark.com](mailto:sue@suemclark.com)

All proceeds going to friends of Holy Cross Charity

## SARRATT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2025



Membership subs for Sarratt Horti Society are due now.

Our 2025 shows will be on **5th April** and **13th September** and we will be organising other events throughout the year.

The subscription remains *£3 per adult or £5 for a household* and can be left at the shop in an envelope marked with your name, address and email. New members can complete a membership form which is available from the shop or from the Membership Secretary- Audrey Hammett ([audreyhammett1@btinternet.com](mailto:audreyhammett1@btinternet.com)) and return it with the subscription at the shop. The form and lots of other information about our wonderful Horti Society can also be found on our website : [www.sarratthorti.co.uk](http://www.sarratthorti.co.uk).

Our Committee members will be delivering the show schedules and membership cards late January/February.

**The RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival** is a “must go to” event in the gardening calendar.

Sarratt Horti, as a member of the RHS, is able to get discounted tickets and we have booked a coach for **Thursday 3rd July**.

Travel and parking is not easy at Hampton Court so our coach booking offers members and friends the opportunity to attend without the hassle.

**To qualify for the discounted tickets we need to pay the RHS by the middle of February** so we need to know how many of you would like to come.

The price will be **£45.50** per person including ticket, coach and driver’s tip – the more we get the lower the cost.

All welcome and we would like to fill a large coach!

The coach will leave Sarratt Village Hall at 9.00am and return hopefully 5.30pm/6.00pm.

Please contact Jennifer Haynes as soon as possible if you would like to reserve space(s):

Tel: 01923 590542 email [jennifer.haynes777@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.haynes777@gmail.com).

## Sarratt Parish Council Notice

### VE DAY CELEBRATIONS - 8 MAY 2025

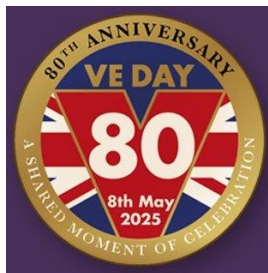
This year, 8 May will be the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and has been designated a national day of celebration by the Government. It will not be a Bank Holiday but it is hoped that, in common with other organisations and communities across the country, Sarratt will also celebrate this historic event.

In outline only, and broadly following the Government's suggestions, Sarratt Parish Council are proposing the following programme:

- 0900 VE Day Flag Raising and Commemorative Service –  
Sarratt Green
- 1730-1830 Family Picnics, stalls, fancy dress and activities –  
Sarratt Green
- 1830-1845 Bell-ringing (Holy Cross)
- 1845-2030 Picnics, activities continue
- 2030 Communal Singing
- 2045 Beacon/Bonfire Lit
- 2100 National Anthem

**It is hoped that individuals and organisations will want to take stands, organise activities and generally make this a celebratory event to mark the end of the war in Europe.**

Several organisations within Sarratt have been approached to help support this but we would welcome hearing from any other groups who would like to get involved; there will be a meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28 January in The Cricketers to discuss. In addition, all, and any suggestions, are welcome. If you are able to help or have an idea, please contact the Parish Office, [clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk) , or Simon Diggins, [simon.diggins@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:simon.diggins@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk) .



## Visitors to Holy Cross Church 2024

I have always been interested as to where the visitors to Holy Cross come from and what they think of our church, so here is what I found from the entries for 2024 in the visitors' book.

There were 99 entries but with 131 names entered and it seems that 40% of visitors lived within a 20 mile radius of Sarratt with most of these within just 10 miles and nearly a further 20% were from the Greater London area. This is not surprising as it is such a popular area for walkers, cyclists and motorists alike. Others were from further away: 3 from Wiltshire, 2 each from Bedfordshire and Norfolk and just one visitor from Cambridgeshire and Essex. Then there are the overseas visitors from 12 countries: Australia led the field with 9, USA with 5, France 4, New Zealand 2 and one each from Brazil, Hungary, India, Italy, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa and Ukraine.

The comments left by visitors are interesting too! A great many talked about the peace and serenity that they found in such an historic place of worship, they thanked us for having the church open, for the information available and for providing somewhere for a quiet prayer or to light a candle in memory of a loved one. Others were revisiting the church where they had been married many years before, or visiting the graves of loved ones. One Australian lady was amazed to see where her mother had been baptised and her grandparents married and a USA family came because three generations of their ancestors were buried here.

Philip Buller

## SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES

**Serving our community 7 days a week  
(A Community Interest Company)**



As we get into the rhythm of 2025, we are pleased to offer a refreshed variety of juices, non-alcoholic wines & beers, healthy grains and real fruit Yo Yos in five different flavours.

Our regular ordering opportunities continue by popular demand : for a selection of premium quality meats and cuts from Native Beef please order by midday on a Monday for collection on Wednesday and for fresh fruit & vegetables (still at our new, lower prices) please order by Wednesday for pick up on a Friday. All forms are available in the shop.

For all your travel money requirements this year the Post Office has Euros and US Dollars in stock and for all other currencies please order online by 1pm for collection the following working day.

We look forward to seeing you soon and in the meantime please follow us for latest news and updates posted in the left hand window of our noticeboard and on

Facebook: sarratt post office stores Instagram: sarrattpostofficestores

### **Community Carols and Cake at Holy Cross**

The good people of Sarratt and beyond turned out in force for the Holy Cross 'Community Carols and Cake' service on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Intermingled with the carols were items from groups in the village: Sarratt School, Sarratt Scouting Group, the Community Garden and Sarratt Care all contributed, ably compèred by Revd. Sarah.

Sarratt Community Stores sang their own version of The Twelve Days of Christmas which ended -

On the twelfth day of Christmas my truelove sent to me:  
Twelve Chilterns Chillin',  
Eleven Proseccos Poppin',  
Ten Freddos leaping,  
Nine logs o' kindlin',  
Eight cards a-greeting,  
Seven ales a-brewing,  
Six Flowers Blooming,  
FIVE VOLUNTEERS!  
Four Quirky Birds,  
Three French Sticks,  
Two Jacket Spuds,  
and A box of flavoured tea!



If you don't know what all these are, perhaps you'd like to pop into Sarratt Stores and find out!

It was a thoroughly 'Sarratt' occasion which was enjoyed by all and was followed by more cake than we could eat. Let's hope it becomes a regular feature on the Sarratt calendar!

### **A Ballad of Sarratt in the Chess Valley** (read by Sarah and Jenny)

In the heart of Chess Valley, where the rivers run free,  
Lies Sarratt, a village as charming can be.  
With its rolling green pastures and skies that inspire,  
It's a haven of peace (and occasional mire).



The Post Office Store is the hub of the town,  
Where gossip and groceries keep spirits from down.  
A loaf of fresh bread, a good local tale,  
And stamps for the letters you've been meaning to mail.

The village boasts pubs—count 'em, there's three!  
For a pint or a pie or some fine repartee.  
The Boot, the Cricketers, and The Cock all declare,  
“Around here, good cheer is as fresh as the air!”

The Community Garden is verdant and neat,  
With veg plots and flowers—a grower's retreat.  
The Scouts tie their knots and they march in a line,  
Singing campfire songs 'til the moon starts to shine.

At John Adams Nursery, plants bloom and they thrive,  
It's the green-fingered beacon that keeps us alive.  
Then Biggerstaffs Garage to fill up on fuel  
And a chat with Diane who remembers us all

The Women's Institute gathers with glee,  
With tea, witty banter, and biscuits (or three).  
Their craftwork is clever, their bakes win the prize,  
And they're known for their wisdom, their laughs, and their pies.

The dog walkers roam through the mist-covered trails,  
Their canines in tow with wagging white tails.  
The horse riders, too, clip-clop by The Green,  
With steeds that look fit for a posh magazine.

Holy Cross Church, with its spire so tall,  
Is a place of reflection, of peace to us all.  
Its bells call the faithful, its choir takes wing,  
Their hymns are the notes of a village that sings.

And then there are those who spread kindness galore,  
The helpers, the fixers, the givers of more.  
With hampers for neighbours and smiles to share,  
Sarratt's warm heart beats through Sarratt Care.

So here's to this village, this gem in the shire,  
Where goodwill and laughter burn bright as a fire.  
For in Chess Valley's heart, Sarratt takes the prize—  
A community golden beneath English skies.

# **The Church of the Holy Cross, Sarratt, and St Paul's Church, Chipperfield**

The Church of England Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

Benefice website: [www.hcsp.net](http://www.hcsp.net)

Rector: Revd Sarah Miles

Church Administrator: Sonya Tolmie

[holycrossstpauls@outlook.com](mailto:holycrossstpauls@outlook.com) 01923 264377

Holy Cross Church is closed at present, to enable improvements to be made to the church heating. It is hoped the work will be completed by 15 February. Until Holy Cross re-opens, all services will take place at St Paul's. For the most up-to-date information, please see our Benefice Weekly News Sheet on the Benefice website [hcsp.net](http://hcsp.net).

**Everyone is welcome to attend any service in the Benefice**

*Church Opening Times*

**Holy Cross is closed for the heating work at present,**

but normally is open each day between 9am and 4pm

St Paul's is open each day between 10am and 4pm



# CHURCH CALENDAR

Holy Cross Church is closed at present, to enable improvements to be made to the church heating. It is hoped the work will be completed by 15 February. Until Holy Cross re-opens, all services will take place at St Paul's. For the most up-to-date information, please see our Benefice Weekly News Sheet on the Benefice website hcsp.net.

## FEBRUARY 2025

### Sunday 2 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

#### Candlemas

10.45am Benefice Eucharist (Holy Communion) St Paul's

### Sunday 9 4th Sunday before Lent

10.45am Benefice Eucharist St Paul's

### Sunday 16 3rd Sunday before Lent

9am

Morning Worship\*

*\* Morning Worship will take place,  
if the work at Holy Cross has finished*

10.45am All Together Service with Benefice Eucharist  
and breakfast St Paul's

6.30pm Compline (traditional night prayer) \*\* Holy Cross

*\*\* If the work at Holy Cross is unfinished,  
Compline will be held at St Paul's*

### Sunday 23 2nd Sunday before Lent

9am

Morning Worship

St Paul's

10.45am Benefice Eucharist

Holy Cross

## MARCH 2025 (first part of month)

### Sunday 2 Sunday next before Lent

9am

Morning Worship

Holy Cross

10.45am Benefice Eucharist

St Paul's

***Please continue to pray for the health of our nation and for  
each other***

## Wildlife Volunteers

We finally managed to cut back the hedge alongside Quickmoor Pond at Commonwood on Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup>. This task had to be postponed from December due to one of the raging storms around that time. The Sunday in January was very frosty and cold but suitable for the task in hand, especially as we were working on the road itself for some of the time so had a sure footing.

It was wonderful to have a new recruit, and to have the strong arms of a couple of neighbours. The job was completed so that the hedge will thicken up to provide nesting sites and shelter. It is mainly hazel, with ash and hawthorn too.

Our next session on **Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>** will again be at Commonwood, but this time we shall be having another go at clearing the overgrowth in the Old Chalk Pit on the Common. Meet at **10am in the car park on Commonwood Common**. Please bring your own refreshments and strong gloves, tools are provided.

Do think about joining us. It's fun and good exercise in the fresh air, and we are doing our bit for the local environment and wildlife.

Contact Dawn for more information – 267071 or

[dawnmlpitts@btinternet.com](mailto:dawnmlpitts@btinternet.com).

## Sarratt Football Club

The final few weeks of 2024 proved to be tough, as we were defeated by Stony Stratford Town, before also falling, by only a single goal, to both New Bradwell St. Peter and local rivals Bovingdon. With poor weather bringing frozen pitches in January, only a single game was played at King George. We defeated Tring Corinthians 2-1, thanks to goals from Tommy Brooks and Alex Marsh. We're currently in 10th place in the league. Having played less games than several of the teams above us, we're hoping to be climbing back up the table in no time.



Our Reserves continue to courageously battle the challenge of Herts Senior County League Division Two. A first league win of the season finally came at the start of January, when goals from Russ Fardon, Maino Anderson, Ben Davis, Asha Alleyne-Nodwell and Sam Acheampong secured a 5-3 victory on the road at Totteridge & Whetstone.

You can keep up to date with all the latest Sarratt FC news on social media. Find us at [@SarrattFC](https://twitter.com/SarrattFC) on X/Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Admission to King George V Playing Fields on matchday is FREE!  
Draught beer, tea, coffee, cold drinks and snacks are all available to purchase in the KGV Pavilion. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

### **Upcoming Home Fixtures (Subject to Change)**

8th February - First Team vs. New Bradwell St. Peter (2:00pm)

15th February - Reserves vs. Norsemen (2:00pm)

22nd February - First Team vs. Newport Pagnell Development (2:00pm)

1st March - Reserves vs. Everett Rovers Reserves (2:00pm)

4th March - First Team vs. Aston Clinton (2:00pm)

**Tom Scarborough**  
*Sarratt FC Secretary*

### **Sarratt WI**

Our first meeting of 2025 was 8th January in the hall.

We discussed the current draft resolutions from

National WI for their 2025 campaign and Members

were invited to vote for one of the resolutions to take forward.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

The resolutions were:

1. Bystanders can be life savers. 2. Eliminate landfill of medication and packaging 3. Let's talk about incontinence. 4. Join the repair revolution

A majority of Members voted for 'Bystanders can be lifesavers' and this will be put forward to the regional WI organisation.

On **February 12<sup>th</sup>**, our talk will be '**Frank Sinatra and the Mafia**'

In March it will be 'Man on the Spot' by Bill Hamiton

We have a walk every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month followed by a pub lunch. In January, we enjoyed a walk at Rickmansworth Aquadrome followed by lunch at The Feathers.



Why not give us a try? See you **2.15pm** at **Sarratt Village Hall** on the **second Wednesday of the month**. You will be given a

warm welcome with tea and cake! A lovely friendly way to spend an afternoon. Or phone our President Leone on 07894 421748 for more information.

## Cancer Research UK and Steam On The Green

Hundreds of people came out on Boxing Day to look at the vehicles on display at Steam On The Green. A few stopped to share their personal stories and many were extremely generous with their donations to Cancer Research UK. The total collected was very kindly rounded up by Dave Buckler to a terrific £1,100.



Huge thanks to everyone that donated and to the collectors especially Mrs G Brownsell, Helen Mooney, Ellen Kilchmann, Cathy Vines and Clare Bennett who gave up some of their festive time for this worthy cause.

On behalf of the local committee for CRUK  
Kath Curtis and Mariet Bramall

## Sarratt Scout Group

*Gavin Daly, Verity Allen, Dan Haynes, Sarah Dobson*



At the time of writing this article for the February Spotlight, each of our Sections have held just one meeting since the Christmas break, so not a huge amount to report on!! The section leadership teams have however planned lots of exciting and challenging activities for the Spring Term and we look forward to letting you know what we've been up to in the March edition.

After the success of our 2nd Quiz Night last November we would like to let everyone know the date for the **2025 quiz**, which will be held on **Saturday 8 November**. So please log this in your diaries and look out for more details nearer the time.

If you have a child who would like to join the Scout Group please contact us at: [admissions@sarrattscoutgroup.org](mailto:admissions@sarrattscoutgroup.org)

All our Sections are open to both boys and girls.

Beavers: Age 5¾ - 8 years - Meets Wednesday

Cubs: Age 8 - 10½ years - Meets Thursdays

Scouts: Age 10½ - 14 years - Meets Wednesdays

Explorers: Age 14 - 18 years - Meets Mondays

Lastly, **we are always looking out for new volunteers** to help with the Scout Group, particularly our weekly meetings. Could you help us? The only skills needed are an enthusiasm for working with young people and helping them develop new skills. As adult volunteers we also get to try out new things and develop our skills too, plus it's a lot of fun!! If you're interested in finding out more, please get in touch at: [info@sarrattscoutgroup.org](mailto:info@sarrattscoutgroup.org)

# Parish Council Report

Sarah Dobson



The following report covers the key points arising from the SPC Meeting held on Tuesday 14 January.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day falls on 8 May 2025. The Government has announced this should be marked with a national 'Shared Moment of Celebration' (rather than commemoration). However, 8 May will not be a public / bank holiday. SPC would therefore like to propose an evening event on Sarratt Green and has approached several organisations in the Village to help arrange something – see notice earlier in Spotlight for more details and how to get involved.

## PLANNING

### ***Neighbourhood Plan:***

There has been another delay in this process as TRDC issued an old version of the plan for the District Consultation over Summer 2024. It appears TRDC also passed the old version to the Examiner for her latest review of the plan. It is more than likely the District Consultation will therefore have to be re-run with the correct version. TRDC have assured us the latest version will go out for consultation as soon as possible. It is hoped it will still be possible to present the plan for a Parish Referendum at the same time as the local elections in May.

### ***Royal British Legion Outline Planning Application, 24/1833/OUT:***

SPC has submitted comments to TRDC on the above application to build 18 new dwellings on the site, of which 8 will be affordable. Further details and SPC's comments can be viewed on the TRDC website [www.threerivers.gov.uk](http://www.threerivers.gov.uk) by clicking through to the planning section and entering the reference number above in the search field.

### ***Review of current Planning Applications:***

- **24/2069/PDE & 24/2070/PDE & 24/2071/PDE: Doggetts, Penman's Hill, Belsize, WD4 9DJ - [Prior Approval: Single storey rear extension \(depth 8.00 metres, maximum height 3.85 metres, maximum eaves height 3.35 metres\)](#)**

*SPC: Noted. We understand this property is locally listed, so we request that checks are made that these proposals do not impact that status. [Same response for each of these 3 applications]*

- **24/2047/FUL: Tarn, Dunny Lane, Belsize, WD4 9DQ - Erection of a part single, part two storey rear extension; raising of ridge height; front and rear dormers and front roof lights; alterations to fenestration and internal alterations.**

*SPC: No objection on the basis this extension is less footprint than permitted development options and due to the existing plot size there is no impact on the neighbouring properties.*

- **24/2008/FUL: Corner House, Redhall Lane, Chandlers Cross, WD3 4LX - Variation of Condition 2 (Plans) pursuant to planning permission 23/1192/FUL to allow the raising of ridge height, addition of two rear dormers; installation of rooflights to flat roof and side elevation, alterations to fenestration detail.**

*SPC: No objection to this variation on the basis that it will have very minimal external effect and will increase the use of insulation.*

- **24/1919/PDT: The Laurels, White Shack Lane, Chandlers Cross, WD3 4ND - Prior approval: Enlargement of the dwellinghouse by the construction of one additional storey (4.77m height) and raising of ridge to result in an overall height of 7.95m (Class AA)**

*SPC: Noted. We assume checks will be made to ensure that neighbouring properties are not unduly impacted by this application.*

- **24/1981/FUL: Dellfield House, Plough Lane, Sarratt, WD3 4NL - Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a two storey side extension including accommodation in the roof space served by rooflights and internal alterations**

*SPC: No objection on the basis this application will result in minimal footprint change, not impact any neighbouring properties and will significantly improve energy efficiency.*

- **24/1975/FUL: Langdale, Bucks Hill, WD4 9AT - Erection of a single storey side and rear extension; erection of a single storey front extension; internal alterations.**

*SPC: No objection on the basis that this application appears to be smaller and will have less impact to neighbouring properties than the previously approved application.*



- **24/1964/CLPD: Sandfield, Dawes Lane, Sarratt, WD3 6BQ - Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Demolition of existing conservatory and side projection; construction of a single storey side and rear extension; and alterations to fenestration.**  
*SPC: No objection*
- **24/1950/FUL: Cottage Farm, Redhall Lane, Chandlers Cross, WD3 4LT - Demolition of existing buildings and construction of four dwellings including terraces with associated landscaping and parking provision.**  
*SPC: We welcome the intention to redevelop the underutilised and deteriorating existing buildings and the aim to bring biodiversity net gain to this site. As the site is in Green Belt, exceptional circumstances are needed to override policies to allow building of new dwellings. Unfortunately, we do not believe that 4 bedroom houses match the local needs and as such do not qualify as exceptional circumstances. We would like to also note that it is understood that most of the current vehicle traffic enters the neighbouring site, so the result of this application may lead to an increase in vehicle traffic on the application site.*
- **24/1995/PDF: The Mulberry Bush, Moor Lane, Sarratt - Prior Notification: Change of use of 3no. agricultural building to flexible commercial use Class C1 (hotels)**  
*SPC: Noted. We also note that the Herts Highways response incorrectly includes the Dawes Lane entrance as access. The Dawes Lane entrance by formal agreement is for agricultural use only, so will not apply for the leisure use referenced in this application.*

### ***Recent TRDC Planning Decisions***

This month, all the decisions made by TRDC were aligned with SPC's comments.

- **24/1918/PDE: The Laurels, White Shack Lane, Chandlers Cross, WD3 4ND - Prior Approval: Single storey rear extension (depth 5.40 metres, maximum height 2.59 metres, maximum eaves height 2.59 metres)**  
*SPC: Noted*  
*TRDC: No objection*

- **24/1801/CLPD: Penman's, Penman's Green, Sarratt, WD4 9AZ - Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Stationing of caravan/mobile home for ancillary residential use.**  
*SPC: Noted*  
*TRDC: Approved*
- **24/1684/FUL: Paddock Cottage, Old House Lane, Kings Langley, WD4 9AA - Construction of a single storey outbuilding.**  
*SPC: (Neutral) Although plans appear to be appropriate to the location, we have general concerns about any new building in a Green Belt area. If officers are minded to approve we ask that restrictions are added to ensure the building remains ancillary to the main dwelling and permitted development rights are removed.*  
*TRDC: Approved (ancillary restriction added)*
- **24/1527/FUL: The Old Gate, Bucks Hill, WD4 9BR - Installation of flood lighting and external lighting of menage and stable area**  
*SPC: We object to this application on the basis of the information provided, and other inputs, that it will provide unacceptable level of light pollution to the neighbouring properties. There are alternative lighting solutions for this type of application that can be installed closer to the ground that will achieve the desired usage without impacting the neighbouring properties.*  
*TRDC: Refused*
- **24/1946/NAC: Chiltern Hills Golf Course, Green Street, Chorleywood - Neighbouring Authority Consultation: Buckinghamshire County Council PL/24/2859/FA: Reconfiguration of existing 9-hole golf course and construction of a golf driving range; construction of green plateau for use as football playing pitches, including 1no. permanent 11v11 football pitch with floodlights; erection of temporary changing facilities; erection of permanent clubhouse; and associated access, landscaping and parking.**  
*SPC: Noted*  
*TRDC: No objection*

### ***Planning Appeals***

APP/P1940/W/24/3346997 & APP/P1940/W/24/3349084 - land to the rear of 47 Church Lane, Sarratt WD3 6HN - Demolition of existing structures and construction of five detached dwellings with associated parking, bin and cycle storage, landscaping and access improvements. Ref. No: 24/0023/REF - No further update.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- SPC approved funding of £6,200 from reserves for the removal of an Ash tree that needs attention immediately. Funding has been earmarked in the SPC budget for 2025/26 commencing in April to start execution of the works deemed necessary by the 10-year Woodland Management Plan. SPC are currently seeking anyone who would be interested in supporting the Council to project manage implementation of the plan. This would be on a part time basis – a couple of hours a week at most. If interested, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.
- SPC is in the process of gathering quotations for the remedial work to the Cricketer's Pond to clear the sweetgrass and excess lilies and reeds.
- The sycamore by Springfield and opposite Moor Lane that is currently cordoned off for safety reasons is due to be felled by UK Power contractors in January.
- Greg Edmund from the Sarratt Local History Society was given permission by the Council to again metal detect the north end of Sarratt Green following the Boxing Day Car Festival. He made a number of significant finds and will be compiling a report for SPC and the History Society.

## **POLICY & RESOURCES**

Payments made since the last meeting were approved, and Cllr Lowry advised spending was on track to come in on budget at the end of the financial year on 31 March.

SPC has submitted its budget (Precept) request to TRDC - £111,045, equating to a 2.5% increase on the current year. SPC was subsequently notified by TRDC that the number of households in Sarratt Parish, which is used to calculate the amount of Council Tax payable by each Band D equivalent household, has fallen by 8 houses. As a result, the Council Tax payable by each Band D equivalent household in the Parish for SPC's services in 2025/26 will increase by 68p, bringing the annual figure to £101.08.

The following policies were reviewed as part of the Council's 2-year policy review cycle: Code of Conduct, and its procedures for dealing with Complaints, Grievances and Unreasonably Persistent or Vexatious Complaints. The January 2025 versions of these policies can be found on the SPC website.

## HIGHWAYS

The Clerk and Jackie Creed (Sarratt Care) are looking to establish a **‘Shopper Bus’ Service** for Sarratt. It is planned to run on Tuesdays and Thursdays with home pick-ups to Rickmansworth for the cost of £3. It will potentially also be available for group trips on Wednesdays. The Clerk is also trying to set up a line of communication with Red Eagle buses and Herts Highways in order to be advised when the regular bus service is delayed or diverted due to roadworks / road closures so parishioners can be informed.

The Clerk, together with representatives from the other Parish Councils in Three Rivers attended a meeting at the District Council Offices with the Herts Police Chief Inspector Andrew Palfreyman. The Clerk reported that the meeting had been very worthwhile, and that she had been able to communicate the individual demands of Sarratt Parish in Policing terms.

### **State of the Roads**

Severe weather has exposed the poor condition of our roads; a diversion, following the sewage leakage in Dimmocks Lane, was via Bottom Lane, which was completely flooded!

SPC has written to HCC Highways and our County and District Councillors, requesting a meeting to strategically address the highways problems being faced in Sarratt with a view to agreeing a plan of action. An acknowledgement has been received from County Councillors’ Roberts and Williams and from the office of Gagan Mohindra MP. Cllr Williams is tasked with helping to organise the meeting with Herts Highways’ officials.

Parishioners are requested to continue to report faults to

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/report-a-problem/report-a-highway-fault/what-type-of-fault-are-you-reporting.aspx> or via the Parish Office.

### **Sewage Leak Dimmocks Lane.**

A severe sewage leak, affecting many properties, occurred just after the New Year. Thames Water were very slow to respond but eventually resolved the blockage. Outstanding immediate issues include the clean-up and compensation for householders affected. Longer-term, it would be good to know if this is a bigger problem within the village and, looking ahead, how the system will cope potentially an extra 100 houses going forward. It is understood there is not a specific record of sewage leaks, but residents may be able to advise and should notify the Clerk if they have any relevant information they can pass on.

## OTHER MATTERS

### ***KGV Playground***

Cllr Alder was able to report that Caloo had applied a new surface to the basketball area of the playground. Cllr Alder will confirm that the work is satisfactory and that the job can be closed.

### ***Sarratt Fair***

The organisers of the Sarratt Fair have advised they would like to book a date in July. SPC noted the date in July last year was unsatisfactory as it came after the schools had broken up for summer, with many families already away. SPC will notify the Fair organisers they would rather the Fair to be reinstated in May. It had previously been moved to July due to COVID, and last year due to a clash with the Coronation Day celebrations.

### ***Emergency Response***

The Village Hall Committee have agreed the hall can be used as an evacuation centre in the event of a major disaster in the district which results in people having to evacuate their homes. Training sessions are taking place in January and February.

## NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting of Sarratt Parish Council will be held at **7:30pm on Tuesday 11 February in the Rear Room of Sarratt Village Hall**. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.

To contact SPC please telephone Mrs. Lena Mortimer, the Parish Clerk, on 01923 262025 or email her at [clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk)



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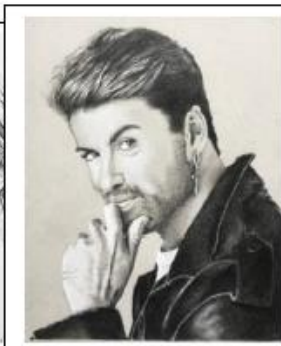


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Our thanks to Carol Chorley for this photo of the handbell ringers outside Sarratt Stores at Christmas.



**DEADLINE for March is Sunday 16 February**