

**WELCOME to the Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield**  
**Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, & St Paul's Church, Chipperfield**  
 Everyone is welcome to attend any of the services in our churches  
 St Paul's Church is open each day between 10am - 4pm  
 Benefice Office: 01923 264377 Benefice website [www.hcsp.net](http://www.hcsp.net)

**Friday 7 March – World Day of Prayer 2025**

Churches together in Sarratt, Chipperfield & Bovingdon

**10.30am**

**Service for World Day of Prayer – St Lawrence's, Bovingdon**  
 followed by refreshments. Everyone welcome

**Sunday 9 March – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**9am**

**Morning Worship – St Paul's – Angela Coakley**

**10.45am**

**Benefice Eucharist – Holy Cross – Revd Robert Riley-Brale**

**Sunday 16 March – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**9am**

**Benefice Eucharist – Holy Cross**

**10.45am**

**All Together Family Service with guest speakers – St Paul's**  
**with guest speakers from the Church Mission Society (CMS)**

**6.30pm**

**Compline (Traditional Night Prayer) – Holy Cross**

**Sunday 23 March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**9am**

**Morning Worship – St Paul's**

**10.45am**

**Benefice Eucharist – Holy Cross**

## **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR SUSAN (SUE) ELLIS**

The memorial service will be held on Thursday 20 March, at 2.15pm, in St Paul's church. Followed by refreshments in the Parish Room. Family flowers only.

## **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR PATRICIA CHERRY**

The memorial service will be held on Monday 7 April, at 2pm, in St Paul's church.

Our bible readings for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent  
9 March

### **Romans, chapter 10 verses 8b – 13**

<sup>8</sup> 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,' that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup> if you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, 'Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.' <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

*and*

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
Luke, chapter 4 verses 1 - 13**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

<sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.'

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone."' "

<sup>5</sup> The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. <sup>7</sup> If you worship me, it will all be yours.'

<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."' "

<sup>9</sup> The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup> For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you carefully;

<sup>11</sup> they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered, 'It is said: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you O Christ**

## NEW PRAYER GROUP

A new Prayer Group is starting in Sarratt on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The first one will be on Wednesday, 9 March, at 7.30pm. We will be meeting in Holy Cross and praying specifically for our Church, the wider Benefice and the community. All are very welcome.

## MUSIC EXAM DATES IN ST PAULS CHURCH

Date	Start time	End time
2025-03-10	09:00	17:05
2025-03-17	09:00	17:05
2025-03-24	09:00	17:05
2025-03-27	09:00	17:00
2025-03-29	09:00	17:05
2025-03-31	09:00	17:05
2025-04-03	13:30	17:00

## HOLY CROSS CLEANING ROTA – MORE VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

We are most grateful to those on the rota, who take it in turns to keep Holy Cross clean and tidy. Nikki Clough, who maintains the rota, would welcome additional volunteers, so that each cleaner's turn comes around only every 2 or 3 months or so. Please get in touch with Nikki to be added to the rota or to obtain further information.

Nikki can be contacted on 07795 362953 or [cloughnic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cloughnic@yahoo.co.uk)



**Both our Churches presently hold the Bronze award.**

Our Churches recognise that private gardens and other outdoor spaces can make a significant contribution to nature. Over the coming weeks we will provide information here on how to relook at your own garden, or local outdoor spaces, to help increase nature in some way.

This week we look at ponds...

***All the links are at the end of the article***

## WHY?

Fresh water is a gift from God in creation; people, plants and animals rely on it in order to survive, yet freshwater sources are amongst the most imperilled habitats in the UK. According to the Freshwater Habitats Trust, pollution, agricultural runoff, drainage and channelisation mean 92% of ponds in the UK are degraded, and there are no undamaged lowland rivers in England and Wales: [https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/FHT-Strategy-booklet\\_Sep13\\_web-version.pdf](https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/FHT-Strategy-booklet_Sep13_web-version.pdf)

Ponds, our smallest standing freshwater bodies – punch above their weight in making a positive impact for nature. Even a very small puddle can benefit wildlife!



## LARGER PONDS IN THE GROUND

If you do have the space to build a larger wildlife pond set into the ground, a clean water supply, sunlight, shallow depth, and gentle edges are the most important factors to consider. It can be 'natural' or 'formal' and the shape doesn't matter, so be creative! Alternatively buy a fixed-form pond, in which case be sure to dig the matching shape accurately.

**Sunlight:** Choose a relatively sunny, warm location to help insects such as dragonflies.

**Depth:** 50% of the pond should be shallow (about 10 cm or less, the depth of the shallows can vary). Most wildlife do not need the deepest part of the pond to exceed 30cm. Froglife recommends having a section at 60cm to protect frogs from extremes of weather in winter. Consider creating a bog garden too, you can do this adjacent to the pond by extending the liner into this area, piercing it and replacing the soil: <https://www.froglife.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/JAW2014-for-printing-HLF1.pdf>

**Gentle edges:** These are essential to enable wildlife to escape from the water. You could use some of the soil dug out from the deepest part of the pond to reshape the edges into a gentle slope in order to allow hedgehogs, toads and other wildlife to exit from the water.

**Liners:** After digging your pond, if you have thick clay soil which holds water, you've finished! If you are on better drained soil, you will need to add a pond liner. Remove any sharp stones from the bottom of the pond to avoid punctures, and you may wish to add a layer of sand to lengthen the life of the liner. Old carpet is used sometimes, but this carries a risk of chemicals leaching into the soil or bacteria congregating on the carpet. Liners are available from a number of suppliers. You can either obtain a pre-formed liner (in which case you have to dig the hole to match) or flexible liners which come in varying sizes and prices of PVC or rubber, the latter being more durable.

## HOW?

### MINI PONDS: CONTAINERS, PUDDLES AND RAINWATER PLANTERS

Not all churches will have the space or suitable soil to build a pond in the ground. You can still help wildlife by providing a regularly watered puddle, making a container pond or building a rainwater planter.

Puddles provide a source of clean drinking water, as well as baths for birds, which help them stay parasite free. Mud puddles are an important source of building materials for some insects, and for birds such as house martins and swallows.

A pond in a container such as a washing up bowl or disused sink is still hugely worthwhile. In fact anything that is water tight. Container ponds are safer for children and of benefit to all sorts of interesting insects and birds who will come and drink. Ensure that any wildlife that falls in will be able to climb out, so perhaps include a textured ramp to allow this. Make sure you clean containers thoroughly every year to prevent them being a vector for parasites or disease. You will need to keep them topped up in the summer in hotter periods. Collected rainwater is the best option:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond>

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to-grow-plants/three-ways-to-make-a-pond-in-a-pot/>

Perhaps you don't want standing water at all, or you'd like to reduce flooding? In that case, what about a rainwater planter (like Trinity Lewes in our case study)?

<https://www.southeastriverstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Planter-instructions.pdf>

**Clean water supply and planting:** If possible fill the pond with collected rainwater or wait for the pond to fill itself from the sky. Most tap water is full of nutrients, which is not good for pond life. If you do have to use tap water, allow the water to sit for 1–2 weeks before adding native plants to the water.

**Planting and wildlife:** Pond plants prefer different situations – some prefer to be submerged, some float on the surface and some marginals prefer to be on the edges or in the boggy area with just their feet getting wet. Be sure to include some oxygenating plants to absorb impurities, and keep the pond clear and algae free. There is no need to bring in wildlife from somewhere else, they will find you quickly enough!

**Maintaining ponds:** Neglected ponds will quickly become overgrown and disappear, so a little maintenance is needed. The main tasks are to remove algal growth in the spring, keep topped up with water in the summer, protect from falling leaves in the autumn and prevent it completely freezing over in the winter so oxygen can still enter.

**Supplementary habitat:** Many animals which rely on ponds, including amphibians, need safe, sheltered places near the pond to hibernate or overwinter. It's really helpful to provide one or more of the following nearby:

- Unmown grassy areas
- Woodpiles
- Piles of rubble or stone
- Compost heaps
- Toad abode: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/makeafrogandtoadabode/>

**Fish:** Fish like to eat amphibian eggs, as well as a wide variety of insects and insect larvae, so we advise against adding fish to your wildlife pond.

[https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/FHT-Strategy-booklet\\_Sep13\\_web-version.pdf](https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/FHT-Strategy-booklet_Sep13_web-version.pdf)

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond>

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/three-ways-to-make-a-pond-in-apot/>

<https://www.southeastriverstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Planter-instructions.pdf>

<https://www.froglife.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/JAW2014-forprinting-HLF1.pdf>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/makeafrogandtoadabode/>



Click here for their latest events and how to donate to the recent Winter Appeal

<https://www.dens.org.uk/events/>

## Dates for your diary

[Watford FC Sleepout](#) - Fri 28 Feb

[London Triathlon](#) - Sat 9 Aug

[Berko Half Marathon](#) - Sun 2 Mar

[DENS Hillbuster](#) - Sun 21 Sep

[DENS Quiz Night](#) - Fri 14 Mar

[Royal Parks Half](#) - Sun 12 Oct

[St Albans Inflatable](#) - Sat 26 Apr

[DENS Sleepout](#) - TBC Nov

[London Marathon 26](#) - Spring

[Your Sleepout](#) - Anytime

[DENS Woodland Trail](#) - Sat 21 Jun

[Bungee Jump](#) - Various dates

[The London 10k](#) - Sun 13 Jul

[Red Lion Quiz](#) - 3rd Tue of month



# World Glaucoma Week

March 9-15, 2025

Read more about this event on the link below  
[World Glaucoma Week](#)





# **SARRATT CARE**

## **MARCH UPDATE**

### **'SARRATT COMMUNITY LUNCH'**

In the Village Hall on **Monday 17th March 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 March**

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

# MESSAGE FROM THREE RIVERS COUNCIL

## **RE: Sarratt Neighbourhood Development Plan – Regulation 16 Consultation**

Sarratt Parish Council (as the qualifying body) prepared a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), entitled “Sarratt Neighbourhood Development Plan” which sets out a vision for the future of the Parish and planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications locally. We are seeking your views on the planning policies contained within the NDP. The consultation will run from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February until Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Copies of the Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents are available to view on the Council’s website at [www.threerivers.gov.uk](http://www.threerivers.gov.uk) and are also available for inspection during normal opening hours at:

- Three Rivers District Council, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1RL
- Sarratt Parish Council, The Village Hall, The Green, Sarratt, Rickmansworth WD3 6AT

Representations on the Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan should be made at the following website:

<https://haveyoursay.threerivers.gov.uk/sarratt-neighbourhood-plan-consultation-2025>

or by post to Planning Policy and Conservation, Three Rivers District Council, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1RL.

All representations must be received by the Council by **11pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025**. Please note that Three Rivers will only consider comments by respondents who provide their full name and address.

Representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified of the Local Planning Authority’s decision under regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 in relation to the Sarratt Neighbourhood Development Plan.

At the end of the representation period, the NDP will be submitted to an independent examiner together with representations received by the deadline and a summary of the main issues raised in the representations.

Yours faithfully,

**Marko Kalik**

Head of Planning Policy and Conservation  
Three Rivers District Council

## CHURCH CONTACTS

### The Church of England Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

Holy Cross Church, Church Lane, Sarratt WD3 6HE  
St Paul's Church, The Common, Chipperfield WD4 9BS  
Benefice website: [www.hcsp.net](http://www.hcsp.net)

**Rector:** Revd Sarah Miles  
07525 491496 or 01923 981458

[revdsarahcollins@outlook.com](mailto:revdsarahcollins@outlook.com)

**Benefice Administrator:** Sonya Tolmie      holycrossstpauls@outlook.com  
01923 264377

**Postal Address:**  
Benefice Office, Sarratt Village Hall, The Green, Sarratt, Herts WD3 6AS

**Churchwardens:**  
Jenny Roberts (HC)      jennyroberts315@gmail.com  
Neil Altman (HC)      neiljaltman@aol.co.uk

Philip Waine (St P)      07771 712636      wainephilip50@gmail.com  
Judy Olney (St P)      07958 377622      juditholney57@gmail.com

**Readers:**  
Angela Coakley (HC)      01923 264380 07584 240661      angelac3000@aol.com  
Philip Waine (St P)      07771 712636      [wainephilip50@gmail.com](mailto:wainephilip50@gmail.com)

**St Paul's Director of Music:**  
Position vacant

**Holy Cross Organist:**  
Position vacant

St Paul's Hall Bookings:      01923 263182