



SPOTLIGHT

December 2025

visit sarrattvillage.co.uk

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7595>

ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE

SPOTLIGHT is produced by Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, for the people of the village and surrounding hamlets. We welcome reports from all village organisations and also items of general interest. Please note that the views expressed in the content of SPOTLIGHT, including any inserts, are not endorsed by Holy Cross Church.

HOLY CROSS - making Jesus known - a church for the whole community

EDITOR	Vacancy	sarrattspotlight@googlemail.com
ADVERTISING	Tony Bond	familybond@live.co.uk , 261941
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	Tony Bond	familybond@live.co.uk , 261941

MORE ABOUT

The Benefice: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7595>

the Village: sarrattvillage.co.uk

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,

SARRATT Revd Sarah Miles

New Vicarage, The Street, Chipperfield WD4 9BJ, or revdsarahcollins@outlook.com 07525 491496

Readers	Mrs. Angela Coakley	angelac3000@aol.com or 07584 240661
	Mr. Philip Waine	268904
Churchwardens	Mr. Neil Altman	neiljaltman@aol.co.uk or 07958 515506
Administrator	Mrs. Sonya Tolmie	holycrossstpauls@outlook.com or 264377
Friends of Holy Cross	Mrs Sue Clark	sue@suemclark.com or 07850 285471

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*

Chair	Cllr. Lee Farman	can be reached via the Parish office	01923 262025
Parish Clerk	Mrs Lena Mortimer	262025 or in case of emergency	07967 505590
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	philip.hearn@threerivers.gov.uk
	District Councillor	Mr. Oliver Cooper	oliver.cooper@threerivers.gov.uk
HERTFORDSHIRE CC	County Councillor	Louise Price	0300 123 7481
SARRATT CofE SCHOOL	Head Teacher	Mrs. N.O'Hare	262003
COMMUNITY BOOKINGS	Village Hall website:		www.sarrattvillagehall.co.uk
VILLAGE HALL	Bookings Secretary:		265881 or 07515-452124
		e-mail:	sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk

SARRATT CARE	Hours: 10am - 12noon Monday to Friday	519975
POLICE	Neighbourhood Watch non-emergency number	101

Cover photo by Steve Cavalier

Rector's Ramblings

The lights are twinkling, the trees are up and the sounds and smells of Christmas fill our homes; cheesy songs blast from the radio and cheesy straws and other culinary delights fill our kitchens. We rush about to get ready; to be prepared. But what are we rushing to be ready for?



As we look towards the beginning of the festive season, we enter a time of waiting; we enter Advent; we enter a time of preparation for the arrival of the Christ Child. We are waiting for a new world to be born.

We watch and wait again as the Christ child enters into a world at war, a world where peace is disturbed. A world where light shining in the darkness may seem to make little difference. And yet...

The Christ Child comes again into a world of disruption to bring light, to be the Light of the world. The light that shines in the darkness and the messiness of humanity, into a world where the shadows seem dark and long. To bring light into the darkest corners of our world and lives if we allow, to bring us once more to a place of hope, of peace, of love.

As we allow the light of Jesus the Christ to shine in and through us again, we too become light bearers within the darkness. We too become light that draws others to the Christ Child, as we reflect the light and glory of the good news of that very first Christmas and the love which God has for creation and all humanity.

The Light of the World comes again and again into our world. There is nothing that can stop that light and the hope that the light brings in to all our lives.

So, this December and this Christmas time, may you all find light, love and hope as you watch and wait. May you all be blessed with a Christmas filled with much joy and laughter as we celebrate together and may you know the light of the Christ Child in your homes this year.

As we celebrate together in our villages with Carols, Christingles and even a surprise donkey here or there, why not join us for one of our services? You are all very welcome.

Every blessing for a peace filled, love filled Christmas...

Revd Sarah

Christmas Poinsettia



We will be decorating Holy Cross Church beautifully for Christmas.

If you would like to donate poinsettias to remember or recognise family and friends and help make the Church colourful, please put money (£4 per plant) in an envelope with your name, your message and the names of those remembered and **hand it in to the Post Office by 18th December**. We will hang your message on the Christmas tree at the Church.

Holy Cross Christmas decorations Saturday 20th December at 10am.

Come and enjoy decorating our lovely church for Christmas with the bright red poinsettias. Please bring any foliage. Coffee, tea and biscuits, laughter and fun provided. Marilyn



HOLY CROSS TRAVELLING CRIB

Holy Cross Travelling Crib is a lovely way to remember the meaning of Christmas by hosting the nativity characters for a night and helping them on their journey the next day until they arrive at Holy Cross for our Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

If you would like the Travelling Crib to visit your home in December, please contact Jeannie: 07939 539816.

Inspire

Women Inspiring Women

Parish Room, Chipperfield 1:30-3.00
First Monday of Every Month.

Take a well-deserved break and join us for an afternoon of activities, engaging talks, and conversations – all served with tea, coffee and delicious cakes. For more information, please contact fay.dent@live.co.uk



WHAT'S ON WHEN – December 2025

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<i>Tues 9</i>	<i>The Arts Society Rickmansworth</i>	<i>10</i>
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 <i>Jan 2026</i>		
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<i>Sat 24</i>	<i>Village Hall Grand Quiz Night</i>	<i>15</i>

...AND THESE REGULAR MEETINGS

<p>Sarratt Mums, Toddlers and Baby Group: 9.30-11.30am every Monday, term time only, in the Pavilion, KGV Field. We are a nice friendly group. Please come and join us. Enquiries to: Daphne Tyler 07970 894205</p> <p>Sarratt Scouts: 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 to info@sarrattscoutgroup.org</p>	<p>Netherby Bridge Group: 2-4.30pm, Thursdays in the 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 Margaret Stratford 01923 260475</p> <p>Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club: Training on Saturdays at KGV Field - www.sarrattrebels.org</p>
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Personal Paragraphs

Sheila McCarthy

Sheila and Dan McCarthy moved from Michigan USA to Haircutter's Cottage on Sarratt Green in September 1998. At the time, they and Jan Clutterbuck were the only Americans in the village. Sheila became a very active member of the Women's Institute and was instrumental in the operation of Sarratt Care. She became involved in village life and loved to ramble. She was particularly involved with Our Lady in Chipperfield in a variety of ways. Sheila and Dan loved the pubs and the many people they encountered who became friends.

Particularly memorable was 9/11. Dan was in Italy and desperately trying to get back to Sarratt. To use a reference from the old American West, in Dan's absence the village "circled their wagons" and protected Sheila. All day long there were knocks on the front door, cards, hugs and tears! Complete strangers would stop by! It was brave and heart-warming! Dan finally came home late afternoon the next day. Sheila and Dan and their dear friends Jenny and Bruce walked to The Cart and Horses for dinner. Again, the local support was amazing!



Sheila and Dan left the village in December 2001 and retired to Michigan. Sheila died in hospice care at home on 12 September due to complications from diabetes and vascular dementia. She was 75. She had been very ill for many years.

Their years in Sarratt were perhaps their happiest. They chose not to return and remember it always as it was.

Dave Baker

We are very sad to announce that Dave Baker, who lived on The Green, died unexpectedly but peacefully in October and was buried next to his beloved wife Barbie in Flaundon. Many of Dave's friends attended the Service in Flaundon village church on 11th November. We send our sincere sympathy and condolences to his family at this sad time. May he Rest in Peace.

Terry Rowe

Terry Rowe, husband of Barbara, sadly died on 24th October. Terry was the son of Gordon and Marie Rowe, formerly of Dawes Lane. We send our love and sincere condolences to Barbara and his family.

Barry Campion

We are also sad to announce the death of Barry Campion of Alexandra Road and we send our condolences to his family and friends.



From Remembering to Making Memories...

Mike and Sheila Edmund are delighted to announce the marriage of their son Alexander to Harriet Willcock on Saturday 15th November. Alex was expertly supported by his brother Greg as best man.

Remembrance is very important to both Alex and Harriet, and less than a week after they both took part in the Service at Holy Cross, they were married in the equally charming surroundings of St. James Church, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

Many will already know that Alex is a serving Army officer: Harriet is also serving in the armed forces as a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF, based at High Wycombe. The couple met when their respective teams of senior staff shared a military flight.



More about Holy Cross Heritage Open Day...

Gill Lester of The Green took along a slip of paper which says, "To Jill love from the BEATLES" signed by all four and a photograph of herself with Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.

Gill's dad was features editor for TV Times and he and a writer were doing an article on the Beatles who had just come back from America. Her dad asked if she wanted to come along. They were all sitting having something to eat in the studios and the writer was talking to them while Jill was standing nearby. When they'd finished, she handed them her scrap of paper and they passed it round and all signed it.

Then Ringo and Paul got up and she had her photo taken with them. There was great excitement from our antiques experts at the Holy Cross Heritage Open day when they saw what Gill had brought in!



WINTER WARMERS LUNCH

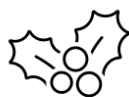
January and February can be cold dull months when we are just waiting for warm weather and Spring to come. So, this year Sarratt Care is inviting you all, on the weeks we do not run Coffee Corner, to come and join us for soup and a sweet bite with tea or coffee.



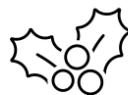
Where: **In the Village Vall**
When: **Friday lunchtime Jan 16th & 30th; Feb 13th & 27th**
What time: **12 to 1.30pm**
Price: **£3**

You will find a warm atmosphere to chat to friends and possibly make new ones.

This is open to all but so we have some idea of numbers, if you would like to join us, and do not usually come to Coffee Corners, please can you ring Jacky Creed on 01923 519975 by the Wednesday of the week you wish to come along.



SARRATT CARE



RUN BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

SARRATT COMMUNITY LUNCH

Come and enjoy a
festive get together at
the community
Christmas lunch.



**JOIN US IN THE VILLAGE
HALL TUESDAY 16TH
DECEMBER AT 12.30**

To book please call
Jacky Creed – Details
below

COFFEE CORNER AND TREATMENTS

Hairdressing, chiropody,
massage and
reflexology all available
in the village at
affordable prices or just
pop in for coffee and
cake.

**AVAILABLE IN VILLAGE
HALL 10.30-12.00
WEDNESDAY 10TH
DECEMBER.**

To book please call
Jennifer Haynes on
590542 or 07743
133736

TRANSPORT TO APPOINTMENTS

Do you have a doctors
or hospital appointment
and don't know how
you are going to get
there?

Call 07565 399349
between 10.00 and
12.00 weekdays to
arrange for one of our
volunteer drivers to
take you.

Any other queries or to become a volunteer please
call Jacky Creed 519975 or 07769 045270

Days Charity

If anyone has become 80 or will do so before the end of this
year, please contact Carol Chorley on 265096
BEFORE 10th December

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH Charity No. 1102829

In 2025, we celebrate 50 years of our Society's existence.

'A Dickens of a Christmas' - Bertie Price

One of our greatest writers, Charles Dickens is often proclaimed as 'The Man who invented Christmas'. He certainly revived some Christmas traditions, warmly portraying seasonal festivities – plum pudding, roasting hot turkey, dancing and games and family togetherness around the fire hearth.

His seasonal masterpiece was of course 'A Christmas Carol'. Today's fully illustrated lecture will explore and demonstrate the way Dickens presented his take on Christmas and will help to get all of us into a festive mood.

Bertie Price is an accredited Arts Society lecturer. He is a Member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star and lives a rural life in Sussex.

Everyone is welcome – please join us.

Tuesday 9th December 2025 in Sarratt Village Hall

Refreshments from 10.30am and presentation at 11am.

Non-Members are welcome to attend, suggested donation £10.

**Our website offers full details of our work and membership -
TASRickmansworth.org.uk**



CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT
at The Cock Inn, Sarratt
Wednesday 10th December 8pm

BOOK NOW! 01923 282908.

★ **£2/person.** Teams max 6.

★ Cash prize (1/2 goes to charity)

★ Prize for best team name. ★ Prize for best Xmas jumper.

In aid of Sarratt Care. Dinner served from 5pm.

BOXING DAY ON THE GREEN

Weather permitting, Joe Brownsell is once again organising the very popular vehicle exhibition on The Green. Cancer Research collectors will be present as usual.



PINTS OF VIEW

There will be no Pints of View in December. Our next Pints of View will be at The Boot in Sarratt on **Monday, 19th January 2026**, starting at **8pm**, when Andy Coote will lead our informal discussion on the subject **“What does the development of the Silk Roads tell us about modern trade wars?”**. Join us then to consider how the world can be put to rights. Everyone welcome.



John Guy



SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES

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

We're feeling extremely festive with lots of Christmas treats and essentials for you this December. Avoid the supermarket rush, support local, as our market fresh fruit & vegetables are available to **pre-order** for your celebrations **by 20th December** - please **collect on Christmas Eve by 2pm** when the shop will close.

Other dates for your diary are:

Wednesday 10th December from 11am Wreath Workshop back by popular demand, in the café. All materials and refreshments provided, no experience needed - please pop in to the shop or call 01923 262106 to book your place.

Saturday 13th December, Father Christmas comes to Sarratt. All invited to come and greet him at **2.30pm** as he arrives in a magical sleigh ready to meet the children of Sarratt and hear their Christmas wishes (free festive event).



As well as Christmas stamps, the Post Office will continue to offer a wide variety of gift cards available to buy at a value of your choice including John Lewis, M&S, Xbox, One4All, Amazon - something for everyone!

We look forward to welcoming you, thank you for all your support this year and wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Please follow us for latest news and updates:

Facebook : sarratt post office stores

Instagram: @sarrattpostofficestores



**SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES**

SHOP

Christmas Eve 7am – 2pm
Christmas Day Closed
Boxing Day Closed
Saturday 27th December 8am – 3pm
Sunday 28th December 8am – 12pm
Monday 29th December 8am – 5pm
Tuesday 30th 8am – 5pm
New Year's Eve 8am – 2pm
New Year's Day Closed

POST

Christmas Eve 9am-12.00pm
Christmas Day Closed
Boxing Day Closed
Saturday 27th December 9am – 12.30pm
Sunday 28th December Closed
Monday 29th December 9am -4pm
Tuesday 30th December 9am – 4pm
New Year's Eve 9am-12.30pm
New Year's Day Closed



SARRATT GREEN CAFÉ

December opening times will be weather dependent so please follow us for updates on:

Facebook: Sarratt post office stores
Instagram: @sarrattpostofficestores

FRUIT & VEGETABLE ORDERS

Order your Fruit & Veg by 20th December for collection on Christmas Eve by **2pm**.

Order forms available in the shop

DECEMBER SUNDAY MARKET



The bells of waiting advent ring,
The old iron stove is lit again,
And candle light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
The holly in the windy hedge,
And round old Sarratt House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew.
The Market in the Village Hall
Says "Merry Christmas to you all".



So come to the Village Hall Sunday Market on **Sunday 21st December**, and see our Christmas range of crafts, jewellery, Christmas decorations, bric-a-brac, gifts, cards, toys, home-made bakery and affordable antique stalls. Tea and coffee is available with biscuits or home-made cakes, and our traditional free mince pies! Start is **10am till midday**. Any enquiries please ring Larry on 265386.

HOLY CROSS CRIB SERVICE

4pm Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

**Calling all shepherds, angels, wise men (& women),
donkeys, sheep, etc, etc!!**

Holy Cross Church would like to invite you to our wonderful
Christmas Eve 'Crib Service'

Children, please come dressed up ready to join
in with our Nativity and bring along your
favourite adults with you...

No costume? No worries; we have a few at
church if you would like to join in the fun!

**If you feel now is the year to make your
stage debut as Joseph or an Inn Keeper...
please contact Revd Sarah on 07525491496**



RENOWNED COMEDIAN BOB MILLS TO HEADLINE

at The Village Hall Saturday 28th Feb 2026!

On **Saturday 28th February 2026** the Last Laugh Comedy club returns to the village hall for their 5th superb show with a line-up that arguably tops them all.

Headliner **Bob Mills** is the star of Radio 5's Fighting Talk, Host of the cult 90's show "in bed with Medinner" and a regular on Radio 4's the News Quiz. He has been a highly respected stand-up comedian on the circuit for many years – with an engaging and sometimes off the wall comedic style and ability to blend humour & commentary – making him a favourite on the comedy scene for many years.

Also appearing is the wonderful **Michael Akardiri** – Dr turned award winning comedian with stories of life in medicine, family chaos and cultural quirks making him one of the most talked about new acts in the country.

Next up is **Susan Murray** – fierce, funny & fearless taking on modern life with smart lines and bite – one of the UK's best and boldest female comedians.

Tim Clarke will be MC for the evening - vastly experienced with warm and quick witted charm.

Tickets are on sale now at lastlaughcomedy.co.uk/Sarratt. It is expected this will be another sold out show so do book early to secure your seats.

Doors open at **7pm** – show starts at **8pm** and expected to end around 10pm. Reasonably priced bar available on the night.

Rupert Riley Chewie945@gmail.com

ANNUAL SARRATT VILLAGE HALL GRAND QUIZ NIGHT

In aid of funds for and to be held in

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL

on

Saturday 24th January

7.00 for 7.30pm, prompt start



Try to win The Peter & Trish Clements Cup



Preferably each table to consist up to 10 people
Each table to provide and bring their own
Picnic Supper



A Licensed Bar with Wine, Beers and soft drinks



Raffle

Donation of prizes would be greatly appreciated.



Cost of £10.00 per head



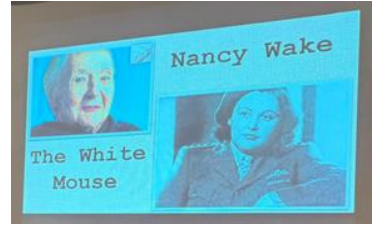
Please could you let Colin Plummer know if you would like to take part or if you can arrange a table.

Tel. 01923 263123 or 07921 541582 or
E-mail. colin.plummer@btinternet.com

Sarratt WI

Our speaker in November, Paul Barwick, kept us entertained with tales from the life of 'a courageous and highly successful WW2 spy'. Nancy Wake was known to the Gestapo as 'The White Mouse' because she was so elusive and adept at escaping their traps!

Nancy grew up in Sydney, Australia but lived in Paris during the 1930s, becoming fluent in French and working as a freelance foreign correspondent, writing for a U.S. audience. She witnessed the Nazi's public beating of Jewish people and resolved to do whatever she could to defeat them.



In 1939, she married wealthy French industrialist, Henri Fiocca and enjoyed a lavish lifestyle in a villa in Marseille. In 1940, German troops marched into Paris and Nancy volunteered for the French resistance, initially smuggling food parcels, flirting outrageously with German military personnel to escape detection.

In Marseille, she met Captain Grant Garrow who organised the Pat O'Leary escape line for stranded allied forces to neutral Spanish territory. She bought her own ambulance with a secret area underneath where she hid allied servicemen and people wanted by the Gestapo. Later, she volunteered as an alpine guide across the Pyrenees, braving sub-zero temperatures and using very basic mountaineering equipment. It was at this time that she became known as 'the white mouse' and a reward of 5 million French Francs was offered for her capture.

In the spring of 1943, whilst she was out shopping, a contact told her that she must leave France – now! So, without returning home to say goodbye to her husband, she left for England. There she joined 'Churchill's secret army' – the Special Operations Executive (SOE) who conducted espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in German-occupied Europe. She learned skills such as code breaking, judo and how to jump out of an aircraft. In 1944, she parachuted into central France where she was not initially made welcome: they needed weapons and all London sent them was this Australian woman! However, she soon earned their respect by making sure that each group got exactly the arms and resistance materials they asked for and

by successfully recruiting many new resistance fighters. Nancy was described as 'single-minded, intelligent, focussed on every task.'

On one occasion, following an attack by the Germans, the resistance fighters were left without a radio and codes and they needed to be in contact with London. Nancy borrowed a bike and rode it through a mountainous region, bluffing her way through Gestapo checkpoints to find the nearest SOE radio and operator. She updated London on the situation, received orders from them and cycled back, travelling over 500km in less than 72 hours, enduring extreme exhaustion and pain. She reportedly cried for 3 days afterwards!

Following the Allied invasion of southern France in 1944, Nancy discovered that her husband, Henri, had been arrested, tortured and executed by the Gestapo. She profoundly regretted that her resistance activities had led to this. When she returned to Marseille, she found that most of their possessions had been stolen. Although promised reparations of over 5 million Francs, Nancy received almost nothing.

Life after the war was mundane. In 1948 she joined the RAF as an officer in intelligence but there was little excitement compared with her war years. She had been awarded medals for her work in the resistance by the UK, France, USA and Australia but she sold them in 1997 in order to pay for her living expenses. In 2001, she became a resident at The Safford Hotel in Piccadilly, formerly a forces club during the war. In the mornings she would usually be found in the hotel bar, sipping her first gin and tonic of the day and telling war stories. Nancy died in 2011, two weeks before her 99th birthday. She was a woman from an ordinary background who led an extra-ordinary life.

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We had perfect weather for our October walk from Croxley to Chandler's Cross: the sun shone and the autumn leaves were stunning. November's walk is in Chipperfield.

We held a very enjoyable craft day on 19<sup>th</sup> November (report next month). 10<sup>th</sup> December will be our Christmas lunch but we'll be back next year at **2.15pm on the second Wednesday each month** in the **Village Hall**. Newcomers are always welcome.

## Fireworks at The Cock

What a fabulous night we had at The Cock Inn on fireworks night! We joined forces with Sarratt Football Club and together we would like to thank the village for your support.

We look forward to next year!



## Confirmation Service

There was a lovely Confirmation Service at All Saints' Church Croxley Green on 18<sup>th</sup> November, led by The Right Reverend Dr Jane Mainwaring, Bishop of Hertford. Three people from our Benefice were confirmed by Bishop Jane: Diane and Philip Wade from Holy Cross and Sandra Lynn from St Paul's Chipperfield. Seven young people from other churches in our Deanery were also confirmed.



## **Vacancy: Benefice Administrator – Sarratt and Chipperfield**

The Benefice of Holy Cross, Sarratt and St. Paul's, Chipperfield is seeking an enthusiastic, motivated, and highly organised person to join the team as a part-time **Benefice Administrator**.

The role sits at the heart of parish life and offers a unique opportunity to play a key part in supporting both parish missions and day-to-day operations serving the local community.

The role involves providing comprehensive support to the Rector and Churchwardens in all administrative matters within the parishes, including secretarial and office management duties. Some previous secretarial or administrative experience is therefore essential. Honesty and the ability to maintain confidentiality are essential.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate strong administrative skills, efficiency and excellent interpersonal abilities along with a good IT proficiency. A good working knowledge of Word, Excel, and Outlook is essential. They must have a willingness to understand and support the vision and objectives of the Christian Church and Church of England.

**Hours of work:** 16 per week, flexible over 3 days (Monday to Friday)

**Salary:** £14 - £16 per hour, depending on experience.

The post will be subject to a basic DBS check and will report to the Rector and PCC's.

References will be taken up after interview. Please indicate clearly if anyone may not be approached at this stage.

If you would like to apply for this position, please email your CV to [rectorchipperfieldsarratt@outlook.com](mailto:rectorchipperfieldsarratt@outlook.com) by the **closing date of 8th December 2025**.

**Please note:** Applicants must have current permission to work in the UK and be able to provide proof of eligibility.

Our recruitment process will comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. You can request to know how your personal data will be used.

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

The Church of England Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

Rector: Revd Sarah Miles

Church Administrator: Sonya Tolmie

holycrossstpauls@outlook.com 01923 264377

## **Holy Cross Services:**

9am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month,  
10.45am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

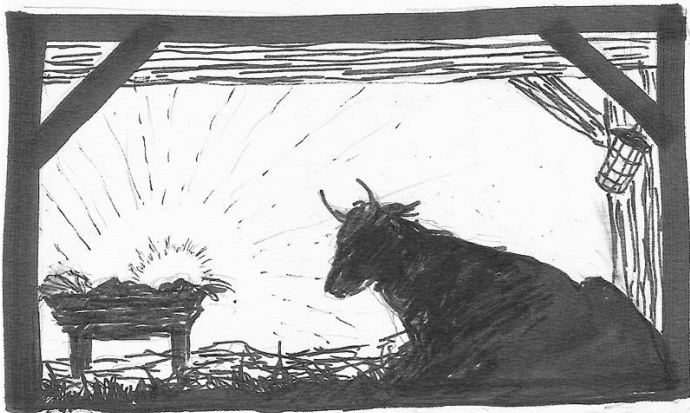
## **St Paul's Services:**

10.45am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month,  
9am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

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

For the most up-to-date information,  
see our Benefice Weekly News Sheet.

You can find us on 'A Church Near You' [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com)



“He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall”



## Sarratt Wildlife Volunteers

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Remembrance Sunday, six volunteers – all experienced bramble wrestlers (and one dog – bewildered by what on earth the humans were doing) met at the Belsize end of Penman's Green.

After a misty start a warming sun came through light clouds. Perfect weather.

There is an ever increasing need to tackle issues on Sarratt Parish greens and we can only work at Penman's Green several times a year, trying to suppress bramble growth. Brambles are extraordinary plants with at least three ways to propagate and it is a continuing battle. We are trying to keep certain areas of this beautiful space under control and there is evidence that our work is allowing foxgloves, bluebells and other wild flowers to flourish once we remove the competition.

At 11am we paused to observe the two minute silence – broken only by a robin singing joyfully.

We then enjoyed a short coffee break. A chance to socialise and relax for a few minutes.



There is a lovely, newly renovated bench nearby, thanks to volunteer, Stephen. A very special place to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the area.

With additional volunteers we could do so much more. Please join us. It is only a few hours on the second Sunday of every month and you will make such a difference.

At **10am on 14<sup>th</sup> December**, we will meet at **Commonwood Common** to work on the hedge near to Quickmoor Pond (near to the Cart and Horses). Tools will be provided as well as coffee and seasonal, edible treats. Everyone welcome. For more information please contact Dawn, [dawnmpitts@btinternet.com](mailto:dawnmpitts@btinternet.com) 07985 492501

In loving memory of M and JD, our four-pawed helpers.

# Sarratt Scout Group

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

Rather than our usual round-up of what the Sections have been up to since the last edition, this month's article focuses on 2 major events in the annual scouting calendar for the Scout Group - our Annual Quiz Night and the Remembrance Services.

## Annual Quiz Night

We were somewhat apprehensive a week before the date of the Quiz Night on Saturday 8 November, as we only had 5 tables booked, which



would have made for a very empty Village Hall! But as always the folk of Sarratt rallied and we ended up with 14 tables on the night - the most ever, with 119 participants, the vast majority of whom were not scout parents or adult volunteers - so thank you villagers of Sarratt!!! Huge thanks also go to Rupert Riley,

our Quiz Master for the 3rd year running, who once again did an amazing job of producing the questions and leading the proceedings on the night with a perfect balance of easy, middling and challenging questions. The winning table was hosted by Sue Clark and Richard Roberts (obviously a complete coincidence Richard also happens to be the Chair of Sarratt Scout Group!!). As winners they get to take ownership of the champions' pioneering pole for the forthcoming year, and were also awarded winners' badges. We're still totting up the totals, but we think we have made close to £2,000 for the Scout Group from the ticket sales, the raffle and bar takings - a fantastic result.



Thank you to all those scout parents who donated raffle prizes and thank you again people of Sarratt for coming along and making the 2025 Scout Quiz such a great success !!



Before the quizzers arrived the leaders who were setting up for the evening had a visit from Julia Pich the District Commissioner. Julia had come along before the start to present Sarah Dobson with an award. Sarah moved to South Devon in September but was back for the quiz and the Remembrance Sunday service as she continues to be one of the

Group Scout Leaders (albeit remotely). Julia presented Sarah with a certificate and medal for the Award of Merit - an award given to scout leaders for outstanding service over a number of years.

### **Remembrance Services**

Once again the Scout Group was honoured and proud to be an integral part of the Remembrance Service at Holy Cross on Sunday 9 November. Our young people and leaders paraded into church at the start and end of the service with our flag bearers carrying the 4 sectional flags. Each of the young people laid a poppy on the altar to remember those men from Sarratt that lost their lives in the two World Wars.



From our Explorer Section, Lawrence played the Last Post on his trumpet to mark the start and end of the 2 minute silence at 11am, Chloe read a poem, and Gray read out the young person's response in the Remembering part of the service. The candle was lit by Stanley from our Beaver Colony, with some assistance from Dan Haynes, our Scout Leader! Dan also took the lead in organising our participation at this year's service.



At the Armistice Day service on the Green on Tuesday 11 November the Scout wreath was laid by our Chair, Richard Roberts. The Explorer Unit had once again created the giant poppy made of pebbles which was laid close to the war memorial the week before in time for the service.

## Position Vacant

A Scout Group article in Spotlight wouldn't be the same without a call for adult volunteers!! We are still looking for someone to help with some of our "back office" administration, including processing bank transactions and DBS checks. You don't need to have any accounting or scouting experience for this. The role takes no more than an hour a week and can be done at home. We really need someone for this important role so if you can help please contact us at: [gsl@sarrattscoutgroup.org](mailto:gsl@sarrattscoutgroup.org)

## Section News

The next edition of Spotlight will have details of what each section has been up to during the second half of the Autumn Term. In the meantime, if you would like to get involved helping with the Scout Group in any way please contact us at [info@sarrattscoutgroup.org](mailto:info@sarrattscoutgroup.org) and 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 - 10 years - Meets Thursdays  
Scouts: Age 10 - 14 years - Meets Wednesdays  
Explorers: Age 14 - 18 years - Meets Mondays

## Armistice Day Service on The Green



## Parish Council Report

Lena Mortimer – Clerk



The following report covers the key points arising for the SPC Meeting held on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

### **Announcements**

#### **Sarratt Says "Yes"**

The Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan referendum took place on Thursday 6th November 2025

689 votes were cast (46.1% turnout). Yes: 666 No: 23

The result is conclusive: on a very high turnout, 97% voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. This means that Three Rivers District Council must adopt its provisions when considering all future planning decisions.

Neighbourhood Plans cannot stop all development, but they do help to prevent inappropriate development and they give local people more of a say in local planning.

Thank you to all that voted for your strong and clear support, which will strengthen our local voice at a time when the District Council Local Plan and Government planning changes are introducing new development threats.

We wish to express our thanks to the team that over 6 years worked hard to create and take this plan through all the (sometimes frustrating) stages. Thanks also to all those who made a big difference over recent weeks to get the message about the plan and the referendum out to all residents.

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- A representative of the residents at Wheatsheaf Cottages told the meeting that residents – mostly elderly – are finding it increasingly difficult to park outside their homes. Visitors are taking the available spaces. As the road is an unadopted thoroughfare, would it be permissible to erect No Parking signs. Dist. Cllr Ciaran Reed will double check the status of the roadway, but it would appear that the residents can erect appropriate signage.
- A representative of residents living at the end of The Green, past the Dawes Lane intersection, commented that traffic coming off the main road onto the service road, is speeding excessively and dangerously. They fear for the safety of children walking to the coach stop, and the elderly who are not mobile. They ask for a 20-mph speed limit in the service road. Cllr Diggins replied that although there is a 30-mph limit in place around The Green, it is not always adhered to. It may be more pragmatic to

press for a special 20-mph area in the service road. As speed alterations are so complex and lengthy, SPC would probably stand a better chance for change, by adopting a smaller more limited action.

Cllr Diggins and Dist. Cllr Reed with research this issue.

- Concern about sometimes lack of notification of whether the Bus (Red Eagle) has been cancelled due to road works. Dist.Cllr Reed acknowledged that from his experience at TRDC, the bus companies do not communicate with their customers at all. However, CR will pursue this matter.
- The concrete base for Lady Stabb's former bench is a potential trip hazard and will be removed by SPC.

### **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF SPC**

- Cllr Alder attended and spoke at the Planning Committee Meeting at TRDC with Dist. Cllr Reed. This addressed the application for the building of 20 dwellings in Church Lane. SPC's argument that the developers had substantially altered the original application for which there was outline permission, and that affordable housing numbers was cut from 20 to 10. The application was refused and Cllr JA was very satisfied with this outcome. The meeting thanked Cllr JA for attending.
- Cllr Michael Lowry attended the meeting of the Village Hall Committee. He can confirm that the Parish Office is on a separate electricity meter from the Hall. Once Building Regulations are completed in the near future, work on the new frontage of the Village Hall is hoped to commence in January 2026. Cllr ML was thanked for attending.

### **CLERK'S ACTIVITIES**

| ACTIVITY                                                                      | DETAILS                                                                                       | STATUS                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UK Power works, trench across the green to provide power to the new cottages. | Top turf to be removed & reinstated after completed to maintain important environmental area. | Completed to a satisfactory standard and UKP have taken advice on re-seeding.     |
| Footpaths                                                                     | Footpath wardens group working well                                                           | Clerk very happy with the comms established between the group and SPC. Invaluable |

|                                    |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Misuse of Sarratt Waste Bins       | Bins are being used for waste carpet and paint tins – complaints from residents           | Also, complaints from TBS as this makes collection difficult. The meeting agreed that stickers and signage should be sourced. |
| Rowan planted                      | Stabb family's living tribute                                                             | Living tribute to Lady Stabb planted 04-11-25                                                                                 |
| Retirement Gift former Cllr Dobson | Contacted an artist and have located an appropriate painting                              | The gift was a huge success – many thanks to SPC from Sarah                                                                   |
| Spring bulbs                       | Request to order spring bulbs to be planted on The Green and around the pond              | Bulbs ordered through Boston Bulbs, under notional budget at around £350                                                      |
| Cricketers Pond                    | Works to remove silt; sedge; crowded plants, reeds and sweet grass. New coir mats fitting | Fencing will remain, as the area has been seeded.                                                                             |
| Christmas Tree                     | Confirmed safe to erect the tree despite large vehicles using school entrance             | Preliminary date Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November                                                                             |

## LEAD CLLRS' REPORT ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM

After six years of effort the referendum was carried, conclusively. The Chair wished to express his thanks to Dist Cllr Ciaran Reed, Former Cllr Anthony Soothill, Michael Edmund, Cllrs Philip Mitchell, James Alder, Former Cllrs Nick Mortimer, Peter Thorpe and Helen Lynch, and others. There was a 46% turn out for the referendum and 97% voted YES to recommend TRDC to adopt the Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan. The plan will help towards preventing inappropriate development in Sarratt. This is due to be adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> December at a TRDC full council meeting. During the campaign it was useful to see how communications with the Village were successful.

## PLANNING

Applications considered:

- **Tarn Dunny Lane Belsize WD4 9DQ Ref. No: 25/1888/FUL**  
Construction of single storey rear extension; loft extension including increase in ridge height with front/rear dormers and front rooflights; relocation of entrance door, alterations to fenestration and internal alterations.

- **Corner Lodge Sarratt Road WD3 3JF Ref. No: 25/1806/FUL**  
Construction of single-storey side extension to existing outbuilding
- **Land Adjacent To Ashwood Bucks Hill Ref. No: 25/1718/FUL**  
Construction of a two storey detached dwelling and detached carport with associated parking and hard and soft landscaping works Construction of first floor side extension
- **Great Moonshine (Garage) Bragmans Lane Sarratt HP3 0PL Ref. No: 25/1689/FUL and 25/1690/LBC**  
Installation of 19no. solar panels to roof of building
- **Popes Croft Chandlers Lane Chandlers Cross WD3 4NE Ref. No: 25/1648/FUL**  
Demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of single-storey front and rear extensions, erection of first floor to create two storey detached dwelling, with front dormer and rear rooflights, relocation of entrance door, juliet balcony, internal alterations and alterations to fenestration; external materials including timber cladding and render
- **Great Sarratt Hall Farm The Green Sarratt Ref. No: 25/1647/CLED**  
Certificate of Lawfulness Existing Use: Use of existing buildings as Class E(g)(i) Office buildings
- **Ferndale Church Lane Sarratt WD3 6HN Ref. No: 25/1863/FUL**  
Construction of single storey rear extension, first floor side extension, alterations to front roof form and gables to rear dormers; relocation of entrance, internal alterations and alterations to fenestration, side rooflights and solar panels; external materials including render and metal cladding, erection of detached garage; removal and replacement of 1no. existing access with boundary fencing and associated landscaping works; repositioning of tennis court

## PLANNING DECISIONS

Recent decisions received:

- **Tarn Dunny Lane Belsize WD4 9DQ Ref. No: 25/1504/CLPD**  
Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Enlargement of the dwellinghouse by the construction of one additional storey and single storey rear extension  
SPC: Noted TRDC: Approved
- **Silverfields Bucks Hill WD4 9AT Ref. No: 25/1465/FUL**  
Construction of single storey rear extension  
SPC: No objection TRDC: Approved
- **2 Myrtle Cottages The Green Sarratt WD3 6AT 25/1438/FUL**  
Construction of single storey rear extension  
SPC: No objection TRDC: Approved

- **The White Cottage The Green Sarratt WD3 6BL 25/1418/LBC**  
Listed Building Consent: Replacement of existing windows and existing bay doors; construction of rear orangery and side/rear porches; installation of new side/rear doors  
 SPC: No objection TRDC: Refused (*reason included "...would have an adverse effect on the character and significance of the Grade II Listed Building and would not preserve its special architectural or historic interest..."*)
- **The White Cottage The Green Sarratt WD3 6BL 25/1417/FUL**  
Replacement of existing windows and existing bay doors; construction of rear orangery and side/rear porches; installation of new side/rear doors  
 SPC: No objection TRDC: Refused
- **Land Rear Of 76 To 78 Church Lane Sarratt Ref. No: 25/1028/FUL**  
Erection of 20 Dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated parking and landscaping, provision of new vehicular access to Church Lane and pedestrian link to existing public footpath.  
 SPC: *response provided in a detailed letter*  
 TRDC: Refused (*reasons include: "...inappropriate form of development in the Green Belt." and "...absence of a completed undertaking under the provisions of Section 106 of Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to secure an affordable housing contribution..."*)

## HIGHWAYS

There was nothing additional to report this month

## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Roughly one month into the role as a Councillor with the Environment and Sustainability brief, have started to meet a number of key contacts to review current status and future plans. Current key actions:

| From  | Topic                                                                    | Requirement                    | Next steps                      |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Clerk | Damage to The Green by School contractors                                |                                | Care and attention              |
| Clerk | Quote from Tree Monkey Tree Care Ltd., re dangerous trees at Springfield | Resolution and budget approval | The meeting agreed to the works |

## POLICY AND RESOURCES

The bank transactions for August were reviewed and approved.

## SPC GRANTS

Cllr Lowry and the other Councillors have adopted a process for assigning grant funding. There is a statutory cap on the overall value of the grants that can be given. Due to this cap SPC use the following criteria detailed below to fairly allocate the grants to the applicants:

| <b>Priority</b> | <b>Condition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1               | SPC either owns the assets or is heavily committed to the outcomes of the organisation(s)                                                                                                                 |
| 2               | The Grant request is either small (less than £1,000) or is from an organisation who rely heavily on the grant and contributes socially to the wellbeing of the local community                            |
| 3               | The Grant request is either below £3,000 and supports an organisation which is not run on a commercial basis and contributes to the wellbeing of the local community                                      |
| 4               | The grant request is over £,3000 or is from an organisation which has either other sources of income, or is run on an underlying commercial basis and contribute to the wellbeing of the local community. |

Grant requests were discussed and allocations proposed. The meeting thanked Cllr Lowry for his hard work in compiling this list. The grants will be finalised and communicated in December.

#### **BUDGET 2026/2027**

Councillor Lowry guided the meeting through the Budget headings and confirmed that the projected figures have been adjusted by 2.5% - which is under the rate of inflation. The precept will be raised, commensurately, by 2.5%. Grants will be energetically sought for areas of large expense, such as woodlands.

#### **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REED**

Dist Cllr Reed gave news of the TRDC Local Plan. There is a promised final meeting coming soon, when the actual allocation of development sites will be decided. The Plan will be referred to Policy and Resources and a full committee meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> December '25. This represents a 15 year Planning Plan, and Cllr Reed believes there is a positive sentiment to protect Sarratt from its worst effects.

There is an offer from TRDC to supply defibrillators. Cllr Reed had approached Prime Restaurant and will investigate a location at Belsize.

#### **DAWES LANE ACCESS TO MULBERRY BUSH**

The access of vehicles via the gate on Dawes Common off Dawes Lane into the Mulberry Bush site, are outside of the terms of the current agreement and are causing some concern and complaints.

SPC has reconfirmed to Mr Norris that the existing agreement between SPC and Mulberry Bush should continue to be adhered to. Efforts will continue to engage with relevant parties to resolve this issue.

## **COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

The Chair has sourced information about the speed signs. He has been unable to link them to the speed digital sign at the exit to the Village at Sarratt Road. However, the speed sign on the approach to the Village from Belsize, was accessible. Further investigations are required to be able to download information received from these signs. When progress has been made with this, the data will be used to support traffic management in the village and support speed reduction initiatives.

SPC supply over 1000 dog waste bags a week to dog walkers in Sarratt, and to dog walkers visiting the Village at no charge. This service encourages people to be polite and sanitary. However, an appeal in Spotlight will remind walkers that gathering dog waste is vital, and some signage next to the bins will encourage responsible dog ownership. We also ask local residents to help ensure people only take a reasonable number of bags for their own appropriate local use.

### **Next meeting**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm**, held in the **rear room of the Village Hall**. Members of the public welcome to attend.

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

### **BINS IN SARRATT – HOW BEST TO USE THEM**

Dear Parishioners and visitors –

**WASTE BINS:** General waste bins found around the Village are for small items of waste: wrappers, coffee cups, picnic paraphernalia, etc., **NOT** offcuts of carpet; empty commercial paint tins; old clothes and large items of other inappropriate waste, that should be taken to the dump.

SPC pays for operatives to empty the bins. You give us money to do so. If you make it impossible for them to empty or dispose of the waste, you are wasting **your own** money and despoiling the village you love.

**DOG WASTE:** SPC provides composting dog waste bags, for your convenient dog poo disposal. This ensures that as much of Sarratt and the surrounding hamlets, as possible, remain waste and disease free.

Did you know, that due to a revision of legislation, you can now put your dog waste into the ordinary waste bins, as well as the dog poo only bins? Please, let there be no excuse for you to hang your bags in trees, on gates and fences, or in any other inventive location, when they should all be in the **BINS!**

**PLEASE - Think clean – think children and the elderly – think like responsible residents. Thank you.**

Lena Mortimer, Parish Clerk

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- SARRATT TENNIS CLUB** - Social Tennis, Coaching, Teams, Floodlights  
Membership - **Jackie Youell** [membership@sarratttennisclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@sarratttennisclub.co.uk) 261990
- TIMELESS INTERIORS** Interior design service, 777260  
Meadow Cottage, The Vale, Chesham, HP5 3NS.
- T.R.SHAW** – Painter and Decorator 15, Alexandra Road, Chipperfield 268892
- WASP PROBLEM?** Wasp/Hornets nests destroyed. £50.  
Normally same day service, including weekends. Fully insured. 07833 459321 or 07780 953222

## WHITEWOOD ESTATES

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Specialising in property sales and lettings in the village. For a free no obligation valuation contact Mark Whitewood on: 01442 831500

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

Office: 35a High Street, Bovingdon



# Advent Lessons and Carols

**HOLY CROSS CHURCH, SARRATT**

Followed by mince pies and mulled wine in  
The Cock Inn, opposite church.

AT 6.30PM

**21**

DECEMBER

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME - HAVE A QUESTION, CALL THE  
CHURCH OFFICE ON 01923 264377**

**DEADLINE for January is Sunday 14 December**