

SPOTLIGHT

January 2026



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

| | | |
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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

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| 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](http://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

View from the Pew

I worked in advertising for many years creating employer brands, the image that a company wishes to portray to potential employees. The aim is to establish the right fit between employer and employee. However, the mask does not always correspond with the reality.

Hans Christian Andersen's story of *The Emperor's New Clothes*, is one that illustrates my point perfectly. Once upon a time, there was a vain emperor who was visited by two conmen posing as weavers, who offer to make him a magnificent suit that is invisible to those who are either stupid or incompetent. The gullible emperor hires them, however nobody wants to be thought of as a fool and everybody pretends that they can see the wonderful fabric. When the emperor wears his new suit in a procession, it is only the innocence of a child that exposes the truth, that the emperor is "in the all together ... he's all together as naked as the day that he was born!!".

The moral of this story is the importance of honesty, courage and self-trust, revealing how vanity, fear of judgement, and peer pressure can make people ignore obvious truths and conform to absurdity. True wisdom is trusting one's own perception over societal pressure.

This new year I will be looking beyond the slogan and the three for one offer, to understand what it is I really need. Do I want to be a walking advertisement, or do I want to be me and be honest with myself.

Align yourself to your own moral code and don't fear the judgement of a branded society; the clique, the online bully; or the fear of not conforming.

Romans Chapter 12 verse 2. "Do not conform to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will".

Jenny Roberts

Inspire

Women Inspiring Women

Parish Room, Chipperfield 1:30-3.00

Change of date! 2nd Monday – 12th January

Have time away from your busy lives with activities, conversations and inspiring talks over tea, coffee & cake



The Friends of Holy Cross (FOHC)

A big thank you to stallholders and shoppers who made the Christmas Fair at Micklefield Hall another success. We raised almost £5,000, which will go towards restoration projects in the church and the graveyard. Thanks also to Jamie and Anna Rankin for their enormous generosity, hosting us in their lovely Barn and Orangery and also for the help from their team in organising the event.

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 13th century Parish Church. Projects over the years have included the new roof, rebuilding walls, new paths and most recently a new heating system.

Our annual Flower Festival attracts almost 1,000 visitors and this year it will take place on 26–28 June with an opening music festival on the evening of Friday 27 June. Please be sure to note in your 2026 diary!

For more details visit <https://www.friendsofholycross.co.uk>

Join our

Ceilidh dance

with the fabulous

BRIMSTONE BAND

All the way from Chipping Norton

Saturday 7th March

7pm - 11pm, Sarratt Village Hall

Tables of ten available and
no experience necessary!*

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

Please contact Sue Clark on:

sue@suemclark.com

All proceeds go to Friends of Holy Cross charity

*individual tickets also available

WHAT'S ON WHEN – January 2026

| | What? | Page |
|-----------------|---|------|
| Wed 7 | Coffee Corner and Treatments - Sarratt Care | 8 |
| Wed 7 | Sarratt Village Hall AGM | 15 |
| Sun 11 | Wildlife Volunteers | 24 |
| Mon 12 | Inspire | 4 |
| Tues 13 | The Arts Society Rickmansworth | 10 |
| Tues 13 | Sarratt Parish Council Meeting | 37 |
| Wed 14 | WI | 19 |
| Wed 14 | Charity Quiz | 20 |
| Fri 16 | Winter Warmers Lunch | 7 |
| Mon 19 | Sarratt Community Lunch | 8 |
| Mon 19 | Pints of View | 11 |
| Tues 20 | Sarratt Local History Society | 11 |
| Wed 21 | Coffee Corner and Treatments - Sarratt Care | 8 |
| Sat 24 | Village Hall Grand Quiz Night | 17 |
| Feb 2026 | | |
| 28 Feb | Last Laugh Comedy Club | 18 |

...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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Winter Warmer Lunch



DATE Fri Jan16th & 30th

TIME 12.00 – 1.30pm

VENUE Sarratt Village Hall

EVENT Community Lunch

MENU Soup with Crusty Bread

Cake Tea/Coffee

PRICE £3

Come and join us for a chat with friends.

All from the Parish of Sarratt welcome.

To book call Jacky Creed 01923 519975



**Thank you Sarratt
helpers Xmas '25!**

SPC would like to THANK....

Martin Kempster for donating the wonderful Christmas Tree on the Green; Nick and Hazel Mortimer, Andrew Whitewood and Steve Bass (electrician to the stars - 07738-809393) for volunteering their time and effort to erect it.

Thanks also to Ms Ingram and her Ducklings for 34 wonderful decorations.

SARRATT CARE

RUN BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

SARRATT COMMUNITY LUNCH

Enjoy a lunch with old friends or make new ones at the community lunch. Three courses for a £5 contribution.

**JOIN US IN THE VILLAGE
HALL MONDAY 19TH
JANUARY 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 10.00 - 12-00
WEDNESDAY 7TH AND 21ST
JANUARY**

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

KGV FIELD NEEDS YOU!!

The Management Trustees of King George's Field, Sarratt, are trying to raise much needed funds for the re-development of the KGV pavilion, so that it can continue to serve the local community for years to come.

The last time the pavilion was refurbished was when it was rebuilt in the 1980s. The improvements will include new male and female changing rooms, individual shower cubicles, a modernised kitchen/bar area, upgrades to the main hall area and increased storage space.



Following a tender process, we have selected a builder and secured some funding from Three Rivers District Council, but we do not currently have enough for the build!



We're looking to raise an additional **£50k** from the local community.

Can you help?

If you would like to donate funds - £10, £100, £1,000 *or more* - towards the build or have any brilliant fundraising ideas or have first-hand experience in fundraising for charities, please contact {

Kate Coleman at kate.coleman@ee.co.uk.

We look forward to hearing you!

King George's Field, Sarratt. Charity number: 266708

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

THE SUBTLE SCIENCE OF COLOUR IN ENGLISH GARDEN DESIGN

Timothy Walker

Our first presentation of our exciting 2026 season kicks off with this fascinating lecture which combines garden design with visual art. In 1882 accomplished artist and garden designer Gertrude Jekyll wrote a seminal article in 'The Garden' magazine where she urged readers to "Remember that in a garden we are painting a picture". Miss Jekyll understood the principles of using colour but felt that in gardens these had been "greatly neglected".

Today we examine how Jekyll's ideas can be applied to garden design but also how a border must always differ from a painting. We also show how the works of great painters such as Turner, Monet, Rothko and Pollock evolved in parallel with ideas about garden and border design.

This expert presentation will be enjoyed
by all lovers of art and gardens.

Timothy Walker studied botany at University College Oxford. A BBC presenter, he is also a Master of Horticulture at the Royal Horticultural Society of London and a Fellow of the Linnaean Society of London. He worked at Kew and The Savill Garden Windsor and for many years he was Director of the award winning Oxford Botanic Garden.

Everyone is welcome – please join us.

Tuesday 13th January 2026

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



AGM and January Meeting 2026

SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Black Death and its impact on Sarratt

TUESDAY 20 January 7.30 for 8.00pm

Sarratt Village Hall - Refreshments served from 7.30pm

Following the recent discovery of a hoard of medieval coins in Buckinghamshire, join Gregory Edmund to discover what it reveals about life during the Black Death in the Home Counties and how the people of Sarratt were directly affected by the pestilence of 1348.

Non-Members welcome - £4 on the Door

sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org

BBC Children In Need



We would also like to thank everyone that got involved in our Children In Need Tombola this year and contributed towards raising **over £300** for the charity.

Money raised will help BBC Children in Need to continue working in communities across the UK, funding amazing people in family centres, community spaces, youth clubs and refuges, homeless shelters, hospices and helplines.

SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES

Father Christmas received an extremely warm welcome from the excited children of Sarratt when he arrived accompanied by two elves and their dog in his festive tuktuk outside the shop.

He listened to their Christmas wishes in the Sarratt Green Café grotto and as an extra treat offered them a ride in his favourite bus -Jenks, which made several trips around the Green, one included a rendition of “Wheels On The Bus”, taking 130 adults and children in total.

Thank you to everyone who made this community, festive event possible.





SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES

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

A very happy New Year to everyone!

2026 promises to be an exciting one as we plan to celebrate **15 YEARS** this summer of being a community effort powered by local volunteers and supported by villagers like you.

In this time we have evolved to become a place to shop, post a parcel, enjoy a coffee or stop for a friendly chat. Whether you need to pick up a last-minute item, do a weekly shop, top up your supermarket shopping, with over 3,000 items we have something for you.

Thinking of doing something new this year?

We're always looking for volunteers to work alongside our Managers, Grainger, Tracey & Jane in the Post Office; serving customers, stacking shelves, cleaning or helping with our deliveries – even one hour a week makes a difference. Pop in for a chat or message us on online -we'd love to have you on the team.

For shop and village news find us on Facebook : Sarratt post office stores & Instagram: @sarrattpostofficestores

Email: shop@sarrattvillage.org Tel: 01923 262106

| Sarratt Village Shop | Post Office |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Monday-Friday 7am-6pm | 9am-5pm |
| Saturday 7am-5pm | 9am-12.30pm |
| Sunday 8am -12pm | Closed |

Every pound you spend helps keep us in the village!

WE URGENTLY NEED A NEW HOME!



Jenks, Sarratt's 93 year old bus has enjoyed a free garage at Micklefield Farm for many, many years thanks to Mike and Daniela who own the premises.

But we now have to find a new garage which really needs to be under cover especially in the winter.

Do you own a barn, or know anyone who owns a barn, somewhere near Sarratt who would be happy for us to use it?

NB: It would have to be at least 8 Foot 3 inches high, 7 foot wide and 21 feet long.

We would like to end by saying thank you to Mike & Daniela for their generosity and help for so many years.

Please call Alan Milsom on 07917800623

Village Hall Sunday Markets in 2026

There is no Sunday market in January (or August)

– here are the dates for 2026:

15th February 2026

19th July 2026

15th March 2026

20th September 2026

19th April 2026 17th

18th October 2026

May 2026 21st

15th November 2026

June 2026

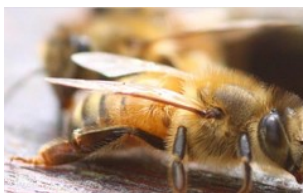
20th December 2026

Sunday markets are usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month
10–12.30pm, in aid of Sarratt Village Hall funds. –

Enquiries: Larry Griffiths on 01923 265386

**Thanks to all our supporters in 2025 –
looking forward to seeing you all in 2026!**

Have you thought about keeping Bees?



Why not join the West Herts
Beekeepers Training programme.

With four theory sessions, a practical guide to putting
together a hive, help with sourcing bees and hands on
mentoring throughout your first year, you could be
harvesting your own honey in summer 2026.

If you are interested, please go to the West Herts
beekeepers website for more details

<http://westhertsbees.org.uk>

Sarratt Village Hall AGM

Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 8 pm

Sarratt Village Hall is incorporated as a Charitable Trust and run by a Management Committee of volunteers, both from local organisations and elected.

Each year the committee holds an AGM to report on the previous year's operations and at which all inhabitants of the area of eighteen years and upward are entitled to attend and vote for the Elected Members of the committee to serve alongside the Representative Members, which are appointed by the local clubs and societies.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee and helping run our village hall, please let Larry Griffiths know on 265386.

You are all invited to attend to hear our progress to date at 8 pm on Wednesday 7th January 2026 in the Village Hall, and to help select the Elected Members.

Kings Langley Jazz Club



Every Tuesday evening at 8.15pm we present performances from a wide range of quality local musicians playing in combs from trios to 17-piece Big Bands, often with vocals. Expect anything from Trad, Modern Jazz Blues, Latin, Swing, American Songbook, some pop etc... the full gamut of the music called Jazz.

Donations to the band on the night

The Theatre Bar, Kings Langley Services Club
3-5 Hempstead Road, Kings Langley WD4 8BJ

<https://kingslangleyjazzclub.uk>

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

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.

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

Sarratt WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



On 19th November, we held our Craft Day where we learnt new skills: chicken scratch embroidery (a lot of patience!) and weaving with willow, using which, we made wreaths ready for adding greenery and decorations for Christmas. Some members also made hedgehogs out of unwanted paperback books!

On 10th December, we got together for our annual Christmas lunch. Members brought an amazing selection of salads to go with the ham from Zoe at The Boot and salmon, followed by an even more amazing selection of puds! It was delicious. After lunch, children from Sarratt School Years 3 & 4 entertained us with songs and Christmas carols and an extra special ‘Happy Birthday to You’ to Glenys who was celebrating her 90th. Their singing was excellent.

One of our members, Joy, summed the afternoon up very well: “What a great occasion. Such a good Christmas lunch with plenty of choice to suit all. It was lovely to be able to sit and chat, enjoy the food whilst testing our brains with a quiz and listen to the delightful children singing. A welcome cup of tea and a mince pie whilst a seeming endless stream of raffle prizes was won rounded off a really lovely day. Thank you to all involved. Your hard work is much appreciated.”

Our thanks go especially to our President, Leone, and all the committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.



The WI plays a unique role in enabling women to develop new skills and gives them opportunities to campaign on issues that matter to them. We won't have a speaker in January; instead we'll hear the shortlist of resolutions put forward by National WI and have the opportunity to vote on which issue we would like the WI to campaign on in 2026.

New members are always welcome. We meet at **2.15pm** on the **2nd Wednesday** each month in **Sarratt Village Hall** and do a walk with a pub lunch on the 4th Wednesday of the month, together with annual trips, craft days and much more.

CHARITY PUB QUIZ

AT THE COCK INN, SARRATT CHURCH END

WEDNESDAY 14 January 2025

STARTING AT 8pm

ENTRY £2 PER PERSON, WITH A MAXIMUM OF 6 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

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**

Sarratt CE Primary School

Christmas Fair



Friday 28th November's Christmas Fair proved a resounding success, raising a total of **£2,748.04**. The event was made possible thanks to the tireless efforts of the school's PTA and the wider parent community, whose support was evident in the generous donations, volunteer hours, and enthusiastic attendance. Staff also

contributed their time, helping to create a warm and festive atmosphere enjoyed by all.

Funds raised will be directed towards:

- Improving digital provision in school, ensuring pupils have access to high-quality learning tools.
- Supporting upcoming theatre visits, broadening children's cultural experiences.



The Fair once again demonstrated the strength of community spirit, with the combined efforts of parents, staff, and supporters ensuring both a joyful occasion and valuable contributions to the school's future.

3

PINTS OF VIEW

Our next Pints of View will be at **The Boot** in Sarratt on **Monday, 19th January 2026**, starting at 8pm.



Andy Coote will lead an informal discussion on the subject **“What does the development of the Silk Roads tells us about modern trade wars?”** Come along and consider how the world can be put to rights. Everyone welcome.

John Guy

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.

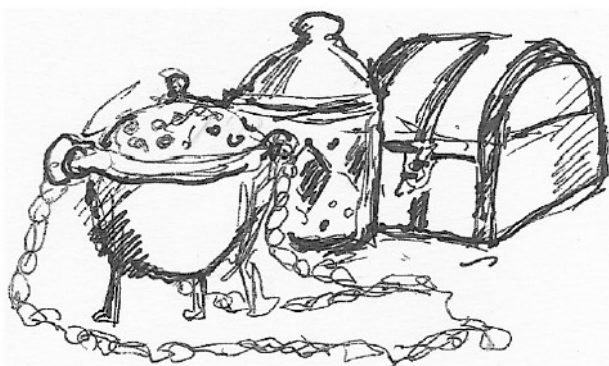
St Paul's Services:

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



“So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
all tongues and peoples own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
let every heart enthrone him”

CHURCH CALENDAR JANUARY 2026



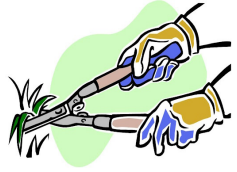
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|---|---|------------|
| Sunday 4 | FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (Sunday nearest 6/1) | |
| 9am | Morning Worship | Holy Cross |
| 10.45am | Benefice Eucharist | St Paul's |
| Sunday 11 | BAPTISM OF CHRIST (Sunday nearest 12/1) | |
| 9am | Morning Worship | St Paul's |
| 10.45am | Benefice Eucharist | Holy Cross |
| Sunday 18 | 2nd Sunday of Epiphany | |
| 9am | Morning Worship | Holy Cross |
| 10.45am* | All Together Benefice Eucharist | St Paul's |
| <i>*Gathering at 10.30am for pastries & drinks before the service</i> | | |
| 6.30pm | Compline (traditional night prayer) | Holy Cross |
| Sunday 25 | CONVERSION OF PAUL – St Paul's Patronal Festival | |
| 9am | Morning Worship | St Paul's |
| 10.45am | Benefice Eucharist | Holy Cross |

FEBRUARY 2026 (first part of month)

| | | |
|-----------------|--|------------|
| Sunday 1 | PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE Candlemas (Sunday nearest 2/2) | |
| 9am | Morning Service | Holy Cross |
| 10.45am | Benefice Eucharist | St Paul's |

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

Sarratt Wildlife Volunteers



It's difficult to believe that we have achieved another year of working in our local environment, hopefully to make a little improvement for wildlife and humans.

Our final task for 2025, on Sunday December 14th, was cutting back the hedge alongside the road bordering Quickmoor Pond at Commonwood and the small community orchard there. This is a mixed hedge of ash, elder, hazel and blackthorn, plus brambles of course, and seems to grow very quickly each year. To stop it encroaching on the road and to try to thicken it up, we trim it back usually in December. Some of the stronger twigs we weave into the structure which then resembles a laid hedge. It looked much better after our work, and will provide a refuge and nesting site for birds in the coming months.

We retreated to Kay's warm cottage for delicious festive refreshments kindly provided by Kay, with mulled wine provided by Stephen. Grateful thanks to both of these from us all, a lovely social way to finish the year.

Our first task of 2026 will be on **Sunday January 11th** when we will be working at Dawes Common. Do join us there, 10am at the little car park where the Common begins.

Why not make a New Year's Resolution to come and help to improve your local area for wildlife and people ? You will also be getting exercise in the fresh air with like minded friendly people - what's not to like?

Just turn up or contact **Dawn 267071** or **dawnmlpitts@btinternet.com** for more information.

Sarratt Football Club



We are sadly grieving the loss of Ruben Vieira, who passed away in early December at the age of 34. Ruben debuted for Sarratt in March 2023, making 59 appearances for our Reserves and finding the back of the net 12 times. He was an integral part of the County Cup winning squad during the 2023/24 season. Ruben contributed immensely throughout the campaign, scoring in the semi-final tie and appearing in the final as our Reserves lifted the trophy at Hertfordshire FA. Everyone at Sarratt FC wishes to extend their deepest condolences to Ruben's friends and family.

As we look towards the festive period, we're currently high-flying at the top of the league. Victories over Codicote (3-1), Tring Corinthians (3-2), Totternhoe (1-0) and Stony Stratford Town (6-1) have secured us in first place. The Golden Boot race is heating up, with Ebou Joof (9 goals), James Evans (8 - not bad for a centre-back!) and Roman Pirani (7) all in contention.

Whilst they continue to struggle in the league, our Reserves are progressing nicely in the Cecil Hudson Cup. Russ Fardon's brace completed a 3-1 victory over Bully's Crusaders in the first round, before Fardon combined with Maino Anderson and the returning Eli Kefas to defeat FC Hurricanes 4-2 in the second round.

You can keep up to date with all the latest Sarratt FC news on social media. Find us at [@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 in the KGV Pavilion. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Upcoming Home Fixtures (Subject to Change)

27th December - First Team vs. Bovingdon (2:00pm)

10th January - First Team vs. Milton Keynes College (2:00pm)

17th January - First Team vs. Harpenden Development (2:00pm)

Tom Scarborough Club Secretary & Welfare Officer, **Sarratt FC**

Sarratt Scout Group



Gavin Daly, Verity Allen, Dan Haynes, Sarah Dobson

Position Vacant

We are still looking for an adult volunteer 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

Section News

Our last report focused on our attendance at the village Remembrance Day Services and our Annual Scout Group Quiz Night. The quiz raised just over £2,123 for the Scout Group, so thank you people of Sarratt for coming along (all 119 of you!). We really appreciated your support and we hope you had a lot of fun participating in the quiz. Look out for the date of next year’s quiz in Autumn 2026.

So now here’s what each Section has been up to since half term.....

The Beavers have been working on a few badges this term - Space, Safety and Cooking. They have had a session on Christmas craft and will be finishing the term with a Christmas party.



Our Beaver Leader, Gavin will be stepping down from running the weekly meetings at the end of this term and handing over to Georgina (thank you Georgina!). Gavin has led the Beaver meetings for many years, and we thank him for all the time and effort he has put into making them such fun for the children, helping them to learn new things and developing their skills. However, we’re really pleased that Gavin has offered to continue helping the group in the background



- his tent repairing skills are legendary!! In bringing this part of his role to a close Gavin said “This will be my last term of running Beavers after quite a few years, but I will be helping out in the background. It has been a pleasure seeing all the children grow and I wish everyone the best for the future”.

This term has seen our new Cub Leaders organising several of the meetings. Imi led the Cubs on a hike from Belsize back to the Village Hall, Charlotte has helped the Cubs make decorations for Christmas and Fe has had the Cubs making Sushi (definitely a first for the Cub Pack!). The Cubs have also been to Laser Quest in Hemel sorted out by Pelly. They will be finishing the term with a Christmas Review for their Entertainer Badge, singing songs, reading poems, telling jokes and a lot more, followed by games and Christmas treats.



Finally, congratulations to 5 of our oldest Cubs (Freya, Aria, George, Joseph and Max) who have gained their Chief Scouts Silver Award - the highest award they can achieve in Cubs. We will also be saying farewell to Max, Tommie, Freya and Emma who move up to Scouts in January.

The Scouts have had a very busy month. We took a team to the infamous Herts Scouts Green Beret Competition. We waited patiently for news of Storm Claudia, rumours circulated that the event was going to be cancelled. Fortunately, the storm passed and we had a dry 2 nights camping. The competition itself starts at 9am and runs until 11pm, it includes an orienteering course, an assault course and other challenges the teams need to complete. Our team performed exceptionally well and came 9th on the day-challenges and 24th overall out of 150 teams.

Fast forward two weeks and we went off to our camp in the Brecon Beacons.



We raced out of school, loaded into the minibus and shot off down the M4. We stayed in a bunkhouse which is situated just under Pen-y-Fan. On Saturday we set off to go caving and gorge walking. We had to reorganise our day as the river and cave water level was a little higher than the maximum safety level. Safe is 0.5m,

the river was at 1.8m! Instead, we went off to a cave with a safer water level and lots of water inside. It's the first time we've been caving and nobody cried on the way in. We crawled and squeezed our way through the caves. We did have a few tears when our group got split up from the guide in a particularly tight tunnel.

We finished the day off with a go on a zip wire across the valley. On Sunday morning we did the Waterfalls Walk, there was a lot of water, so the falls were particularly spectacular. Picnic lunch and then home, not down the M4 as it was shut!



As mentioned in the November edition of Spotlight, the Explorer Section has been running joint meetings with the 1st Ricky Explorer Unit (led by Brad and Campbell) this term following the Explorer Leader, Sarah moving to Devon and the other Sarratt Explorer Leaders having to step down from helping due to other commitments.



Brad and Cam, together with Tom Coleman, our regular parent helper at Sarratt, have led a great programme for the Explorers during the Autumn and since half term have been as busy as ever! They attended an overnight camp at Green Beret, an event run for Scouts across the County (see Dan's report above). The

Explorers were there to run the bases for the Scouts, which was an enormous help.

At their weekly meetings they have been up to London to see the Christmas Lights (possibly the most popular meeting of the year!) and had a night indoors cooking on a budget! For their last 2 meetings of the term they have been manning the Santa Sleigh, complete with its own Santa in Rickmansworth, giving out sweets to children who come out of their homes to see the sleigh and say hello to Santa as he goes past and collect donations. On Monday 8 December they raised £600, half of which will go to the New Hope Charity in Watford. They were out and about on the sleigh again on Monday 15 December before finishing for Christmas.



Finally, if you would like to get involved helping with the Scout Group in any way please contact us at info@sarrattscoutgroup.org and if you have a child who would like to join the Scout Group please contact us at: admissions@sarrattscoutgroup.org

All our Sections are open to both boys and girls.
Beavers: Age 5¾ - 8 years - Meets Wednesdays
Cubs: Age 8 - 10 years - Meets Thursdays
Scouts: Age 10 - 14 years - Meets Wednesdays
Explorers: Age 14 - 18 years - Meets Mondays

We would like to thank our young people, our leaders, adult helpers, parents and everyone in Sarratt for their support to the Scout Group and hope everyone had a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2026.

Parish Council Report

Lena Mortimer – Clerk



*The following are the updates from SPC and the key points arising for the SPC Meeting held on **Tuesday 9th December 2025** Approved full minutes available on our website sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk*

Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan has been formally adopted by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC). Thank you to all those involved in getting it adopted. **TRDC Local plan** will publish final sites and the number of new homes proposed at the end of January prior to a vote to progress to the next stage.

Local Government Reorganisation proposals submitted by TRDC, with the initial response from Government expected in the spring.

Speeding - SPC have regained access to the data from the local speed signs. Thank you to the 47% of vehicles that are observing the speed limits. 15% of the vehicles are travelling at excessive speeds up to 94mph. This data has been passed to the police who are supporting further action on speeding.

20mph is plenty – signs will be purchased and put up along the side road to The Green. This is in addition to progressing highways repair and management planning with Herts County Council.

Precept - The Council has agreed to increase its precept for the next financial year 2026/27 by 2.5% owing to the expected increase in its services for the next year. This is in recognition of increased costs from its own suppliers, keeping aligned to expected inflationary pressures and keeping the Council in a sound financial position. This will result in an expected increase in Band D Council Charge of £2.53. This increase is to ensure alignment with the Parish Council's five year strategic plans and woodland management expenditure.

Thank You to:

- The volunteers for planting bulbs around the Green for next year.
- Martin Kempster (tree donation) Steve Bass (lighting) Andrew Whitewood, Nick and Hazel Mortimer (Christmas tree).

- Everyone who has supported the Parish over the last year. The Councillors as volunteers themselves and the Clerk very much appreciate your support. **We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Planning Applications Considered:

Bucks Hill Bottom Cottage Bucks Hill WD4 9AE 25/2057/FUL & 25/2058/LBC Construction of single storey side conservatory & Listed Building Consent: Construction of single storey side conservatory
SPC: No objection

1 Wheatsheaf Cottages The Green Sarratt WD3 6BR 25/2035/CLPD
 Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Conversion of garage into habitable accommodation. **SPC:** Noted

Willow Cottage Penmans Green Sarratt WD4 9AZ 25/1938/CLPD
 Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey side and two storey rear extensions, erection of an outbuilding. **SPC:** We support the investment in this building and removal of a conservatory with a more sustainable and energy efficient structure. However with the addition of a new additional, separate building in this application we believe this constitutes overdevelopment of the site so we object on that basis.

Great Wheelers Farm The Green Sarratt WD3 6BJ 25/1799/FUL
 Erection of outbuilding (yurt) to frontage for use as a counselling clinic. **SPC:** We support this local business opportunity and application on the basis that requirements are included in any approval that ensure the structure is fully screened from view from the Green, no excessive noise impact on neighbours, all parking relating to its use is contained onsite, and that it is not allowed to be a permanent structure.

New Model Farm Sarratt Road WD3 6AJ 25/2107/PDNA
 Prior Notification: Erection of agricultural barn with solar panels
SPC: We support the investment in local agricultural business. The screening is a vital component of this application and we ask to make sure that any permissions help ensure this screening is effective and uses native species only

Red Lion Cottage The Green Sarratt WD3 6BP 25/2111/LBC & 25/2110/RSP Listed Building Consent: Replacement of windows, internal plaster, boxed gutter flat roof and rafter support, reinstatement of brick work with lime mortar & Part Restrospective: Replacement of windows, internal plaster, boxed gutter flat roof and rafter support, reinstatement of brick work with lime mortar.

SPC: We support investment in the sensible, sympathetic and energy efficient improvements in this historic building

Land To The North West Of Cottage Farm Redhall Lane Chandlers Cross WD3 4LT 25/2094/FUL Erection of a barn and a tractor store on the existing equestrian land, and erection of 2no. polytunnels and a potting enclosure on the agricultural land, using access onto Redhall Lane and hardstanding. **SPC:** We object to this application on the basis there is a lack of information in the application to allow us to assess the impact on the local area and neighbouring residents. Our potential concerns include screening of the polytunnels, the scale of the new stables and the increase in traffic volume and large vehicles.

RECENT PLANNING DECISIONS

28 Dawes Lane Sarratt Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 6BB 25/1741/FUL Variation of Condition 3 (Materials) pursuant to planning permission 25/0791/FUL to allow replacement of windows from timber to UPVC, **TRDC:** Approved ("The newly proposed windows would be less desirable than the approved timber windows. However, the new windows would be of a higher quality uPVC in comparison to the existing older uPVC windows on the property. In addition, the 4/4 paned sash windows would be more in keeping with the character of the property than the current window design. On this basis, the new windows would preserve the existing character to an acceptable degree and there is no objection.")

York House School Sarratt Road WD3 4LW 25/1219/LBC & 25/1218/FUL

Listed Building Consent: Installation of solar panels on the roofs including flat and pitched roof forms. Withdrawn

Norcott House Commonwood Sarratt WD4 9BA 25/1710/FUL

Construction of first floor side extension. **SPC:** No objection

TRDC: Approved

Callipers Hall Lodge Bucks Hill WD4 9BP 25/1659/FUL

Demolition of existing garage and construction of single storey side and rear extensions and construction of two front dormer windows and rear rooflight, external materials including timber boarding and render

SPC: No objection **TRDC:** Approved

47 Church Lane Sarratt WD3 6HN 25/1649/FUL

Construction of single storey rear extension. **SPC:** No objection

TRDC: Refused ("The proposed single storey rear extension, in conjunction with the previous extensions and alterations would result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original dwelling")

The Old Rectory Church Lane Sarratt WD3 6HJ 25/1634/FUL

Erection of cattle shed/

SPC: No objection: We ask that any right to future changes of use are removed. **TRDC:** Approved ("No external lighting shall be affixed to any buildings on the site unless the Local Planning Authority has first approved in writing details of the position, height, design and intensity.")

Dellfield House Plough Lane Sarratt WD3 4NL 25/1615/FUL

Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a two storey side extension, juliet balcony; loft extension including rear rooflight

SPC: No objection **TRDC:** Approved

The Lodge Redhall Lane Chandlers Cross WD3 4LU 25/1602/RSP

Retrospective: Erection of Agricultural Polytunnel

SPC: No objection **TRDC:** Approved

The Old School Church Lane Sarratt WD3 6HL 25/1492/FUL

Replacement of existing windows with galvanised steel windows

SPC: No objection **TRDC:** Approved

Barn Potten Farm Chandlers Lane Chandlers Cross 25/0944/LBC & 25/0943/FUL

Listed Building Consent: Change of use of barn to studio unit (Use Class E); addition of fenestration and internal alterations/ Withdrawn

PLANNING ENFORCEMENTS (from TRDC planning authority)

20/0077/COMP: Grove Lodge, Fir Tree Hill - Unauthorised fencing works in the Green Belt (David Heighton) Fencing requires planning permission as over 1m in height adjacent to road. Owner made aware that the fencing at this height is unacceptable. Enforcement notice has been served in respect of the fencing and deposit of hard surfacing. An enforcement appeal has been lodged and is live (ground (a) appeal only). Appeal dismissed in respect of fencing and allowed in respect of the hardcore. Compliance with the fencing required by 11 July 2025. Works have commenced (and may now be completed) to reduce the fencing to comply with the Enforcement Notice.

22/0031/COMP - Ravenswood Farm, Church Lane, Sarratt (Clara Loveland) - Residential use of agricultural buildings (Clara Loveland)

Following site visits, we served a Planning Contravention Notice (PCN) which has been responded to. Contrary to previous comments, the building does benefit from planning permission for an agricultural building (17/1070/FUL).

Planning application 23/1078/RSP was refused on 4 grounds (Green Belt, character, substandard living accommodation and lack of affordable housing. This was dismissed at appeal. An enforcement Notice was then issued and an appeal lodged.

Following PINS decision to quash the notice, officers have re-visited the site and intend to re-serve an Enforcement Notice.

22/0090/COMP - The Mulberry Bush (Scott)

Application 21/1417/PDF permitted the use of Bluebell barn to be used for C1 use (Holiday accommodation). The council is aware from previous PCN response and conversations with the owner, that the building is occupied by an individual on a long-term holiday let agreement with the owner of The Mulberry Bush. No condition restricts the length of time Bluebell Barn (or the other converted barns for C1 use) can be let out for. In the absence of such a condition, a change from holiday accommodation to permanent accommodation is not likely to be a material change of use. Given that the barn is being occupied on a long term let, the council would find it difficult to

enforce the cessation of the occupancy. However, we are still looking into this.

Regarding Birches Barn, application 21/1417/PDF permitted the use of this building for C1 (holiday accommodation). The ground floor of the building had been used as an education/school facility known as Dragonfly Learning; however, this use has since ceased. The ground floor has more recently been used as a functional space for campers and visitors, as a space for cooking and use of the facilities. There have been no further reports of a school operating from this building.

Regular camping activity has occurred throughout 2025; however, the owner provided the LPA with all the camping dates under 25/0160/PAC (prior approval of the LPA was not required) and the temporary use of land for camping purposes is permitted under Class BC of the GPDO.

Lastly, concerns were raised with regards of unlawful stationing of caravan in breach of the S.106. Officers will need to revisit the site to see if the caravan in question has been removed.

22/0130/COMP – 1 Micklefield Green Cottages - Material change of use of land to equestrian purposes including erection of structures (David) Planning permission permitted the change of use of land from equestrian and erection of stables. Works required by 28 June 2025 including removal of temporary structures and new planting. Officer to check compliance.

Latest cases:

23/0035/COMP – Sarum, Templepan Lane - Works not in accordance with 20/1468/FUL - Extent of hardstanding (Scott)

Owner advised planning permission required and suggested changes were required to make acceptable. Officers to consider expediency/action.

23/0102/COMP – Hunterswood Lodge, Penmans Green - Material Change of Use: Agricultural to residential (forming extended garden area) (Alannah Stringer)

Owner to be advised that planning permission is required. Application 24/0347/FUL permitted. Officers to monitor use of extended area (Not currently used for domestic purposes - To be closed).

23/0112/COMP – Land to the rear of The Woodyard, The Green - Works Not In Accordance With Approved Plans - Fenestration Detail (Scott) Not expediate, minor changes. To be closed.

24/0029/COMP – Harrietts End, Quickmoor Lane, Sarratt - Breach of Condition 5 pursuant to 19/0209/FUL - tree protection (Alannah Stringer) Tree protection measures in place. To close.

24/0057/COMP - Long Pightle Mobile Home Park - Additional caravans on site greater than approved (Scott Volker)

Site visit taken place, no evidence of new caravans but new track created. Likely to be closed.

24/0065/COMP - York House School, Sarratt Road - Breach of Condition 2 of 23/1779/LBC (Nick Withers)

Further remedial works to be requested to entrance brick wall. Discussions on-going.

24/0094/COMP – The Boot Public House, The Green - Erection of static caravan and tent (David Heighton)

Officers served Planning Contravention Notice and received response. Currently considering next steps alongside marquee.

24/0116/COMP – Crestyl Barn, Watercress Farm, Moor Lane (Nick Withers) Works consented by Environment Agency, not development.

Area of site currently in an untidy condition, owner to make improvements to clear/improve condition. Works underway.

24/0132/COMP – Bucks Hill House, Bucks Hill (Alannah Stringer)

Letter sent to owner to improve and secure property by 20 December. Works to be completed by end of April. Officer to organise visit in coming weeks.

24/0137/COMP – Coltspring Farmhouse, Sarratt Road - Material Change of Use of Building for Home boarding for dogs (Alannah Stringer)

Planning application submitted via 25/0162/RSP. Planning permission granted retrospectively subject to conditions requiring action within 6 months. Officers to visit.

25/0022/COMP: The Lodge, Redhall Lane - Unauthorised Operational Works; erection of buildings (Nick Withers)

Planning permission required and application 25/1602/RSP submitted and permitted. To close.

25/0053/COMP – Popes Croft, Chandlers Lane – Removal of trees (Scott Volker)

Site visit to take place. Planning app received - 25/1648/FUL (pending)

25/0070/COMP: The Woodyard, The Green - Works not in accordance with planning permission 24/0046/FUL: Fenestration and material detailing not as approved. (Nick Withers). Officers reviewing.

25/0103/COMP: 2 Flint Cottages, Solesbridge Lane, Use of Outbuilding as Dog grooming Salon (David Heighton)

Officers gathering evidence.

25/0139/COMP: Red Lion Cottage, The Green - Unauthorised works: Window replacement without listed building consent or planning permission 25/2110/FUL & 25/2111/LBC received (to be validated).

25/0180/COMP: 8 Clutterbucks Sarratt - Erection of solar panels to the front in the conservation area

Likely to require planning permission. New case so officers to visit.

Next SPC meeting

Tuesday 13th January 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

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Thanks to Scilla Rowe for the photo

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