

Kempsford

(with Whelford, Dunfield and Dudgrove)

Parish Newsletter

April 2026

Annual Parish Meeting



Monday 27th April 2026

7pm

Kempsford Village Hall

Please come along to the Annual Parish Meeting and hear from village groups and organisations.

Find out what your Parish Council has been doing during the last 12 months.

Everyone welcome

Parish Diary

APRIL

Wed	1st	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van
Fri	3rd	2.00pm	St Mary's Kempford	Meditations on the cross
Fri	3rd	10.00am - 10.45am	Kempsford Village Hall	Knead Bakery
Sat	4th	10.00am - 2.00pm	St Mary's Kempford	Easter Activities and fun
Sun	5th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempford	Family Holy Communion service
Mon	6th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Pizza Van
Thurs	9th	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Community Café
Sun	12th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempford	Service of the Word
Wed	15th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van
Sat	18th	12.30 - 1.15pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Knead Bakery
Sun	19th	9.30am	St Anne's Whelford	Holy Communion
Mon	20th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Pizza Van
Mon	20th		MAY NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE	
Mon	20th	7.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Mon	20th	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Lechlade Memorial Hall	Lechlade History Society - Those Mitford Sisters
Fri	24th	7.00pm - 10.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Line Dancing
Sun	26th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempford	All churches together, Holy Communion
Mon	27th	7.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Annual Parish Meeting
Wed	29th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van

MAY

Fri	1st	6.30pm	St Mary's Kempford	May Day Hymns & Pimms
Sat	9th	10.00 - 12.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Davina's Crafting
Sat	9th	5.30pm for 6.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Family Bingo
Tues	12th	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Village Hall AGM
Sat	16th		Kempsford Village Hall	Casino Evening
Mon	18th		Kempsford Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Mon	18th	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Lechlade Memorial Hall	Lechlade History Society - Woodchester Mansion
Mon	25th		JUNE NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE	
Fri	29th	7.00pm - 10.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Line Dancing

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays	10am - 11am	Kempsford Village Hall	Rosie's Pilates Plus
Mondays & Wednesdays		Fairford Hospital	Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities Edna Dawes Lunch Club Tel:07713 607106
Tuesdays	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Short Mat Bowls (treasurerkempsford@gmail.com)
Wednesdays	5.00pm - 7.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Youth Club (Term time only)
Thursdays	12.00 - 2.00pm	Kempsford VH Garden	Community Garden open (weather permitting)
Thursdays	12.00 - 2.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Post Office
Last Friday in mth	7.00 - 10.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Line Dancing
1st Friday in mth	10.00 - 12.00	Fairford Comm. Centre	Bereavement Café

Kempsford Village Hall – April 2026 Events

Regular Events

Mon	Pilates rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com	10:00am – 11:00am
	Pizza Van 6 th & 20 th solelunapizza3@gmail.com	5:00pm – 7:30pm
Tue	Short Mat Bowls treasurerkempsford@gmail.com	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Wed	Youth Club	5:00pm – 7:00pm
	Chippy Van 1 st , 15 th & 29 th info@thecotswoldchippy.co.uk	5:00pm – 7:30pm
Thur	Post Office	12:00pm – 2:00pm
	Community Café 9 th April	12:00pm – 2:00pm

Other Upcoming Events

3 rd April	Knead Bakery	10:00 - 10:45am
18 th April	Knead Bakery	12:30 – 1:15pm
24 th April	Line Dancing (Last Friday in every month)	7:00pm – 10:00pm
9 th May	Davina's Crafting	10:00 – 12:00pm
9 th May	Family Bingo	5:30pm for eyes down at 6:00pm
12 th May	Village Hall AGM	7:30pm – 9:30pm
16 th May	Casino Evening	
29 th May	Line Dancing	7:00pm – 10:00pm

Save The Date

Kempsford Village Fete 12th September

Kempsford Village Hall Committee
Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 12th May 2026
8:00 pm in the Village Hall

All Kempfsford residents welcome

We've had lots going on over the 2025/26 year and have more plans
for the future but would love to hear any ideas you have for
continuing the success of our village hall. Please come along, enjoy a
drink and find out more about the hall and let us know your ideas.

Refreshments will be served.

KNEAD

BAKERY | PATISSERIE | EATERY

WILL BE AT

KEMPSFORD VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 3RD APRIL

10.00AM TO 10.45AM

&

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL

12.30PM TO 1.15PM

SOURDOUGH | PASTRIES | COOKIES | BROWNIES
SAUSAGE ROLLS | DOUGHNUTS | COFFEE



KEMPSFORD COMMUNITY CAFÉ
Thursday 9th April 12 – 2pm

Come and try our Homemade Soups and Bread
Delicious Cakes, Fresh Coffee and Speciality Teas.
If you haven't been before you're missing a treat!

ST MARY'S KEMPSFORD WITH ST ANNE'S WHELFORD

Contact details for the parish

Rev Catie - 01285 671490 or Rev.catie@gmail.com

Lay Preachers – Rob Mitchell 01285 712821 & Elizabeth Emberson dizylizzie@sky.com

Church wardens: Keith Howlett - 01285 712268 churchwarden@kempsford.net

or there is a Facebook page The 5 Villages

Curate Catie's Monthly Musings for April

Dear Friends,

I love this time of year! Spring has sprung, the clocks have changed, the gardens are really coming back to life and perhaps an Easter school holiday break may be on the cards.

In the Church, we enter the most important and special time of the year - Holy Week. It is a journey through the final days of Jesus' life from the joy of Palm Sunday's welcome, through the fellowship of the Last Supper, to the sorrow and solemnity of Good Friday. These are not easy moments to dwell in but it is good to really think about all that Jesus did for us and the importance of these events.

And this year, we will be marking Holy Week in a new way, using the trunk from the old Christmas tree! We'll create a cross which will stand in the church grounds throughout Holy Week, reminding us of Jesus' journey to the cross and the love shown there.

Then, Easter morning brings light, joy, and great celebration! The sorrow of the cross gives way to the fantastic news that Jesus has risen, hallelujah!! Darkness does not have the final word, Jesus triumphs over death and our fear gives way to joy and hope.

As part of these celebrations, please will you help us transform the cross by bringing real or artificial flowers (not before Easter morning please), so that together we can cover it with colour and life, turning a symbol of sorrow into a sign of resurrection hope.

However you celebrate this great festival, whether you mark it through church services, private reflection, time with family or simply lots of chocolate (!), I hope it will be a blessed time of joy and renewal for you.

Wishing you every blessing for Holy Week and a joyful Easter.

Rev. Catie

Rev.catie@gmail.com

01285 671490

St Marys Churchyard and Graveyard trees

As noted in previous editions of the Parish News, plans were in place to undertake crown **lifting and pruning of the mature trees in the churchyard and graveyard at St Mary's Church**, including the removal of a dead tree and a number of dead branches.

Due to adverse weather and equipment difficulties, the tree surgeons were unable to attend until early March. When work commenced, concerns were raised by a member of the public about the potential impact on peregrine falcons that may nest in the immediate area. As these birds are a Schedule 1 protected species, the work was stopped as a precaution.

This has been particularly frustrating, as notice of the proposed tree works had been properly given in advance (see CDC 24/02942/TCONR). In addition, the work was clearly set out in the Parish News, notices were displayed on site, and specialist advice was sought from the Gloucestershire Raptor Monitoring Group. All appropriate procedures were therefore followed within the correct timescales, providing ample and proper opportunity for any concerns or objections to be raised at the appropriate time. In addition, the raptor nest box on the church tower roof was checked and found not to be in use.

While the work was paused on this occasion to allow the matter to be considered, this is not always possible once contractors are on site and in this instance, the delay has incurred an additional cost of £450, which the church can ill afford.

The tree work has now been rescheduled for early autumn, so given that the dead branches and dead tree remain in place, parishioners and visitors are therefore respectfully asked to remain aware of their surroundings when passing through the churchyard, particularly during periods of high winds, and to take appropriate care.

Keith Howlett

Church Warden

APRIL SERVICE SCHEDULE

03.04.26 (Good Friday)	2pm	Meditations on the cross, St Mary's, Kempsford
04.04.26 (Easter Saturday)	10am - 12pm	Easter Activities and fun, St Mary's, Kempsford
05.04.26 (Easter Day)	9.30am	Family Holy Communion service, St Mary's, Kempsford
12.04.26	9.30am	Service of the Word, St Mary's, Kempsford
19.04.26	9.30am	Holy Communion, St Anne's, Whelford
26.04.26	9.30am	All churches together, Holy Communion, St Mary's, Kempsford

Lechlade History Society

Lechlade History Society meet at the Memorial Hall Lechlade at 7.30pm..doors open at 7pm for coffee on the 3rd Monday of each month

Monday 20th April

Those Mitford Sisters by Gillian Cane

These six sisters were by anybody's standard...outrageous...

They continue to shock us even today and for good reason, although they are fascinating. From becoming a Duchess to an intimate confidante and financial supporter of Hitler.. from fighting in the Spanish Civil War for the Communists to being jailed in solitary confinement..they all made their mark in history in some way

They were never boring

Monday May 18th

Liz Davenport will talk about *Woodchester Mansion.. an Unfinished Masterpiece*

Woodchester Mansion is the unfinished masterpiece of the young local Victorian architect Benjamin Bucknall.

It stands today as evidence of both his interest in the work of the French architect Viollet-le-Duc and the quality of the craftsmanship and perfection demanded by his patron, the wealthy Catholic convert William Leigh.

The talk will explain why the building was never completed and update us on the latest conservation work that is taking place

Please do not walk dogs on the School Playing Field

In Autumn 2024 the school field was professionally prepared to enable safe use for the school children. Its upkeep and maintenance is expensive and paid for by the Parish Council.

It is designated for use by the children as a play area and football pitch and the school have reported that dog poo is being left on the pitch and has to be cleared by members of staff. Not only is this unpleasant but both dog poo and urine can cause serious illness and children are particularly vulnerable. The NHS website has details of Toxocariasis the disease that can bring about blindness in youngsters and even tiny amounts can be dangerous.

In the coming months signage will be placed around the school field and we would ask you to respect it. Cotswold District Council takes this issue of dog fouling seriously and the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPo) makes it an offence, whether or not warning signs are displayed, if you do not remove poo. Complaints will be investigated by them and offenders prosecuted, the fine is up to £1000.

Urine can kill the grass and dog poo is very unpleasant (especially where children are playing) and to try and make it safer it **is having to be removed by the schools' staff**. **Please walk dogs** elsewhere and always collect the poo and dispose of it correctly, there are several bins located around the villages. Thank you.

Money worries? Citizens Advice Is Here to Help

With living costs rising all the time, money problems can feel overwhelming. We know that times are incredibly tough for lots of people right now, and Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward. Here are our top five tips to help you turn things around.

1. Take stock of your money situation

A free budgeting tool, like the one on the [MoneyHelper website](https://moneyhelper.org.uk) (moneyhelper.org.uk), can help you take stock of what you have coming in and going out each month, and where you might be able to cut costs.

Before you start, try to find your most recent bank statements, payslips, debit and credit card statements or bills, and receipts for things you usually pay for in cash. Make sure you include all your expenses, including money you spend on your partner or family.

2. If you **can't** afford essentials – find out how to get help

If your budget doesn't add up and you're struggling to cover basics like food, heating, or household bills, you can find out what financial support is available on the Citizens Advice website or by speaking to us.

3. **Don't** ignore debt letters

Please don't ignore bills or letters about money you owe. The first step is to collect and organise all debt-related documents to create a complete list of your debts. It may feel daunting but try not to worry - **the important thing is that you're taking action.**

4. Prioritise the most important bills

Some debts have more serious consequences if ignored. Make rent or mortgage, energy bills, and Council Tax your top priorities. The organisations you owe money to might let you pay smaller amounts or take a break from payments. For other debts like credit cards or loans, get a clear picture of what you owe and what your budget allows, and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan.

The Citizens Advice website (citizensadvice.org.uk) has information about what bills to prioritise and how to manage debts. You can also contact your local Citizens Advice office (details below) for an appointment to talk things through.

5. Check if you can claim benefits

Many people miss out on benefits they could receive. A benefits check can reveal support you didn't know existed and might unlock access to other help or discounts on energy and transport.

How to contact your local Citizens Advice

You can contact Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold Districts for free, confidential support:

 Freephone: 0808 800 0510 (10am–4pm Mon–Tue, 10am–12.30pm Wed–Thu)

Or visit our website and use the email contact form to get in touch with us:

citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk

LOCAL POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER

Having been the Kempsford Poppy Appeal Organiser for 30 years I am afraid that the time has come for me to step down from this role. Therefore, I will not be able to organise the house-to-house collection in Kempsford, Whelford, Dunfield and Castle Eaton in October/November 2026.

I am extremely grateful for the outstanding support from residents of the above locations and from the house-to-house collectors during the past 30 years.

Once I am not listed as a Local Poppy Appeal Organiser with the Royal British Legion I will not be allowed or be able to provide relevant items such as wreathes, poppies, wooden crosses and other items. However, the Fairford Branch of the Royal British Legion will have all relevant items available at the Fairford Poppy Appeal 2026.

This has been a very difficult decision for me to make. However, it is personally essential that I step down from this role.

Alvin M Hill
Squadron Leader (Retired)

The Parish Council would like to thank Alvin for the many years that he has organised the Poppy Appeal for Kempsford Parish. He has done a tremendous job.

RAF Fairford - Community Relations Advisor Introduction

I wanted to take the opportunity to re-introduce myself as the Community Relations Advisor to the local community for RAF Fairford.

I am a civilian employed by the MOD to support the US Airforce, specifically the 501st Combat Support Wing to maximize the mutual understanding between United States Visiting Forces (USVF) and the British communities in which they live and work.

Should you have any queries or feedback from a local perspective please do get in touch on the contact details below.

Zoey Peace

Email: 501CSW.CRA.RAFFW@us.af.mil

Civ: 01285 714965 / Mobile: 07764 166079

Please find below an up-to-date contact list for local enquiries, security concerns, and parking issues -

Organization	Contact	Details
Community Relations Advisor	01285 714965 / 07764 166079 501CSW.CRA.RAFFW@us.af.mil	Community Relations Advisor to the local community for RAF Fairford. civilian employed by the MOD to support the US Airforce, specifically the 501st Combat Support Wing to maximise the mutual understanding between United States Visiting Forces (USVF) and the British communities in which they live and work. Contact for queries or feedback relating to the base from a local perspective.
MOD Police	01285 714477	Any concerns / suspicious activity
Zee Bulbul - Police Community Support Officer Gloucestershire Constabulary	07966882358	Local off base and noncritical police issues
Highways	08000 514 514	Urgent contact number for all local highway issues (blocked access, safety concerns)

For any emergency's, please call 999.

CONTACTS

NEWSLETTER COPY	Teresa Griffin	clerk@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	0781 8626158
COUNCILLORS	KPC Website -	www.kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Parish Council Chair	Stephen Andrews	stephenandrews@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	01285 719924
Parish Councillor	John O'Connell	johnoconnell@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	01285 810512
Parish Councillor	Christine Nugent	christinenugent@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	01285 810306
Parish Councillor	Karen Saunders	karensaunders@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	01285 713155
Parish Councillor	Debbie Watson	debbiewatson@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	01285 810664
Parish Councillor	Sarah Newman	sarahnewman@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	01285 810507
Parish Councillor	Steve Bruton	stevebruton@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	07584674966
Parish Clerk	Teresa Griffin	clerk@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	0781 8626158
County Councillor	Dom Morris	dominic.morris@gloucestershire.gov.uk	07500894702
District Councillor	Tristan Wilkinson	tristan.wilkinson@cotswold.gov.uk	
District Councillor	Helene Mansilla	helene.mansilla@cotswold.gov.uk	
Constituency MP	Dr Roz Savage	roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk	
CHURCH			
	Rev Caroline Symcox	carolinesymcox@googlemail.com	01285 712611
PCC Secretary	Rosemary Andrews	rosemary.andrews@btinternet.com	
Choir	Mrs Cathy Stanford		01285 713033
Church & Hand Bells	Sally Strange		01285 810635
KEMPSFORD VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
Chair & Trustee	Ian Housley	To contact any Committee Member email -	
Secretary & Trustee	Kathy Woodward	infokempsfordvillagehall@kempsford.net	
Community Garden	Jacqui Howlett		01285 712268
WHELFORD VILLAGE HALL			
Bookings	Sue Griffin	374croft@gmail.com	01285 712979
SCHOOLS			
Kempsford School	Mr Batchelor (Head)	admin@kempsford.gloucs.sch.uk	01285 810367
School Governors		chair@kempsford.gloucs.sch.uk	01285 810875
Farmors School	Matthew Evans (Head)		01285 712302
RAF Fairford	Zoey Peace	501CSW.CRA.RAFFW@us.af.mil	01285 714965
COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL		(including Bulk Refuse)	01285 623000
GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL		Switchboard	01452 425000
		Adult Social Services	01452 426868
		Children's Social Services	01452 426565
GLOUCESTERSHIRE HIGHWAYS		highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk	08000 514 514
WILTSHIRE HIGHWAYS		northernhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk	0300 456 0105
SSE		Reporting of power cuts	105 or
Thames Water			0800 316 9800
Environment Agency		Floodline - 0845 9881188	03708 506 506
Non-emergency	Police		101
NHS 111 Service		(when less urgent than 999)	111
Hilary Cottage Surgery			01285 712377
FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES - Serving Fairford, Lechlade & surrounding villages			
Administrator	Kerry	admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk	01285 707300

May Day Hymns &



Pimms



FRIDAY 1ST MAY

6.30pm **St Mary's Church**

Kempsford

Start your Bank Holiday
with uplifting music and
song

Get your **FREE** entry ticket -
includes seat reservation & a drink.

Enter the Summer Hamper Draw

Tickets available from:

Myra Sheppard: 07849 789161

Ann O'Hara: 07760 272224

Jacqui Howlett: 01285 712268