

Kempsford

(with Whelford, Dunfield and Dudgrove)

Parish Newsletter

December 2025 & January 2026



Christmas Tree Trail 2025



St Mary's Church Kempford

A celebration of groups, clubs and others who support our community in Kempford & Whelford

FREE ENTRY to our sparkling festive trail open:

- ☆ Thursday 11th December 4.00pm-6.00pm
- ☆ Friday 12th December 4.00-7.00pm
- ☆ Saturday 13th December 4.00pm-7.00pm
- ☆ Sunday 14th December 4.00pm-6.00pm

Add a star to
the '*Cherish*' tree



Enjoy festive
refreshments

With thanks to everyone who helped to make this trail possible

Parish Diary

DECEMBER

Mon	1st	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Pizza Van
Sat	6th	11.00am - 2.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Family Christmas Café and children's arts & crafts
Sat	6th	6.00pm	St Mary's Kempsford	Christmas Soiree. Admission free, all welcome.
Sun	7th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Advent Sunday Holy Communion
Wed	10th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van
Thurs	11th	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Community Café
Sat	13th	5.30pm for 6.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Bingo
Sat	13th	10.00am - 12.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Davina's Crafting Workshop
Sun	14th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Service of the Word
Mon	15th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Pizza Van
Mon	15th	7.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Fri	19th	7.00pm	St Anne's Whelford	Carol Service
Sat	20th	5.00pm	St Mary's Kempsford	Carol Service
Sun	21st	9.30am	St Anne's Whelford	Holy Communion - all together
Christmas Eve	2.00pm		St Mary's Kempsford	Nativity & Christingle
Christmas Eve	11.00pm		Meysey Hampton	Late Holy Communion
Christmas Day	9.30am		St Mary's Kempsford	Family Holy Communion
Wed	24th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van
Sun	28th	10.00am	St Mary's Kempsford	Holy Communion - all together
Mon	29th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Pizza Van

JANUARY

Sun	4th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Epiphany Holy Communion
Thurs	8th	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Community Café
Sat	10th	10.00am - 12.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Davina's Crafting Workshop
Sun	11th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Service of the Word
Sun	18th	9.30am	St Anne's Whelford	Holy Communion
Mon	19th	7.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Sun	25th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Holy Communion - all together
Mon	26th		FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE	
Fri	30th	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
1st Friday in mth	10.00 - 12.00	Fairford Comm. Centre	Bereavement Café

Kempsford Village Hall – November Events

Regular Events

Mon	Pilates rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com Pizza Van 3 rd & 17 th solelunapizza3@gmail.com	10:00am – 11:00am 5:00pm – 7:30pm
Tue	Short Mat Bowls treasurerkempsford@gmail.com	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Wed	Youth Club Chippy Van 12 th & 26 th info@thecotswoldchippy.co.uk	5:00pm – 7:00pm 5:00pm – 7:30pm
Thur	Post Office Community Café 13 th	12:00pm – 2:00pm 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Other Upcoming Events

1 st Nov	Barn Dance. £10 per ticket. £30 for family of four (2 adults, 2 children) Refreshments available. First drink free. Tickets 07821 540088	7:00pm – 10pm
15 th Nov	Craft Fair	10:30am – 3:30pm
22 nd Nov	Davina's Crafting Workshop	10:00pm – 12:00
6 th Dec	Family Christmas Café and arts & crafts for children.	11:00am – 2:00pm
13 th Dec	Bingo	5:30pm for eyes down at 6:00pm
Line Dancing last Friday of every month starting 30 th Jan. Details to follow.		

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At our November meeting we co-opted Graeme Plank from Dunfield as our new Parish Councillor to replace Neil Green.

We are pleased to welcome Graeme to our team, and it is nice to have a representative from Dunfield again.

Sadly, since our last meeting, Mark Strange has decided to resign as a Parish Councillor.

Mark joined the Parish Council in 2014 and has been Chairman since 2021. He has worked very hard and contributed so much to the Parish Council and community during this time. He will be greatly missed.

As Mark is involved in many aspects of the community, we hope to continue to benefit from his amazing knowledge of all things Kempsford related!

We would like to thank Mark and wish him all the best for the future.

Polite Reminder

There has been an increase in dog waste not being picked up on the front of properties along Top Road to Hazel View, plus along the Dunfield Road. Leaving dog waste in public areas is unpleasant, unsanitary, and can carry health risks from parasites and bacteria. It is also much harder during the darker evenings to spot!

Bins are situated along both these areas. If the bins are full, please report through the Cotswold District Council website – www.cotswold.gov.uk.

KEMPSFORD & WHELFORD CHURCH SERVICES

DECEMBER

Sunday 7 th	9.30am	Advent Sunday Holy Communion, Kempsford
Sunday 14 th	9.30am	Service of the Word, Kempsford
Friday 19 th	7pm	Carol Service, Whelford
Saturday 20 th	5pm	Carol Service, Kempsford
Sunday 21 st	9.30am	Holy Communion, Whelford - all together
Christmas Eve	2pm	Nativity & Christingle, Kempsford
	11pm	Late Holy Communion, Meysey Hampton
Christmas Day	9.30am	Family Holy Communion, Kempsford
Sunday 28 th	10am	Holy Communion, Kempsford - all together

JANUARY

Sunday 4 th	9.30am	Epiphany Holy Communion, Kempsford
Sunday 11 th	9.30am	Service of the Word, Kempsford
Sunday 18 th	9.30am	Holy Communion, Whelford
Sunday 25 th	9.30am	Holy communion, Kempsford - all together

For details of services across the Five Villages, please see the noticeboard at church



COTSWOLD
District Council

NOTICE OF VACANCY

in the office of Councillor

Kempsford Parish Council

NOTICE is given that, due to the resignation of Mark Strange , a vacancy has arisen for a Councillor for the Parish Council.

The vacancy will be filled by election if a request from 10 local government electors for the Parish is received within 14 working days of the date of this notice. The request must be received by 15 December 2025.

Requests should include each electors' name and address and should be sent to the Chief Executive at the address below or by email to elections@cotswold.gov.uk

If an election is called, it will take place not later than 20 February 2026.

If 10 signatures are not received by the date given, the Parish Council may fill the vacancy by co-option.

Dated 25 November 2025

Jane Portman
Chief Executive
Cotswold District Council
Trinity Road
Cirencester
GL7 1PX

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2025

Thirty years ago, when Judith and I were new arrivals in Kempsford, I was asked to take over the local Poppy Appeal temporarily because the then organizer, Pam Archer, had died very suddenly and most unexpectedly. I am sure that some villagers will remember Pam with affection.

I am not sure what happened to my temporary plan because the last 30 years have flown by and I am amazed at the support that has continued for The Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal over the years. That support has come from: the House to House collectors, the residents of Castle Eaton, Dudgrove, Dunfield, Kempsford and **Whelford, the Parish Council, Kempsford Primary School, staff and pupils, St Mary's** Churches in Castle Eaton and Kempsford, the RAF Charitable Trust (RAFCTE) Fairford, the George in Kempsford, the Red Lion in Castle Eaton and the Shell and Esso Garage on London Road.

I must also mention that Judith has been a tremendous help with the Appeal over the years.

This year, with your help we have raised an excellent sum of £1901.15. Thank you so much. This money will be used by the British Legion to help our servicemen, past and present, and their dependents, when they are in need.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Alvin M Hill

Squadron Leader (Ret'd)

Local Poppy Appeal Organiser

amjhill@btinternet.com



KEMPSFORD COMMUNITY CAFÉ
Thursday 11th December 12 – 2pm



Please join us for our Christmas Café
and start your celebrations here!
Come and try our Homemade Soups and Bread,
and Delicious Cakes,
Fresh Coffee and Speciality Teas.



The next café will be on the 8th January

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 dizzylizzie@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 December and January

Dear friends,

As December arrives, there's a wonderful sense of anticipation in our villages and life gets very busy with shopping, decorating, and planning and yet, in the life of the Church, we begin not with Christmas, but with Advent. Advent invites us to pause, to wait, and to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus - after all, He is the reason for the season!

In our churches, many much-loved traditions help us make that space and build the excitement: Advent groups, the Tree Trail, Carol Services, Christingle and the Nativity, all helping us remember the true gift of Christmas - that Jesus came to bring hope, joy, and light into a weary world and that is worth celebrating!

But even in this joyful season, we know that not everyone feels merry. Perhaps this is the first Christmas without someone dear, perhaps memories make the days feel painful. If that is your experience, please know you are not alone and do get in touch with me. To **"love your neighbour"** is a wonderful way to honour the Christ-child, so let us all look out for one another - a small act of kindness can shine brightly in the darker moments.

And then, January comes with its quieter days. The decorations are packed away and life's pace slows as the new year begins. Yet that too is a gift - a whole new year stretching before us full of possibilities, hope, and fresh opportunities to grow in faith and friendship; enjoy familiar rhythms of worship and community, all in the knowledge that God walks with us into every day.

May Jesus, whose birth we celebrate, be your peace in the busy moments, your comfort in the difficult times, and your joy in the year to come.

Happy Christmas!

With every blessing,

Rev. Catie

Rev.catie@gmail.com

01285 671490

PLEASE SEE THE CHURCH NOTICEBOARD FOR SERVICES ACROSS THE 5 VILLAGES

Preferred Options Consultation 2025

Cotswold District Council is updating its Local Plan following ambitious new housing targets set by the government. For Cotswold District, this means the number of homes the Council needs to plan for each year has more than doubled to 1,036 as part of the national drive to build 1.5 million homes during this parliament. This is a significant challenge in a district where over 80% of land is designated as a National Landscape and infrastructure is already under pressure.



What's changed this year? – Cotswold District Council no longer has a 5-year housing land supply. This makes it much more challenging to refuse planning applications for housing.

In light of this, the Council is running a consultation from 14 November 2025 until 2 January 2026 on the different options to deliver this target. The consultation asks for views on where up to 18,650 more homes could be built across the district between now and 2043. There are currently 6,150 homes already in the pipeline that can contribute, so that means finding sites for 12,500 additional homes. These are high level proposals and they are looking for feedback on where development should go and what facilities, services and infrastructure would be needed to support this.

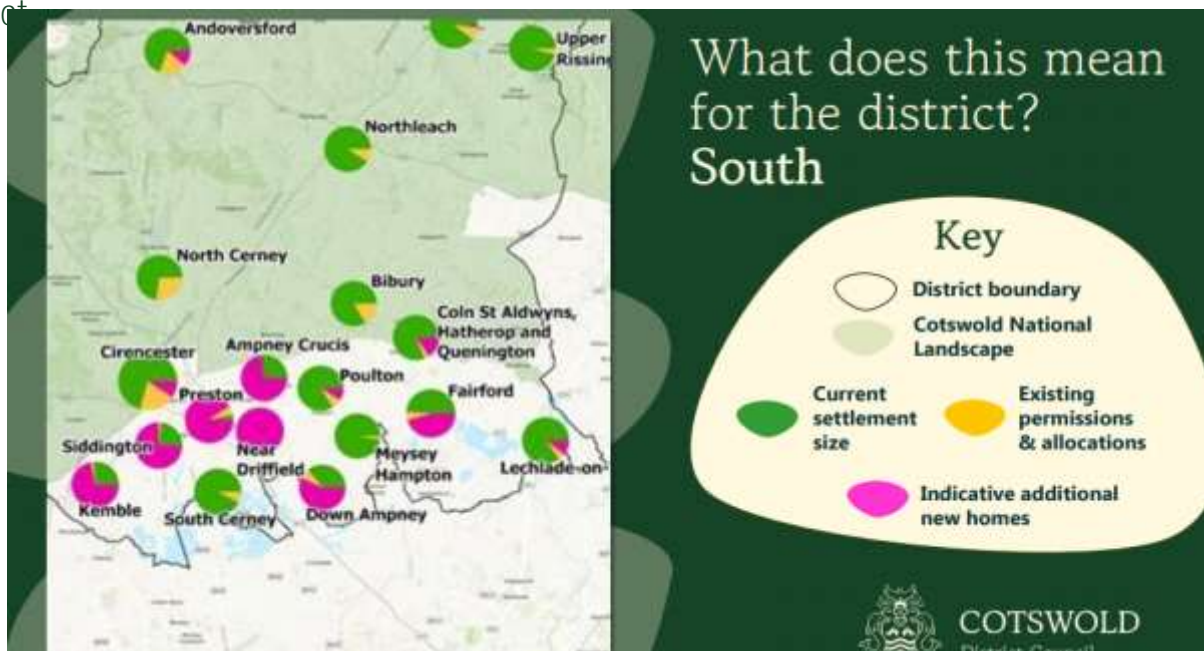
Additionally, the consultation looks beyond 2043, offering a longer-term view of future development for locations that could accommodate more new homes.

Representatives from Kempsford Parish Council attended a recent briefing on the Cotswold District Council's 'Preferred Option' for where the additional new homes could be built between now and 2043. This 'preferred option' would deliver 14,660 homes, only 79% of the Government's target.

The numbers for our area are shocking. These include:

• Lechlade	220	• Down Ampney	420
• Fairford	780	• Coln St Aldwyn/Hatherop/Quenington	80
• Ampney Crucis	660	• New settlement near Driffield	840

The above figures do not take account of the 'windfall' requirements for some 780 additional homes to be built in other rural settlements and open countryside within the district.



Points to note :

- Figures are indicative.
- No site allocations being made at this stage.
- Sites remain subject to consultation, evidence gathering, and infrastructure feasibility.
- Some sites may not progress to the next stage of the Local Plan update (Regulation 19) if found unsuitable, unachievable or unavailable.

What do these proposals mean to our community?

- Although Kempford Parish is not specifically mentioned, it does not mean that sites will not come **forward as part of the 'windfall' requirement**. Many may recall that there have been two applications refused on the land between The Knoll and John of Gaunt. Should an application come forward again, we have less protection now and might instead need to try and shape it.
- Many of us use the facilities at Fairford and Lechlade, and have first hand experience of the pressures both towns are currently under, without more houses!
- Without the appropriate investment in infrastructure, services and amenities, what **will the impact be on Schools, Doctor's surgeries, shops, sewerage and traffic, to name a few!**
- The nature of our surrounding area will fundamentally change forever.

What can we do?

- Cotswold District Council is keen to hear from all residents. The sharing of local **knowledge is invaluable as part of the 'evidence gathering and infrastructure feasibility' stage**.
- Attend one of the Public Drop-in Events –
 - o Fairford: Community Centre, Thursday 11 December, 2pm – 7pm
 - o Cirencester: Corinium Museum, Thursday 18 December, 2pm – 7pm
- Access further information and submit comments at your.cotswold.gov.uk

To keep up to date with all the latest on the Local Plan, please visit –

<https://Cotswold.gov.uk/local-plan>

CHRISTMAS SOIRÉE

**AN EVENING OF MUSIC, LIGHT, AND CELEBRATION AT ST MARY'S CHURCH
KEMPSFORD**

SATURDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 6:00 PM

MINCE PIES & MULLED WINE SERVED IN INTERVAL

ADMISSION FREE, ALL WELCOME

Local Plan review



Homes, landscape, livelihoods
- a legacy we build together.

Preferred options consultation

Changes in government housing targets mean around 18,650 new homes are now needed in the Cotswold District by 2043. Meeting this target will likely involve developing large sites or new settlements, some of which may continue delivering housing beyond 2043.

The council has set out initial options on where these homes and supporting infrastructure could go – and we want to hear your views on those proposals.

Make your voice heard – come to one of the exhibitions below, chat to our planning team and ask questions.



Friday 28th November:
King George's Hall, Mickleton 2-7pm

Friday 5th December:
St David's Centre, Moreton 2-7pm

Thursday 11th December:
Fairford Community Centre
(Farmor Room) 2-7pm

Thursday 18th December:
Corinium Museum (Winstone Room), Cirencester 2-7pm



For more information and to keep up to date with all the latest on the Local Plan please visit <https://cotswold.gov.uk/localplan>

Follow us to keep an eye on our progress:



COTSWOLD
District Council

CONTACTS

NEWSLETTER COPY	Teresa Griffin	clerk@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	0781 8626158
COUNCILLORS	KPC Website -	www.kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	
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	Stephen Andrews	stephenandrews@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	01285 719924
Parish Councillor	Debbie Watson	debbiewatson@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	01285 810664
Parish Councillor	Graeme Plank	graemeplank@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	01285 701470
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 Bell	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	Helen Seward (Head)	admin@kempsford.gloucs.sch.uk	01285 810367
School Governors		chair@kempsford.gloucs.sch.uk	01285 810875
Farmors School	Matthew Evans (Head)		01285 712302
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
Royal British Legion Mr A Hill			01285 810035
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



Kempsford Village Hall presents...

LINE DANCING CLASSES

Last Friday of every month

Starting - Friday 30th January 2026

7-10pm

Join us for some fun dancing
whilst learning a new skill! No
previous experience needed.

£5 PER PERSON

All ages welcome!

**Bar and refreshments
available**

