

Kempsford
(with Whelford, Dunfield and Dudgrove)

Parish Newsletter

October 2025

**Raising money for improvements at
St Mary's Church & Kempford Village Hall**

Live Music Night

with Event Bar

COMFORT BREAK

PLUS GUEST BAND

TAKING HITS

HITS FROM 70's

TO 2025

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER

Kempsford Village Hall

Doors open 7.00pm

7.30pm start



Tickets limited

ADVANCE TICKETS: £10 with welcome drink

Ann: 07760 272224 Jacqui: 01285 712268

Parish Diary

OCTOBER

Wed	1st	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van
Sat	4th	5.30 for 6pm start	Kempsford Village Hall	Bingo
Sun	5th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Holy Communion led by the Archdeacon
Mon	6th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Pizza Van
Thurs	9th	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Community Café
Sat	11th	7.00pm - 10.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Race Night
Sun	12th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Service of the Word
Wed	15th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van
Sat	18th	7.00pm - 10.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Live Music Night (Church Fund Raiser)
Sun	19th	9.30am	St Anne's Whelford	Harvest Festival - all churches together
Sun	19th	4.00pm	St Mary's Kempsford	Family Service
Mon	20th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Pizza Van
Mon	20th	7.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Mon	20th	NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE		
Mon	20th	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Memorial Hall Lechlade	Lechlade History Society - The History of Stroud
Sun	26th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Holy Communion - all churches together
Wed	29th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van

NOVEMBER

Sat	1st	7.00pm - 10.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Barn Dance
Sun	2nd	4.00pm	St Mary's Castle Eaton	All Souls Service - all churches together
Thurs	6th	10.00am - 7.00pm	Community Centre Fairford	Gas mains road closure Open Day
Sat	15th	10.30am - 3.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Gifts & More Craft Fair
Mon	17th	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Memorial Hall Lechlade	Lechlade History Society - Cotswolds Cornucopia

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 Community Centre	Bereavement Café

Kempsford Village Hall – September Events

Regular Events

Mon	Pilates rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com Pizza Van 6 th & 20 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 1 st 15 th & 29 th info@thecotswoldchippy.co.uk	5:00pm – 7:00pm 5:00pm – 7:30pm
Thur	Post Office Community Café 9th	12:00pm – 2:00pm 12:00 – 2:00pm

Other Upcoming Events

4 th Oct	Bingo	5:30pm for eyes down at 6:00pm
11 th Oct	Race Night	7:00pm – 10:00pm
18 th Oct	Live Music Night (Church Fund Raiser)	7:00 – 10:30pm
1 st Nov	Barn Dance. £10 per ticket. £30 for family of four (2 adults, 2 children) Refreshments available. First drink free.	7:00pm – 10pm
15 th Nov	Craft Fair	10:30am – 3.30pm



KEMPSFORD COMMUNITY CAFÉ **Thursday 9th October 12 – 2pm**

Come and try our Homemade Soups & Bread, Delicious Cakes, Fresh Coffee and Speciality Teas.

Chat with old friends and make new
Enjoy the friendly atmosphere and keep the village and its hall alive!

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 October

Dear friends,

For me, October is all about the stunning autumn colours, the misty mornings and the evenings that draw in faster than we expect. The turning back of the clocks is always a reminder that time itself is shifting, yet there's something lovely about drawing the curtains, switching on a lamp and enjoying the cosiness that this season brings. I think autumn has a gentle beauty, which invites us to slow down a little.

Autumn is also a season of thanksgiving and reflection, and our churches will be marking this with Harvest services. These services are opportunities to say "thank you" to God for the good gifts of creation – food, land, and the people who work so hard to bring in the crops. It's also a moment to remember those who don't have enough, so if you would like to donate food (or money in an envelope marked for the food bank), please bring these to church for blessing at the Harvest service and thank you in advance, they will make a real difference to those who need it most.

On **Sunday 26th October** we celebrate **Bible Sunday**. The Bible may look like a very old book, but it's full of life, encouragement, great stories and wisdom for today. If you haven't picked it up in a while, Bible Sunday could be a good nudge to give it another go – even a few verses can bring fresh perspective and a reminder of God's love and guidance.

On a practical note, I am away on placement this month as part of my training, so if you need any help or support in my absence, please get in touch with our Churchwarden, who will be very happy to assist. I'll be back in 'full swing' in November.

So, as the nights draw in, let's enjoy the beauty of autumn, give thanks for the harvest, and take time to be encouraged again by God's Word.

With every blessing, Rev. Catie

Rev.catie@gmail.com 01285 671490

Church Services for Kempford & Whelford – October

Sunday 5 th	9.30am	Holy Communion, Kempford led by the Archdeacon
Sunday 12 th	9.30am	Service of the Word, Kempford
Sunday 19 th	9.30am	Harvest Festival, Whelford – all churches together
	4pm	Family Service, Kempford
Sunday 26 th	9.30am	Holy Communion, Kempford - all Together

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

ALL SOULS SERVICE, SUNDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 4pm

ALL TOGETHER AT ST MARY'S, CASTLE EATON

We will be holding a service to remember those you love who have died. The service lasts about 45 minutes and will include hymns, readings & prayers, as well as an act of remembrance, whereby the names of those we remember will be read out and a candle lit for each one.

If you would like your loved one(s) to be remembered, please write down their name(s) and put your request in the box in either Whelford or Kempsford churches from mid October or contact Rev'd Catie direct on email.

We warmly invite you and any other members of your family or circle of friends to come along and remember on November 2nd. The service offers quiet and space for reflection, as well as the opportunity to offer our thanksgiving for the lives of loved ones. We'd be really pleased to see you. Rev'd Catie

Harvest reminds us how much we owe to our farmers *By Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds*

I'm drafting this column on 10 September, the tenth anniversary of Back British Farming Day- a moment to pause and give thanks for the farmers whose hard work sustains us all. Here in the South Cotswolds, their contribution is written into every field, every hedgerow, every view that makes this such a wonderful place to live.

Over the summer, I had the privilege of travelling through our towns and villages, meeting people and hearing your stories. Again and again, I was struck by the sense of pride we share in our communities and in the landscapes that shape them. Now, as the days grow shorter, the air turns cooler, and harvest festivals begin to fill village halls and churches, we are reminded how deeply our lives are bound to the land and to those who care for it.

This year has been especially tough for farmers, with dry weather through spring and summer making life difficult for many. In the 15 months since becoming your MP, I've spoken with our farmers across the South Cotswolds about these challenges. What has stayed with me most is not just their resilience, but their generosity of spirit - the willingness to share their knowledge, their time, and their quiet pride in a job that is never easy, but always vital.

Farmers give us more than food, though that alone would be reason enough for gratitude. They are also the custodians of our countryside, tending wildlife habitats, protecting against flooding, caring for rivers and preserving the beauty of the Cotswolds that so many of us treasure. Farming today is as much about stewardship as it is about crops and livestock. When we speak of food security, climate resilience, or nature recovery, our farmers are not standing on the sidelines. They are at the heart of it all.

That is why it matters so much that policymakers work with farmers, not at a distance from them. Too often, decisions are taken far from the fields and barns where their effects are most keenly felt. By listening to farmers here at home, I want to carry their voices into Parliament and ensure their wisdom helps shape the policies that affect us all.

As we gather for harvest festivals over the coming weeks - with tables laid with fruit, vegetables, and sheaves of wheat - I hope we will all take a moment to appreciate the care and dedication behind those gifts. Our farmers do not just feed us. They nurture our countryside, anchor our communities, and help sustain our way of life. My commitment is to stand alongside them, with gratitude and with determination, as we work for a future where farming, nature, and rural life flourish together.

Warm wishes, **Roz**

Email: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk | Call: 01285 300555

London Street, Fairford - Gas Mains Replacement Works

Wales & West Utilities are planning to carry out gas mains and service replacement works on London St, Fairford in the new year starting 5th January 2026 until 31st March 2026

These works will be carried out under a road closure for a 12-week duration with access being maintained for residents and businesses / deliveries.

An Open Day is being held on **Thursday 6th November** at The Community Centre, High St, Fairford **10.00am until 7.00pm** which is for anybody to call in and see Wales & West to find out about the works and access to homes and businesses throughout the closure.

As we approach hedge cutting season...

The cutting back of hedges along roads and footpaths is normally the responsibility of the owner of the land on the other side of the hedge. Outside of the village, that is generally the farmer who is farming the field. Within the village, that can be the owner of the house of which the hedge is the property boundary. If your property has a hedge along a boundary of the property with a road or footpath makes sure that is cut back so that it does not narrow the road or footpath.

In the UK, the main hedge cutting season is from September to February, to avoid disturbing nesting birds during the breeding season, which runs from March to August. However, rules differ for agricultural land, which has a statutory ban on cutting from 1 March to 31 August. Gardeners should also remember that it is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to damage or destroy a wild bird's nest, so always check hedges for nests before cutting at any time of the year.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Council is still looking to fill the current vacancy by co-option. If you are interested in becoming a councillor or would just like to find out more about what it involves, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk or any councillors. Contact details on page 7.

CHRISTMAS SOIRÉE

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

SATURDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 6:00 PM

MINCE PIES & MULLD WINE SERVED IN INTERVAL

ADMISSION FREE, ALL WELCOME

TEAMS4U CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

I shall again be a point of collection for all those who wish to fill a shoebox with goodies to send to those in Eastern Europe and Africa who are not as fortunate as us. I shall be delivering filled boxes to the centre in Witney at the beginning of November.

Rosemary Andrews 07765 258839

Funded Counselling for Young People 11-18

We are thrilled to be partnering with Cotswold Counselling to offer short term counselling sessions for young people aged 11 to 18, living within Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages. To find out more and to download an application form, please see our website.

www.friendsoffairford.org.uk/grant-funding



Friends of **Fairford** and **Lechlade**
Communities
Registered Charity Number: 1180059

CONTACTS

NEWSLETTER COPY	Teresa Griffin	clerk@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	0781 8626158
COUNCILLORS	KPC Website -	www.kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Parish Council Chair	Mark Strange	markstrange@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	01285 810635
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 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

Gifts & More Craft Fair

15th November

Kempsford Village Hall

10.30am to 3.30pm



KEMPSFORD RACE NIGHT

Join us for a night at the races! All welcome including children.

**SATURDAY 11TH
OCTOBER 25**

**DOORS - 7PM
FIRST RACE - 7.30PM**

**KEMPSFORD
VILLAGE HALL**

**Free
entry!!**



**TOTE BETTING SYSTEM, CASH ONLY.
FULLY LICENSED BAR, PIZZA AND
CRISPS. CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED
FOR REFRESHMENTS.**