

Kempsford

(with Whelford, Dunfield and Dudgrove)

Parish Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026



Cotswold
Canals
Trust

Friday 13th
February

CCT Website



COMMUNITY TALK

Restoring the Cotswold Canals – Past, Present & Future

A community talk exploring the history of the canal, what's been achieved so far, and the vision for reconnecting our waterways – with a focus on the Eastern end.

An evening exploring the history of the Cotswold Canals, their decline and restoration, and what's been achieved through the Cotswold Canals Trust. We'll look at future plans – particularly for the Eastern end – the benefits for communities and wildlife, and how you can get involved, with introductions and Q&A from Mark Strange.

7:00PM — KEMPSFORD VILLAGE HALL

www.cotswoldcanals.org | mail@cotswoldcanals.org | 01453 752568

Parish Diary

FEBRUARY

Sun	1st	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Holy Communion for Candlemas
Mon	2nd	6.00am - 12.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Eclipse Coffee Wagon
Wed	4th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van
Sat	7th	5.30pm for 6.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Bingo
Sat	7th	11.00am - 2.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Slime Family Café and arts & crafts for children
Sun	8th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Service of the Word
Mon	9th	6.00am - 12.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Eclipse Coffee Wagon
Mon	9th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Pizza Van
Thurs	12th	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Community Café
Fri	13th	7.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Canal Trust Community Talk
Sun	15th	9.30am	St Anne's Whelford	Holy Communion
Sun	15th	4.00pm	St Mary's Kempsford	Family Forest Church Service
Mon	16th	6.00am - 12.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Eclipse Coffee Wagon
Mon	16th	7.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Wed	18th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van
Sun	22nd	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Holy Communion - all churches together
Mon	23rd		MARCH NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE	
Mon	23rd	6.00am - 12.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Eclipse Coffee Wagon
Mon	23rd	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Pizza Van
Thurs	26th	8.00pm	Whelford Village Hall	Talk on missionaries in Rwanda
Fri	27th	7.00pm - 10.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Line Dancing
Sat	28th	10.00 - 12.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Davina's Crafting
Sat	28th	12.30pm - 1.15pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Knead Bakery

MARCH

Sat	14th		Kempsford Village Hall	Beer Festival
Mon	16th	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Lechlade Memorial Hall	History Society Talk - The North Wessex Way
Mon	16th	7.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting

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 – February 2026 Events

Regular Events

Mon	<p>Pilates rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com</p> <p>Pizza Van 9th & 23rd solelunapizza3@gmail.com</p> <p>Eclipse Coffee Wagon 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd in the carpark.</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am</p> <p>5:00pm – 7:30pm</p> <p>6:00am – 12:00pm</p>
Tue	<p>Short Mat Bowls treasurerkempsford@gmail.com</p>	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Wed	<p>Youth Club</p> <p>Chippy Van 4th & 18th info@thecotswoldchippy.co.uk</p>	<p>5:00pm – 7:00pm</p> <p>5:00pm – 7:30pm</p>
Thur	<p>Post Office</p> <p>Community Café 12th Feb</p>	<p>12:00pm – 2:00pm</p> <p>12:00pm – 2:00pm</p>

Other Upcoming Events

7 th Feb	Slime Family Café and arts & crafts for children.	11:00am – 2:00pm
7 th Feb	Bingo	5:30pm for eyes down at 6:00pm
13 th Feb	Canal Trust, see separate advert.	7:00pm
27 th Feb	Line Dancing (Last Friday in every month)	7:00pm – 10:00pm
28 th Feb	Davina's Crafting	10:00 – 12:00am
28 th Feb	Knead Bakery, see separate advert	12:30 – 1:15pm

Save The Date

Beer Festival 14th March

Kempsford Village Fete 12th September

Kempsford Parish Council

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Parish Council currently has two councillor vacancies which we are looking to fill by co-option.

Could this be you? Are you interested in serving your local community?

Kempsford Parish covers the villages of Kempsford and Whelford, and the hamlets of Dunfield and Dudgrove.

The Council meets monthly, usually the third Monday in the month, and meetings are generally held at Kempsford Village Hall, with Whelford Village Hall as a reserve option.

Parish Councillors volunteer their time to work on behalf of their local community. If you have lived in the Parish, or within 3 miles of it, for at least a year and are over 18, you are probably eligible (please check with the clerk for further eligibility criteria). Training will be given by the Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils, and funded by the Parish Council, if desired.

For a copy of the Application and Eligibility Form, our Co-option Policy, or any further information, **please contact the Clerk or visit the 'News' page of our website – www.kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Applications close on 28th February 2026.

A decision to co-opt an applicant will be made at the next meeting of the Parish Council which will be held on Monday 16th March 2026.

Mrs Teresa Griffin, Clerk to Kempsford Parish Council, Winterwood, Whelford, Glos. GL7 4EB Email: clerk@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 0781 8626158

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 February

Dear Friends,

February can feel like a quiet, in-between sort of month. Winter is still very much with us, and yet if you look around, you'll see the promising signs of change as snowdrops and daffodil shoots appear, reminding us that Spring is on its way.

On 1st February in church, we'll celebrate Candlemas, recognising Jesus as the light of the world. During the service we will bless the candles that we'll use in church through the coming year so that whenever they are lit, they remind us of Christ's light. You are very welcome to bring your candles from home for blessing, to be a similar reminder in moments both joyful and challenging.

Next in February comes Valentine's Day - a chance to tell the people we care about just how much they mean to us. Whether through cards, flowers, kind words, or quiet acts of service, it's a good opportunity to pause and give thanks for love in all its forms, past and present. And, of course, as lovely as human love is, it is still only a small reflection of the generous and unchanging love that God has for each one of us!

Then we turn our thoughts towards Lent. Shrove Tuesday on the 17th, traditionally a day for pancakes and preparation, followed by Ash Wednesday on the 18th, when Lent begins. There will be an Ash Wednesday service in Fairford for those who would like to attend - please check their website for time.

So that's what's happening in church – whatever you are doing this month, I hope you are able to find moments of light, kindness, and quiet encouragement along the way. Whether you join us for worship, mark the season in your own way, or simply pause to notice the changing world around you, you remain very much in our thoughts and prayers.

Wishing you a gentle February, with signs of spring to lift the spirits.

With every blessing,

Rev. Catie

Rev.catie@gmail.com

01285 671490

Myra Sheppard and family would like to say a huge thank you for all the cards and messages of condolence received on the death of Chris and also to everyone who attended his service to celebrate his life. It was wonderful to see how loved and respected he was by so many. He is sorely missed.

Church Services for Kempford & Whelford – February

Sunday 1 st	9.30am	Holy Communion for Candlemas, Kempford
Sunday 8 th	9.30am	Service of the Word, Kempford
Sunday 15 th	9.30am	Holy Communion, Whelford
	4pm	Family Forest Church Service, Kempford
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Holy Communion, Kempford - all churches together

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

Maintenance Work on Trees and Roses at St Mary's Kempford

Tree surgeons will be in the church yard and the graveyard this Spring to lift the crowns of some of the trees and do other necessary works

They will be with us 2, 3 4 and 5 of March and again on 9 and 10 March.

The roses in the church yard, which are close to the Leylandii hedge are in need of pruning before March to ensure they remain healthy and flower well. If you intend to prune them yourself please let the church warden or Curate know, otherwise we will arrange to have them pruned



Many thanks to everyone who supported Kempford & Whelford PCC fundraising events in 2025. Thanks also to all who kindly gave individual donations, including the donations by Sharon Elliott for the Soirée Evening and Myra Sheppard in memory of her husband Chris Sheppard. Together, you helped to raise:

- ♥ **£2,644 towards a toilet and heating improvements at St Mary's**
- ♥ **£454 to support the work of the church in Kempford & Whelford communities.**

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 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	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

KNEAD
 BAKERY | PATISSERIE | EATERY
 WILL BE AT
KEMPSFORD VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
12.30PM TO 1.15PM
 SOURDOUGH | PASTRIES | COOKIES | BROWNIES
 SAUSAGE ROLLS | DOUGHNUTS | COFFEE



KEMPSFORD COMMUNITY CAFÉ
Thursday 12th February 12 – 2pm

Beat the winter blues and come and try our
 Homemade Soups and Breads,
 Delicious Cakes,
 Fresh Coffee and Speciality Teas.

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 16th March - The North Wessex Way by David Mitchell

Local historian, David Mitchell, will talk about the forgotten road from Oxford to Bristol that he discovered on a map from 1675. The route has its origins in the Iron Age and was used by everyone in the millennia after, Kings, armies, travellers, monks and pilgrims. By the 18th century it had fallen into disuse

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.

Whelford Village Hall - Thursday 26 February 2026, 8:00pm

Whelford Women invite you to see the photos Geoff & Hope Price took on a recent visit to Rwanda where they used to be missionaries and to hear their enthusiasm about friends there.

Event Fee : Free but donations for the projects in Rwanda would be gratefully received. So please bring any spare cash you might have.

All Welcome including Husbands, friends and Partners.