

Kempsford

(with Whelford, Dunfield and Dudgrove)

Parish Newsletter

March 2026

Kempsford Village Hall

BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

SAT 14TH
MARCH



DOORS
OPEN 2PM

Ales - Cider - Lager - Gin Bar - Wine -
Darts Board - Guess the Score Games
& Cotswold Chippy from 5:30pm

SIX NATIONS LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN!!

IRELAND V SCOTLAND – 2:10PM

WALES V ITALY – 4:40PM

FRANCE V ENGLAND – 8:10PM

Card payments accepted

Parish Diary

MARCH

| | | | | |
|-------|------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Sun | 1st | 9.30am | St Mary's Kempsford | Holy Communion |
| Wed | 4th | 5.00pm - 7.30pm | Kempsford Village Hall | Chippy Van |
| Sat | 7th | 1.00pm - 2.30pm | Southrop Village Hall | Jumble Sale |
| Sun | 8th | 9.30am | St Mary's Kempsford | Holy Communion |
| Mon | 9th | 5.00pm - 7.30pm | Kempsford Village Hall | Pizza Van |
| Thurs | 12th | 12.00pm - 2.00pm | Kempsford Village Hall | Community Café |
| Sat | 14th | 2.00pm onwards | Kempsford Village Hall | Beer Festival (Chippy Van from 5.00pm) |
| Sun | 15th | 9.30am | St Anne's Whelford | Holy Communion |
| Sun | 15th | 4.00pm | St Mary's Kempsford | Family Service |
| 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 |
| Wed | 18th | 5.00pm - 7.30pm | Kempsford Village Hall | Chippy Van |
| Sat | 21st | 10.00 - 12.00pm | Kempsford Village Hall | Davina's Crafting |
| Sat | 21st | 7.00pm | St John Baptist Church | Cirencester Concert - Treorchy Male Voice Choir |
| Sun | 22nd | 9.30am | St Mary's Kempsford | Five Villages Holy Communion then APCM |
| Mon | 23rd | | APRIL NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE | |
| Mon | 23rd | 5.00pm - 7.30pm | Kempsford Village Hall | Pizza Van |
| Fri | 27th | 7.00pm - 10.00pm | Kempsford Village Hall | Line Dancing |
| Sat | 28th | 7.00pm | St Mary's Fairford | Fairford & District Choral Society Spring Concert |
| Sun | 29th | 10.00am | Marston Meysey | Church Service |

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 |

Kempford Village Hall – March 2026 Events

Regular Events

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| Mon | Pilates rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com Pizza Van 9 th & 23 rd solelunapizza3@gmail.com Eclipse Coffee Wagon in the carpark. | 10:00am – 11:00am 5:00pm – 7:30pm 7:30am – 12:00pm |
| Tue | Short Mat Bowls treasurerkempford@gmail.com | 7:00pm – 9:00pm |
| Wed | Youth Club Chippy Van 4 th & 18 th info@thecotswoldchippy.co.uk | 5:00pm – 7:00pm 5:00pm – 7:30pm |
| Thur | Post Office Community Café 12 th March | 12:00pm – 2:00pm 12:00pm – 2:00pm |

Other Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 14 th March | Six Nations Beer Festival and Cotswold Chippy in the carpark from 5:00pm | 2:00pm until England win..!! |
| 27 th March | Line Dancing (Last Friday in every month) | 7:00pm – 10:00pm |
| 21 st March | Davina's Crafting | 10:00 – 12:00pm |

Save The Date

Casino Evening 16th May
 Kempford Village Fete 12th September

Treorchy Male Voice Choir In Concert



Saturday 21st March 2026, 7.00pm

St John Baptist Church, West Market Place, Cirencester, GL7 2NH

Tickets £26.95. Available via online link: or visit Cirenparish.co.uk

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pcc-of-cirencester/t-mjovraa>

With International Guest Artists

CHURCH SERVICES FOR KEMPSFORD AND WHELFORD

MARCH

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|---|
| Sunday 1 March | 9.30 am | Holy Communion at Kempsford |
| Sunday 8 March | 9.30 am | Holy Communion at Kempsford |
| Sunday 15 March | 9.30 am | Holy Communion at Whelford |
| | 4.00 pm | Family service |
| Sunday 22 March | 9.30 am | Five Villages Holy Communion and then APCM at Kempsford |
| Sunday 29 March | 10 am | Marston Meysey. No services here. |

Lenten reflections take place every Thursday at 2 pm. See notice board for venues.

A reminder about Maintenance work of Trees at Kempsford

Work starts on Tuesday 3 March to lift the crowns of the trees in the church yard and graveyard and to do other necessary works. This will be on going until 10 March. We apologise to all those who normally visit to lay flowers etc for any inconvenience.

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 March

Dear Friends,

March finds us journeying through the season of Lent - a time often associated with giving something up like chocolate or biscuits. But Lent is as much about taking something on to make space for God in our lives - maybe reading a short passage of the Bible each day, spending a few moments in quiet prayer, or joining others in learning together.

This year our Lent group is exploring **The Lord's Prayer**, familiar words which still have much to teach us about trust, forgiveness, and hope. All are warmly welcome to come along - 2pm on 26.02.26; 05.03.26; 12.03.26 and 26.03.26. For more information, please get in touch or see the noticeboard at church.

Alongside this inward journey, the natural world around us is waking up! I love it - the evenings are getting lighter, bulbs are pushing through the soil, and signs of spring are appearing in hedgerows and gardens. After the stillness of winter, there is a sense of movement and expectation.

March also brings Mothering Sunday (15th), a chance to celebrate and make a special fuss of our mums, while giving thanks for all who have nurtured and cared for us. For many it is a joyful day, though for some it can be difficult so in church we hold all these experiences together with gratitude, remembrance, and prayer.

As Lent continues, we enter into Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday. Here, we walk with Jesus towards the cross and the events at the heart of our faith - but the cross is not the end! Easter proclaims the resurrection of Jesus - **God's decisive promise that death is overcome** and, through Him, new life is given.

May this season of Lent draw us closer to God and to one another as we share in the hope of the risen Christ.

With every blessing,

Rev. Catie

Rev.catie@gmail.com

01285 671490



KEMPSFORD COMMUNITY CAFÉ
Thursday 12th March 12 – 2pm

Come and meet your friends and enjoy our
Homemade Soups and Bread
Delicious Cakes
Fresh Coffee and Speciality Teas

COME AND BAG A BARGAIN AT THE
SOUTHROP SCHOOL PTA



SOUTHROP
VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026

1 - 2.30PM

CLOTHING, BOOKS, TOYS, BRIC A BRAC

ENTRANCE £1 **CASH ONLY**

Donation Times Wednesday 4th March 9-11am Friday 6th
March 1-2.30pm, Saturday 7th March 10-11.30am For more
information contact PTA@Southrop.gloucs.sch.uk:



Hazel View community facility

The Parish Council has received several reports of anti-social behaviour in the car park and around the play facilities.

Damage to equipment is extremely costly to repair and covering this expenditure will result in a rise to the local council tax contribution to the Parish Council. The alternative is to install CCTV, which again would need to be funded.

Vandalism is a criminal offence and we will report all offences.

Fairford & District Choral Society Spring Concert

Fairford & District Choral Society will perform Mozart's Requiem and his Te Deum and Ave Verum Corpus on Saturday 28 March at 7pm at St Mary's Church Fairford. There will be professional soloists and an organ accompanist.

Tickets are £15 and are available from Fairford Opticians.

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

Monday 20th April Those Mitford Sisters by Gillian Cane

Monday 18th May Woodchester Mansion.. an Unfinished Masterpiece by Liz Davenport

RAF Fairford - Community Relations Advisor Introduction

I wanted to take the opportunity in this month's newsletter 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 maximise the mutual understanding between United States Visiting Forces (USVF) and the British communities in which they live and work.

I am on base most days unless I am out and about visiting Councils or the local community. Should you have any queries or feedback relating to the base from a local perspective please do get in touch on the contact details below.

Email: 501CSW.CRA.RAFFW@us.af.mil / Instagram [@getlocal_raff](https://www.instagram.com/getlocal_raff)

Civ: 01285 714965 / Mobile: 07764 166079 / DSN: 314 - 247 4965

Building 2 | RAF Fairford | Horcott Road | Fairford | GL7 4DL

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 |