

Kempsford

(with Whelford, Dunfield and Dudgrove)

Parish Newsletter

September 2026

A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of a village fete. In the foreground, a man in a hat and apron grills food, while a woman holds a drink. Children are playing with a dog, a soccer ball, and on a bouncy castle. A food stall with a striped awning is on the left. In the background, there's a white village hall and trees. The sky is blue with clouds and colorful balloons.

KEMPSFORD

Fete

• A FUN DAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY! •

KIDS GAMES | CRAFT STALLS | BOUNCY CASTLE
SPORTS EVENTS | DOG SHOW

➤ FOOD AND DRINK ◀

- Gurt Wings
- BBQ
- Bar
- Tea, coffee & cake
- Ice cream

SATURDAY
12
SEPTEMBER
2026

• FROM 2PM – LATE •

➤ LIVE MUSIC ◀

FROM:

- JD – Guitar Vocalist
- Nigel & Dave – Guitar Vocal Duo
- Presto featuring Kate Fletcher – Rock & pop, old & new.

GOOD FOOD. GOOD TIMES.

✉ infokempsfordvillagehall@kempsford.net | ♡ Charity number: 1210021

Parish Diary

SEPTEMBER

Wed	2nd	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van
Sun	6th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Holy Communion
Thurs	10th	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Community Café
Sat	12th	2.00pm - late		Village Fete
Sun	13th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Service of the Word
Wed	16th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van
Sun	20th	9.30am	St Anne's Whelford	Harvest Festival & Holy Communion
Sun	20th	4.00pm	St Mary's Kempsford	Family Forest Church
Mon	21st	7.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Mon	21st		OCTOBER NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE	
Fri	25th	7.00pm - 10.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Line Dancing
Sat	26th	5.30pm for 6.00pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Family Bingo
Sun	27th	9.30am	St Mary's Kempsford	Harvest Festival & Holy Communion
Sun	27th	11.15am - 12.15pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Knead Bakery
Wed	30th	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Kempsford Village Hall	Chippy Van

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 – September 2026

Regular Events

Mon	Pilates rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com	10:00am – 11:00am
Tue	Short Mat Bowls treasurerkempsford@gmail.com	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Wed	Youth Club Chippy Van 2 nd , 16 th & 30 th info@thecotswoldchippy.co.uk	5:00pm – 7:00pm 5:00pm – 7:30pm
Thur	Post Office (no post office on 3 rd sept) Community Café 10 th Sept	12:00pm – 2:00pm 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Other Upcoming Events

12 th Sept	Knead Bakery	Village Fete
27 th Sept	Knead Bakery	11:15am – 12:15pm
25 th Sept	Line Dancing (Last Friday every month)	7:00pm – 10:00pm
26 th Sept	Family Bingo	5:30pm for eyes down at 6:00pm

Scan this QR code to join the village hall WhatsApp group to keep up to date with events etc.



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 September

Dear Friends,

What a hot summer it has been! The seemingly endless sunshine and extraordinary heat have made me stop and really notice the world around us. Our usually green countryside is brown and parched, lawns are dust-dry, streams and ponds unusually low, and wildfires, once something we watched on the news from distant, hotter countries, have become a reality much closer to home.

Seeing creation under such stress has made me reflect on both its fragility and extraordinary resilience. Looking around, it is like autumn has come early as leaves fall from the trees, but this is a clever survival strategy: shedding leaves reduces water loss and conserves precious resources. Creation has remarkable ways of adapting – but there are limits to what it can withstand.

So it seems particularly appropriate that in the church, September celebrates **Creationtide**, when Christians give thanks to God as Creator and reflect on our responsibility to care for the earth.

This year's theme, **Living Water**, feels especially poignant. Throughout the Bible, water is an image of God's life-giving presence. Jesus speaks of "living water", while Ezekiel has a wonderful vision of water flowing into a barren land, bringing life and renewal wherever it goes. After such a dry summer and hosepipe restrictions, perhaps we have been reminded how precious water is – and how easily we take clean water for granted when so many around the world cannot.

Creationtide leads us naturally towards Harvest, when we give thanks for God's gifts and renew our commitment to cherish them, share them fairly and care for our common home.

September also brings a new term as children return to school, college or university. Amid excitement there may be uncertainty too so as one season gives way to another, may we remember that God travels with us into the new and unfamiliar, and give thanks for his goodness in every season.

With every blessing,

Rev. Catie

Rev.catie@gmail.com

01285 671490



KEMPSFORD COMMUNITY CAFÉ Thursday 10th September 12 – 2pm

Ploughman's Lunches, Homemade Soup and Bread,
Delicious Cakes, Fresh Coffee and Speciality Teas.
Come and meet your friends and neighbours.
If you haven't been before you're missing a treat!



Kempsford Gifts & More Craft Fair *Unique handcrafted gifts & treats*

CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER:

6 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
13 th	9.30am	Service of the Word
20 th	9.30am	Harvest Festival & Holy Communion, St Anne's, Whelford
	4pm	Family Forest church at St Mary's, Kempsford
27 th	9.30am	Harvest Festival & Holy Communion at St Mary's, Kempsford

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

Kempsford Parish Council

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Following the resignation of Christine Nugent, after serving nearly 30 years, we would like to thank her on behalf of the Parish for all her support and work. This has created a vacancy, which we wish 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.

It is the first tier of local Government offering a population of 1,187 residents (at last census) the opportunity to gain access to information about local and National issues and a forum to raise any concerns they may have.

Who is the Parish Council?

The Council is an elected body of 7 residents who qualify to act as Parish Councillors. Their role is to ensure that the Parish is using the precept from the Council Tax effectively and efficiently and to represent the interests of the Community they serve. They are statutory consultees for all planning matters.

Councillors meet 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. Working groups may meet as required to deal with specific areas of responsibility such as Highways, Quarrying, Water Sewerage & Flooding, and Other Projects.

Why should I be a Parish Councillor?

You've been in the parish for a while and never been to a Parish Council meeting and you are thinking that the Council are all retired with time on their hands and not really bothered about issues affecting the village? However, if something 'big' happens or there is a large planning application, that's when we all need support and guidance and the Parish Council is instrumental in providing that for the residents.

Councillors are someone you can turn to for help and advice and by getting involved and becoming a Councillor, you can influence decisions.

By becoming a Parish Councillor, you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support, a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Helping make decisions to shape the future or improve your community is very rewarding and can give you a sense of pride and achievement.

We're looking for people from all walks of life to join our team of parish councillors.

No special qualifications needed.

Just commitment, common sense and a desire to make a difference.

Whether you're:

- A parent with ideas to make Kempstford Parish better for children and young people
- A retiree who cares about green spaces, gardening and amenities
- A busy professional who can spare a few hours a month
- A nature lover keen to protect our footpaths and local environment
- A young person who wants local decisions to reflect your generation

There's a place for you!

This is a voluntary, non-political role focused entirely on our community.

Step forward. Join the team working to make Kempstford Parish a better place to live, work and play.

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

Applications close on 30th September 2026.

Please note, our next meeting is Monday 21st September 2026, 7pm at Kempstford Village Hall. Come along and get a feel for what we discuss and deal with. Everyone welcome.



Whelford has recently had a new Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) installed to assist with the monitoring of speeding vehicles through the village. The sign was purchased by Holcim UK who operate the aggregate quarry at Manor Farm, Kempstford. The Parish Council would like to thank Holcim for their support with this and their involvement in other community projects around the parish.

Speeding continues to be a concern within the parish, especially on the main road through Whelford. Disappointingly the data recorded by the various equipment indicates a large number of speeding vehicles are driven by local residents from the surrounding area. The Parish Council continues to work with Gloucestershire Constabulary with regards to supplying them with recorded data, enabling them to plan more effective use of their Speed Enforcement Officers and visits to the worst offenders.

September in Kempford - by Roz Savage MP

September arrives with something important to report - and I want to make sure every resident in Kempford knows about it.

On 30 July I wrote formally to Wes Streeting MP, the Secretary of State for Defence, about the environmental impact of operations at RAF Fairford on this community. The letter was prompted by Kempford Parish Council, which held two public meetings last month to gather evidence on the effect of increased activity at the base. Having considered those concerns at their meeting on 27 July, the Parish Council asked me to seek direct ministerial intervention on two issues they believe can only be resolved by the Ministry of Defence.

The first is noise. The B52H and B1-B aircraft using RAF Fairford generate noise of up to 140dBA, not only during take-off but during extended periods of engine maintenance and ground run-up. Noise assessments carried out with Cotswold District Council's support at three locations within the parish; Dunfield, Kempford itself, and Whelford, recorded levels of around 100dBA inside properties. That is a significant intrusion into people's homes and daily lives. The second issue is air quality: residents have reported clouds of aviation fuel fumes that prevent normal use of gardens and outside space.

In the letter, I also raised a specific technical gap. Under Joint Services Publication 418, a Military Aviation Noise Contour assessment - a MANC - is required for every military airbase in the UK. It has been carried out for every base except RAF Fairford. The justification given is that no aircraft are permanently based there, making it impossible to determine which aircraft should be assessed. I made clear in my letter that this position is not credible: RAF Fairford operates as the Forward Operating Base for USAF bomber aircraft in Europe, and only three bomber types - the B52H, B1-B, and B2 - are in service with the USAF. A MANC assessment could be completed now based on those aircraft. I asked the Secretary of State to commission that assessment and to set out a timeline for doing so, and I requested a three-way meeting between my office, Kempford Parish Council, and the relevant MoD officials to take this forward.

I was in Kempford itself on the same day, dropping in to The George on the High Street to meet residents as part of my Summer Tour. It was a good conversation, and the RAF concerns were very much at the forefront of people's minds. I also met Debbie Campbell from the Coln Restoration Group, who told me about a community event planned for 12 September in Fairford to raise awareness of sewage pollution in the River Coln. Given that I had spent the afternoon visiting Fairford Sewage Treatment Works with Thames Water, asking hard questions about what is being discharged into the Coln, the timing felt particularly apt.

Warm wishes,

Roz Savage MP

Tel: 01285 286 160 | roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk

Citizens Advice Column:

Q: I hired a company to install concrete fencing and a gate in my back garden. The quality of the work is poor and the gate doesn't shut properly. What can I do?



When you put your trust in a trader and the work doesn't meet your expectations it can be frustrating. If a trader hasn't done a good job with 'reasonable care and skill', the Consumer Rights Act 2015 entitles you to ask for the problem to be fixed or receive a refund.

Evidence is important. Take photos and make notes about what happened and when, including times and dates, and keep receipts or other proof of payment.

People can experience different types of problems with traders, and there is [specific advice available on the Citizens Advice website depending on the issue](#).

When you contact the trader, explain the problem clearly and provide your evidence. They should fix it within a reasonable amount of time and without causing you too much inconvenience. The law doesn't define exactly what is reasonable, so **you'll need to agree this** with them.

If they can't or won't fix the problem, you can ask for a partial or full refund, depending on how bad the issue is. It's a good idea to suggest an amount and explain why you think it's reasonable. Once a refund has been agreed, it should be paid within 14 days.

If you **can't reach an agreement**, there are other options. If you paid by card, you may be able to complain to your card provider. If the trader is a member of a trade association or quality scheme, this might help to take your complaint further, or you may be able to use an [alternative dispute resolution \(ADR\) scheme](#). If you've tried various things and the complaint remains unresolved, you may be able to complain to the [Financial Ombudsman Service](#).

Anyone experiencing problems with building work, decorating or home improvements can contact the national [Citizens Advice Consumer Service](#) on 0808 223 1133 for advice and support from a trained adviser.



Citizens Advice helps with a range of issues. For information and self-help guidance, visit citizensadvice.org.uk. To speak to a local adviser in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts, visit citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk to complete our webform or call us on **0808 800 0510**

Stronger



together.

5-A-Side Tournament

A day for everyone.

Charity Football Tournament
Food & Drink with a Licensed Bar
Live Music & DJ
Table Top Sale – £15 per table
Auction & Raffle

And a special tribute to
Richard Hadgkiss & Calum McDonald



Saturday 3 October | 12pm - Midnight
Lechlade Memorial Hall

IN AID OF
**CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
LIVING
MISERABLY**

Scan the QR code
to enter a team,
book a table or for
more information.



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	Karen Saunders	karensaunders@kempsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	0787 1816499
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		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



KEMPSFORD DOG SHOW

AS PART OF THE KEMPSFORD FETE!

CATEGORIES

-  Puppy (below 2)
-  Veteran (over 7)
-  Prettiest Female
-  Handsomist Male
-  Junior Handler Boys
-  Junior Handler Girls
-  Dog Judge would most like to take home



ENTRIES FROM
2PM

REGISTER ON THE DAY!



ALL DOGS WELCOME!

HAVE FUN &
SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!



**KEMPSFORD
VILLAGE
SPORTS FIELD**



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

Kaz Kare

PET SERVICES

07710 448029

PART OF THE FAMILY