



4 sides with 13 items

Prayers

We ask you to remember in your prayers this week the worship, work and witness of the congregation at **Newent**.

Circuit Dates, Event & Place: In Brief (further details on each below)

When	Event	Where
Saturday 9 Dec 3pm	Festival of Angels	Tewkesbury Methodist Church
Saturday 9 Dec 7pm	An evening of Harmonies and Christmas songs	Cirencester Ashcroft church
Tuesday 12 Dec 10.30am	Spectrum	Christchurch Abbeydale
Wednesday 13 Dec 10.30am – 12noon	Coffee Morning	May Hill Methodist Church
Thursday 14 Dec 2pm	Welcome to Christmas 2017	Chalford Hill Methodist Church

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The Superintendent’s Lunch Club

12.30 on a Thursday. All welcome to sit alongside, eat and chat

14 December	The Whitminster Inn, Whitminster
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News....

Circuit Office closure over Christmas period

Please be aware that the Circuit Office **will close Wednesday 20 December at 12 noon**, and will re-open on Tuesday 2 January at 9.30am. The final 2017 edition of the newsletter will be produced on Wednesday 20 December, with the first of 2018 on Wednesday 3 January 2018. Please ensure all expense claims are with the Circuit Office by no later than Friday 15 December, to ensure payment before Christmas. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Louise Hebron & Michelle Warren
Circuit Administrators

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Housing and Homelessness – December bulletin by the Public Issues & Social Responsibility Team

As we look forward to Christmas in the comfort of our own homes, I have attached some final thoughts on this quarter’s focus on housing and homelessness in the accompanying bulletin. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any queries.

Andy Rickell
Portfolio Holder

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Christian Aid Christmas Videos

Christian Aid has been allotted match-funding again by the UK Government for its Christmas Appeal. Every £1 you give will be matched by DfID. If you have a service coming up at which the offering has not yet been designated, perhaps you could think of Christian Aid? Or even if you haven't, here are some short videos you might like to show:

A film about porridge: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6B82WAYcQq4 (3 mins 40)

A waste-full song: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ClIdodXcAz0k&feature=youtu.be (1 min 13)

The words for this you can find on the attached song sheet

A celebrity endorsement: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xsybNCgJtg (41 seconds)

Advent Meditation and Music: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3KljNUAsAs&feature=youtu.be (1 min 56)

The serious one about Colette in Burkina Faso: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh0rtFQWpKA (4 min 15)

Information about the Appeal is here www.christianaid.org.uk/christmas-appeal

For any further info, please contact Revd Noel Sharp at nsharp@christian-aid.org

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ACE Magazine Awards 2018

The Association for Church Editors is launching its next Awards to celebrate and recognise the work of church magazine editors and their editorial teams. The Awards for 2018 are aimed at A4 magazines/newsletters. The guidelines for entry are as follows:

- A4 layout (Magazines larger than A5, but smaller than A4 are acceptable)
- Produced using colour printing or black & white.
- Not less than four issues per year
- A print run of not less than 50 copies

A framed Certificate of Achievement will be awarded to the winning entry in each of the following categories:

- Cover design
- Overall layout & structure
- Creativity of headlines
- Use of graphics
- Clarity of the Christian message
- Appeal to a wider community

The Gold and Silver Awards will both receive an inscribed trophy to keep and a framed certificate. The Gold Award winner will also receive the John King Trophy, to be held for one year. The ACE Awards are open to publications from all Christian denominations. In submitting your entry, please indicate:

- The name, email address and telephone number of the editor.
- How many other people are directly involved in producing the publication.
- The type of Christian group or church which the magazine serves.
- The regular print run.
- How frequently the magazine or newsletter is published.
- Its principle aims and target audience.

How to submit your entries:

The closing date for entries is Monday 5th February 2018. We require two copies of two issues produced during the previous 12 months. One should relate to Easter or Christmas. The review process will be based on paper magazines rather than electronic versions. Please send your magazines to Angela Price, 14 Browns Way, Aspley Guise, Milton Keynes MK17 8JA. Please note we do not have the administrative capacity to return the magazines. We will highlight particularly good examples of the magazines at our Annual Meeting on 5th May 2018. The Association's website is www.churchmag.uk.

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Continuing...

Dates for the Diary....

Festival of Angels

Saturday 9 December, 3pm

Tewkesbury Methodist Church

Everyone is welcome to the Festival of Angels, which begins with a short festive service followed by refreshments. The festival will continue to be held from Monday 11 to Friday 15 December and Monday 18 to Friday 22 December, 3 – 5pm, and finally on Saturday 16 December between 10am and 4pm.

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An evening of Harmonies and Christmas songs

Saturday 9 December, 7pm

Cirencester Ashcroft church

Come along and enjoy an evening of lovely harmonies and festive Christmas songs performed by Blue Notes (female jazz group) and Counter Measures (male quartet). Tickets are £10, concessions £8 and include light refreshments in the interval. This concert is raising funds for the charity 'Help Medina'.

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Spectrum

Tuesday 12 December, 10.30am

Christchurch Abbeydale

The next meeting of Spectrum study group will be the third of six-monthly studies entitled 'God of Holiness and Justice' and will be led by the Rev Dr John Sampson. If you have not come to one of these studies before you are most welcome. Tea/coffee and mince pies served from 10am.

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Coffee Morning

Wednesday 13 December, 10.30am – 12noon

May Hill Methodist Church

Everyone is welcome to attend the May Hill Coffee Morning! All proceeds will go towards chapel funds.

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Welcome to Christmas 2017

Thursday 14 December, 2pm

Chalford Hill Methodist Church

A carol service for all with u3a singing for pleasure. This will be followed by tea and cake! There will be a chance to learn an aspect of the work of action for children among vulnerable young people and to contribute to their funds. Everyone is invited. For more information please ring Helen Sackett on 01453 883072.

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Events happening outside the circuit and in other churches....

Spirit of Peace Community Bring and Share Supper

Monday 4 December, 7 – 9pm

Friendship Café, Chequers Bridge, Painswick Road, Gloucester

We are inviting representatives of several traditions to talk briefly about their winter festivals and/or the theme of Darkness and Light. Everyone is warmly invited to bring food to share, which does not contain alcohol or meat. Admission is free; however, donations are invited for the ongoing work of UK registered charity, Spirit of Peace. In addition, we will have beautiful, naturally fragranced Essence of Peace candles and wax melts on sale.

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Taize Service for Advent

Wednesday 6 December, 7.30pm

St Mary de Lode Church, St Mary's Square, Gloucester

Come along to the Taize service for Advent. Parking will be available outside the church. Everyone is welcome.

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Open Days 2018

Saturday 17 February, 10am & 1.45pm

Saturday 19 May, 10am & 1.45pm

The Queen's Foundation, Somerset Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2QH

If you are being called to study Theology, you are invited to attend an informal Open Day and explore options for study. The Centre for Discipleship and Theology brings together students from a wide range of backgrounds and experience to explore various aspects of theological enquiry – be that doctrine or mission, Bible or worship. If you would like to attend, please contact admissions on admissions@queens.ac.uk.

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