



**3 sides with 12 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
Thursday 14 Dec 2pm	Welcome To Christmas 2017	Chalford Hill Methodist Church
Friday 15 Dec 7pm	Christmas Flowers and Carols	Christchurch Abbeydale
Sunday 21 Jan 6pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Christchurch Abbeydale

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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....

#### Deacon Stationing

We are delighted to announce that we have been successfully matched with a new Deacon to replace Deacon Steve Peck when he retires next summer. Deacon Suzanne ('Sue') Peat who currently serves in the West Durham Circuit will initially carry forward Steve's work in Stonehouse and Innsworth, possibly changing part of the focus as the Vision for Strategy for Mission process works its way out. We look forward to welcoming Sue in September 2018 (subject as ever to final confirmation at next summer's Conference).

**Moira Anderson**

**Circuit Personnel Portfolio holder**

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#### 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 Hebbon & Michelle Warren**

**Circuit Administrators**

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#### Circuit Directory

The 2017/18 edition of the Circuit Directory is now available with both hard and electronic copies being distributed over the next couple of days. Many thanks to everyone for your help in updating this document.

**Louise Hebbon, Circuit Administrator**

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## **Modern Day Slavery & People Trafficking**

Revd Ann Owen recently attended an event, facilitated by the Salvation Army, on Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking. Ann has kindly prepared a summary of the event which is attached for your awareness and consideration, More information on this subject can be found on the Salvation Army website [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/human-trafficking](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/human-trafficking).

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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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## **Dates for the Diary....**

### **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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### **Christmas Flowers and Carols**

**Friday 15 December, 7pm**

**Christchurch Abbeydale**

Come along and enjoy a flower demonstration and carols with Jubilate. Ticket price is £5 to include cheese and wine. There will be a demonstration by Alison Apperley and Di Dale and carols led by Jubilate. The flower arrangements will be raffled off at the end of the evening.

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### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Sunday 21 January, 6pm**

**Christchurch Abbeydale**

The theme is Worshipping together as God's people in Gloucester, remembering we belong to a worldwide church. The preacher will be the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester.

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

### **Christmas Presence**

**Thursday 14 December, 7.30pm**

**Holy Trinity Church, Stroud**

Come along and enjoy an evening of Christmas music and sing-along carols. All funds raised will go towards The Door Youth Project.

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### **Bible Study Day**

**Saturday 3 February, 10am – 4pm**

**Highworth Methodist Church, Vicarage Lane, Highworth, SN6 7AD**

Led by Revd Bev Thomas, the theme will be 'Who Do You See In The Kingdom of God?'

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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](mailto:admissions@queens.ac.uk).

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