



**3 sides with 9 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		Where
Monday 8 January, 10.30am – 12noon	Coffee Morning	Woolaston Methodist Church
Saturday 20 January	Pastoral Care sessions	Tewkesbury Methodist Church
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**

18 January	The Belfry, Broad Street, Littledean, Cinderford, GL14 3JS
25 January	The Moon under the Water, Cheltenham
1 March	The Corinium, Cirencester
22 March	The Whitminster Inn, Whitminster

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**News....**

**Mrs Rita Muff**

We are sorry to announce that after a sudden and short illness in the last few days, Mrs Rita Muff passed away overnight between New Year's Eve and Day. Rita was the wife of the Revd Peter Muff, who was a minister of a number of the churches in the old Gloucester Circuit, before being for many years a supernumerary minister at Christchurch, Abbeydale. Thus Rita will be known to and loved by many, as a loving, caring friend; as one who delighted in others and not least children; and as a children's and wider author.

We give thanks for Rita's life, and hold Peter and their children and families in our thoughts and prayers at this time. The funeral arrangements will be announced when known.

Revd Dr James Tebbutt

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**Spring Quarter Preaching Plan**

A gentle reminder that all preachers will need to upload their individual availability into the Chrestos system, or return their hard copy form if one has been sent, by today please. Similarly, all church stewards will need to ensure that any service requests and arrangements are discussed with and sent via their ministers today, to allow for all information to be included in the plan. This will help allow us to publish the Spring Preaching Plan with a minimum of delay. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the Circuit Office as soon as possible.

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## **MWiB President 2019 – 2021**

MWiB are seeking a new President, commencing in June 2018 as Vice President, then two years as President, followed by a year as Vice President. Selection will take place at the MWiB Forum on Saturday 17 February at Hinsley Hall, Leeds. A full job description and application form can be downloaded from the website [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk), by emailing [admin@mwib.org.uk](mailto:admin@mwib.org.uk), or by calling 0300 030 9873. Further information can be found in the attachment. *Please note: the deadline for applications is Friday 5 January.*

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

### **Coffee Morning**

**Monday 8 January, 10.30am – 12noon**

#### **Woolaston Methodist Church**

Woolaston are holding a coffee morning to raise funds for the maintenance of the church. We look forward to welcoming friends old and new, come and have a chat and a cuppa and relax after all the Christmas and New Year Festivities.

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### **Pastoral Care sessions**

**Saturday 20 January**

#### **Tewkesbury Methodist Church**

In the Spring of 2018 the Revd Diane Daymond will be leading four Saturday morning sessions from 10am to 12noon on pastoral care and visiting in four venues across our Circuit. As well as being able to draw upon her own extensive experience in ministry, the Revd Diane was a lead member of the team that offered the Wesley College Bristol Pastoral Carers' Course for a number of years across the connexion.

**The first of these sessions has been planned for Saturday 20 January at  
Tewkesbury Methodist Church.**

*It would help if you would let Russell Buley know before this date if you intend to come to this session or any of the others.*

The other three sessions are on:

Saturday 3 February at Gloucester Lonsdale Road;

Saturday 24 February at Dursley;

Saturday 10 March at Coalway.

Our hope is that those involved in pastoral care and visiting in our churches will feel encouraged to attend one of these sessions. Individuals as well as church representatives are welcome to contact Russell Buley, Circuit Portfolio Holder for Learning & Caring, for further details and/or to let him know their intention to attend. Telephone 01242 244036 - email [russell.buley@btinternet.com](mailto:russell.buley@btinternet.com).

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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....**

### **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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**End**